



Flourish Community Development Co-operative

a presentation to the Co-op Ignite Session

by

Leslie Brown

November 15, 2023

Ville de Québec

FOUNDERS: STRONGER TOGETHER



Laurie Cook



Andy Horsnell



Jean Robinson-Dexter



Chris Pelham

The Prelude: LINKING ARMS, 2017



THE RETREAT BORE FRUIT



- Interested consultancies convened;
- Discussed how to implement a vision of caring, just, inclusive & sustainable communities
- A co-op was born!

*Follow-up Meetings of Consultancies
Resulted in a Consultancy Co-op!*

Registry Number

3335677

**Original Name,
Spring, 2020**

Name of Association

LEADING EDGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS
CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

I hereby certify that the above-mentioned association was incorporated this date under the provisions of Chapter 98 of the Acts of Nova Scotia, 1989, the Co-operative Associations Act and that the association is limited.



Registrar of Joint Stock Companies

March 4, 2020

Date of Incorporation

Why a co-operative?

- ✓ Members were broadly familiar with co-ops
- ✓ Effective model
- ✓ Co-op principles & values
- ✓ Wanted collegial, flat, democratic organization



Testing the Waters & Building Cohesion

Fall 2020 - Windhorse Farm Retreat



Values

Collaboration
- w/ our group
- partners

Engagement
- process
- authentic

LOVE
- emotional
- commitment

People Centred
- Emmit/Watson
- Emmit
- Knowledge

Creativity
- innovation
- flexible
- nimble

Humour
-

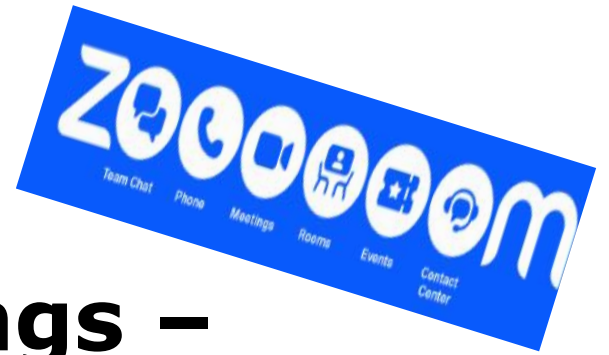
Transparency
- do what
- you do best
- open/clear

Respect
Deep

Making
a
Difference

Integrity
-

Much to Do!

