



Co-operatives Secretariat



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Message from the Manager of Advisory Services

Dear Partners :

I'm pleased to send you the first edition of the CDI «Advisory Services» E-Newsletter. This new initiative aims to facilitate communication and sharing of information between the Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI) delivery partners. It is a tool to help promote events of interest, share good practices and communicate the services that could be offered to counterparts in other parts of the country. E-Newsletters will be put out every quarter or in accordance to the level of information to share. For this E-Newsletter to be a success, your collaboration will be needed for the next editions. You will be invited to provide us with information of interest that you would like to share with the partners of the national network of CDI Advisory Services. As it stands, the CDI E-newsletter has four main sections : The Highlights, CDI Advisory Services at a glance, the Co-operative Bulletin Board and Tips for a Sound Management. Other sections could be added in upcoming editions.

I'm confident that this initiative will facilitate communication and the sharing of knowledge between the CDI partners who are working intensively to promote and support the growth and development of co-operatives throughout the country. If you have any questions, comments or if you would like to provide some information for the next edition of the CDI E-Newsletter, don't hesitate to contact me at any time by phone (613) 789-5492 or by e-mail caroline@ccc.coop.

Caroline Albert

Manager of CDI Advisory Services

Highlights

MINISTER STRAHL ANNOUNCES CASH FOR BIOFUELS FARMING OPPORTUNITIES



(This information comes from the News Release published by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on July 17th, 2006)

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board recently announced \$11 million in funding initiatives designed to ensure farmers and rural communities have opportunities to participate in and benefit from increased Canadian biofuels production.

The new government will support biofuels opportunities through a one-time \$1 million dollar addition to the existing Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI). This funding will provide support to individuals, groups and communities wishing to develop co-operatives as a way to take advantage of opportunities associated with biofuels and other value-added activities. More detailed information on this initiative and the modalities to access those funds will be provided shortly. In the next weeks, the Canadian Co-operative Association and the Conseil Canadien de la Coopération will work actively to design this program and logistics.

The remaining \$10 million will fund the Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative (BOPI) which aims to help agricultural producers develop sound business proposals, as well as undertake feasibility or other studies to support the creation and expansion of the biofuel production capacity. The industry councils in each province and territory that administer AAFC's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) will be invited to deliver this new federal funding.

CDI «Advisory Services» at a glance



A. Snapshot of the main results for 2005-06

Last month, you received a statistical table reporting the main quantitative results attained by each partner during 2005-06 fiscal year. Following the efforts made to standardize the methods used by the partners to track the number of co-ops and projects that have been assisted, some amendments have been made to the original statistical table. You will find hereafter the final version. This version will be used by CCA and CCC in their lobbying efforts to promote the CDI program to our elected officials with the view of renewing the program beyond March 2008.

IDC Services conseils / CDI Advisory Services

2005-06

	# meeting held with groups or co-opratives	# new co-op projects that received assistance	# new co-operatives created	# existing co-op assisted	# co-op that haven't been supported – lack of ressources
ACL	14	7	1	29	n/a
BCCA	21	23	10	28	n/a
Prairie Hub	25	14	8	15	n/a
Ontario: On Co-op	12	48	6	26	n/a
Ontario: CCO	63	16	5	9	2
MYDAS	496	56	9	50	11
CDR-Acadie	8	10	3	4	0
CCANÉ	52	6	0	2	8
CDCIPE	25	4	2	8	n/a
NLFC	42	21	4	7	0
CWCF / FCCT	8	81	8	2	71
TOTALS 2005-06	766	286	56	180	/

B. Main tendencies for 2006-07

In spring 2006, the management and advisory committees met to discuss the funding allocation for 2006-07. A total of \$870,000 (\$1M - \$130,000 for administration and national co-ordination) was allocated to the various provincial and sectoral associations throughout the country, as oppose to \$916,500 in 2005-06. The Management Committee agreed on the fund allocation:

<i>Arctic Co-operatives Limited</i>	60 580 \$
<i>British Columbia Co-operative Association</i>	90 000 \$
<i>Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation</i>	55 000 \$
<i>CDR Acadie</i>	45 000 \$
<i>Conseil Coopératif Acadien de la N.-E.</i>	40 000 \$
<i>Conseil de développement coopératif de I.-P.-E.</i>	33 000 \$
<i>Fédération des CDR du Québec</i>	35 000 \$
<i>Féd. des coopératives d'alimentation du Québec</i>	19 860 \$
<i>Féd. des coopératives funéraires du Québec</i>	14 000 \$
<i>Féd. québécoise des coopératives forestières du Québec</i>	19 860 \$
<i>MYDAS</i>	55 000 \$
<i>Newfoundland-Labrador Federation of Co-ops</i>	55 920 \$
<i>On Co-op/Conseil de la Coopération de l'Ont.</i>	175 180 \$
<i>Prairie Hub</i>	171 600 \$
TOTAL	870 000,00 \$



In year IV of the program, the delivery partners will continue to create new partnerships and strengthen existing ones. Throughout the country, there is a clear desire to become more strategic and proactive in sectors where opportunities are identified. The targeted sectors are primarily social services, health related co-ops, economic development, job creation and renewable energy. Youth and the elderly are commonly targeted groups, as well as rural aboriginal and immigrant communities. Some partners are planning to dedicate more time and resources to follow-up on projects and ensure the long term survival of emerging co-ops.


