



Annual Review 2017

CBDC BlueWater



Table of Contents

President's Message	3
Executive Director's Message	3
Board of Directors	4
Staff	5
Year in Review	6
Client Profile - MusGo Rider	8
Client Profile - Hudson's Honeyberries	10
Annual General Meeting	11

CBDC BlueWater

5228 Highway #7, Unit 6

Porters Lake, NS B3E 1J8

Phone: 902-827-5564

Fax: 902-827-4390

www.bluewatercbdc.ca

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LETTER FROM
The Chair and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

2016/17 was another successful year for CBDC Blue Water with our programs and services assisting 431 clients in rural HRM. Our dedicated volunteer board and staff has done an incredible job at supporting small business job creation in our local communities.

A few highlights:

- 181 jobs created/maintained
- Lending close to \$1.5 million to 45 local businesses
- Assisting 38 clients through the Self-Employment Benefit Program delivered on behalf of Employment Nova Scotia

For almost 30 years CBDC Blue Water has assisted in the creation and expansion of small business. Our volunteers, staff, and partners have all truly made this possible. We will continue this commitment to the communities that we proudly call home.

Thank you for being a part of CBDC Blue Water, and we look forward to much more in 2018.

Sincerely,

Evan Williams, President and Chair
William Aasvagen, Executive Director



Board of Directors



Back L-R: Daniel Dooks - Director, Evan Williams - President & Chair, Jessie Greenough - Director, Gary Anderson - Director, Dan Nordqvist - Vice President, Kenny Dolomont - Director.

Front L-R: Lynn Matheson - Secretary & Treasurer, Kathy Dillman-Smith - Director.

Missing: John Keizer - Director.





Staff



Bill Aasvangen



Alayne Jackson



Christine Murphy



Sheila Spicer



Andrea Hamm



Jennifer O'Quinn

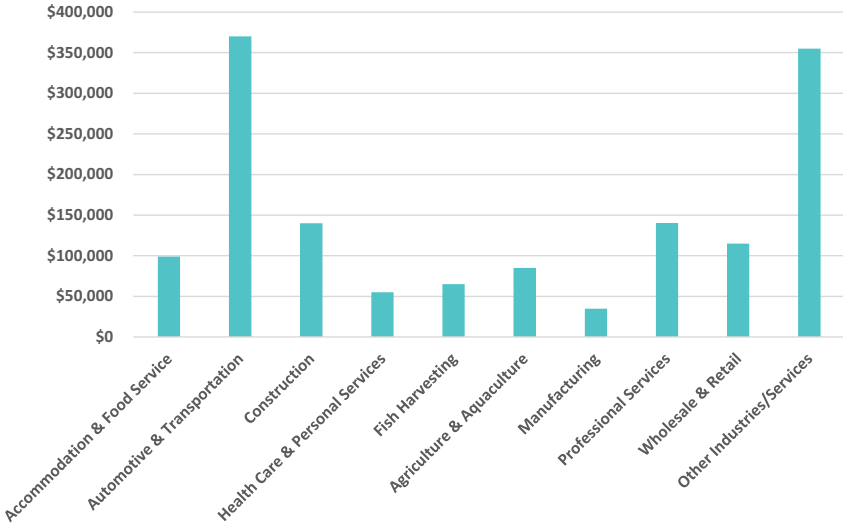


Sherri Mallard

Year in Review



2016 - 2017 CBDC Loans By Industry Sector



CBDC BlueWater is part of a network of not-for-profit organizations that foster community-based economic development by providing business support and loans to small and medium business enterprises. Investment decisions are made by local business people, sensitive to the needs of their communities.

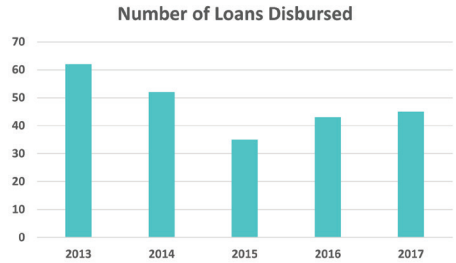
The volunteer board at CBDC BlueWater approves loans from a wide variety of

sectors, last year the most active sectors were automotive/transportation and the service sector.





