



# NEWS AND VIEWS

APRIL 2010

#104, 5013 – 48 Street, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1L8  
 Phone: 780.963.3766 Fax: 780.968.6733  
 Website: [www.acca.coop](http://www.acca.coop) E-mail: [acca@acca.coop](mailto:acca@acca.coop)

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](mailto:acca@acca.coop).

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## Member Input Sought

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Should ACCA pursue the development of eldercare co-operatives and/or co-operative services? This will be the ultimate question that participants will address at the ACCA Members' Forum.

A study prepared for the National Task Force on Co-op Eldercare identified the growing issues of eldercare. Among others, these include: an aging population as the baby boomers enter into retirement; a lack of affordable and readily accessible support systems for elders needing assistance; and growing stresses on families and friends to provide care.

(On a similar note, in co-op awareness sessions held by ACCA in rural Alberta over the past year, several communities identified the challenges of enabling seniors to stay in their communities.)

The study also recognizes the role that the co-operative model plays in providing improved quality of care and housing, reduced costs, and empowerment for elders, their families, and workers to enable meaningful contribution to quality care.

ACCA invites its members to participate in a morning of presentation and dialogue on this issue. Learn more about the potential role of co-operatives in eldercare and give us your perspective. How should ACCA respond to this opportunity to enhance the lives of our seniors?

Friday, April 30, 2010

Registration: 8:30 AM

Forum: 9:00 to 11:30 AM

Holiday Inn on 67th, Red Deer

This event is open to ACCA Member Organizations only. Registration information was forwarded to members in early March. For further information including registration forms, contact the ACCA office: Phone: 780-963-3766 or email: [acca@acca.coop](mailto:acca@acca.coop)

## Invitation to Alberta Co-operative Awards Luncheon

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On April 30, the 2010 Alberta Co-operative Awards Luncheon will be held in Red Deer. Join your co-operative colleagues as we pay tribute to outstanding co-operative contributions.

The event will follow the ACCA Members Forum (see previous article) and will be followed by the ACCA Annual Meeting.

All are welcome to attend the Alberta Co-operative Awards Luncheon.

Friday, April 30, 2010

Registration: 11:15

Luncheon: 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Holiday Inn on 67th, Red Deer

To register contact the ACCA office:

Phone: 780-963-3766

Email: [acca@acca.coop](mailto:acca@acca.coop)

## Attend the ACCA Annual General Meeting

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ACCA is holding its 2010 Annual General Meeting on Friday, April 30 following the Alberta Co-operative Awards Luncheon. Member organizations are invited to attend and learn about ACCA's achievements over the past year.

Make a day of it!

8:30 am	Member Forum Registration
9:00 am	ACCA Members' Forum
11:30 am	Alberta Co-operative Awards Luncheon
1:45 pm	AGM Registration
2:00 pm	AGM

See the [letter of invitation and registration form](#) on our website.

## Host Organizations Needed

### Bright Young Minds Available to Your Organization

If you are seeking some assistance with a special project or you have a lot on your plate and could use a skilled and enthusiastic young person on your team, the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association (ACCA) may have what you are looking for.

ACCA's Career Focus Internship Program offers the opportunity to hire a post-secondary graduate for a 12 week period with financial subsidy. This initiative is supported by the Government of Canada.

By hiring a young person in this program, you are providing them with your mentorship and valuable work experience that they need for their résumé to help launch their career.

Through the Career Focus Internship Program, ACCA provides an hourly subsidy for positions in which the interns have meaningful work experiences. Host organizations are encouraged to add to the intern's compensation to provide a reasonable wage for the skill level.

The following are the currently enrolled in the program and are looking for positions:

- Legal Office Assistant
- Bachelor of Science – Chemical Engineering with a minor in Computer Process Control
- Oilfield Operator Training and Professional Production Field Operations
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in History
- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
- Theatre/Film degree
- Bachelor of Science – Chemistry major
- Bachelor of Arts in Recreation, Sport and Tourism
- Business diploma

Please consider this a wonderful opportunity to start a youth on their way to a great career!

