

Annual Report

Activities of Nova Scotia Co-operatives in 2011

Co-operatives Annual Report

This report is published by the Co-operatives Branch of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. It covers the activities of registered co-operatives taken from reports submitted to this office for their financial year ending in 2011. This document provides partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Inspector of Co-operatives pursuant to the *Co-operative Associations Act*, Chapter 98, Acts of 1989. Subsections 5(2)(d) and (e) of the Act require the Inspector to prepare and deliver annual reports to the Minister regarding co-operatives in the Province, including the number in operation and the financial standing of each.

Minister

Honourable Mark Furey

Acting/Deputy Minister

Dan McDougall

Registrar of Joint Stock Companies

Hayley E. Clarke

Inspector of Co-operatives

Audrey Gay

Administrative Assistant

Linda Yorke

Contact:

Co-operatives Branch Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations 15 Alderbrook Drive Truro Heights, NS B6L 0C4 Phone: (902) 893-6190 Fax: (902) 893-6264 Email: nscoop@gov.ns.ca

Home page: www.accessns.ca/co-op

Useful Links:

- Co-operative's public records: www.rjsc.ca
- Co-operative annual reports: www.accessns.ca/co-op
- ➤ The *Co-operative Associations Act*: www.nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/co-operative%20associations.pdf
- ➤ The Co-operative Associations Regulations: www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/coopgen.htm

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Letter to the Minister Responsible for Co-operatives

The Honourable Mark Furey Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Dear Minister Furey:

I am pleased to present the Co-operatives Annual Report for the year 2011, in compliance with the requirements of the *Co-operative Associations Act*. This is the 76th report since 1935 when the first *Act* required the Inspector to report annually to the Minister. Co-operatives remain an important part of the provincial economy as they continue to create jobs and maintain strong communities in Nova Scotia.

Demographic data:

- There were 338 registered co-operatives in Nova Scotia; an increase of 28 from 2010.
- Annual filings were provided by 321 co-operatives from which this report has been prepared.
- Non-profit co-operatives comprised 51 per cent, and 49 per cent were for-profit entities.
- In total, there were 33 new incorporations, which was an increase of 11 from last year.
- Eight co-operatives were struck from the Registry.
- One organization was formed by the amalgamation of two existing housing co-operatives.
- The co-operative sector employed 3,207 individuals which was an increase of 105 from the previous year.
- Membership was 44,119 which was a decrease of 1,011 members from 2010.

Financial data:

- Annual income decreased to \$686 million, with gross profits of \$155 million, and net profits
 of \$223 thousand.
- Assets decreased to \$379 million, liabilities decreased to \$261 million, and equity decreased to \$118 million.

Co-operative functioning:

- 81 per cent of co-operatives had all board positions filled, and 87 per cent held their required annual general members' meeting.
- Most co-operatives held the expected number of board meetings (seven) and the expected number of members' meetings (three).
- On average, eight members per co-operative attended educational events.

I trust that this report provides you with a comprehensive overview of the co-operative sector in 2011.

Sincerely,

Audrey Gay

Inspector of Co-operatives

Letter to Nova Scotia Co-operatives

Dear Co-operators:

This is the 76th year that co-operatives have been registered under the *Co-operative Associations Act*. This annual report offers a summary of Nova Scotia co-operatives as they existed in 2011.

The primary responsibility of the Co-operatives Branch is to administer the Act by:

- approving and filing incorporation documents
- processing yearly filing requirements
- approving changes to bylaws, articles of incorporation and other special resolutions
- inspecting or examining the affairs of co-operatives
- overseeing the dissolution process when co-operatives are no longer serving its members

Public information regarding co-operatives is available on our website at www.rjsc.ca and by following the links to "Search Our Database". As always, this report and other co-operative information is available at www.accessns.ca/co-op. On our website, you will also find standard forms for all of your reporting requirements to the Co-operatives Branch under "Forms and Information".

During 2011, your co-operatives reported continued commitment to the co-operative principles by providing board and member education. Almost all co-operatives reported holding an annual general meeting where quorum was met and the members reviewed financial reports.

