

THE SCOOP

What's happening at United Community Services Co-op

By popular demand, here's "**The Scoop**". Every 5-6 weeks you can catch up on key Co-op news in a few minutes. Staying informed will help you get the most out of your membership. If you have questions about the Co-op, or suggestions, please let us know at info@ucscoop.com

→ CO-OP CONSULTING: Social Co-ops

There is growing interest in "Social Co-ops" to serve people with developmental and mental disabilities in BC. UCSC is involved in three pilot social co-op initiatives. To better serve these pilots, we secured funding from the Federal Government's *Cooperative Development Initiative* to research lessons learned by similar co-ops across Canada and around the world. The result has been a report Executive Directors actually read cover to cover! We're excited by the implications of this work for other populations and issues.

If you'd like more information visit [Innovative Co-ops in the Social Services Sector](#)

→ CO-OP UPDATE – Information for Change

Over 10,000 hits in under nine months, a growing rate of use and a strong pattern of return visits shows that the Co-op's *Information for Change* website continues to serve the social sector in BC. The most popular "Just the Facts" papers deal with *First Nations*, *Employment* and *Youth*, and users visited these pages an average of 3 to 4 times.

UCSC is currently researching recent trends and developments in the social services sector. Our goal is to support the sector to adapt and innovate ways to meet community needs through information, sharing strategies and cultivating collaboration.

→ NEW CO-OP PRODUCT: Corporate Express

As a member, you can now order high quality office supplies at significantly discounted prices to be delivered to anywhere in BC, thanks to our new partnership with Corporate Express. For even the smallest of organizations, the discounts are considerable.

For more information see our [Products and Services Page](#)

→ CO-OP FINANCES: Healthy and growing

For the second year in a row the UCS Co-op has ended the year (June 30) with an operating surplus! This year's \$6K surplus will go towards decreasing the operating deficit carried over from start-up activities.

Income from products and services reached \$187,000, up 35% over the previous year. Funding for grants and research was \$71,000. Total income was up 10% over the previous year.

→ NEW MEMBERS

Five organizations have joined the UCS Co-op in the past three months bringing our total membership to **76**:

- 411 Seniors Centre
- Campbell River Family Services
- Cariboo Chilcotin Child Development Centre
- Developmental Disabilities Association
- The Tech Co-op

New members are coming through **YOUR** word of mouth! and relationships created in the Co-op's leading edge consulting work.