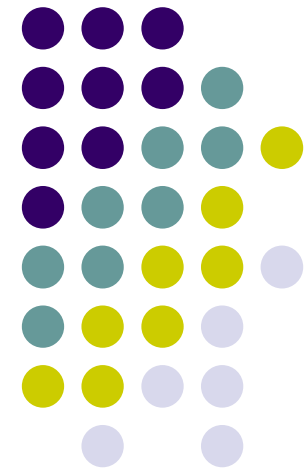


# Picking on Policy: How the New Brunswick Government could Better Serve Co-operatives

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CASC 2008



# Acknowledgements



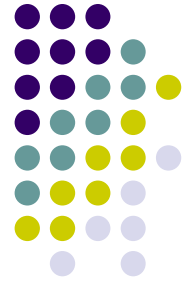
**Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada**



**Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network  
Partenariat sur l'économie sociale et la durabilité**

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





# Overview

- Methods
- The Facts: Background of Co-ops in NB
- The Challenges
- The Opportunities
- Policy Changes Desired
- Conclusion



# Methods

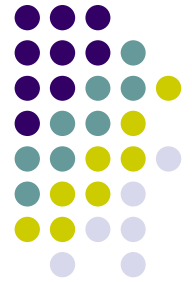
- Literature Review
- Policy Scan
- Interviews with co-op sector and government

Co-operative Enterprise Council. (2008) *Survey Results from New Brunswick Co-operatives*.

Credit Unions, Co-operatives and Trust Companies Branch: Department of Justice. *Proposal for New Legislation for Co-operative in New Brunswick*. Fredericton: Government of New Brunswick, 1995.

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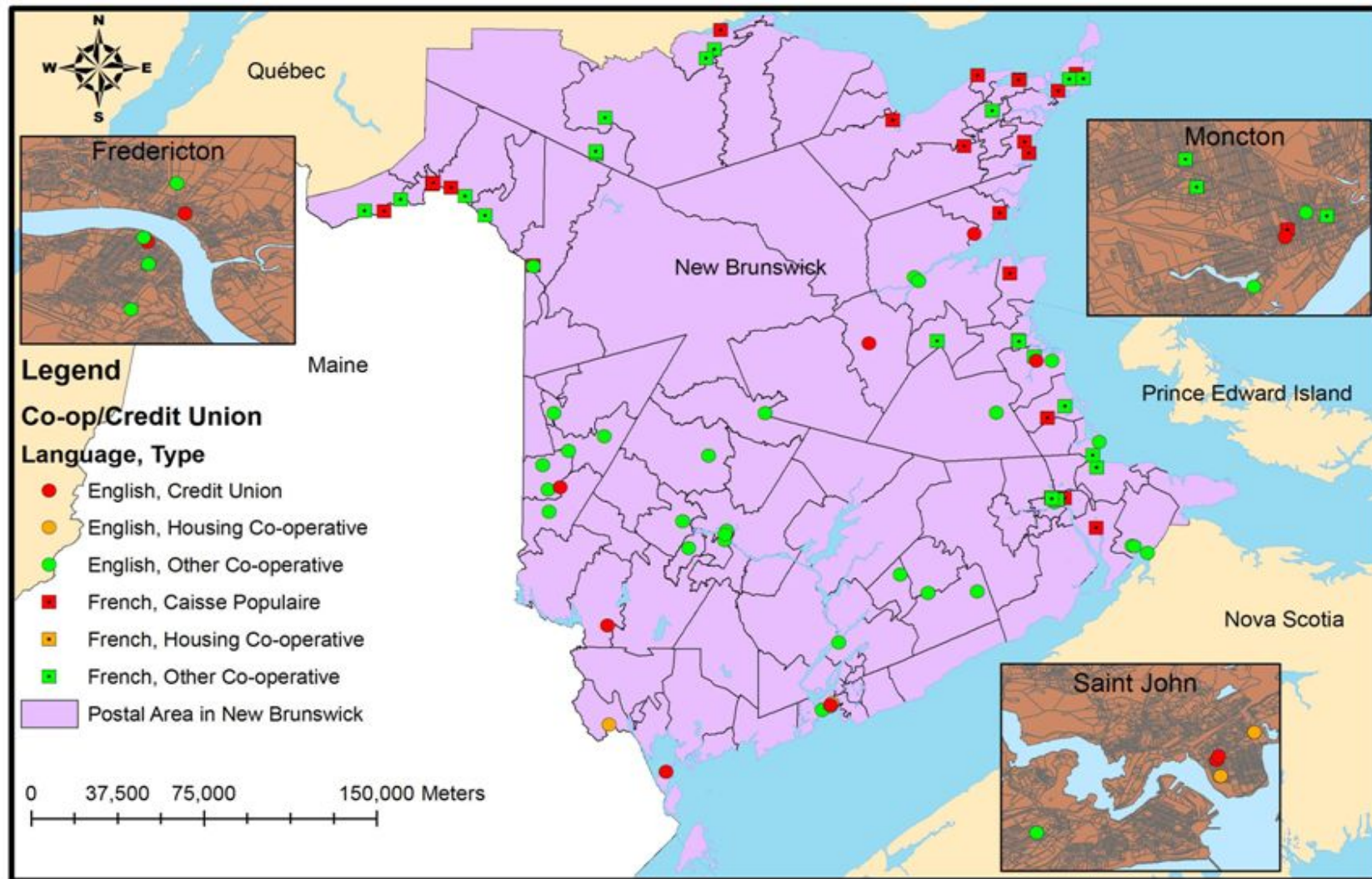
National Task Force on Co-operative Development. (1984). *A Co-operative Development Strategy for Canada*.