The staff at Programs and Registry Management would like to thank Lynda Russell for serving as Inspector of Co-operatives during 2011. Lynda replaced Ron Skibbens who was on secondment with the Treasury Board Office. Lynda's hard work and dedication during this time has been greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding this report or the services of the Co-operatives Branch, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Co-operatively yours,

audrey Gay

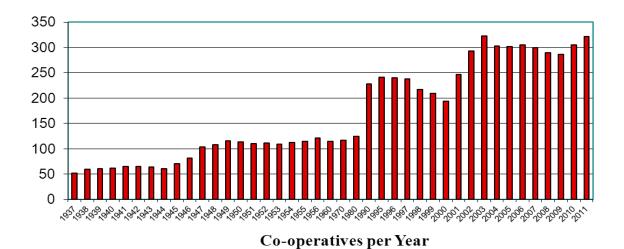
Audrey Gay

Inspector of Co-operatives

Demographic Summary

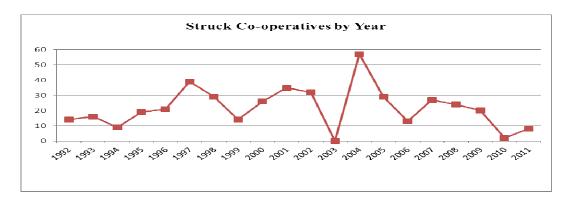
Number of Co-operatives

At the end of 2011, there were 338 registered co-operatives in Nova Scotia. Of that number, 321 co-operatives submitted reports to the Co-operatives Branch for their financial year ending in 2011. The 17 co-operatives that did not submit reports for 2011 were placed in Default Status which initiated the strike-off process. Once co-operatives have been struck from the Registry, they are no longer considered legal entities and cannot carry on business in Nova Scotia. This document covers the activities of the 321 registered co-operatives that submitted annual reports for 2011.



Struck Co-operatives - The following eight co-operatives were struck from the Registry:

- Antigonish Guysborough Local Producers Co-operative Antigonish County
- ▶ Black Bird Arts Co-operative Colchester County
- C.B. Miners' Development Co-operative Cape Breton County
- Jiksutui Social Cultural & Economic Skills Development Co-operative Hants County
- Mixed Media Artisans Co-operative Cape Breton County
- North Wind Farm and Food Co-operative Victoria County
- Prospect Road Co-op Nursery School Halifax County
- ➤ The District Theatre Society Co-operative Halifax County



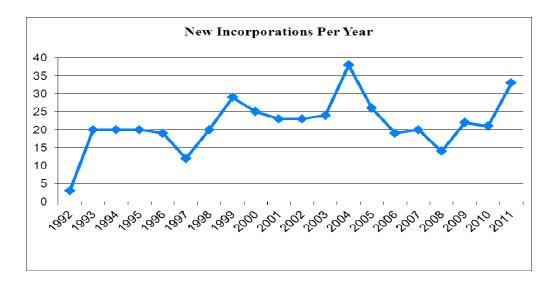
Restored Co-operatives

The following three co-operatives which were previously struck from the Registry were restored in 2011:

- Central Spryfield Housing Co-operative
- McLeod Motor Sports Co-operative
- Little Harbour Pasture Co-operative

New Co-operatives - There were 33 new incorporations in 2011. The Co-operatives Branch warmly welcomes the following co-operatives to the sector and wishes them every success in their endeavors.

