



Building a Co-operative Food System in Ontario



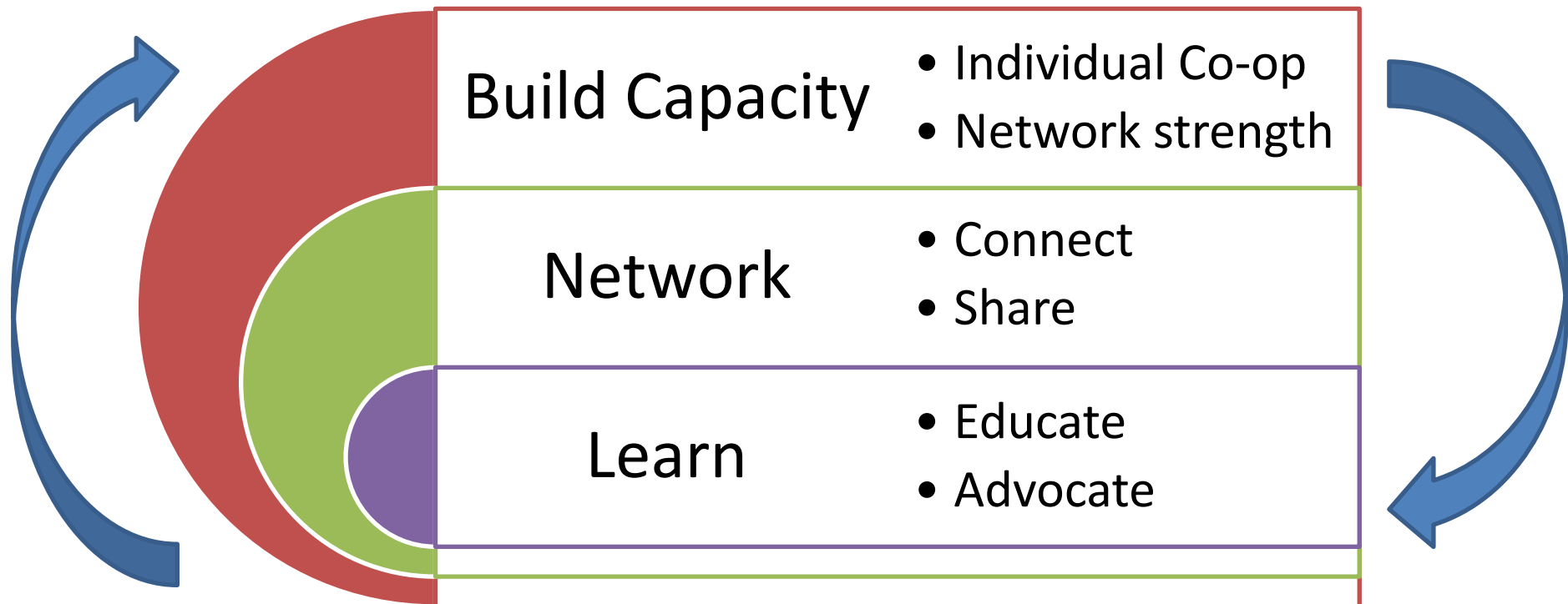
The Case of the Local Organic Food Co-ops Network

