

This self assessment is intended to assist your group in understanding how far along you are in the early stages of developing your co-op, and identify some of the concepts and components that will be involved. Please refer the Co-operative Development Steps tab on our website for more information about the co-op development process.

**1. How well-formed is the “core group”?**

- Is there a group of at least three people who are ready to take the project through to launch?
- How long has the group been working together?
- Is there a “leader” (e.g. someone who takes more responsibility for meetings, reminding people, following up)?
- Have you experienced conflict? If so, how was it resolved?
- Have you had any discussions about common values or philosophies for the co-op? Is everyone committed to the business forming as a co-op?
- Are members expecting to be paid for the development work they are doing?
- What is the level of involvement and commitment to working together? Do some “just want to see it happen” and not get involved?
- How many people are involved in all the planning meetings?

**2. How developed is the business idea?**

- What is the business? Do you have a name yet?
- What is the co-op’s product/service?
- What is the market? How big do you think it is?
- What recent developments, if any, prompted the group to consider starting a co-operative?

**3. How well does the core group understand the co-op principles, values, structures?**

- How much discussion has there been about the purpose of a co-op, the difference between co-ops, companies and non-profit organizations, etc.?
- Who will be the members?
- How will they derive benefit from the co-op? Does everyone imagine using the co-op?
- Will “profits” be generated by the co-op’s activities? Will they be distributed to members or reinvested in the co-operative?

**4. How much community support is there for the co-op idea?**

- Has the community been involved in any of the discussions?
- What is the community’s awareness level and response to the co-op idea?

**5. What resources do the members have that can be applied to the co-op?**

- Skills
- Facilities
- Equipment
- Financial
- Contacts
- Other
- Are they ready to put these resources at the disposal of the co-op?
- What others skills and resources will you need? How will you access them?