



Slocan Valley

# THE SLOCAN VALLEY CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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64<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022



Over the past two years we have all experienced the swinging pendulum of the covid pandemic and we look forward to a growing sense of normalcy. As a member owned cooperative, we have managed over the last year to provide to our members and communities with high quality, reliable and locally accessible services in times of stress. In particular the Board of Directors wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to our employees for their efforts during these difficult times.

Financially, for the 12 months ending October 2021, we had a good year, largely as a result of our membership in Federated Cooperatives. We were able to return member patronage to pre-covid levels, while also setting aside retained earnings for future investments. (Chris will take us through some of the financial details later in the agenda). One area we did invest in and expand was our oil and lube products targeted largely at our bulk fuel customers.

Over the last year, the board has worked to bring its governance practices to a higher and more consistent level. We are implementing best practices in areas such as risk assessment, board self assessment, and a disciplined approach to identifying organizational objectives and performance.

Looking ahead, the board and management have continued to work on our strategic priorities. We have defined our geographic focus as the Slocan/Castlegar/Nelson triangle, which guides our evolving identity and future investments. In the coming year we will be working on four priorities:

1. Strengthening our existing operations, including adjusting staff and management responsibilities; purchase of a new fuel delivery truck (at \$450,000 – a substantial sum); and evolving our product offerings to better serve our members and communities.
2. Assessing opportunities and costs related to future development on the Slocan Park site.
3. Developing an energy road map for our co-op, recognizing that fossil fuels make up a dominant share of our business. The road map will examine how we position ourselves to provide the lowest carbon content transportation fuels in the West Kootenays. Federated Cooperatives has already begun to take major steps in reducing the carbon content of their refinery through carbon capture, development of renewable diesel, and other measures at the refinery.
4. During the current fiscal year, we are actively pursuing new investment opportunities that are consistent with our strategic objectives. Given the confidentiality of this process, we cannot discuss these opportunities, but we will keep our members informed.

Lastly, I would highlight our growing support of community initiatives through our Community Development Fund and our Member Giving program. We look forward to strengthening these efforts in the coming years.

In closing, the Board and myself invite members to contact us if they wish to discuss any issues related to our co-op operations and future plans.

Derek Murphy  
President – Board of Directors  
Slocan Valley Co-operative Association