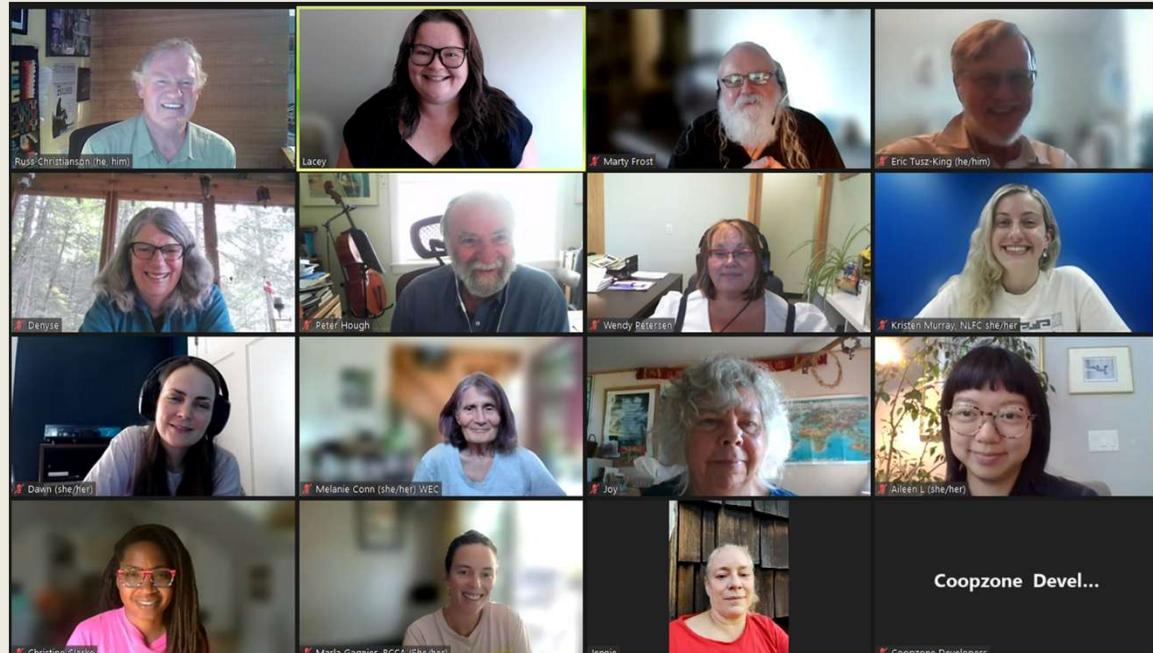




ANNUAL **REPORT**

2024-2025

Providing co-operative development training and expertise
to help build the co-operative economy.

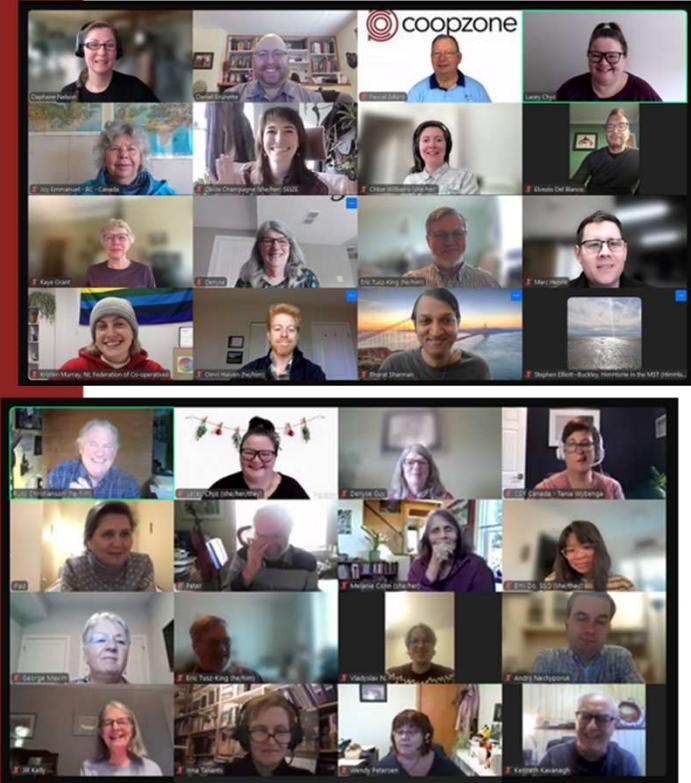


01



2024 Annual Report

Laying the Groundwork for Success



02

This report presents a year-in-review for CoopZone. It includes information about who we are and the impact we've made in 2024-2025.