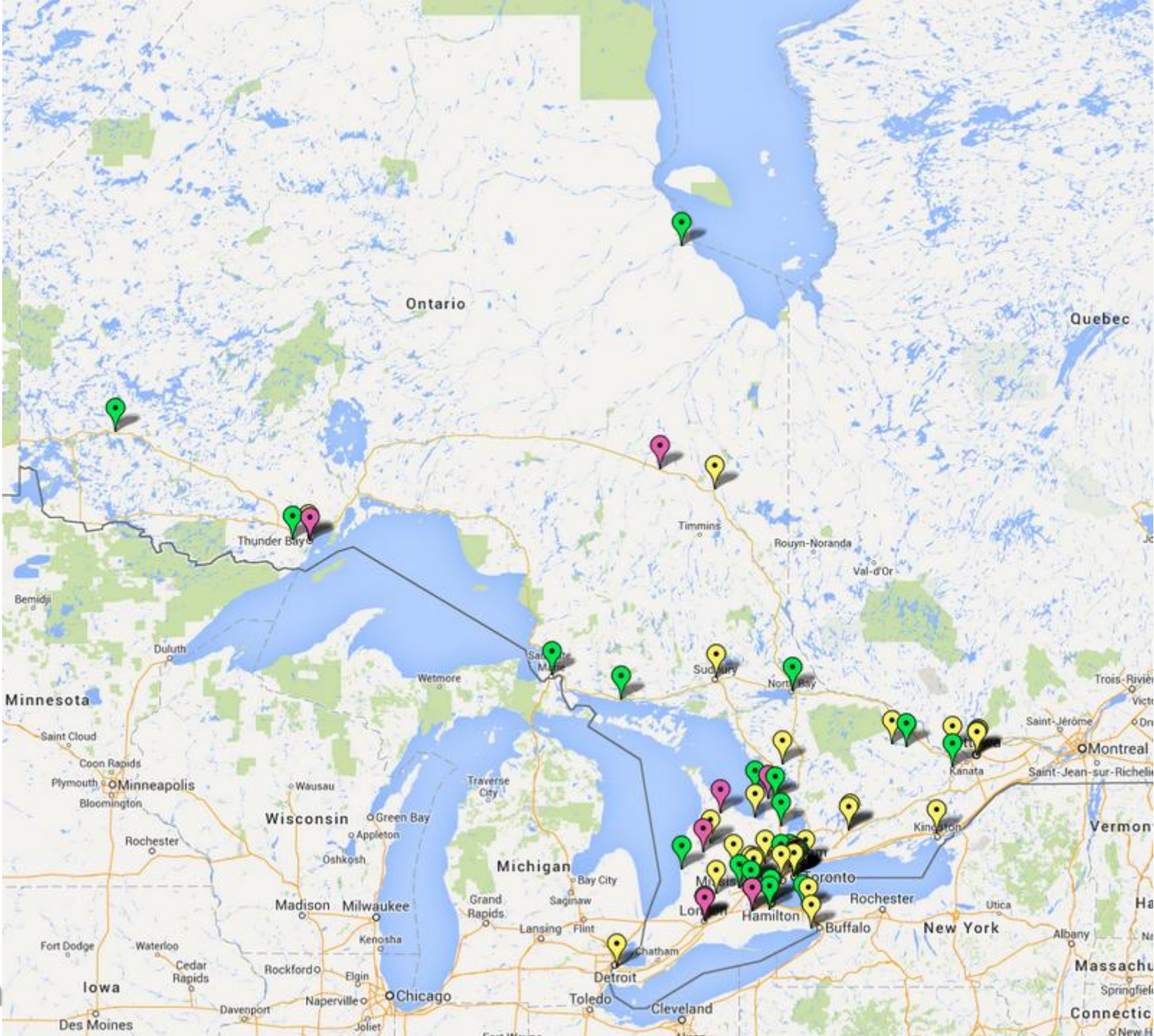
Brock University, St. Catharines
May 27, 2014



What is the Network?

67 established and emerging co-ops across Ontario
dedicated to co-operatively cultivating a more
sustainable food system





