



NEWS AND VIEWS

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ACCA *News and Views* will be published at the beginning of each month. Please submit news items or information you would like to share to acca@acca.coop.

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ACCA Member Profile: Federated Co-operatives Limited (The Co-operative Retailing System in Alberta)



Federated Co-operatives Ltd. (FCL) provides central wholesaling, manufacturing and administrative services to 268 locally owned retail co-operatives located in approximately 500 communities in Western Canada. These retail co-operatives own FCL and together they are known as the Co-operative Retailing System, employing more than 18,000 and providing an estimated 1,200,000 co-operative members with a variety of goods and services ranging from petroleum, food and general merchandise to crop supplies and livestock feed.

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Canadian Social Economy Hub Scholarships



The Canadian Social Economy Hub (CSEHub) is inviting proposals for research scholarships from students and young practitioners (under 30-years of age) working in the Social Economy. The ‘Emerging Leaders in the Social Economy Research Scholarship Program’ is intended to promote original research by emerging leaders in the Social Economy sector, and advance the capacity of successful candidates to strengthen the Social Economy in their academic and practitioner sectors. The Program will provide scholarships of up to \$3,000 per recipient towards salary replacement, national/international travel, or other actual costs of conducting research and producing a research report for publication by CSEHub. A review panel will recommend awards to the CSEHub Co-Directors, who will review proposals.

The awarding of scholarships is conditional upon the following:

- The subject is relevant to the national policy research priorities of CSEHub
- A paper for publication by CSEHub will be produced for peer review and then completed and ready for publication within a timeline agreed by the Hub and not later than 4-months prior to the end of the SSHRC grant in August 2010.

Requirements for the proposal include:

- Completed application form;
- CV listing all publications, previous research experience, and up to three references;
- Letter of application outlining interest in continued work in strengthening the Social Economy, the rationale for the research proposal, its relevance to the policy priorities of CSEHub, the arrangements that have been or can be made to ensure sufficient time for the research and writing process, a proposed budget (including costs to be covered by the award), and the use to which the report and research data/findings will be put by practitioners/actors in the Social Economy;
- Letters of support for the proposal.

Deadline for proposals is April 15, 2009. A second call for proposals will be issued in September 2009, for which the deadline will be October 15.

For more information or to submit a proposal, please email secoord@uvic.ca

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2009 Summer Co-operative Youth Program

We are hard at work preparing for the 2009 ACCA Summer Co-operative Youth Program. We are excited to announce the return of our **Pre-Teen Program** for participants in grades six and seven along with our regular Teen, Youth and Grad Programs. Brochures containing information and registration for these programs are now available. Additional information regarding these programs can be found on our website at <http://www.acca.coop/youthcamps.html>

This year is an exciting one for ACCA. We will be celebrating the youth program's **50th Anniversary**. Please contact our office if you attended or know someone that attended the program. More information regarding the celebration will be available in the upcoming months.

Youth Program Wish List

The ACCA Co-operative Youth Program uses many supplies throughout the summer. Please look at our website if you are interested in donating supplies to the program. <http://www.acca.coop/2009Wishlist.pdf>

ACCA's Annual General Meeting

The Alberta Community and Co-operative Association will be holding the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday, May 29, 2009 at the Holiday Inn on 67th, Red Deer, AB. The AGM will begin with registration at 1:45 p.m. The meeting will commence at 2:00 p.m. Prior to the AGM, a Members Forum on lessons learned from the Nova Scotia cooperative development system will be held. After the conclusion of the forum, the 2009 Co-operative Award luncheon will be held all at the same location. Registration for the members' forum will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the forum will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. If you will be joining us for the luncheon and AGM only, registration will begin at 11:15 a.m. More information will be posted on the website along with the registration form.



Quebec Funeral Co-ops Lead the Way in Reducing Funeral Costs

Annie Normandin from the Quebec Federation of Funeral Co-ops and Mark Goldblatt from the Canadian Co-operative Association will be making a presentation to a special dinner meeting of the Board of Directors of the Calgary Co-operative Memorial Society on April 29, 2009 at 6 p.m. in the community room of the Calgary Co-op on MacLeod Trail South (8818 MacLeod Trail SE). A complimentary dinner will be served. Here is an opportunity to hear firsthand about a powerful co-operative initiative that has grown quickly and is now the trendsetter for funeral pricing in Quebec, thereby forestalling major U.S. corporate funeral giants in their bid to monopolize the funeral business in that province. What Quebec is doing offers opportunities for us in Alberta.

Following the presentation, Mark Goldblatt of CCA would like to discuss with Alberta co-op representatives, the possibility of starting a Funeral Co-op in Alberta. As a prominent player in Southern Alberta Co-operatives, we hope you'll attend and provide your feedback.

Welcome to Two New Members

ACCA welcomes two new members:

- [Alberta Pulse Growers](#)
- Wolf Farms

Awards Nominations Deadline Approaching

April 22, 2009 is the deadline to nominate a deserving individual or organization for the 2009 Alberta Co-operative Awards. This year marks the addition of four new award categories.

If you know a person 30 years of age or younger who has demonstrated leadership in a co-operative or credit union, then consider them for the *Young Co-operative Leader Award*. Or if you know of a person or an organization that has drawn younger members to become involved in a co-op or credit union, then consider the *Inspiring Young Co-operators Award*.