Name	Type	County
Atlantic Council Bioenergy Cooperative	Non Profit	Cape Breton
Argyle Farmers' & Artisanal Market Co-operative	Non Profit	Yarmouth
Avalanche Theatre Co-op	Non Profit	Halifax
Black Bird Arts Co-operative	For Profit	Colchester
Bridge Safety Management Systems Co-operative	For Profit	Colchester
Cape Breton Marinas Marketing Co-operative	Non Profit	Cape Breton
Diggers Farm Cooperative	Non Profit	Halifax
DMV Theatre Co-op	Non Profit	Halifax
East Coast Organic Milk Investment Co-operative	For Profit	Colchester
EQ Engineering Co-operative	For Profit	Kings
Farmworks Investment Co-operative	For Profit	Kings
Federation of Energy (FEC) Co-operative	For Profit	Colchester
Getting To Know Cancer Cooperative	Non Profit	Colchester
Guysborough Farmers' Market Co-op	Non Profit	Guysborough
Harbour Youth Enterprises Cooperative	For Profit	Halifax
Harmony Health Centre Cooperative	For Profit	Lunenburg
Heritage Boat Yard Cooperative	For Profit	Lunenburg
Invisible Publishing Co-op	Non Profit	Halifax
Kazan Co-op	Non Profit	Halifax
Maritime Hop Growers Co-operative	For Profit	Cumberland
Multi-Stakeholder Residential Building Co-operative	For Profit	Guysborough
Plan B Merchants Co-op	For Profit	Halifax
Red Brick Row Investment Co-operative	For Profit	Cape Breton
Shelburne Farmers And Artisans Co-op	Non Profit	Shelburne
South Shore Social Ventures Co-op	Non Profit	Hants
The Deanery Project Co-operative	Non Profit	Halifax
The Loaded Ladle Halifax Co-operative	Non Profit	Halifax
The Winding River Art Gallery Co-operative	Non Profit	Colchester
Us vs Them Theatre Cooperative Ltd.	Non Profit	Halifax
Waste Resource Management International of NS Co-op	Non Profit	Halifax
West Gore Cemetery Co-operative	Non Profit	Hants
West Side Performing Arts Cooperative	Non Profit	Inverness
Yarmouth Farmers' Community Market Co-operative	Non Profit	Yarmouth







Examples of aims and objectives for the newly incorporated cooperatives are as follows:

Carry on community, youth, environmental and art projects. *Photograph courtesy of The Deanery Project Co-operative Ltd.*

Support a vibrant co-operative enterprise for the production and marketing of local organic dairy products in Nova Scotia for the benefit of local producers and consumers. Photograph courtesy of East Coast Organic Milk Investment Co-operative Limited



Continued from Page 8



Advocate on behalf of the development of the renewable energy industry in Atlantic Canada.

Establish a destination for community gatherings celebrating local sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fishery, craftsmanship and cultural heritage.

Produce and promote theatrical productions with no restriction on size or scale for touring purposes in local, national and international markets.

Improve and promote the Bras d'Or Lakes and Cape Breton Island as a world class sailing and boating destination.

Market and service safety management systems to clients.

Share holistic and scientific knowledge about cancer with key stakeholders who have an interest in the disease in a manner that ultimately results in societal changes that reduce the public's exposure to disruptive environmental agents.

Organize and run a weekly farmer's market during July and August. Bring awareness to the local food movement of the benefits of buying locally.

Produce and market literary trade books. Produce both print and digital editions, works of fiction and creative non-fiction. Support the work of emerging and under-published Canadian authors. Examples of aims and objectives for the newly incorporated co-operatives are as follows:

Operate a small craft boat yard, model shop and interpretive centre.

Establish the operation of a marketing and business development venue for the benefit of the members.

Promote restoration and development in Sydney Mines and surrounding areas.

Provide a market place for local food producers and crafts persons to sell their goods directly to the public. Provide a meeting place to add to the fabric and cohesion of the community.

Promote care and enhancement of the natural environment, the minimization of artificial and chemical usage, and the maintenance of excellent animal welfare standards.

Identify and implement a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable governance farm for a sustainability learning and training centre.

Provide free vegan food to Dalhousie University students and community members. Provide education on issues of food justice and sustainability.

Operate an art gallery for marketing members' art and other services complementary to the operation of the gallery.

Market education and training opportunities and stimulate both pure and applied research. Provide business opportunities, joint marketing and collection service provision.