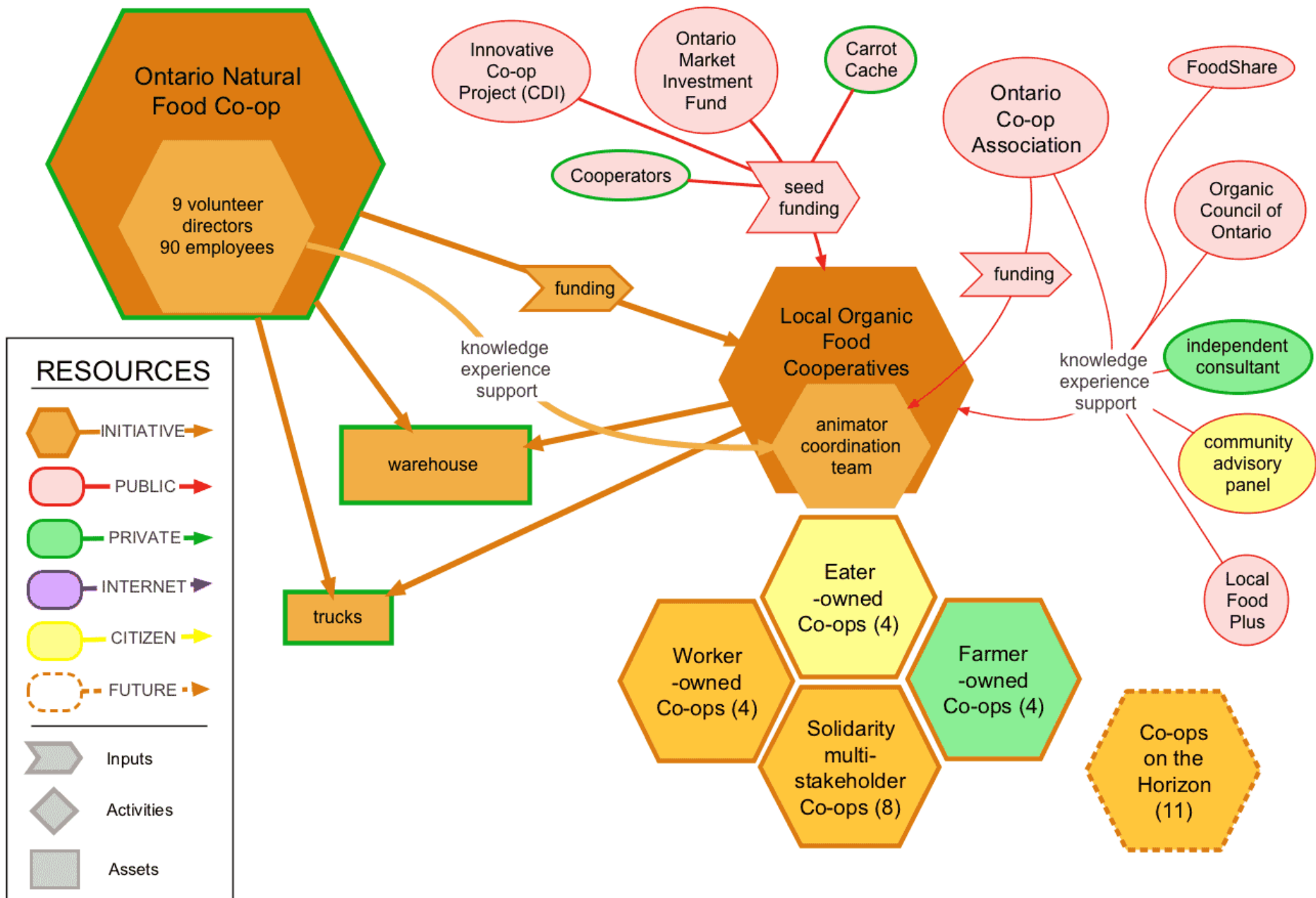
Legend:
Start-Up
Existing
Succession

Ontario Natural Food Co-op

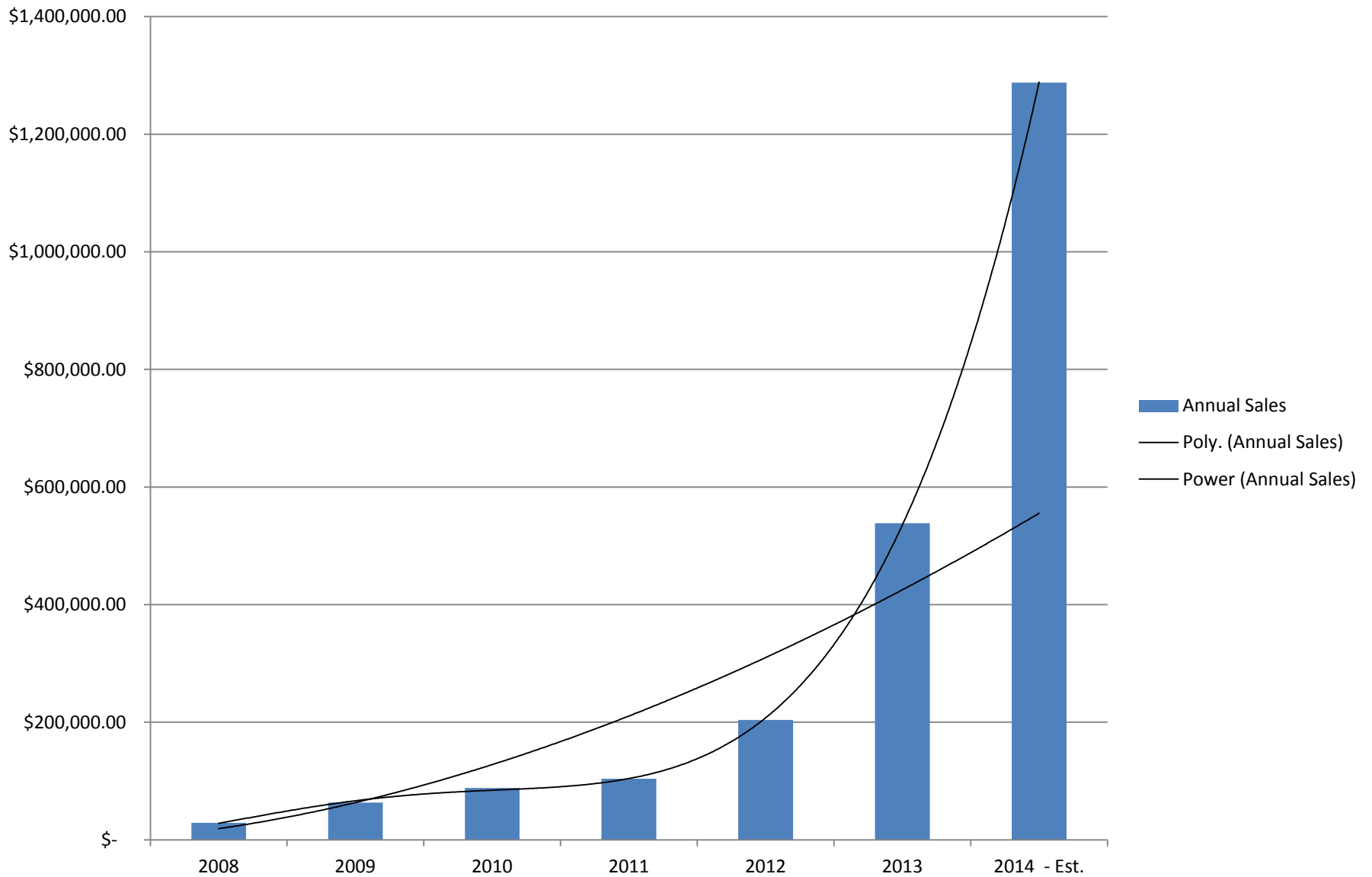
Operational initiatives

- Membership
 - Local organic food co-ops
 - Private label
 - Fresh truck
 - Sustainability
 - ERP – computer
-
- Food hubs
 - Incubator kitchen
-
- Workplace
 - Relocation
 - Foodservice
 - Acquisitions





