



Co-op donates \$66,000 to The Hub at Cowichan Station

(June 22, 2017) — Co-op is pitching in to help expand an important community hub in Duncan.

The Cowichan Station Area Association has received a \$66,000 donation through Co-op Community Spaces, a funding program supporting recreation, environmental conservation and urban agriculture projects.

The donation will support the organization's efforts to create new community rooms at The Hub at Cowichan Station, which it has operated since 2011 in the former Cowichan Station School.

However, the upper floor in the historic facility has remained closed to the public. Renovations will create two spacious, sunny rooms on the second floor that will provide meeting spaces for numerous community and recreational events.

"We are delighted with the support Co-Op Community Spaces is providing for this worthy community project. Providing welcoming spaces for people to gather and recreate is critical for community health and resilience. The creation of these new community rooms, and the opportunities they present, is a wonderful gift to the Cowichan Region" said Barry O'Riordan with the Cowichan Station Area Association.

Local support

In 2017 — with Canada 150 just around the corner — individual projects were eligible to receive up to \$150,000 through Co-op Community Spaces.

In total, 27 organizations are being supported through the program this year. Combined, these groups — which include non-profits, charities and community service co-operatives — have received \$2 million for their community projects.

Since launching in 2015, Co-op Community Spaces has provided \$4.5 million to more than 60 projects across B.C., Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

"Co-op Community Spaces is an exciting program that is making a difference across Western Canada and we're delighted to see it come to Duncan," said Dave Hoy, General Manager/CEO with Peninsula Co-op and Ian Anderson, General Manager with Mid Island Co-op. "Both Co-ops are supported by their customers and members. We are one hundred percent locally owned by our members on Vancouver Island. It's important that we give back and make investments in our community and people, which is what Co-op Community Spaces is all about."

Co-op Community Spaces is administered by Federated Co-operatives Limited on behalf of more than 190 independent retail co-operatives across Western Canada that form the Co-operative Retailing System. For more information, including complete details about the 2017 Co-op Community Spaces projects, see www.communityspaces.ca.

About Peninsula Co-op

Peninsula Co-op, located on Vancouver Island, is a retail co-operative that has been proudly serving the Duncan to Victoria area and most recently Comox for the past 40 years. Today, Peninsula Co-op has 90,000 members — and a large customer base. In 2016 Peninsula Co-op returned \$4.6 million to its



member-owners in cash back and equity, while contributing \$450,000 to more than 220 charities, community groups, student scholarships, capital projects and initiatives.

About Mid Island Co-op

Located on Vancouver Island, BC, Mid Island Co-op has been in business since 1959 and was created by local citizens as an alternative way to provide themselves with goods and services. They currently have more than 57,000 members throughout our territory; spanning from North Cowichan to Sayward. In 2016 Mid Island Co-op returned over \$3.6 million to its member-owners in cash and equity and over \$150,000 was donated back to community organizations.

About The Cowichan Station Area Association

The Cowichan Station Area Association is a charitable community organization established in 2007 to make the Cowichan Station area a more liveable and sustainable community. The CSAA is in the process of transforming the former Cowichan Station elementary school into *The HUB*: a vibrant community space for arts, culture and recreation. CSAA currently offers community-run activities for all ages at The HUB and also provides rental spaces where many other non-profits and small businesses offer classes, meetings, fitness, arts, music, events and more. Approximately 80% of the facility has been restored and re-opened for public use, with the most beautiful space, the upper floor of the schoolhouse, yet to come.

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