Anniversaries OF INCORPORATION FOR 2011

75 YEARS

Shean Co-operative Victoria Farmers Co-operative

65 YEARS

Bridgewater Farmers Co-operative Society Scotsburn Co-operative Services Upper Stewiacke Co-operative

55 YEARS

Colchester Co-operative Services Victoria Co-operative Fisheries

35 YEARS

Baxter's Harbour Co-operative North Nova Forest Owners Co-operative Westmoor 57 Co-operative

30 YEARS

Atlantic Housing Co-operative
Capeland Housing Co-operative
Chameleon Housing Co-operative
Halifax Women's Housing Co-operative
La Co-operative Charles Forest
Lorentchia Housing Co-operative
Newfie Housing Co-operative
Rogers Drive Housing Co-operative
The Apartment Housing Co-operative
The Regional Housing Co-operative

25 YEARS

Antigonish Farm And Garden Co-operative Chignecto Housing Co-operative Evangeline Courts Housing Co-operative John Hugh Mackenzie Housing Co-operative Le Manoir Saint-Pierre Housing Co-operative Lower Argyle Fisherman's Co-operative We congratulate the members and boards of directors for their continued commitment to co-operation and member services

25 YEARS (Continued)

McIntosh Run Housing Co-operative Nova Scotia Co-operative Council Spanish Bay Continuing Housing Co-op Water Street Studio Co-operative

20 YEARS

Accessible Technologies Co-operative

15 YEARS

Just Us! Coffee Roasters Co-operative Lunenburg Balsam Fir Co-operative

10 YEARS

ABC Housing Co-operative
Alderberry Village Craft Co-operative
Cape Mabou Pasture Co-operative
Clifton Acres Investment Co-operative
Four Corners Housing Co-Operative
Grainery Food Co-operative
Highland Housing Co-operative
Oikocredit Canada Atlantic Co-operative
Supported Self-Managed Living Service Co-op
Total Essence Coaching Co-operative

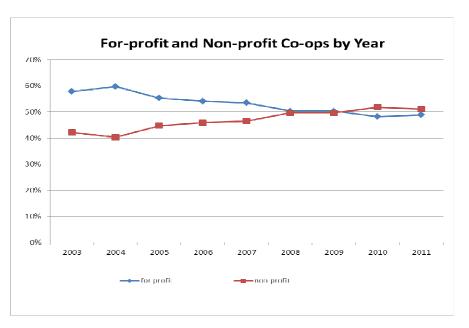
5 YEARS

Blue Ox Heritage Co-operative
Cape Breton Organic Beekeepers Co-op
Careforce Home Care Workers Co-op
Hemford Cemetery Co-operative
King's Bookstore Co-operative
New Ross Country Market Co-op
Parrsboro Wellness Centre Co-op
Port Hood RV Co-op
Pugwash Farmers' Market Co-op
Spryview Housing Co-operative

Types of Co-operatives (Non-Profit vs. For-Profit)

Co-operatives in Nova Scotia identify themselves in their incorporation documents as either for-profit or non-profit. This choice reflects the founding members' guiding principles as to whether surpluses are kept with the business (non-profit) or distributed to members (for profit). In 2011, there were 157 for-profit co-operatives and 164 non-profit co-operatives.

Co-operatives are also grouped into two types: consumer and marketing. <u>Consumer co-operatives</u> are organized for the benefit of buyers and <u>marketing co-operatives</u> are organized for the benefit of sellers. Both consumer and marketing co-operatives are divided into further categories as outlined in the Distribution Chart on page 14.



There has been a shift towards non-profit incorporations.

As shown in the table below, the vast majority of non-profit co-operatives are consumer groups. Of the 164 non-profit co-operatives, 73 are housing co-operatives that provide affordable housing to 1,978 members and their families.

	For profit	Non-profit	Total
Marketing	81 (25.2%)	39 (12.2%)	120 (37.4%)
Consumer	76 (23.7%)	125 (38.9%)	201 (62.6%)
Total	157 (48.9%)	164 (51.1%)	321 (100%)