Inspiring others is one of the outcomes that the recipients of the *Co-operative Visionary Award* will have demonstrated. And individuals or organizations are eligible for the *Co-operative Innovations Award* if they have developed new approaches to delivering products and services, enhanced co-operative structures, and/or application of the co-operative principles.

The long standing *Co-operative Merit Award* will be presented for outstanding and continuous service.

Details of the awards criteria and award nominations forms are available [here](#).

Co-operative Auto Network and CCA Launch Project to Promote Car Sharing Co-ops

Thanks to funding from the federal government, Vancouver's [Co-operative Auto Network](#) (CAN) and the [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) (CCA) are embarking on a project aimed at promoting the development of car sharing in western Canada and Ontario.

CAN representative Tanya Paz will visit Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon and Winnipeg to speak at public meetings on car sharing and contribute to business planning with emerging car sharing co-operatives. Those cities were selected because they either have emerging car sharing co-ops already, or have groups that are in the process of starting up car sharing co-operatives. New and emerging car-sharing co-ops in the Prairies, BC and Ontario will also receive assistance as part of the project.

The project received a grant from the federal Co-operatives Secretariat through the [Co-operative Development Initiative](#) (CDI). The project will conclude with a virtual conference to discuss the potential for a national Car Sharing Co-operative Federation. For further information, contact Mark Goldblatt at mark.goldblatt@coopscanada.coop.

Tully, Bauer Re-Elected as President and Vice-Chair of FCL

Glen Tully and Beryl Bauer have been re-elected as president and vice-chair of the board of [Federated Co-operatives Limited](#) (FCL) on March 3. The election took place at the board reorganization meeting following FCL's 80th annual meeting, held in Saskatoon.

The FCL board of directors consists of 19 members elected from 19 geographical regions in western Canada. The president is primarily responsible for the functioning of the democratic decision making structure that guides the operations of FCL. The FCL presidency is a full-time position, based at FCL's home office in Saskatoon.

Glen Tully was first elected president of FCL in 2005; Beryl Bauer was first elected vice-chair in 2008.

FCL provides central wholesaling, manufacturing, marketing and administrative services to approximately 265 autonomous member retail co-operatives located across western Canada. FCL achieved record sales of \$8.4 billion and record earnings of \$755.5 million in 2008.

Ag-CDI Video Series Now Available Online

A new set of videos is now available highlighting agricultural co-ops in Canada. The series includes five stories about the role of agricultural co-ops in rural communities; how a new generation of co-ops is arising in response to market opportunities in bio-fuels, bio-energy and other forms of value-added agriculture; and how co-ops deal with such practical issues as governance and capitalization.

The series was produced by the [Agricultural Co-operative Development Initiative](#) (Ag-CDI) as an educational tool for value-added agricultural co-ops and the organizations that support them. The videos are available in English and French at www.coopscanada.coop/resources/videoscds/ag_CDI.html. DVD copies will be distributed soon to co-ops and development agencies.

Follow the Blogs of CCA Credit Union Coaches in Africa

Four Canadian credit union professionals on assignment for the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) in Uganda, Malawi and Ghana are sharing their experiences on the CCA website.

The Canadians are advising local credit union boards and staff in the three African countries. This year, ten credit union coaches from Canada returned to Ghana for the second year of their coaching assignment, and 12 travelled to Malawi and Uganda for their first of two missions to aid credit unions.

The bloggers are:

- Lareina Grosse, Branch Manager of Northern Savings and Credit Union, BC.
- Detlef Beck, Director, Community Enterprises, Vancity Enterprises, BC.



- Charlie Collura, CEO, Healthcare and Municipal Employees' Credit Union (Hamilton, Ontario)
 - Robert Christiansen, Branch Manager, Servus Credit Union (Lethbridge, Alberta)
- You can link to their blogs from the *Coaching Corner* page on the CCA web site.

Report Shows Improvements in Co-op Governance Practices

A new national report on co-operative governance practices shows that Canada's co-operatives and credit unions are firmly focused on effective governance and have made major strides in adopting accountability and oversight practices.

The National Report on Credit Union and Co-operative Governance Practices, prepared by [Brown Governance Inc.](#) and the [Canadian Co-operative Association](#), is the result of a survey completed by 115 Canadian co-ops and credit unions in 2008.

“The use of new technology to communicate with members and improve transparency is the single biggest governance practice change since the first national survey was conducted in 2004,” said Debra Brown, president and CEO of Brown Governance Inc. “We also found that since 2004, many more co-op boards have adopted formal board and committee charters, board and director evaluations, member surveys and focus groups, on-line governance and financial disclosure, and CEO position descriptions and delegations of authority.”

“The co-op sector is actively embracing the reform era of corporate governance, where directors are more than just representatives of members' interests, but also bring specific attributes that enable them to actively govern the co-op,” added Carol Hunter, executive director of the Canadian Co-operative Association “Co-ops are also more actively seeking board members with financial expertise and other specific skills.”

According to the report, the co-op boards could be doing more is in the area of community, social and environmental stewardship, as well as in promoting co-operative identity.

The report is available for purchase at www.browngovernance.com/coopgovernance.htm.