

The Co-operators Foundation

Community Economic Development Funds

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**CED**

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2017 Annual Report



As a co-operative, we're committed to building more resilient, healthy and sustainable communities across the country. Through The Co-operators Foundation - Community Economic Development Funds, we fund charities, non-profit organizations, social enterprises and co-operatives whose programs provide employability training and employment opportunities for marginalized youth and people with mental health challenges. In addition to our grant-making role, in 2017 we began making impact investments, marking an exciting shift with our Foundation. Leveraging our investments in this way creates the potential to make a much larger positive impact than we have in the past through the grants we disburse."



*Collette Robertson*

Collette Robertson, Chairperson  
CED Funds Board of Directors

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Co-operators in 1995, we created two funds:

- > Co-operators Fiftieth Anniversary Community Fund, which supports registered charities exclusively, and
- > Co-operators Community Economic Development Fund, which supports non-profit organizations, charities, co-operatives and social enterprises.

Together, these make up The Co-operators Foundation Community Economic Development (CED) Funds. We use the Funds to support community organizations that are helping marginalized youth and people with mental health issues become more self-reliant. Every year, The Co-operators makes a capital contribution to the Funds, which have now surpassed \$13.3 million in contributions.

The CED Board of Directors makes decisions regarding the strategic direction of the Funds. Operational decisions are made by The Co-operators Sustainability & Citizenship department.

#### Total Capital in Funds

**\$13,358,826**

2016 \$12,215,330    2015 \$11,236,412

#### Capital Contribution

**\$1,143,496**

2016 \$978,918    2015 \$884,994

## Strategic focus

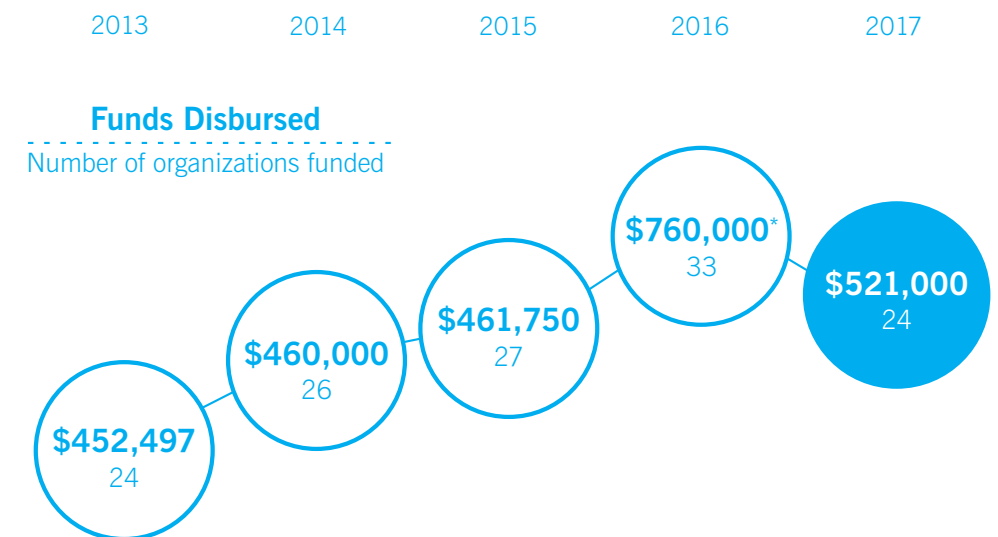
As a leading Canadian multi-line insurance and financial services co-operative, The Co-operators is committed to building more resilient and sustainable communities. The CED Funds are part of our co-operative identity, allowing us to address economic, environmental and social needs of Canadians and their communities. As the Funds focus on supporting marginalized youth and people with mental health challenges, they are aligned with corporate strategic priorities, which helps make a bigger impact in communities.

In 2017, we continued to expand our multi-year partnership model. We currently have eight multi-year partnerships in place, whereby we contribute \$30,000 a year for three years to each of these organizations. This allows us to develop stronger relationships and make deeper impacts on these organizations, the individuals they serve and the communities they operate in.

To expand our reach in parts of the country that are currently underrepresented through our CED funding, we held an invitation-only funding round in the fall. A number of organizations in targeted geographic areas were invited to apply for funding, which resulted in nine new grants approved in our fall funding round.

For more information on the CED Funds, including criteria and how to apply, visit [www.cooperators.ca](http://www.cooperators.ca) or contact us at the [\\_cooperators\\_foundation@cooperators.ca](mailto:_cooperators_foundation@cooperators.ca).

