



#25 – September 5, 2007

Be inspired by the ideas and dialogues that took place at [Leading Change 2007](#) through the [report](#) we've just posted online. A summary report is coming soon.

→ Members Drive New Product

Pun intended! Imagine bulk purchasing vehicles through the Co-op. The potential is significant: not only the dollar savings, but also reduced staff time and stress.

The idea came from Caroline Bonesky, Co-op chair. Her organization, Fraserside Community Services, needs three new vehicles this year, and at a May meeting with other EDs she wondered aloud if others were in the same boat.

Hearing YES, and an interest in bulk buying, Caroline took the idea to the Co-op where our eyes lit up and we soon took exploratory steps.

This is a prime example of how the Co-op works best: A member identifies a need, starts a conversation about it with others, and finding common concern, brings it to the Co-op.

The Co-op has conducted an initial survey of 78 organizations in the lower mainland, including non-members as well as members. In hearing from just 40% of those polled, we've learned:

- Over half will be buying vehicles in the coming 24 months
- 60 vehicles are needed
- 70% are passenger vans, but demand ranges from cars to buses

We are now looking to solidify a group of purchasers, starting with a meeting on September 7th. If you would like to attend or want more information, please contact [Justin](#). And if you have an idea for a new Co-op product or a convening/research initiative, contact [Tim](#)!

→ Co-op AGM Set For October 17

Please mark your calendar for the Co-op's Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, October 17, 4:30-6:00pm. Our short and sweet AGM coincides with the quarterly conference of the Federation of Child and Family Services.

→ Co-op Partnered on Enterprise Development

This summer, when the [Enterprising Non-Profits Program](#) (enp) awarded its grants to assist non-profits in exploring a social enterprise idea, it asked the Co-op to help out.

Through an enp grant for social enterprise planning, the Co-op and enp are piloting a collaboration that has the Co-op's Strategic Consulting Partnership working with six grant recipients, providing them with an initial assessment, and guidance on moving forward.

Our efforts have taken a number of forms, but mainly Tim Beachy and Wayne Penney have been **listening** -- and then asking the probing and prodding questions that spark innovative thinking as well as clarity of purpose.

Through the pilot, the Co-op is growing the breadth and depth of our activity in the dynamic field of non-profit entrepreneurship. We have worked with business concepts for:

- a variety of sectors -- ranging from developmental disabilities, food security and crime prevention
- a variety of contexts -- from urban and suburban to rural communities

If you have a budding social enterprise idea or wonder if our Strategic Consulting Partnership can be of service, please contact [Tim](#).

→ Sector Buzz

There is a lot of buzz around upcoming conferences on the social economy, dialogue and deliberation ([Adam Kahane](#) is coming to Vancouver!) and leadership, as well as the consultations currently underway between the provincial government and community social services sector. For links, see the new [Sector Buzz](#) section of our redesigned website.