Annual ONFC Sales to LOFC Members





2014 Steering Committee

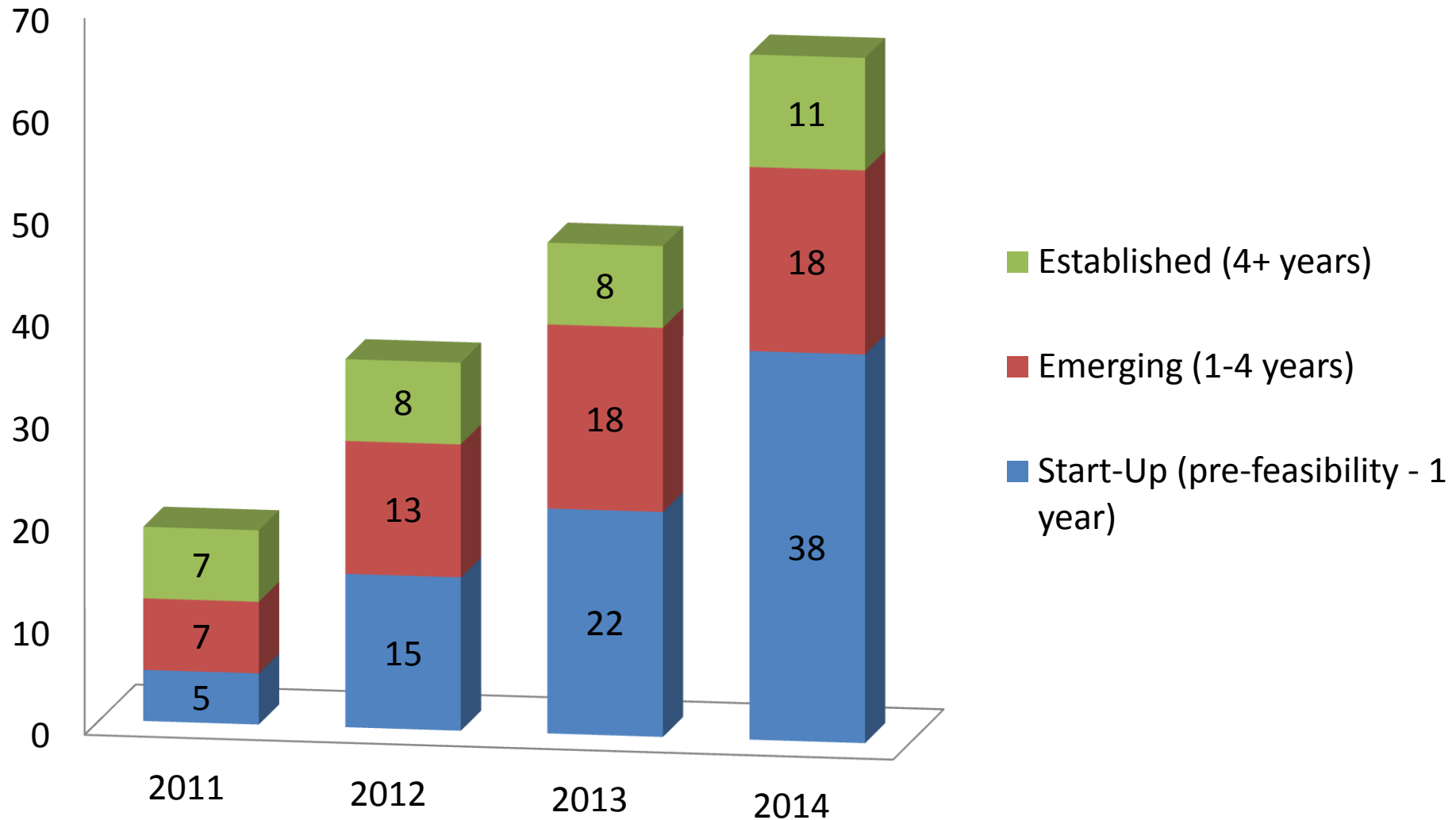


Network's Operating Values

1. Bringing local farmers and eaters into closer relationship
2. Growing and supplying fresh, healthy food locally
3. Keeping money in the community
4. Trading fairly, both domestically and internationally
5. Saving energy, building the soil, and protecting water
6. Celebrating good food, culture and community