## Funds Disbursement



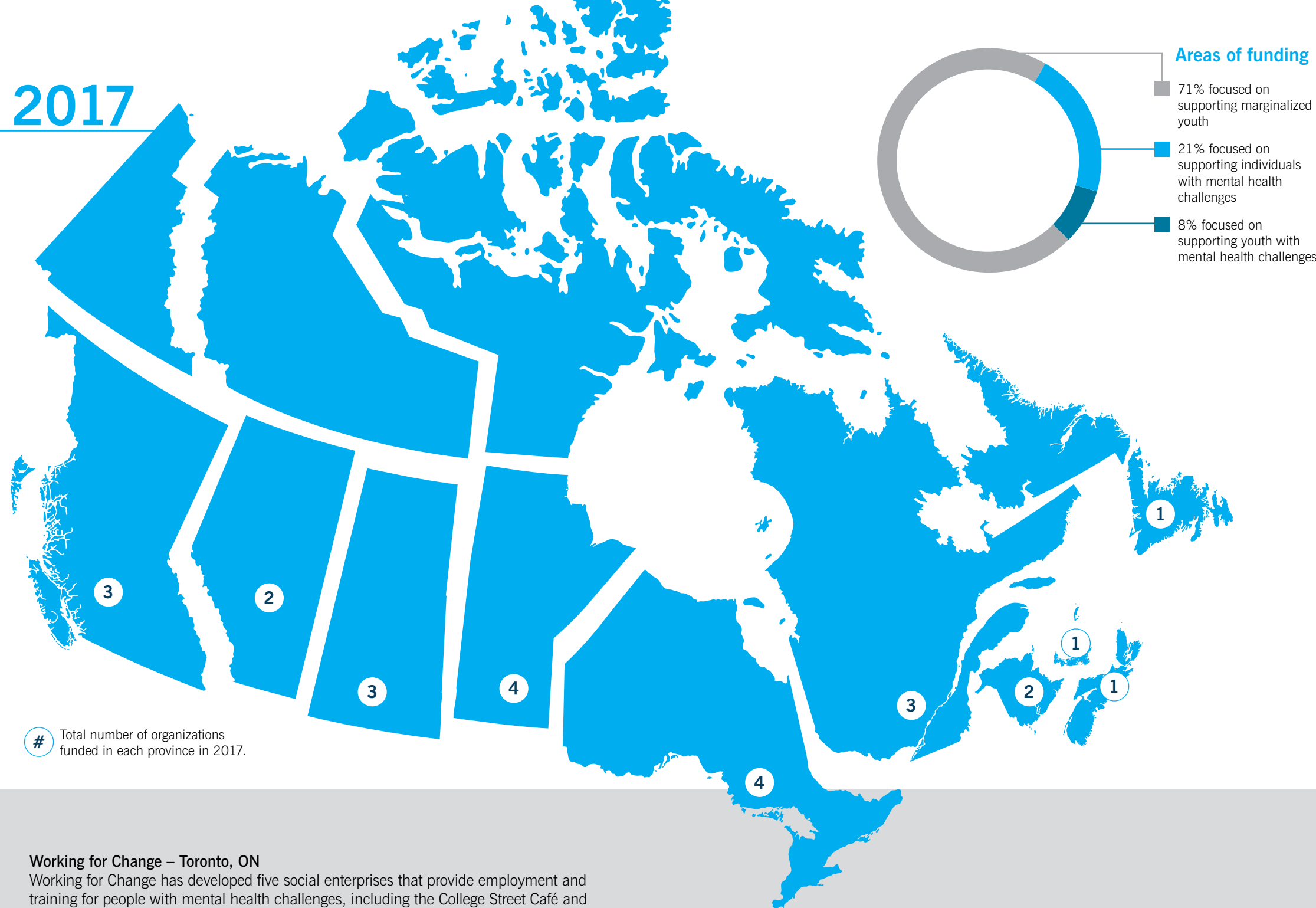
\*Increase in 2016 reflects a special one-time grant as part of our Syrian Refugee Program. Funding was provided to seven organizations whose programming helped prepare Syrian refugees for employability in Canada.

**\$6.5m**

Total amount The Co-operators has disbursed to 156 organizations since 1995.

# Organizations we funded in 2017

- Family Services of Greater Vancouver (Keeners Car Wash) – Vancouver, BC
- Hollyburn Family Services Society – North Vancouver, BC
- On Site Placement Services Association – Edmonton, AB
- YOUCAN Youth Services (Youth Canada Association) – Edmonton, AB
- Autism Resource Centre – Regina, SK
- Street Culture Kidz Project Inc. – Regina, SK
- Artbeat Studio Inc. – Winnipeg, MB
- Mother Earth Recycling Inc. – Winnipeg, MB
- Resource Assistance for Youth Inc. (RaY) – Winnipeg, MB
- PARC – The Silver Brush – Toronto, ON
- Weston Frontlines Centre – Toronto, ON
- Atelier Action Jeunesse Inc. – Trois Rivières, QC
- Destination Travail – LaSalle, QC
- Elsipogtog Youth Co-op – Elsipogtog, NB
- Adventure Group – Charlottetown, PE
- LakeCity Employment Services Association – Dartmouth, NS



## Three Year Partnerships

### Take a Hike Youth at Risk Foundation – Vancouver, BC

This alternative education program engages at-risk youth through a unique combination of adventure-based learning, academics, therapy, work experience and community involvement, enabling them to change their lives.

