



LOCAL FOOD  
AND FARM CO-OPS

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2020

# OUR PURPOSE

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## MISSION

Fostering vibrant, resilient, connected and sustainable food and farm co-operatives.

## VALUES

The Local Food and Farm Co-operative Network values Ontario food systems that are:

- > Accountable to local producers and consumers
- > Fair, just and democratic
- > Open and accessible
- > Ecologically sustainable
- > Compassionate and built on solidarity
- > Fostering good food knowledge





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## REPORT FROM OUR TEAM

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The Co-op saw big changes throughout this turbulent year as two long time leaders left the operational team. Sally Miller and Peggy Baillie were integral to the success and growth that LFFC has achieved through projects and network building since 2017. In their wake came four new team members filling the roles of Project Manager and Northeast Coordinator and two newly created positions dedicated to Indigenous Relations and Northern Food Distribution Network coordination.

New expertise and personalities have brought a fresh dynamic to the team and provoked a return to visioning the role of LFFC in food system change. The coordinators reoriented programming to address member needs during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as evaluate and highlight the vulnerabilities in Northern food supply chains.

As 2021 began, uncertainty regarding project funding has reduced the capacity and activity of the Northern team. Restructuring and reimagining of projects is now in the works for all LFFC Coordinators and will depend on Strategic Development and planning.



# YEAR IN REVIEW

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44

Events hosted, animated and supported by the LFFC

+13

NEW LFFC members!

200K+

Online Engagement & Reach

44

Co-ops and businesses assisted by LFFC team

Our last in person event in 2020 was the Assembly, but that did not stop us from hosting many virtual workshops and webinars and collaborating with members and food system actors from North to Southern Ontario!

# PROGRAMS — + PROJECTS

## Webinar #1: Adapting to COVID Times



## Co-operative COVID Resilience Webinar Series

How Ontario food + farm co-ops are coping  
Which online platform suits you  
What funding + services you should know about

July 15th | 4pm EST



## COVID RESILIENCE 1 - ADAPTATIONS

Our Covid Resilience series kicked off in July featuring 3 of our retail co-op members and how they adapted to their members' needs during the pandemic. We included the Muskoka Good Food Co-op in Huntsville, the Mustard Seed Co-op in Hamilton and On The Move Organics in London.

## COVID RESILIENCE 2 - PLATFORMS

Our second Covid Resilience installment featured an overview and discussion of online platforms for retail food sales, featuring farmer Sarah Bakker of Field Sparrow Farm (also Manager of NFU-O), Kristen Gingera of Le Terroir Solidaire and Laura Howard of Récolte in Quebec.

## Webinar #2: Comparing Online Platforms



### Speakers:

FIELD SPARROW FARMS

récolte

Le terroir solidaire

## Co-operative COVID Resilience Webinar Series

How Ontario food + farm co-ops are coping  
Which online platform suits you  
What funding + services you should know about

Aug 5th | 12pm EST



## Webinar #3: Co-op & Farming Supports and Resources



## Co-operative COVID Resilience Webinar Series

How Ontario food + farm co-ops are coping  
Which online platform suits you  
What funding + services you should know about

Sept 10th | 12pm EST



## COVID RESILIENCE 3 - SUPPORTS

Our last Covid Resilience webinar featured our partners EFAO and OCA, which are both associations of members in their areas of expertise of farming (EFAO) and cooperatives (OCA). Our speakers shared how they adapted to what was needed, and included an overview of what services and support they offer

# FIELD SCHOOLS

## Beekeeping 101 in Northern Ontario

with Reagan Breeze of Beezers Honey



## NORTHERN BEE KEEPING

Reagan Breeze from Dryden in Northwest Ontario discussed his Beezers Honey initiative, providing beekeeping lessons and education, especially to children with his Jr Beekeeping program. Reagan also pushes for policy changes to allow for bee-friendly benefits and has helped establish underutilized spaces for beehives such as on top of restaurants and other institutions.

## INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP IN DISTRIBUTION

Our NFDN and Indigenous Relations Coordinators led a discussion about how various Indigenous food initiatives can be successful when developed for the community and by the community in creating better food access and distribution. Speakers included the new Regional Distribution Centre in Sioux Lookout being developed, the Red Rock First Nation Maamawitaawining Community Moose Hanger in Red Rock Indian Band, L'Autochtone in Haileybury, and the Northern Ontario Indigenous Food Security Collaborative.



NORTHERN FOOD DISTRIBUTION  
NETWORK PRESENTS

## Indigenous Leadership

in Food Distribution

Webinar

Thurs Jan 14, 2021

11am CT/12pm ET



## REGIONAL FOOD SPOTLIGHTS

Our Virtual Potluck began in the Fall with shared recipes from our Indigenous Relations Coordinator along with 'Chef's notes' discussing the meaningfulness of ingredients used in Anishinabek culture. Recipes are available on our website, and we still encourage anyone to submit recipes to us for sharing ways in which you use local foods.