CBDC BlueWater experienced a very successful 2016-17 year, disbursing over 1.49 million dollars to 45 entrepreneurs, 53% of these were to new start-ups. These loans led to the creation and maintenance of 181 jobs in rural HRM. They also assisted 38 clients through the Self-Employment Benefit Program delivered on behalf of Employment Nova Scotia.



Loans disbursed since inception: 1,436
 Value of loans disbursed since inception: \$40.9 million

Investment Activity

Applications Received	65
Applications Disbursed	45
Total Value of Assistance	\$1,495,990
Average Size of Loan	\$33,244

Businesses Assisted

New Start-up	24
Existing	21
Clients Counselling	348

Jobs

Jobs Created	106
Jobs Maintained	75
Investment per job	\$8,265

MUSGO RIDER

In 2007, HRM's Planning Department selected Musquodoboit Harbour and adjacent communities to participate in the Community Visioning Program. The process brought together a wide range of residents who expressed their views on what the community should look like in the years to come. There was significant community involvement. In the end, ten priorities were identified. Public transportation and sidewalks were identified as the number two priorities (number one, business and economy). Halifax Transit service from Musquodoboit Harbour to Dartmouth / Halifax was identified but also the need for public transportation throughout the study area.

Since its incorporation as a non-profit

organization in February 2012, MusGo Rider Cooperative Ltd., under the direction of Jessie Greenough, CPA, CMA and a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors, has grown to a very financially stable organization with 2 full-time and 5 permanent part-time staff. MusGo now has four vehicles, two of which are wheel-chair accessible. All of which are owned outright by the cooperative.

In the spring of 2015 MusGo Rider was approached by a group in Musquodoboit Valley, as they were interested in partnering with MusGo to provide rural transportation to their communities. Interested members in Sheet Harbour also joined the conversation. Funding was received and a consultant was hired to complete the business plan.

It was decided that a new organization would be formed for Musquodoboit Valley and the Sheet Harbour areas called MusGo Rider Valley-Sheet Harbour Cooperative Ltd. This new organization would be operated in partner with MusGo Rider using the same Executive Director and Dispatcher. A grant was received



Hudson's Honeyberries

We first heard of the Haskap berries when they came to Canada but at that time, we were enthralled in raising our last child and both working at a fulltime day job. Although we had thirteen acres of property, there was no time to think about anything other than getting through our busy days and nights but we knew someday, we would be earning a living off of our land... we just didn't know how.

About five years ago, my husband started getting signs of having fibromyalgia, an illness that is not fully understood yet but can be very painful so he stopped working full time until he could make sense of what was happening to his body. During this time, he started to read about the berries and was amazed with the incredible health qualities and the many benefits to growers.

He learned just how healthy these vitamin berries are and we were both amazed how easy they are to take care of so, we decided to buy some Haskap plants. There was only one

problem however, we didn't have any money. We reached out to CBDC and were welcomed with open arms.

They lent us \$10,000 and we bought truckloads of Haskap plants from a Nova Scotia supplier, along with other gardening tools and items we would need to run our business. We also set up at two farmers markets, one at Musquodoboit Farmers Market and the other, Funky Farmgate Market in Enfield where we sell Haskap plants and perennials during planting season. Each time we sold a plant, it allowed us to plant two in the field to now which we have over 1300 Haskap plants planted firmly in the ground.



During my husband's research on the Haskap berry, he found out that most berries that are grown in Nova Scotia are shipped to Japan or other parts of the world as they cannot be grown everywhere, and that leaves Nova Scotians with no access to the berries or their products unless they are financially well off because they are so expensive here in the retail outlets. We decided that that was not fair and the people of our province deserve to have access to these berries regardless of their income so we decided to open part of our Haskap field as a U-pick. We had a lot of interest this year, our very first, and people are very excited to see this delicious and healthy product in Musquodoboit at prices they can afford.

Thank you to CBDC for giving us this opportunity.



Annual General Meeting 2017