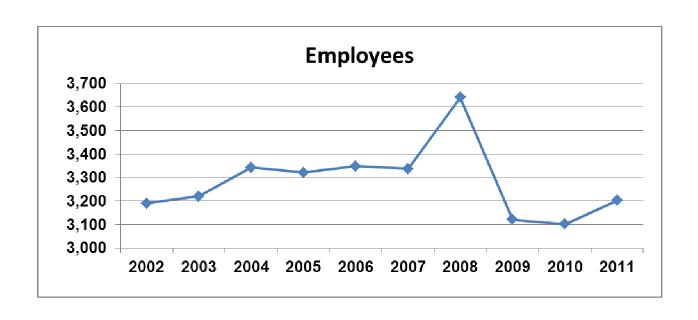
Co-operative Employees

	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total Employees
Annapolis	0	0	0
Antigonish	12	12	24
Cape Breton	27	30	57
Colchester	22	49	71
Cumberland	42	39	81
Digby	1	182	183
Guysborough	13	12	25
Halifax	549	219	768
Hants	1	1	2
Inverness	95	105	200
Kings	326	130	456
Lunenburg	4	9	13
Pictou	661	354	1,015
Queens	4	4	8
Richmond	29	53	82
Shelburne	0	0	0
Victoria	164	28	192
Yarmouth	15	15	30
Total 2011	1,965	1,242	3,207
Total 2010	1,964	1,138	3,102
Difference	1	104	105

The total number of employees in 2011 was 3,207 with 1,965 being employed on a full-time basis and 1,242 employed part-time.

Pictou County had the most employees at 1,015.

The statistics from 2010 indicate an increase of 105 employees.



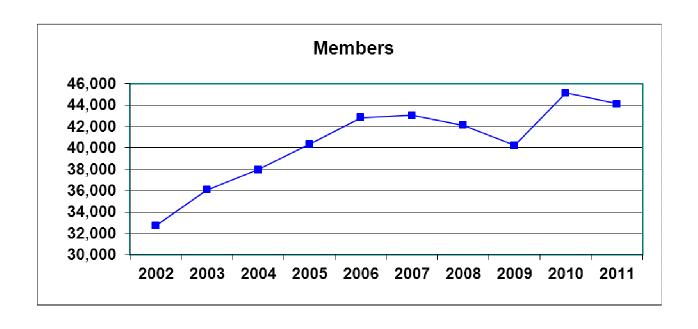
Co-operative Members

Membership					
Annapolis	135				
Antigonish	434				
Cape Breton	2,601				
Colchester	1,991				
Cumberland	5,598				
Digby	210				
Guysborough	762				
Halifax	7,546				
Hants	141				
Inverness	8,369				
Kings	5,793				
Lunenburg	894				
Pictou	2,128				
Queens	429				
Richmond	1,367				
Shelburne	0				
Victoria	4,371				
Yarmouth	1,350				
Total 2011	44,119				
Total 2010	45,130				
Difference	-1,011				

The total number of members in 2012 was **44,119**.

Inverness remained in first place with 8,369 members. Halifax remained in second place with 7,546 members.

The statistics from 2010 indicate a decrease of 1,011 members.



Distribution of Co-operatives by Type and County

COUNTY	Housing	Investment	Retail	Service	Total Customer	Agriculture	Craft	Fishery	Timber	Worker	Total Marketing	Total Co-ops
Annapolis	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Antigonish	4	0	1	2	7	1	0	1	0	0	2	9
Cape Breton	5	5	1	8	19	2	0	0	1	5	8	27
Colchester	2	9	3	8	22	8	3	0	1	4	16	38
Cumberland	1	0	3	3	7	4	1	0	2	1	8	15
Digby	1	1	1	1	4	1	0	2	0	0	3	7
Guysborough	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	2	0	0	3	6
Halifax	47	3	4	21	75	8	2	1	0	11	22	97
Hants	0	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	1	1	4	7
Inverness	2	2	5	8	17	0	1	2	0	6	9	26
Kings	3	2	1	8	14	7	1	0	0	8	16	30
Lunenburg	1	0	2	3	6	1	1	0	2	2	6	12
Pictou	3	1	0	0	4	2	1	1	1	1	6	10
Queens	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Richmond	0	0	2	3	5	0	0	2	0	2	4	9
Shelburne	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Victoria	0	1	4	2	7	1	1	1	1	2	6	13
Yarmouth	3	0	2	0	5	2	0	2	0	0	4	9
Total 2011	73	24	30	74	201	41	11	14	9	45	120	321
Total 2010	73	20	28	64	185	42	10	14	9	45	120	305
Difference	0	4	2	10	16	-1	1	0	0	0	0	16

The above demographic data shows that the largest number of co-operatives is in Halifax County followed by Colchester County, and then Kings County. Overall, service co-operatives were the largest sub-type, followed by housing co-operatives, and then worker co-operatives. In 2011, the number of service co-operatives increased by 10, and the number of agriculture co-operatives decreased by 1.