# TRADE ROUTES

## NORTHERN FOOD DISTRIBUTION NETWORK



The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in September 2020 and sets forth the terms between the partners and LFFC to work collaboratively to address food distribution challenges in Northern Ontario based on NFDN Action Plans. Two Calls for proposals, seeking food distribution projects resulted in an intake of ten projects. Covid-19 has had a substantial impact on northern communities and abilities to meet project objectives. Five of the projects are currently in active status and making incremental progress towards desired goals. NFDN teamed up with OMAFRA and ENDM to present a 2 day Funders Forum, with a strong northern focus. The Network and LFFC are committed to working together provided funding is available to conduct project activities.

## NORTHWEST BEEF CO-OP



Northwest Beef Co-op has seen some significant gains in 2020. While this initiative launched in 2019, it wasn't until the pandemic hit that bulk freezer orders and pre-orders of locally raised beef became in high demand in Northwestern Ontario. Now that Northwest Beef customers have had the chance to purchase from these small family farms with Verified Beef Plus+ certification, orders are coming in every time they post on their Facebook page when beef is ready for contactless delivery in the Dryden or Sioux Lookout areas. Follow them on Facebook to keep up to date when beef is available.

# HEALTHY FOOD DISTRIBUTION NORTH

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## NORTHERN FUNDING

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The Healthy Food Distribution Project North (Co-op Cred) focuses on the partner and infrastructure development with partners across Northern Ontario to improve food access for all communities, including rural, remote, low income and marginalized groups. In 2020, with support from FedNor and NOHFC, the LFFC Northern team connected with, assisted and advised 34 food initiatives across the Northeast and the Northwest.

The funding supported the addition of an Indigenous Relations Coordinator and an NFDN Coordinator to our team. The Project activities supported by our funders include an Annual Funders Forum, multiple mentorship and training events and support for community members, partners and team members to coordinate the purchasing, delivery and distribution, and marketing to engage partners' clients in the new program. LFFC awaits matching funds to continue this project from 2021 onward.



# MEMBER SERVICES



**START-UP**  
  
[CLICK HERE](#)

**BUSINESS & FINANCIAL PLANNING**  
  
[CLICK HERE](#)

**OPERATIONS**  
  
[CLICK HERE](#)

**FUNDING & PRE-FEASIBILITY**  
  
[CLICK HERE](#)

**CAPITAL & SYSTEMS**  
  
[CLICK HERE](#)

Welcome to our  
**online curriculum:**  
**CO-OPS ON YOUR DESKTOP**

## CO-OPS ON YOUR DESKTOP

Co-ops on your Desktop Curriculum was organized and launched this past year. Built on all the lessons learned throughout the last three years, Co-ops on your Desktop is a culmination of key learning. An accessible, self-paced course delivered in 5 modules that is geared to support food innovators through the process of starting and growing a co-operative business. The curriculum guides you through startup, funding & pre-feasibility, business planning, capital & systems, and finally operations. By creating this online model, future co-ops can continue to have access to the tools and training needed to start their own food co-op.



**COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**  
MARKETING | DESIGN | BRANDING | STRATEGY  
Contact us for more details, rates, and communication services packages at [susanna@localfoodandfarm.coop](mailto:susanna@localfoodandfarm.coop)



*Boost your books*  
**BOOKKEEPING SERVICES**  
INVOICING | ACCOUNTING | AUDIT PREP | QUICKBOOKS  
Contact us for more details, rates, and bookkeeping service packages at [info@localfoodandfarm.coop](mailto:info@localfoodandfarm.coop)

## SERVICES

In 2020 we launched our Services for Communications and Bookkeeping and saw our first clients. Communications includes a tailored communications, marketing, design service catered to your needs. Bookkeeping includes audit prep, Quickbooks and bookkeeping, also depending on client needs. These services are open to non-LFFC members as well as available at a discount to members. Get in touch for details today!

