

With a goal of reducing theft occurrences, and upon recommendation from the Belfast Police Department, the Belfast Co-op has implemented a new store policy, effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 of requiring all customers to use the provided shopping carts and baskets for collecting the items that you wish to purchase. The use of personal bags, re-usable bags, and backpacks as shopping vessels will be prohibited, and we reserve the right to inspect any customer bags and backpacks at the checkout counter to verify that all contents have been purchased.

We realize that this new policy will pose an inconvenience to many of you accustomed to using your bags and backpacks as your shopping carts, and we want to continue to encourage all our customers to cultivate sustainable shopping habits by bringing your own bags to package your purchases. We hope this new policy will reduce the opportunity for theft, and ask for your dedicated co-operation and assistance in this matter as owners and customers of this community business. When theft occurs, the precious financial resources that subsidize our multi-layered mission statement also walk out the door, affecting our ability to provide needed goods and services to our community. Any concerns or questions on this matter can be directed to the management team, and we appreciate your co-operation.