This year, our primarily volunteer team has focused on rebuilding and stabilizing CoopZone after a few years of change.

The following supplementary materials are also available:

- Financial Report
- Course Director Report
- Chair of the Board Report



CoopZone empowers co-operative developers and service providers across Canada through training, resources, and advocacy. As a bilingual network, we connect professionals, share expertise, and champion co-operative development to strengthen the social economy. Join us to access support, collaboration, and a unified voice for co-operative growth.



NOTE FROM the Board Chair

As we reflect on the past year, CoopZone continues to evolve and strengthen, both internally and externally, as we adapt to the changing needs of our members and the broader co-operative sector.

This year we have made significant movement towards our goals of **Governance, Financial Stability, Organizational Health, Reaching Outward and Building Bridges, Networking and Member Engagement, as well as Strategic Partnerships**. We placed significant emphasis on reinforcing our internal foundation.

Thanks to thoughtful planning, prudent management and many hours put in by amazing volunteers, CoopZone has made important strides in improving our financial sustainability. We have introduced new financial and contractual controls and monitoring systems, giving us **stronger tools for managing risk and planning for the future**. CoopZone has worked hard to expand our impact beyond the organization.

The progress we've made this year demonstrates what we can achieve when we focus on both the roots and the branches—solidifying our internal capacity while extending our reach and relevance. **As we move forward, we remain committed to empowering co-op developers across Canada, supporting co-operative enterprises of all kinds, and fostering a resilient, values-driven economy.**

In closing, I want to thank all our members for their dedication, input, and participation.

CoopZone is strong because of the people who believe in its mission and bring it to life every day. I have been honoured to serve as Chair, and I look forward to support our organization in the years ahead.





NOTE FROM the Treasurer



05

Welcome to our year-end financial report! The efforts of the Board during the past year are reflected positively in the financial statements for our year ended March 31, 2025.

The Balance Sheet shows how the financial picture has changed since this time last year. Cash flow has improved. There are more funds on deposit with the credit union, and the accounts payable have decreased significantly.

On the operations side, dues revenue increased, although we didn't quite make our budget. We had an international development contract with the Co-operative Development Foundation (CDF) to do training for co-op developers in Ukraine via Zoom. The domestic training revenues are lower than expected because the fall term was cancelled due to low enrollment. However, since January of this year there has been a full complement of students.

Looking at the expenses, there are some significant variations from budget. First, an appropriate portion of administration costs are now being allocated to the training program, to provide a more accurate picture of that program. Also, the budget assumed that a bookkeeper would be paid, but instead the bookkeeping continued on a volunteer basis.