# CO-OPS + MEMBERS

## 2020 NEW MEMBERS



**Anishinabek Nation**  
@AnishNation



**Grow Muskoka**  
@GrowMuskoka



récolte



**Food Security  
Structures Canada**



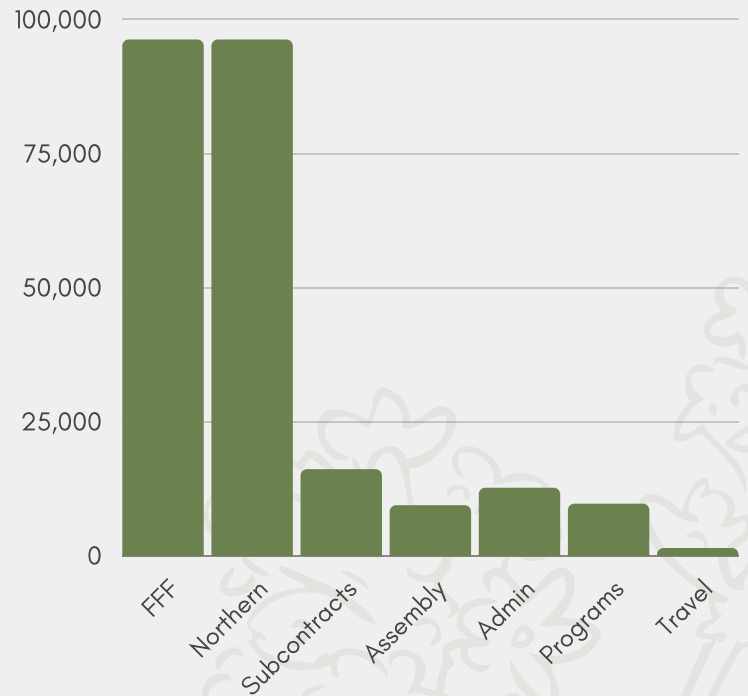
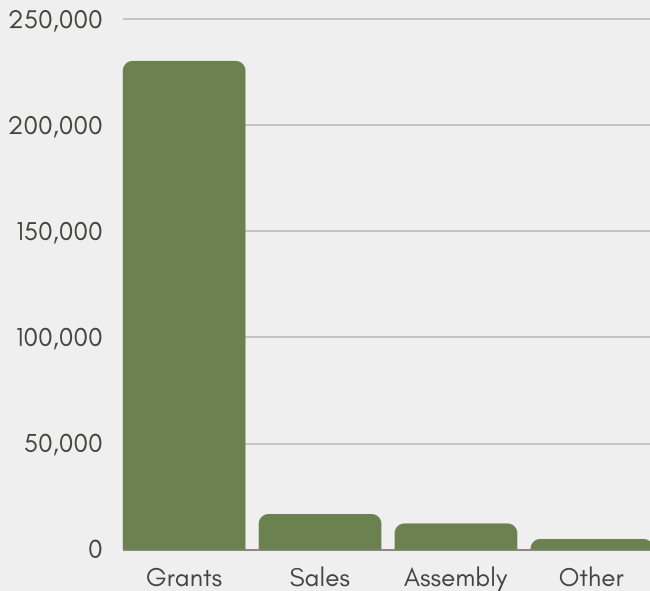
Greater Sudbury  
**Food Policy Council**



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# FINANCIALS



## 2019 AUDITED STATEMENTS

LFFC assets as of December 31, 2019 present a decrease of about \$268 000 from 2018. This is mainly due to the emancipation of the Fair Finance Fund and the Social Enterprise Development Fund grant transferring during this fiscal year.

