

## **Community Sector Council NL Announces Social Acquisition Through the SETA Program; Two Whales Coffee Shop Acquired By Table 8 Co-operative**

*Port Rexton, July 22, 2025* - The Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador (CSCNL) is excited to celebrate the acquisition of the Two Whales Coffee Shop by Table 8, a worker-owned Co-operative.

Two Whales is an important community hub and tourism business in Port Rexton that serves organic, garden-grown vegetarian fare, coffee, and baked confections. After 16 years in business, founders David Ellis and Sue Asquith have retired and secured an agreement with a group of existing employees. Olivia White, Jill White, Carrie Hookey, Penny Vivian-Penney, and Rebecca Hiscock formed Table 8 Co-operative and began operating Two Whales Coffee Shop in May.

SETA provides funding and support for community organizations to acquire businesses. This transformative initiative uses hands-on capacity building, matching, and connection to financing to enhance community well-being by preventing the closure of rural small businesses. SETA is made possible with funding from the Northpine Foundation, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). This acquisition was made possible with support from our project partners, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Co-operatives (NLFC).

For more information on the SETA program and how to get involved, please contact Andre LeBlanc, Senior Associate - Social Ventures at [andre@cscnl.ca](mailto:andre@cscnl.ca).

### **Quotes**

“When Northpine invested in the Community Sector Council’s SETA initiative, this was exactly the kind of transition we hoped to see more of, one that preserves the independence of Newfoundland and Labrador’s unique communities by keeping businesses locally owned, open, and contributing to the local economy.”

- **Mark Lane**, Impact Director – Newfoundland & Labrador, The Northpine Foundation

“Unique, socio-economic challenges require unique, community-led solutions. With this new acquisition, our SETA initiative is proving to be a viable pathway for communities to retain their critical services while creating new opportunities for community organizations. We are thankful to Northpine, ACOA and the Province for supporting this journey and to NLFC for our partnership. We wish Table 8 Co-operative a successful summer season and look forward to supporting them in a new way – as customers.”

- **Colin Corcoran**, Chief Executive Officer – Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador

### **Media Inquiries**

Colin Corcoran

---

Chief Executive Officer Community Sector Council Newfoundland & Labrador

[colin@cscnl.ca](mailto:colin@cscnl.ca)

### **About the Community Sector Council, Newfoundland & Labrador**

The Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador (CSCNL) champions social and economic well-being. Our unwavering mission is to cultivate a thriving and inclusive province that uplifts individuals, families, and communities alike. By fostering citizen engagement, encouraging social and economic progress, and leading research, we pave the way for positive transformation. Since our incorporation in 1977, CSCNL has been a driving force that links, empowers, and advocates for the Community Sector in Newfoundland and Labrador. We proudly amplify the voices of a resilient sector, and our role remains steadfast: nurturing volunteerism, bolstering organizational capabilities, increasing access to expertise and opportunities, and sharing the invaluable contributions of non-profit and community entities.

### **About the Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Co-operatives**

For over 75 years, the Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Co-operatives (NLFC) has been the provincial association for the co-operatives and credit union sector of Newfoundland and Labrador. The mission of the NLFC is to support and advance the co-operative and credit union sector in NL through representation, promotion, education, and development through partnerships and programming. With 45 co-operatives and credit unions currently represented through its membership, the NLFC acts as a unifying voice to amplify their needs and works in partnership with other regional and national co-operative organizations, representing the interests of local co-operatives and facilitating support for programs and services.

### **About the Northpine Foundation**

The Northpine Foundation works with a vision to propel and expand outcome-centred innovation in Canada. As a start-up philanthropic organization, Northpine provides catalytic funding through tailored financing (donations, grants, loans, equity, or blend), along with expertise, networks, and other non-financial supports to help underinvested and underserved cohorts thrive and flourish. Focused on a core value of kindness in every undertaking, the Northpine Foundation designs, funds, and collaborates on initiatives that combine best practices with new, untried approaches to drive scalable change towards a healthy and resilient Canada.

### **About the Atlantic Canadian Opportunities Agency (ACOA)**

ACOA works to create opportunities for economic growth in Atlantic Canada by helping businesses become more competitive, innovative and productive, by working with diverse communities to develop and diversify local economies, and by championing the strengths of the region.

### **About the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology (IET)**

Within the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador, IET focuses on creating a competitive environment to support private sector investment and business growth, and

---

supporting industries in Newfoundland and Labrador. Working closely with key stakeholders, the department also develops and monitors supporting regulatory and benefits activities.