To learn more about opportunities in this program, contact:

Dianne Schoepp

Special Project Coordinator  
Alberta Community and Co-operative Association

#104, 5013 - 48th Street  
Stony Plain, Alberta T7Z 1L8  
(780) 963-3766 phone  
(780) 968-6733 fax

E-mail: [dschoepp@acca.coop](mailto:dschoepp@acca.coop)

website: [www.acca.coop](http://www.acca.coop)

## 2010 Summer Co-operative Youth Program

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### Summer Programs 2010

We are hard at work preparing for the 2010 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 and posters containing information and registration for these programs are now available on our website soon. Please contact the office at 780-963-3766 if you would like some promotional materials mailed out to you.

Additional information regarding these programs can be found on our website at [www.acca.coop/youthcamps.html](http://www.acca.coop/youthcamps.html)

Join our Facebook Fan Page – ACCA Co-operative Youth Program.

### Winter Co-operative Youth Program

The Alberta Community and Co-operative Association is excited to present their 2010 Winter Co-operative Youth Program.

The Winter Co-operative Youth Program is a 3½ hour educational hands-on learning experience for youth in grades five and six. We have the students learn ways in which they can work together harmoniously. We teach the students about co-operative ideals and how these ideals can benefit them and their community and we teach them about different leadership styles in hopes that they will understand what style works best. Lastly, we have the students draw and act out what agriculture means to them and how it affects their daily lives.

In the past, this program has been a huge success and ACCA will continue to visit schools in various communities throughout Alberta. We are currently looking for schools that are interested in hosting a Winter Co-operative Youth Program. The cost of our program is very minimal and all we ask is that our travel costs be covered. Please contact our office at [acca@acca.coop](mailto:acca@acca.coop) if you would be interested in hosting a Winter Co-operative Youth Program or if you would like some more information.

## Youth Program Wish List 2010

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Full or partial donations are appreciated. Thank you for your support!!!

- Permanent black markers(thick) – 8
- Pens (black or blue)
- White glue – 3
- Glue sticks – 5
- Scissors (sharp) – 5
- Notebooks (small) – 350
- Candles (tall white) – 75
- Masking tape – 12 rolls
- Brown paper lunch bags – 180
- Small envelopes – 300
- Gently used fax machine
- Balloons (black, red, white) – 4 packages of each
- Flip chart paper – 15 pads
- Mousetraps – 15
- Wool (bright colors) 10 rolls, 4 black rolls, 4 white rolls
- Plastic table cloths – 15
- Rechargeable batteries for digital camera (12+)
- Certificate paper – 350 sheets

### **CANTEEN**

Quantities are approximate. These are just examples of some of the things that would be enjoyed in the canteen

- Pop (approx. 225 cans) water (approx. 200 bottles) for – Coke, diet Coke, Nestea, Barq's Rootbeer, Sprite, Mountain Dew, Aquafina water, Crystal Light
- Peanut free chocolate bars(approx. 20 boxes of 24) – Coffee Crisp, Rolo, Aero, Aero Chunky, Kit Kat, Mars, Crunchie, granola bars, Twix, Caramilk etc – MUST HAVE peanut-free symbol on box
- Chips (approx. 125 bags) variety of Lays, Doritos, Pretzels, Cheetos
- Candy – Nibs, Topps Ring Pops, Mega Double Lollies, Wonka Nerds, Skittles, Wonka Gobstoppers, Mentos, Candy necklaces
- 5-cent candy – approximately 22 containers
- Small dollar store items for Secret Friend gifts

## Conference Explores Aboriginal Co-op Successes and News of Development Initiative

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Co-operatives fit with the values and culture of aboriginal communities in Canada. That was a key message repeated in several presentations at the Aboriginal Co-operatives Conference March 25 and 26 in Edmonton. Eighty-one attended the conference which was hosted by the Saddle Lake community from north-east of Edmonton. They also received news of a pilot program to assist the development of Aboriginal co-operatives.

Participants heard the story of Arctic Co-operatives and the development of its member co-ops as they provided community owned and controlled services to their members. They also learned about the Pukwis Energy Coop, a 54 Megawatt Wind Farm structured as a joint venture between the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation in Ontario and the Windfall Ecology Centre. And a representative from the Affinity Credit Union in Saskatchewan explained how Affinity had set up a branch in a First Nations community and changed their governance structure to ensure the participation of their First Nations members.

Attendees also discussed a feasibility report from the Saddle Lake organizers for the creation of the Cree-Operative artisans' cooperative. The proposal is for a co-operative to market the products created by Cree artisans. The Saddle Lake community invited other First Nations communities in attendance to join in the development and membership of the cooperative.