LOFC Network Development



February 2013 – February 2014

Highlights

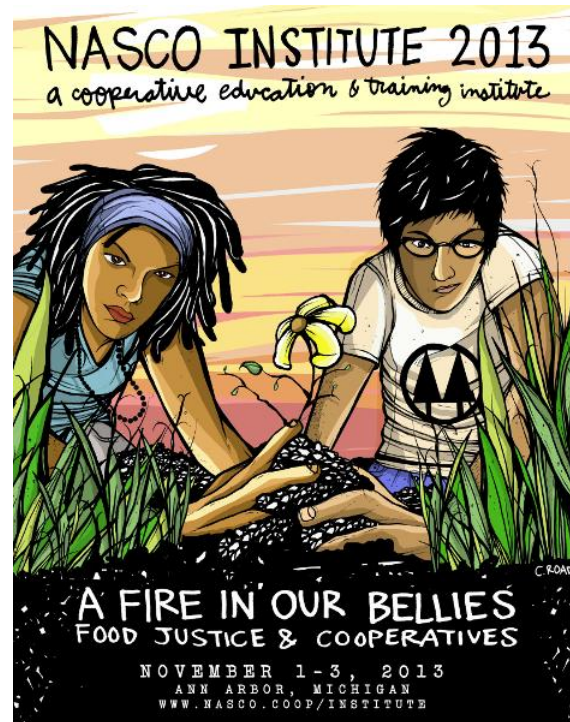
- Growing Good Food Ideas LOFC Network films launch at Queen's Park and online
- Hannah accepts Ontario Co-op Association Spirit Award for Co-operative Development as LOFC Network Animator
- "Co-operative Food Systems" article with LOFC Network case study accepted for publication in the Journal of Agriculture, Food Security and Community Development
- LOFCNetwork + OnCo-op published a "Food and Farm Co-op FactSheet"
- Andrew Alford bikes across Ontario and Eastern Canada visiting LOFC Network
- OnCo-op's Cooper, the Travelling Bear, visits LOFC Network
- Five York University 4th Year Students complete placements with LOFC Network



February 2013 – February 2014

Conference Presentations

- Ontario Student Co-operative Association – “Food Options for Student Housing Co-ops”
- Canadian Association for Food Studies – presentation in Exploration Gallery
- Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation – presentation by Jennifer Sumner
- Joint Events between CAFS & CASC: 2 paper sessions and grassroots panel “Co-operatives and the Future of Food” moderated by Hannah Renglich and Colin Anderson
- Bring Food Home – “Co-ops as the Ontario Food System’s Best Kept Secret” and “The Food Co-operative Workshop: Starting a Food or Farm Co-op”
- North American Students of Co-operation - “Co-Creating Regional Resilience in Ontario”
- Eastern Ontario Local Food Conference (food co-op panel presentation)
- Food, Farm, Finance Forum – “Financing Tools Available to Co-ops”



February 2013 – February 2014

Partnerships

- Collaborative Trillium Fund application submitted in conjunction with the Ontario Co-operative Association and Sustain Ontario
- Neighboring Food Co-op Association: Hannah, Glenn and Jeff attend members meetings in Vermont and Massachussets (March and September)
- darryl reed and Alli Floroff convened meeting of campus food co-ops and initiatives
- Simon Berge and Desiree Pinkney (UGuelph) interview LOFC Network members for research on local food distribution via co-operative channels
- proposal to Food Secure Canada as the Green Campus Co-op in collaboration with LOFC and the York Federation of Students for funding through their Community Food Security Hub grant program
- Canadian Organic Growers and LOFC Network looking at publishing a co-op-focused magazine
- Invitation to join Sustain Ontario Advisory Council
- Local Food Fund Application submitted in partnership with Eat Local Sudbury, On the Move Organics, Ottawa Valley Food Co-op, and True North Community Co-op