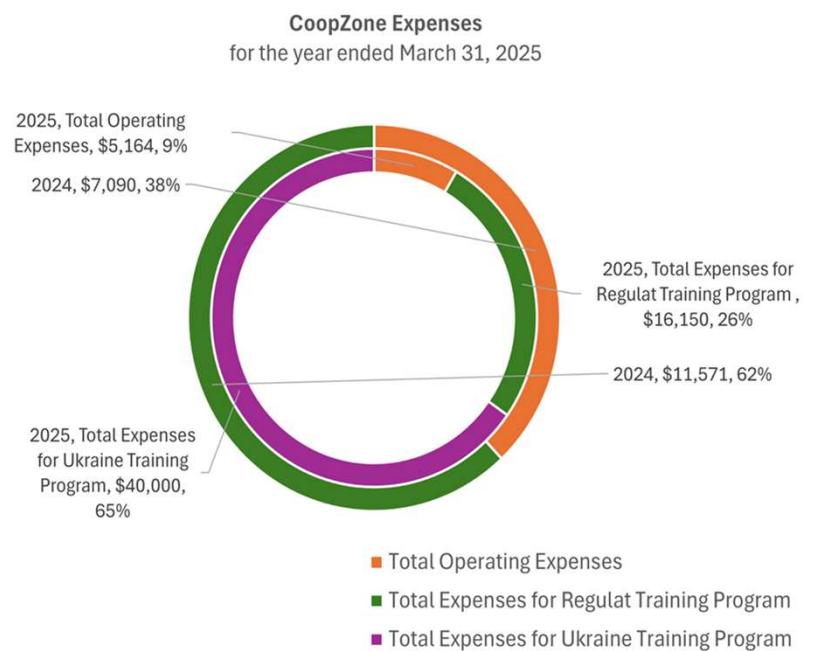
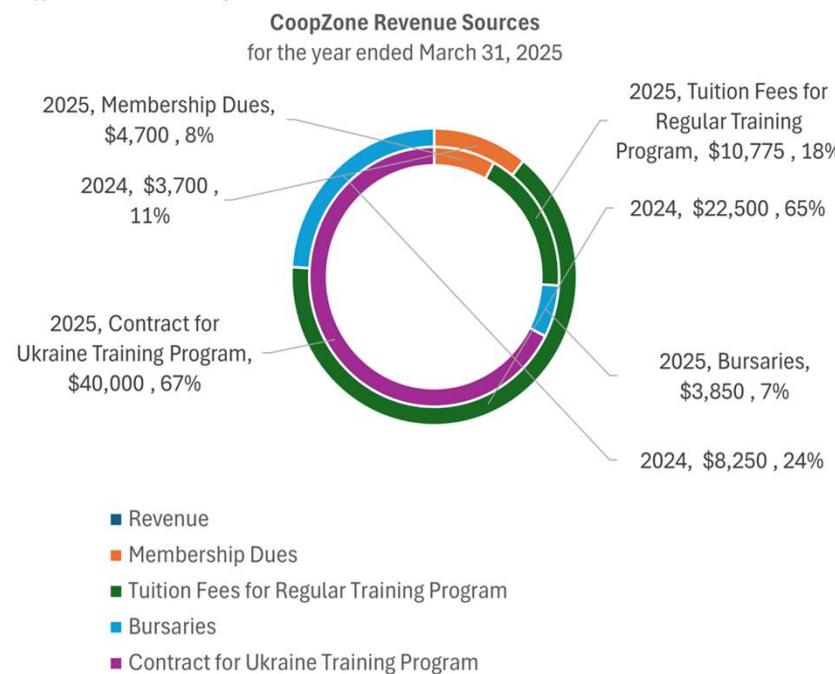
For the financial year 2025-26, we are hoping to increase memberships through improved outreach and run a full course program. Effective April 1, 2025, CoopZone is required to charge GST/HST on course fees (but not on member dues). For now, the Board has decided that the course fee will not change, but the amount will be inclusive of GST/HST. Thus, the course fee to students will not change.

Overall, we had a successful year, as the Board continues to strengthen CoopZone's operations. The 2025-26 budget anticipates a small surplus.

Financial summary

06

The 2024–25 fiscal year was a period of steady progress and resilience for CoopZone. The Board's continued efforts to strengthen operations are reflected in improved cash flow, reduced payables, and increased bursary funds. While training revenues were impacted by a cancelled fall term, a strong winter intake and successful international training partnership with CDF helped offset the shortfall. **Operational adjustments, including more accurate cost allocations and volunteer bookkeeping, contributed to financial stability.** Looking ahead, the Board is focused on expanding membership, running a full course schedule, and navigating new GST/HST requirements—all while maintaining an inclusive fee structure and aiming for a modest surplus.



Board of Directors

07



Marc Henrie,
President, NB



Pascal Billard,
Vice-President, QC



Jill Kelly,
Treasurer, BC



Daphane Nelson,
Secretary, BC



Lacey Chyz,
AB



Wendy Petersen,
MB



Daniel Brunette,
ON



Denyse Guy,
ON

Staff



Russ
Christanson,
Course Director



Adele Rosanova,
Administrator

Our impact

08



120

Participants in **6** different learning and networking events

17
Graduates
*6 Canadian
11 Ukrainian*

8

Dedicated mentors
from across the sector
and country

7
CoopZone
Board Meetings

15 +
Committee Meetings
*Finance, Governance
and Marketing*



8

New students enrolled



80%

Student satisfaction
rating for
courses





NOTE FROM the Course Director



09

CoopZone has been graduating students from its online Co-op Enterprise Developer training program for many years. CoopZone's group of **nine instructors** have formed a committed and collaborative group that is managing the online program, and they are also **providing in-kind hours to support the training of new co-op developers**.