A presentation from the ImagiNATION Aboriginal Gifting Company explained how they are working to brand authentic aboriginal products. One of the key issues in the Cree-Operative concept is assuring the authenticity of the artisan's work as First Nations products are highly subject to off-shore knock-offs.

The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) announced the new aboriginal co-operative development program at the conference. The program, being built in consultation with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit national organizations, will be a five-year pilot project which will provide small grants for pre-feasibility studies, visits to established co-operatives, hiring consultants, etc.

The Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF) will provide \$50,000 per year for the five years of the project. CCA will also seek other funding sources.



## Dollars to \$ense Energy Management Workshops

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You know there are opportunities to save money on energy costs. But knowing what to do and how to get started can be challenging.

Since 1997, more than 18,000 representatives of industrial, commercial, and institutional organizations from across Canada have enrolled in Dollars to \$ense workshops offered by Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency. These four 1-day workshops offer loads of energy-saving tips that will help your organization save money while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating a better, more comfortable environment for building occupants.

### 1. Energy Management Plan

There's more to saving money than turning out the lights when you leave. This non-technical workshop is for anyone responsible/involvement in a building's energy management, including senior managers, accountants, contractors, and energy service providers. Learn how to assemble an energy management team that can develop solutions for the long term. Identify immediate savings opportunities.

### 2. Spot the Energy Savings Opportunities

Find low-cost ways to cut energy consumption in your organization. This workshop is for staff who make energy-related decisions in your organization – facility managers, maintenance supervisors, plant and process engineers and managers. Learn how to perform an energy audit or assessment of your building. Reduce energy use in the operation of fans, pumps, and boiler systems. Discover how the cost of high-efficiency systems and equipment pay for themselves in energy savings.



### 3. Energy Monitoring

Take the guesswork out of your energy management planning. Find out where and how much energy you're using now. Measure the success of your energy saving projects. Many commercial and institutional organizations are installing energy monitoring systems and reducing their energy use by as much as 15 per cent. This is a workshop for maintenance and production supervisors, building managers, and financial operations managers.

### 4. Energy Efficiency Financing

Don't let funding issues stop your energy-saving project from becoming a reality. Gain a better understanding of how energy-efficiency projects have financial value. Find out about third-party financing. Learn how to develop a business case for your project and how to present its benefits to decision-makers.

Looking for something more specific? The Office of Energy Efficiency also delivers customized energy management workshops. Their trainers can tailor any workshop – or a combination of the four – to meet the needs of your particular organization – a manufacturer, retail outlet or commercial building, for example. Customized workshops are a popular choice with proven results.

Two of the workshops are coming to Medicine Hat, Alberta: Spot the Energy Savings Opportunities on May 26, and Energy Monitoring on May 27.

Register on-line now! The more you know, the more you save!

For more information on Dollars to Sense workshops and to register on-line, visit [www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/industrial/workshops](http://www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/industrial/workshops)

For more information about energy efficiency programs and services for commercial and institutional buildings, visit the OEE's Buildings Division Web site at

[www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/buildings](http://www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/buildings)

## Registration for Co-operative Development Training Closing Soon!

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The Saskatchewan Co-operative Association is offering an Advanced Co-operative Development Training Session April 27 to 29 in Saskatoon.

Registration has been extended to: Thursday, April 15, 2010.

For more information and registration forms go to:

[http://www.sask.coop/whats\\_new.html](http://www.sask.coop/whats_new.html)

## News from the CCA

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### Co-op Development Information Service Launched

Canada's two national co-op associations have created a new information service aimed at providing a first point of contact for groups who are interested in starting a co-op.

The [Co-op Development InfoService](#), which was launched on March 31 by the [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) (CCA) and the [Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité](#), includes a toll-free telephone number, a dedicated e-mail address and co-op development information on the CCA and CCCM websites. The InfoService is funded by the federal government through the Advisory Services component of the Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI).

The object of the service is to make it easier for people to obtain co-op development information and assistance, regardless of where they live in Canada. Provincial co-op associations will continue to be responsible for “on-the-ground” co-op development, and in many cases, users of the InfoService will be referred to the appropriate provincial association.

There are three ways to contact the InfoService:

- By phone at 1-877-268-9588 (toll-free).
- By email at [coopdev@coopscanada.coop](mailto:coopdev@coopscanada.coop) (English) or [devcoop@cccm.coop](mailto:devcoop@cccm.coop).
- By visiting the InfoService pages on the [CCA](#) or [CCCM](#) websites.