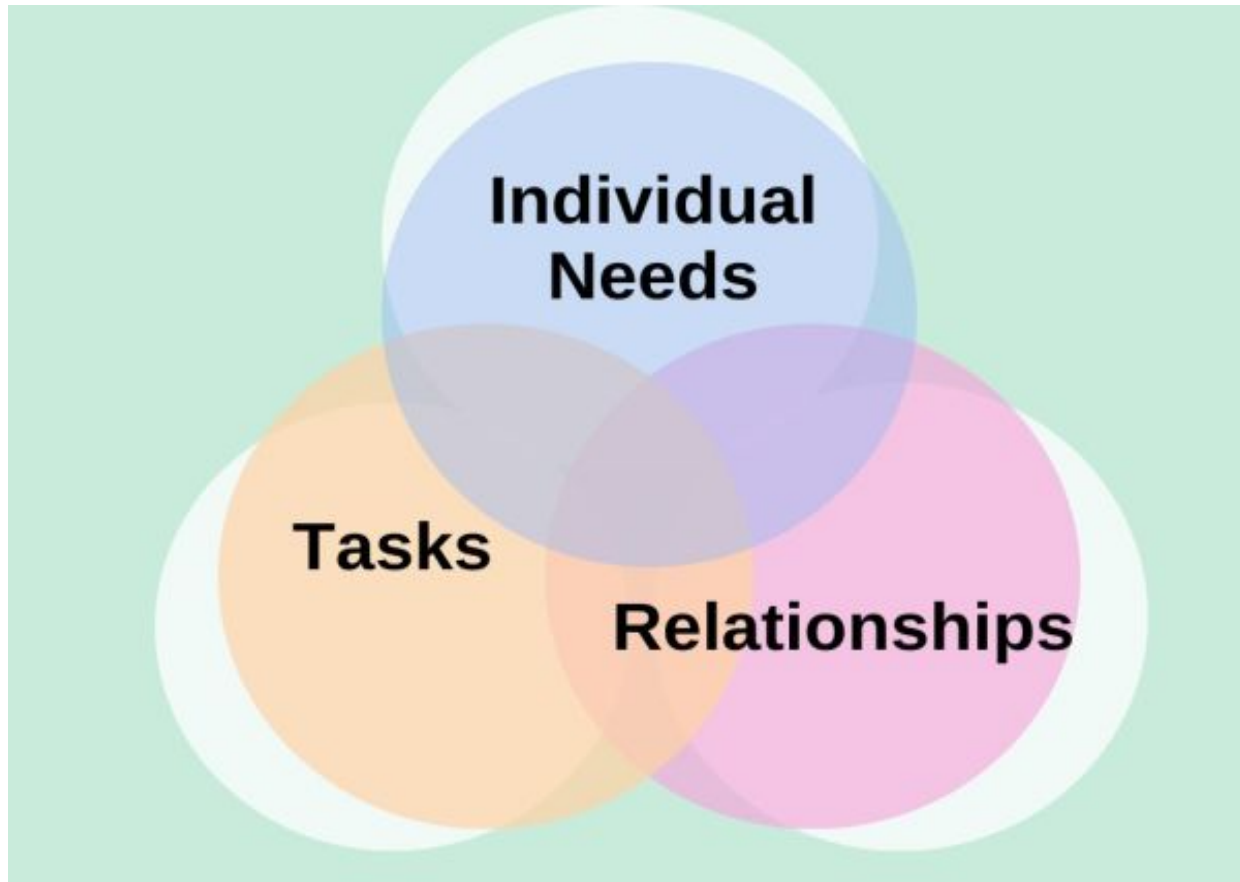


Gotta love the meetings –

- ✓ Consultancy Project meetings
- ✓ Bi-weekly meetings;
- ✓ Retreats Spring and Fall;
- ✓ Board meetings;
- ✓ AGMs

! PHEW !

What keeps us going? = Enduring value personally & professionally



VISION

Flourish is committed to a vision of flourishing communities across Nova Scotia that are vibrant, interdependent, inclusive, resilient, sustainable and collaborative.



Our Mission

To: Support, encourage and enable the success of resilient communities throughout Nova Scotia.

By: Facilitating and implementing processes and initiatives that enable communities to maximize their strengths, and overcome their weaknesses.



What We Value in Our Work Together

- Meaningful work
- Shared respect and care for the people we serve.
- Solidarity, mutual aid, and collective action
- Fun and creativity
- Supporting social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Supporting economic democracy and transparent governance



Strategic Priorities, guided by our vision and mission

Community-based Economic Development Planning

We do this through:

Strategic and operational planning;
Research and evaluation;
Organizational development;
Co-op & Social enterprise support
& more

Parrsboro Nova Scotia



Social Succession and Preserving Local Economies

Social Succession is...

..transitioning an independently-owned business to nonprofit, co-operative, municipal, Indigenous, or other collective ownership.



Food Hubs / Local Food Systems

**e.g. Nourishing Communities
Food Coupon Programme**



Farmers' Markets of N. S .
Co-operative



Profils d'organisation

Halifax Regional Food Hub (a Co-op)

- ❖ Aggregation
- ❖ Storage
- ❖ Processing Space
- ❖ Marketing
- ❖ Distribution

Recognizing and addressing challenges (examples)