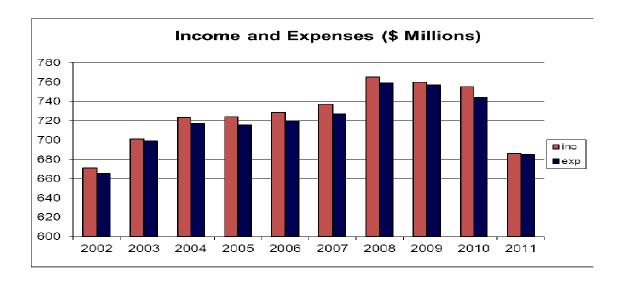
Financial Summary

Income and expenses showed a significant drop in 2011. In 2011, co-operatives reported total income of \$686 million - a decrease of \$68 million from 2010. The total expenses reported in 2011 were \$686 million, which was a decrease of \$58 million from 2010. Net profits (income less expenses) were less than \$1 million (\$223 thousand) in 2011, and this was a decrease of \$10 million.

	71 Year Operating Results Summary (all financial data rounded to nearest million)											
Year	Total Co-ops		oorting o-ops	Sales	Other Income	Total Income	Cost of Goods Sold	Other Expenses	Total Expenses	Net Income	Gross Margin	
1940	62			3				1		0		
1950	113			14				2		0		
1960	114			21				5		1		
1970	117			79				14		1		
1980	124			302				57		4		
1990	228			512				120		4		
1995	241			609				133		2		
2000	194			612				138		8		
2001	247			663				143		9		
2002	293	193	66%	648	23	671	540	125	665	6	108	
2003	323	256	79%	676	25	701	570	128	699	2	105	
2004	303	285	94%	696	27	723	583	134	717	6	113	
2005	302	291	96%	697	27	724	578	137	715	9	119	
2006	305	291	95%	699	29	728	577	143	720	7	122	
2007	300	280	93%	708	29	737	584	143	727	10	124	
2008	290	271	93%	731	34	765	605	154	759	6	126	
2009	287	287	100%	722	38	760	572	185	757	3	150	
2010	310	305	98%	712	42	754	552	192	744	10	160	
2011	338	321	95%	647	39	686	492	194	686	0	155	

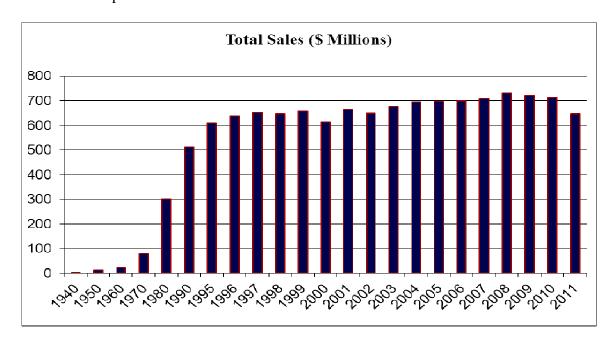
Income and Expenses

The following chart shows income and expenses from 2002 to 2011 (extracted from the 71 Year Operating Results Summary on page 15).



Sale of Goods

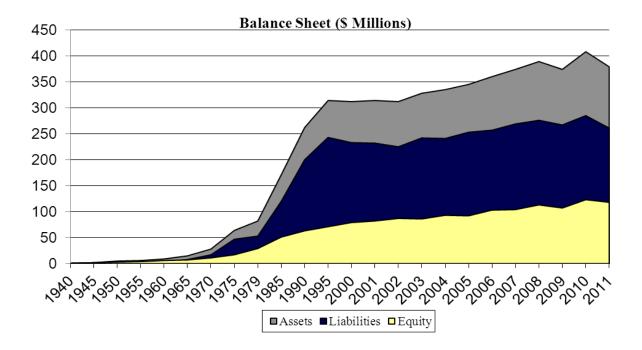
As reflected in the 71 Year Operating Results Summary on page 15, most of the co-operatives' income was derived from the sale of goods. In 2011, co-operatives reported \$647 million in total sales which was down by \$65 million from 2010. Gross margins (sales less cost of sales) were \$155 million in 2011, and this was a decrease of \$5 million. The following chart shows total sales data from 1940 to present.



