



#27 – December 6, 2007

Like it or not, December equals shopping for many of us. This season, consider making some social purchasing decisions this holiday seasons. Here are a few websites to get you thinking – [Notes to Nourish Cards](#), [CanadaHelps](#), [Inside Art Co-op](#), [Global Giving](#), the [Enterprising Non-Profits Marketplace](#), and the [On Co-op Holiday Gift Guide](#) (a PDF file).

→ **Reviewing the Contractual Relationship Between the Province and the Sector**

A boring headline we admit, but a very important initiative nonetheless. As mentioned before in the Big Scoop, the BC Government is undertaking, between now and May 2008, a joint initiative with the sector to re-evaluate how it does business with each other.

This initiative, co-chaired by the Province and the [Vancouver Foundation](#), will engage the efforts of three task forces, each charged with examining one of the following areas:

1. The way government and the sector plan and work together;
2. The way government acquires, delivers and achieves value for services; and
3. Non-profit sector capacity.

Almost all of the Co-op's owner-members have some sort of contractual relationship with the Province and so we encourage all to keep a close eye on this work. We are happy to report that Co-op CEO Tim Beachy will serve on the project steering committee. More information can be found [here](#).

→ **Consultants Breed Success**

Two of our Co-op consultants have started work on a new compensation model with [Westgen](#), an organization originally known as the Lower Fraser Valley Artificial Insemination Association. Since 1944, Westgen has offered semen and other services to dairy and beef producers in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Definitely not your typical non-profit, and the Co-op is enjoying forging this new relationship in the non-profit sector!

→ **What's On Your Plate?**

The 100 Mile Diet (or 161 km) isn't just a concept for your own dinner table. Buying locally produced food is top of mind for a group of Greater Vancouver non-profits looking to change their food purchasing habits.

Since the spring of 2007, the Co-op has been part of a multi-year, multi-stakeholder, collaborative initiative, called *Local Food First*.

The group is exploring the viability of a consolidated buying strategy of local food by Lower Mainland non-profits and public institutions.

Currently work is focused on measuring the demand side of the equation – surveying organizations on what and how much food they buy. Later stages will involve working with the supply side - local farmer and producers – on their currently available produce and distribution mechanisms.

Finally, the project will look to develop specific mechanisms to match the two sides in a sustainable way.

For more information, contact [Paul Cabaj](#) at the [Centre for Community Enterprise](#).

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