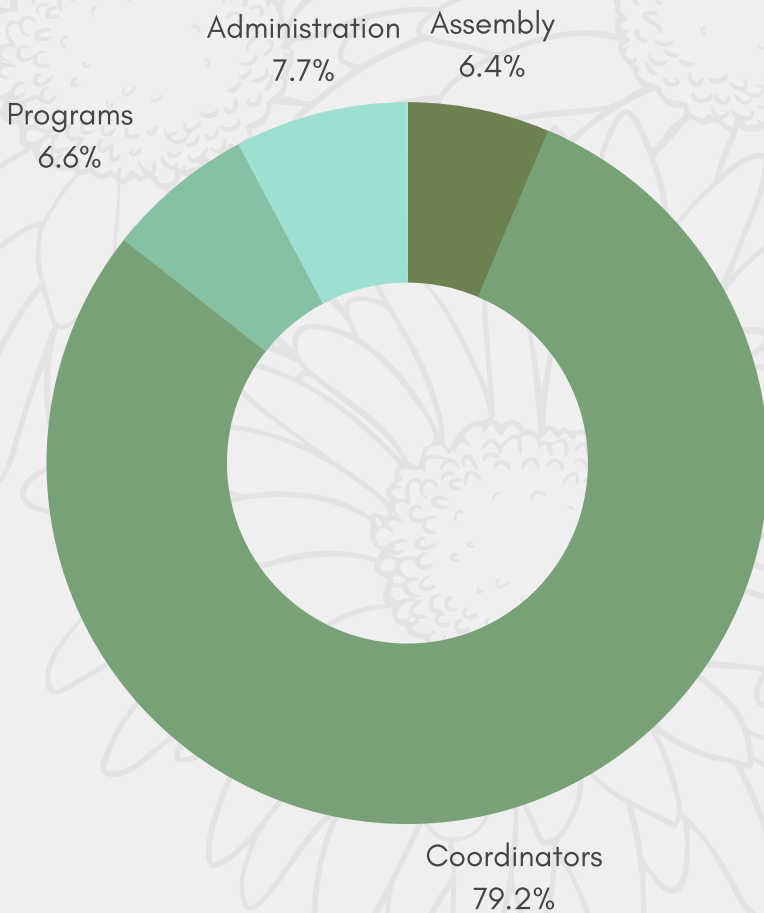
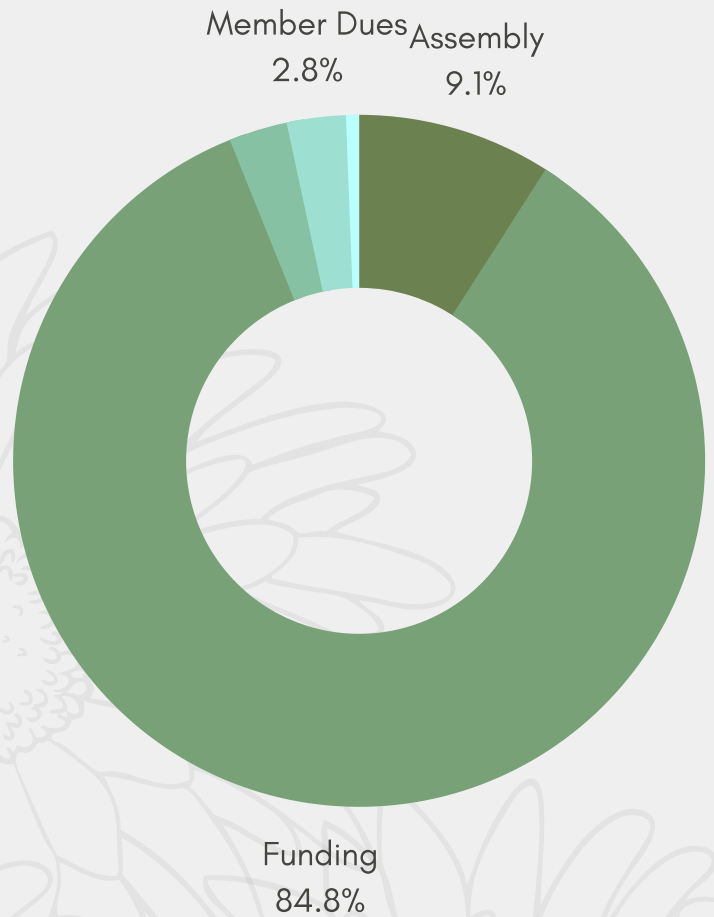
LFFC ended 2019 with \$262 775 in revenues and \$241 126 in expenditures, including Fair Finance Fund expenditures. Resulting in an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$21 649.

Find the final and approved report from [Auditors Curtis-Villar here.](#)

# 2020 FINANCES

## 2020 REVENUES

Income in 2020 was considerably lower than previous years due to project funding cycle changes. Highest revenues came predominantly from government funders, for development projects. Total revenues from funders was \$96 966, followed by Assembly income (including sponsorships) at \$10 352. Membership dues totalled \$3150 and other sales and contracts totalled \$3125.



## 2020 EXPENSES

Expenses were also comparatively lower than previous years despite increasing the size of the team. This is largely due to no Fair Finance Fund expenditures in 2020. Total costs incurred in 2020 were \$172 142, including \$136 397 for contractor fees, \$13 301 for administrative costs, \$11 419 for project and program expenses and \$10 960 for the Assembly.

[click here to see the 2020 Balance Sheet](#)

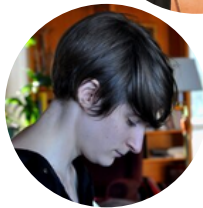
[click here to see the 2020 Profit & Loss](#)

# THANK YOU

## — LFFC TEAM



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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Emmett Ferguson, Alli Floroff, Alex Szaflarska, Aimee Blyth, Christine Clarke and Debbe Crandall provided vital consistency and support throughout a year full of changes. A special thank you to Emmett for countless hours serving as chair and facilitator.

### TEAM



SHYLAH WOLFE  
PROJECT MANAGER



SUSANNA REDEKOP  
COMMUNICATIONS



KANINA TERRY  
INDIGENOUS RELATIONS



MIKE DEGAGNE  
NORTHEAST COORDINATOR



JEN SPRINGETT  
NORTHWEST COORDINATOR



KELLEIGH WRIGHT  
NFDN COORDINATOR



nohfc

An Agency of  
the Government  
of Ontario

### FUNDERS

Notable funding for LFFC projects and (in some part) the Assembly comes from the Co-operators, FedNor and NOHFC.



**THANK  
YOU**