71-Year Balance Sheet Summary

The table below summarizes the balance sheet information from co-operatives over the past 71 years. In 2011, assets decreased by \$29 million, liabilities decreased by \$24 million, and equity decreased by \$5 million from 2010.

(in \$ millions)											
Year	Assets	Liabilities	Equity	Year	Assets	Liabilities	Equity				
1940	1	0	1	2000	312	233	79				
1945	2	1	2	2001	314	232	82				
1950	5	2	3	2002	312	225	87				
1955	6	2	4	2003	328	242	86				
1960	9	3	6	2004	335	241	93				
1965	15	8	7	2005	345	253	92				
1970	28	17	11	2006	360	257	103				
1975	64	47	17	2007	374	269	104				
1979	82	53	29	2008	389	276	113				
1985	171	120	51	2009	374	267	107				
1990	262	200	63	2010	408	285	123				
1995	314	243	71	2011	379	261	118				



Co-operative Functioning Summary

The questions that co-operatives must answer and submit to the Co-operatives Branch during annual renewal are designed to provide information on board complements, meetings and the number of educational events attended by members. The Annual Renewal form is available on our website at www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/pdf/ans-rjsc-co-op-annual-renewal.pdf. The questions are based on the seven principles of co-operation (see page 19 for details), and they help to identify problems that may be developing within co-operatives.

The table below shows that the majority of co-operatives had their board positions filled. 87 per cent of the co-operatives held annual general meetings, and 97 per cent of those met quorum. In all, 92 per cent presented financial reports to the members for approval. On average the number of members who attended educational events in 2011 was eight.

	for profit	non- profit	combined total
All board positions were filled	87%	76%	81%
An AGM was held in the past fiscal year (or past 12 months)	88%	87%	87%
Quorum was established at the AGM	98%	96%	97%
A financial report was approved by the members at the AGM	95%	89%	92%
Average number of members who attended an educational event	6	9	8

Co-operatives also reported the number of meetings held during 2011. The following table shows the average number of meetings that were held to conduct the business of co-operatives.

	For Profit	Non Profit	Average for Both
Average number of board meetings	7	8	7
Average number of members' meetings	3	3	3

The International Co-operative Alliance Statement On Co-operative Identity, Values & Principles

Definition

A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

Values

Co-operatives are based on the values of **self-help**, **self-responsibility**, **democracy**, **equality**, **equity** and **solidarity**. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Principles

The co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice.

- 1. Voluntary and Open Membership
- 2. Democratic Member Control
- 3. Member Economic Participation
- 4. Autonomy and Independence
- 5. Education, Training and Information
- 6. Co-operation among Co-operatives
- 7. Concern for Community

For full text, please visit the International Co-operative Alliance website at: www.ica.coop/en/what-co-op/co-operative-identity-values-principles

In closing, we encourage co-operatives to contact the following organizations. They offer excellent services and support to co-operatives, as well as a wide range of workshops and educational events.

Nova Scotia Co-operative Council

P.O. Box 1872 347C Willow Street Truro, NS B2N 6C7 Phone: 902-893-8966

Fax: 902-895-0109 www.novascotia.coop

Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada

Nova Scotia Office 202 Brownlow Avenue Tower 1, Suite 300 Dartmouth, NS B3B 1T5 Phone: 902-423-7119

Fax: 902-423-7058 www.chfcanada.coop

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the

Co-operatives Branch

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations 15 Alderbrook Drive Truro Heights, Nova Scotia B6L 0C4

> Phone: (902) 893-6190 Fax: (902) 893-6264 Email: nscoop@gov.ns.ca

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