### Ignite Adult Learning Corporation – Regina, SK

Through in-house work and apprenticeships with third-party employers, Ignite helps at-risk adults, aged 19 to 30, gain the education, experience and skills needed for employment and/or further post-secondary training.

### FortWhyte Alive – Winnipeg, MB

This organization operates FortWhyte Farms, a social enterprise dedicated to using sustainable urban agriculture to build skills and increase job readiness for inner-city youth.

### Roots to Harvest – Thunder Bay, ON

Roots to Harvest supports marginalized youth facing barriers to employment. Their focus is on employment, engagement and education using food and urban farming as a vehicle.

### Working for Change – Toronto, ON

Working for Change has developed five social enterprises that provide employment and training for people with mental health challenges, including the College Street Café and Russell Street Cafeteria.

### Spectre de rue inc. – Montreal, QC

Spectre de rue offers paid daily work for insufficiently housed people, aged 18 to 35. Over time, the program transitions participants from daily work to more in-depth work experience to ensure social and economic re-integration.

### Open Sky Co-operative – Sackville, NB

Open Sky provides residential support, vocational training and personal skills support to young adults facing barriers due to social or mental health challenges.

### Choices for Youth – St. John's, NL

Choices for Youth provides services and employment opportunities to marginalized youth, including Project SucSeed, a social enterprise production facility that manufactures hydroponic systems made of recyclable material for growing produce in northern communities.



## Featuring: Choices for Youth

Choices for Youth strives to empower at-risk youth in St. John's, NL. The Co-operators is proudly supporting Choices for Youth through our CED Funds.

We collaborated with Choices for Youth to develop a video feature that illustrates how their programs support marginalized youth, enabling them to meet their goals.

To see the video, visit <https://vimeo.com/cooptv/ced2017>

## Impact Investing

In addition to the grants we distribute, we make positive community impacts through our investment portfolio. Impact investments contribute capital to address environmental and social challenges, and are expected to generate risk-adjusted financial returns at least as good as traditional alternatives.

Our investment management company, Addenda Capital, recently launched a new Impact Fixed Income Fund. It provides competitive financial returns and measurable positive social and environmental impacts, focused on the following areas:

- > Climate change
- > Health and wellness
- > Education
- > Community development

Toward the end of the year, our CED Funds Board of Directors approved changes to the Fiftieth Anniversary Community Fund Investment Policy, to enable the transition of the fixed income portion of the portfolio into Addenda's Impact Fixed Income Fund. This represents a "step change" in the impact investment asset allocation of the Fiftieth Fund, such that impact investments will comprise some 70% of the portfolio once the transition is complete in early 2018. At the end of 2017, the Fiftieth Fund held impact investments valued at \$4.3 million, representing 36 per cent of the investment portfolio. We are proud that our placement was the first in this new fund.

To learn more about Addenda Capital's Impact Fixed Income Fund, visit: <https://addendacapital.com/en-ca/Investment-Solutions/Fixed-Income/Impact-Fixed-Income>

## Community Impact Investing

To further leverage the Fiftieth Fund's assets to achieve social and environmental benefits while also attaining appropriate risk-adjusted financial returns, we have developed a framework to guide our upcoming community impact investments. These are smaller, targeted impact investments, separate from those managed by Addenda Capital. We look forward to developing this initiative further in 2018.

# Mission, Vision, Values

## Mission Statement

The Co-operators: financial security for Canadians and their communities.

## Our Vision

The Co-operators aspires to be valued by Canadians as...

- > a champion of their prosperity and peace of mind,
- > a leader in the financial services industry, distinct in its co-operative character, and
- > a catalyst for a sustainable society.

## Statement of Values

At The Co-operators we...

- > strive for the highest level of integrity
- > foster open and transparent communication
- > give life to co-operative principles and values
- > carefully temper our economic goals with consideration for the environment and the well-being of society at large
- > anticipate and surpass client expectations through innovative solutions supported by mutually beneficial partnerships.



To learn more about The Co-operators efforts to support the sustainability and resilience of Canadian communities, check out our 2017 Integrated Annual Report, available at [www.cooperators.ca/integrated-report](http://www.cooperators.ca/integrated-report).



Ancient Forest Friendly™