More than ever, the delivery partners will focus on leveraging additional sources of funding for co-op development. Less than two years before the end of the CDI program, some partners plan to prepare for the transition of co-op development advisory services as a core program of their organization. This will ensure that partners will have the capacity to provide co-op development services and support through program planning and resources secured over the next two years providing CDI does not continue as a federally funded program beyond March 2008.




We will conclude this section with an update of the MYDAS project (Mobilising Youth to the Delivery of Advisory Services). Motivated by the fact that there was only two years secured for the CDI program, the Management Committee decided last February to fund a different initiative than the one previously funded in the region. MYDAS has been put in charge of exploring sustainable options for the delivery of co-operative Advisory Services in New-Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. This effort will include a consultative process in each of the two provinces. The consultations will involve one face-to face forum in each of the two Provinces (NB and PE), in conjunction with a survey process that will focus on how co-op development can be supported and promoted in NB and PEI. The consultation process will be inclusive, bringing together a vast variety of actors and stakeholders. The current MYDAS partners, including universities, CED agencies, ACOA, credit unions and established co-ops will all be invited to participate in this consultation to explore the possibilities of expanding their role in ongoing co-op development. The initiative should begin in the Fall. While leading this consultation process, the project coordinator and his assistant will also provide Advisory Services both for established co-operatives and for groups interested in creating new co-operatives in NB and PE.

The Co-operative Bulletin Board

(This section can be used to promote events of interest, share good practices or communicate services that can be offered to counterparts in other region of the country. Synopsis of relevant conferences or forums are also welcomed. You are invited to provide any information that could be useful or interesting for the francophone and anglophone network of CDI Advisory services.)

 If you are interested in having additional hard copies of the 2nd CDI Newsletter on success stories, please communicate with me by phone (613-789-5492) or by email (caroline@ccc.coop).

 To order promotional materials for the Co-op Week (celebrated this year from October 15th to October 21st), please visit CCA's website and fill an order form (www.CoopsCanada.coop/aboutcoop/coopweek/2006coopweek). Please note that orders must be received by July 28.

Tips to Improve File Management










(In every edition of the CDI E-Newsletter, I will be sharing with you at least one tip to improve your file management. Any ideas that could be shared with colleagues are more than welcome.)

Gathering information on the number of groups that have been receiving advisory services is an important part of your reporting to CCA and CCC. At the end of each year, delivery partners are asked to provide us with detailed information on the co-operatives and projects they have assisted throughout the year. Without an efficient method to track information on the co-ops you have assisted, this type of information can be difficult to gather at the end of the year. Thus, I've created a document that could help those of you who don't have an efficient tracking method. A copy of the said document is attached.

Please note that the use of this form is voluntary. If you already have an efficient system to track the co-operatives you have been assisting, you may continue to use the same method.

Upcoming events : Mark your calendar!

-  July 17th, 2006 : Deadline for the submission of quarterly reports for the first quarter of 2006-07.
-  September 7th-8th, 2006 : Meeting of the CDI Steering Committee to study funding proposals submitted the «Innovation and Research» component of CDI in Bathurst, New Brunswick.
-  September 15-16th , 2006 : The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Co-operative 2006 Annual General Meeting and Co-op Conference. The event will be held in Baie Verte, NL.
-  September 29th, 2006 : Annual General Meeting of the Conseil de la Coopération de l'Ontario (CCO). Several activities will be held in conjunction with the AGM, in collaboration with their partners of the Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité de l'Ontario (RDÉE).
-  October 17th, 2006 : Parliamentary reception organized jointly by the Canadian Co-operative Association, the Conseil Canadien de la Coopération and the Credit Union Central of Canada.
-  October 18th, 2006 : The 6th annual provincial co-operative Gala of On Co-op. The credit union and co-operative sectors, government and co-op stakeholders and supporters from across the country are invited to attend. Visit www.ontario.coop/pages/index.php?main_id=126 to learn more.
-  November 16th to 18th : The Canadian Worker Co-op Federation Annual General Meeting and Conference in Edmonton, Alberta. Mr. Javier Salaberria, President of the International Worker Co-op Federation (CICOPA), will be the keynote speaker.