Openings

- Slave to the Grind Espresso Bar (Your Local Market Co-op), Stratford
- Cloverbelt Local Food Co-op, Dryden
- Grey Bruce Centre for Agroecology, Allenford
- Dandelion Foods Worker Co-op, Almonte
- The Mustard Seed Co-op, Hamilton

Facilitation

- Worker Meeting for West End Food Co-op
- Board and Committee Meeting for Karma Co-op
- Community consultation for co-op food store in Port McNicholl for The Karma Project

Trainings

- Ontario Public Health Association's Local Food Policy Development workshop
- Intensive Leadership Facilitation Training on anti-racism in the food system, hosted by Growing Power and FoodShare
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation Food Symposium in Thunder Bay

	Assembly	Regional Events	Online Meetings	Toolkits	Document Repository	Education Survey
<u>Who</u> Recipient	Members of Network (reps)	Members of Network	Members of Network (reps)	Members of Network	Members of Network	Members of Network
<u>Learning Shared by</u>	Peer-to-Peer and Sector Leader Education	Peer-to-Peer and Sector Leader Education	Peer-to-Peer and Sector Leader Education	Network Animator	Peer-to-Peer	Network Animator
<u>What</u> Details of event	Provincial Gathering, workshops, and consultations	Workshops, Site Visits, Regional Forums	Webinars + Virtual Campfires	Topic-focused how-to guides for co-ops	Best Practices and document template database	Needs and Assets assessment tool
<u>When</u> Frequency of opportunity	Annual	Quarterly	Quarterly	Continuous	Continuous	Biannual
<u>How</u> Opportunity is Accessed	Collectively	Collectively	Collectively	Individually	Individually	Individually
<u>Where</u> Location	In-Person	In-Person	Virtual	Virtual	Virtual	Virtual
<u>Why</u> Purpose	Network, Regional, and Co-op Capacity Building	Regional and Co-op Capacity Building	Co-op Capacity Building	Co-op Capacity Building	Co-op Capacity Building	Network Capacity Building

2014-15 Calendar

Legend: Quarterly Webcasts, Regional Forums, AGMs, Network Partners' Events, Celebrations

- **March 18** – OnCo-op Regional Forum East (Ottawa)
- **March 20** – OnCo-op Regional Forum Central (Sudbury)
- **March 27** – OnCo-op Regional Forum Southwest (London)
- **April 26** – ONFC Annual General Meeting + LOFC Steering Committee Meeting
- **May** – Webinar/Virtual Sharing Circle *date to be announced*
- **June 12** – OnCo-op AGM
- **July 5** – International Co-operative Day
- **July** – LOFC Network Toolkits Launch + Webinar *date to be announced*
- **August 26-29** – Nishnawbe Aski Nation Food Symposium + Northern Regional Forum (Thunder Bay)
- **September** – Webinar/Virtual Sharing Circle *date to be announced*
- **October 16** – Harvest Festival on World Food Day during International Co-op Week
- **November 12-16** – **ACORN Annual Conference and Food Secure Canada Assembly**
- **January** – Webinar/Virtual Sharing Circle *date to be announced*
- **February 23-25** – 6th Annual Assembly of the LOFC Network

Toolkits

- Grants 101
- Incorporating
- Co-op Legalities
- AGM Planning Toolkit
- Member Engagement
- Food Co-op Fundraising
- How to Write a Business Plan
- Social Enterprise, Social Finance
- How to Start a Food/Farm Co-op
- Co-op Supply Chain Management
- Governance and Board Education
- Financing and Capitalizing the Co-op
- Local Food and Commercial Kitchens
- High Impact Marketing for Food Co-ops
- How to Run an Effective Community Meeting
- Succession Planning/Transitioning to Co-op Status

