



Gazing Up the Hill: Prescribing a Future for Co-operatives in New Brunswick

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Bridging, Bonding, and Building / Renforcement des liens et des capacités





Overview

- Methods
- Background of Co-ops in NB
- Government Policy
 - The current policy context
 - Self-Sufficiency goals
 - The co-op sector's wish list
- Co-operators contributing to development of the movement
- Cohesion within the Movement



Methods

- Literature Review
- Policy Scan
- Interviews with co-op sector and government
- Key documents:
 - Co-operative Enterprise Council
 - Credit Unions, Co-operatives and Trust Companies Branch: Department of Justice.
 - National Task Force on Co-operative Development.



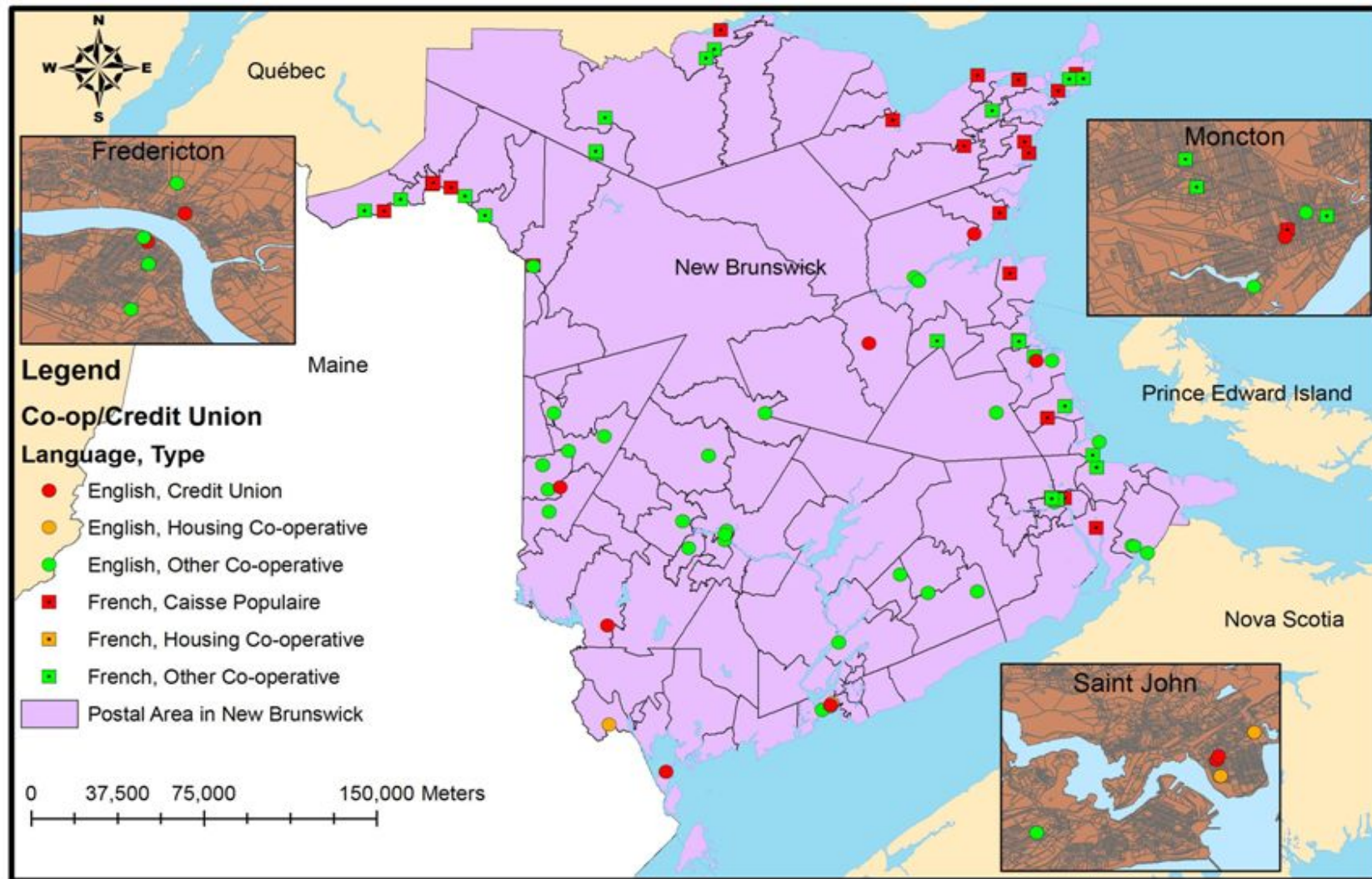
Background on Co-ops in NB

- Records and research are limited
- 207 co-operatives in New Brunswick
 - Proportional for national statistics
- Various types

Canadian Co-operative Association; International Co-operative Alliance

Therriault, Luc. (2006). Survey of Co-ops and Credit Unions in Atlantic Canada. Research conducted as part of the Social Economy and Sustainability Research Project (Atlantic).

Survey of Co-operatives & Credit Unions – New Brunswick, 2007





Policy

- Current policy context
- Self-Sufficiency agenda
- Opportunities for small policy changes to make a big impact for co-ops



Current Co-op Development Context

○ Successes

- Federal government programs
- With other co-ops
- With umbrella co-ops

○ Shortcomings

- Lack of understanding of co-ops within government
- Limited programs
- Scattered activity



Cohesion Within the Movement

- Organizations:
 - Cooperative de Developpement Regional-Acadie
 - Co-operative Enterprise Council
- Partnerships

Co-operation Among Co-operatives



Conclusion

- Empowerment is key
- Government policy could change to better support co-ops
- Research is required
- Co-operators must feed into the movement
- Cohesion is key: Co-operation among Co-operators



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