In 2024, six people graduated from the Canadian program, and eleven graduated from the SEW Ukraine online training program (funded by Co-operative Development Foundation Canada).

CoopZone instructors – Russ Christianson, Melannie Conn, Emi Do, and Denyse Guy – developed five specific online courses for the sewing co-op members in Ukraine, based on their co-op education needs.

We are grateful for those who supported us to offer bursaries to students, including The Co-operators, the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation, Red House Solutions and Iler Campbell.

Each year, we face the challenge of marketing the online courses. One of the best ways of marketing the training is through our networks. In 2024, Kristen Murray from the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Co-operatives, and also a course alumni, brought five students as a full cohort.

If you know someone who may be interested in taking the online training, please ask them to e-mail me at russ.c@xplornet.com. I look forward to working with our instructors (and great mentors) to continue educating a new generation of co-op developers.

Student voices

10

"CoopZone's Co-op Developer Training Program has given me the tools, skills, and confidence to amplify my career in the co-operative development world. I am incredibly appreciative of the high level of support the organization itself has also given me, through mentorship, connections and a community beyond the program itself.

Without CoopZone, the co-operative sector in Canada would simply be missing an entity dedicated to enhancing co-operative development education. I believe wholeheartedly that CoopZone's services need to not only be maintained, but expanded to reach even more budding co-op developers and professional service providers across the country."

Kristen Murray

CoopZone Graduate 2024



"The CoopZone training program was an incredibly valuable experience. The mentorship component stood out the most, having one-on-one time with an experienced co-op developer provided practical insight and steady support as I applied what I was learning.

The course content was well-structured and relevant, and the flexibility made it easy to balance with work. I would absolutely recommend this program to anyone looking to deepen their knowledge of co-op development and be part of a supportive, values-driven learning community."



Marla Gagnier

CoopZone Graduate 2024



Teachers and mentors

11

"CoopZone's willingness to take on training efforts across Canada and in international spaces is commendable.

As an educator in this space I've had the opportunity to support Developers across Canada as well as in Indonesia, Myanmar, Uganda, Peru and most recently the Ukraine.

I work with each of my mentees to identify their individual needs and support them in every way I can."



Marty Frost
CoopZone Mentor

"Through our work on these courses, we've been able to forge stronger connections between generations.

This isn't just about education; it's about actively building the groundwork for a more just and equitable local economy.

We believe that climate justice is crucial to this vision, guiding us towards sustainable development that benefits everyone."

Lissette Lemus



CoopZone Teacher, Co-operating on Climate: Co-ops and the Climate Emergency



CoopZone's commitment to Co-operative Principles

12



Voluntary and Open Membership

Open to all individuals interested in learning more about Co-operative Development



Member Economic Participation

Course instructors agreed to take a 50% pay cut for the stability of the organization



Education, Training and Information

This is the overall mission of CoopZone
Shared knowledge with 41 participants



Democratic Member Control

19 attendees at the 2023-2024 AGM
(10 in person in Halifax and 9 virtually)



Autonomy and Independence

Continuing to articulate how CoopZone is their own entity through MOUs with others
e.g. CMC, CWCF, ACE



Co-operation among Co-operatives

Bursaries funded by other Co-ops e.g. The Co-operators, Canadian Worker Co-op Federation



Concern for Community

Supporting beyond our borders - SEW Ukraine Project

Strategic Goals

Resourcing, representing and serving Canada's peer network of co-operative developers.

01

Provide Professional Co-op Development Training and Networking

Held 2 training sessions, 2 networking sessions and 2 training program graduations

02

Strengthen our strategic partnerships

Working on building and revising MOUs with organizations like The Canadian Worker Co-op Federation, ACE, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada

03

Build membership

Bringing people into the conversation through training and networking





Facebook at facebook.com/coopzone.coop

LinkedIn <https://ca.linkedin.com/company/coopzone>

On the web <https://www.coopzone.org/home>