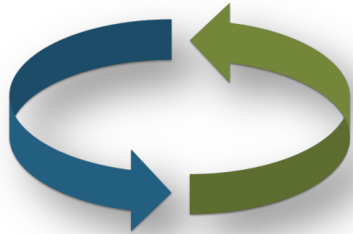


# Co-operative research with the community: The Côte-Nord experience



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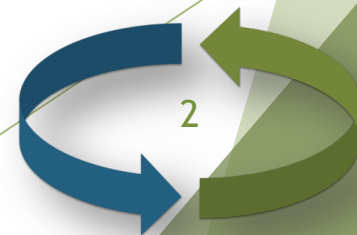


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# Agenda

1. Context
2. Mandate
3. Stakeholders
4. Methodology
5. Future
6. Preliminary lessons

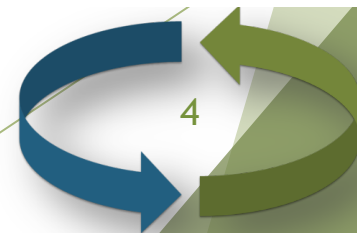
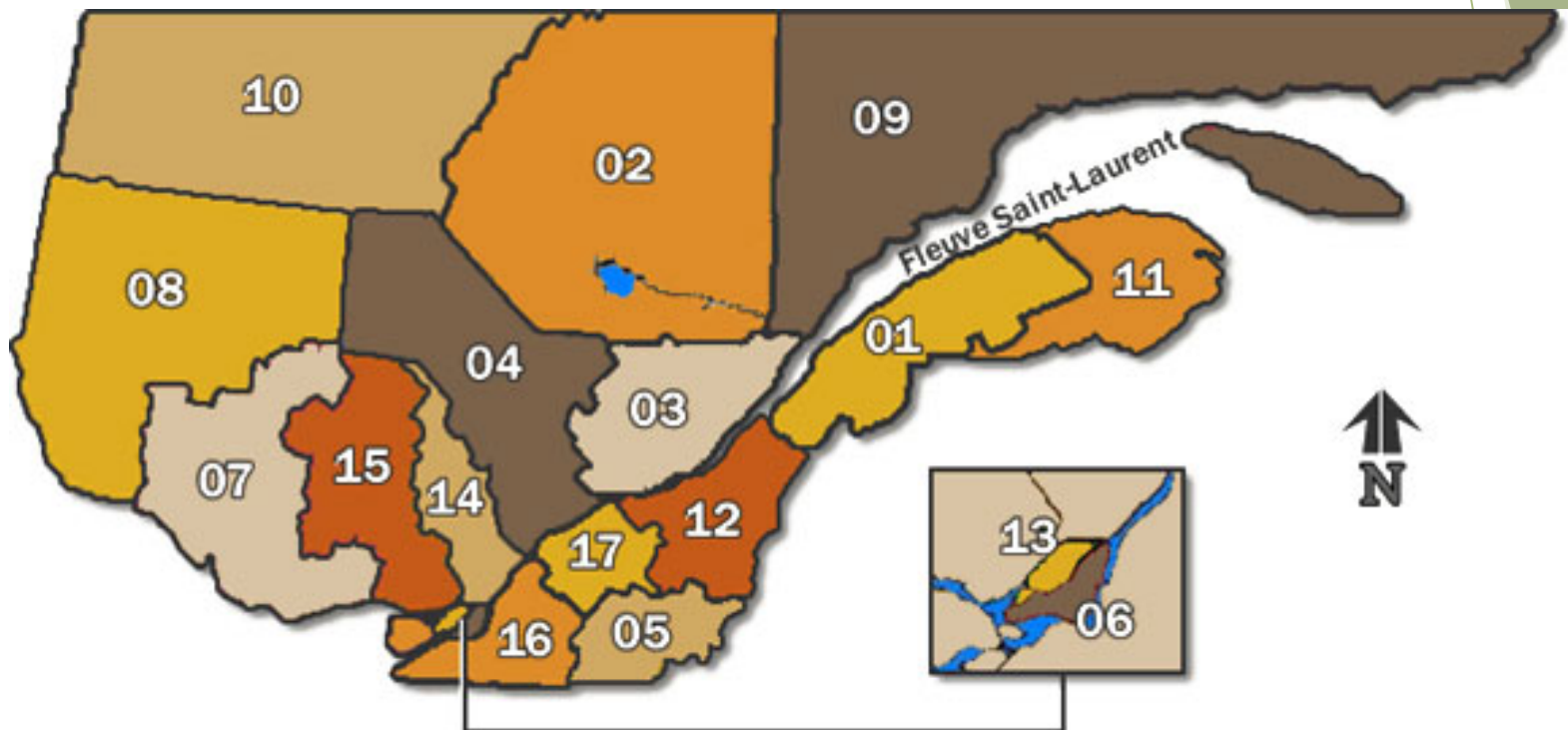


# Context

- ▶ Developing co-operative enterprises in Côte-Nord : a challenge
- ▶ Geography
- ▶ History
- ▶ Demographics
- ▶ The co-operative sector



# Geography



# History

- ▶ Large multinational businesses
- ▶ Mining and forestry
- ▶ Aboriginal communities
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Hydroelectricity projects
- ▶ Economic cycles



# Demographics

- ▶ Very low density
- ▶ Youth exodus
- ▶ Temporary workers: money flowing out of the Côte-Nord



# The co-operative sector

Type of co-operative	Number of co-ops in the sample	Number of co-ops in Côte-Nord
Consumer	6 (29 %)	22 (46 %)
Worker	2 (9 %)	5 (10 %)
Producer	1 (5 %)	3 (6 %)
Solidarity	10 (48 %)	16 (33 %)
Worker - Shareholder	2 (9 %)	1 (2 %)
Total	21	48
Caisses Desjardins	14	7

# The co-operative sector

MRC	Number of coops	Number of coops created between 2003 et 2013
Caniapiscau	2	0
La Haute-Côte-Nord	12	4
Le Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent	4	2
Manicouagan	14	2
Minganie	8	7
Sept Rivières	8	5
Total	48	20



# Mandate

- ▶ Assess the efforts invested in the co-op development in the last 10 years
- ▶ Involve stakeholders in a co-operative process, to obtain a rich picture of the system surrounding co-op development
- ▶ Offer guidelines and propose a plan to address challenges
- ▶ An issue : how to bring actors to work together, knowing their work is being evaluated by the researchers ?



# The stakeholders

Organizations involved in economic development

- ▶ Pôle d'Économie sociale
- ▶ Ministère des affaires municipales et de l'occupation du territoire
- ▶ Centre local de développement (CLD)
- ▶ Coopérative de développement régional (CDR)
- ▶ Federations
- ▶ Caisses Desjardins
- ▶ MP's
- ▶ City councils



# Methodology

- ▶ Use co-operative principles to develop the methodological approach : transparency, self-help, honesty
- ▶ Gather all actors to develop the tools to collect data
- ▶ Share all the information to everyone : best practices and mistakes
- ▶ Key element : a common objective in working towards an improved co-operative development, for the benefit of the Côte-Nord as a whole



# Future

- ▶ Final report to be submitted next week
- ▶ Roadmap for a 5 year plan ?
- ▶ Enhance a more comprehensive approach for policies and community engagement



# Preliminary lessons

- ▶ Research on cooperatives should adopt a cooperative approach
- ▶ Cooperation among stakeholders tend to ease the co-op development and awareness of the potential



Merci de votre attention !