CHALLENGE

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE

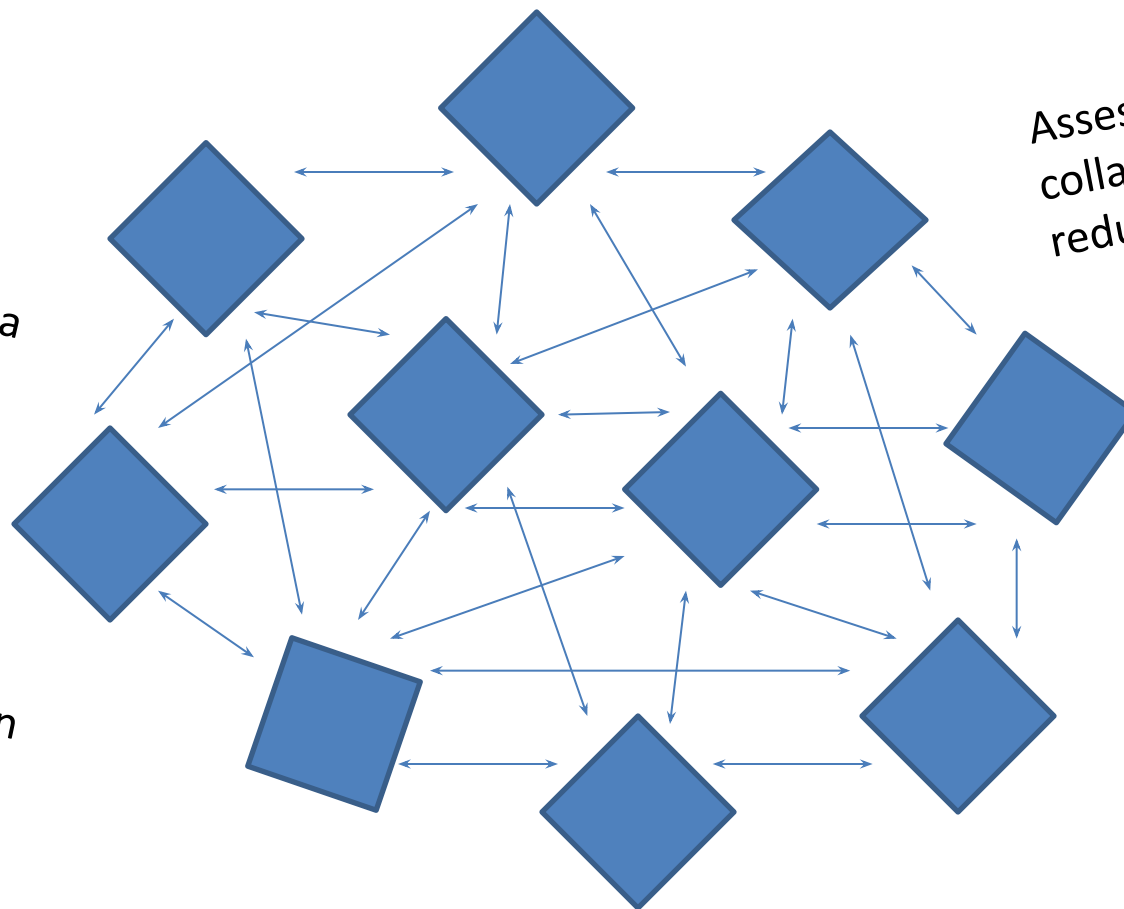
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|--|---|
| □ Most work in own business + Flourish | ✓ Commitment and sense of value |
| □ Volume of work has been significant this fall | ✓ Cut people some slack; kept up most meetings |
| □ A substantial amount of volunteer time is involved | ✓ Share + reframe as investment |
| □ A certain amount of turnover | ✓ Accommodate and leave room for re-entry. Plan for expansion |

Embracing Opportunities

- Seek: clients wanting to tackle success issues
- Plan: for new members and deepened skill set
- Retreats: pausing, looking ahead, identifying possibilities

Sample agenda
2024

Social & Fun



Assess need e.g.:
collaboration potential;
reduce isolation

Funded by
user-members

A FLOURISH NETWORK SERVICE?

Host a collaborative community of consultants and other practitioners, characterized by shared beliefs, values, principles, and a vision for flourishing communities



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?