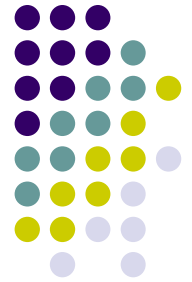


# The Facts: Co-operatives in New Brunswick

- Records and research are limited
- 207 co-operatives in New Brunswick
- Credit Unions, Co-operatives and Mutuals Branch
- Outdated research (1995)

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

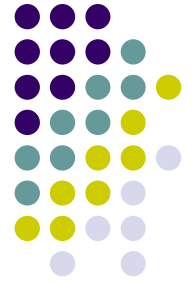




# The Challenges

- Location of co-ops in government
- Education
- Outdated
- Limited resources

# Opportunities policy window of opportunity



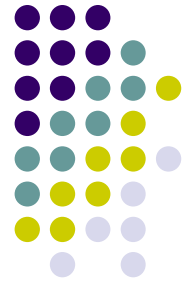
- Self-Sufficiency Agenda
  - Eliminate transfer/equalization payments
  - Strong labour force
  - Economic stability
  - Population growth
  - ALSO increase our GDP

Government of New Brunswick (Office of Self-Sufficiency). (2007). *Our Action Plan to Be Self-Sufficiency in New Brunswick*. Retrieved from the Government of New Brunswick website on April 20, 2008 from [www.gnb.ca/2026/OSSPDF/report-E.pdf](http://www.gnb.ca/2026/OSSPDF/report-E.pdf)

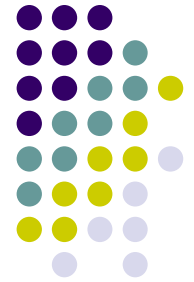
Wharf, B., & McKenzie, B. (2004). *Connecting Policy to Practice in the Human Services* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Toronto: Oxford University Press.



# Opportunities the good, the bad and the rural



- The rural reality in New Brunswick
- Not necessarily appealing to outside investors
- Service delivery



# Policy Changes Desired

- Business development funds and programs available for co-ops
  - Legislation change
  - Funding
  - Start-up advisory support
- Update Act
- Recognize the unique nature of co-ops

Credit Unions, Co-operatives and Trust Companies Branch: Department of Justice. 2005 Annual Report. Retrieved August 24, 2007 from the Government of New Brunswick Website <http://www.gnb.ca/0062/publications/Coop%20Annual%20Report%202005.pdf>

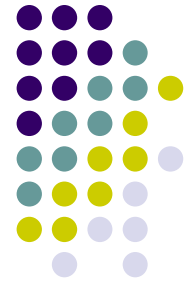
Cooperative de Developpement Regional-Acadie. (2007). Renforcement de l'entreprenariat collectif et des mecanismes de soutien en foction de l'autosuffisance.



# Conclusion

- Limited support for co-op development
- Excellent opportunity to explore co-ops as a solution to current provincial challenges

“There are many challenges....I say that, but I’m really optimistic about the future and about co-operative development. I think now is the time, more than ever to brag about the movement---you know to brag about it’s results, it’s values, it’s progressiveness, it’s local progressiveness and it’s sustainability...”



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