## NCBA Concerned about “Co-op” Confusion in Health Care Legislation

The National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) in the United States has hailed that country’s new health care legislation as “historic”, but is concerned that a reference to “co-ops” will cause confusion for consumers.

The final version of the bill included a provision called the “Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan”, which uses the acronym “CO-OP”. The plan provides federal money to foster the creation of non-profit, member-run health insurance companies. However, since the program does not require these companies to be member-owned and controlled, co-operatives will not be the only entities to qualify for the funding.

As a result, NCBA is urging the U.S. government to either change the title of the program, or require companies that qualify for funding to be organized as member-owned co-operatives.

## International Co-Op Day 2010 to Focus on Women

Co-operatives around the world will focus on women when they celebrate the [International Day of Co-operatives](#) on July 3, 2010.

The [International Co-operative Alliance](#) (ICA) has announced that this year’s International Day theme will be “Co-operative enterprise empowers women” and will highlight the role co-ops play in responding to women’s needs.

ICA has celebrated the first Saturday in July as International Co-operatives Day since 1923. In 1995, the same day was proclaimed by the United Nations as a way of increasing international awareness of co-operatives.

In Canada, the themes of Co-op Week and International Credit Union Day will be announced later this spring. Co-op Week will take place on October 17-23rd, 2010, with International Credit Union Day on Oct. 21.

## Popular Facebook Game Promotes Co-op Farming

Farmville, the most popular game on the social networking site Facebook, now has a new twist: co-operative agriculture.

The game, which is played by more than 87 million people around the world, allows players to create their own farms by growing crops, harvesting trees, tending animals

and building barns, stables and other farm structures. Players can recruit their friends as “neighbours” who give each other free gifts and fertilize each other’s crops.

In early April, the game’s developers introduced a new feature: co-op farming. Players band together to accomplish specific tasks, like growing morning glories to beautify the neighbourhood or growing pumpkins to turn into pies for a bake sale. Participants in each “co-op” share the profits – virtual money they can use to buy things for their farms – once the job is completed.

While the game is not an exact simulation of a real agricultural co-op, at least one popular gaming website, games.com, includes a link to the Wikipedia entry for “agricultural co-operative” in its story about Farmville. What better way to educate 87 million people on the power of co-operation!

### **Reminder: Early Bird Registration for CCA Congress Ends April 16**

Co-operators from across Canada will be gathering in Vancouver in June for the Canadian Co-operative Association’s 2010 National Congress, and if you haven’t already registered, now is the time to do so.

Registrants can save \$100 or more on their registration fees by signing up by the Early Bird deadline on April 16.

The Congress, which will have the theme “Co-operation and sustainability: the way forward”, will take place at the Westin Bayshore Hotel on June 14-16.

For more information about the Congress and how to register, go to <http://tinyurl.com/CCACongress2010>.

### **Federal Government Holds Co-Op Policy Forum**

More than 40 co-op leaders, consultants and social enterprise experts from across Canada gathered in Ottawa on March 23-24 to talk to the federal government about policies and programs in support of co-operatives.

“Towards 2012: Building a Conducive Environment for Co-operatives” was the first in a series of dialogues organized by the government’s [Co-operatives Secretariat](#) aimed at shaping federal policy and setting the stage for the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives.



The policy forum, which was attended by The Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, who is responsible for co-operatives in his capacity as Minister of State (Agriculture), included round table discussions on how the co-operative business model can respond to emerging trends, what kinds of government support for co-ops should be considered and what the priorities should be in developing a co-op policy framework over the next 10 years.

Participants included representatives of national, provincial and sectoral co-op associations, such major co-operative organizations as Co-op Atlantic, The Co-operators, Arctic Co-operatives Limited, Federated Co-operatives Limited and Desjardins, as well as others involved in the co-op and social economy sectors.

### **Credit Unions Finished 2009 on Solid Ground**

Despite global economic challenges, particularly in the first half of 2009, Canada's credit union system finished the year on solid financial ground, according to a report by Credit Union Central of Canada.

- Credit union and caisse populaire assets were \$121.9 billion, up \$8.0 billion or 7.1 percent
- Deposits and savings grew 8.2 per cent to \$109.1 billion, up \$8.3 billion from the previous year. Total loans at the fourth quarter gained \$4.9 billion or 5.2 per cent, reaching \$99.3 billion.

There was also good news reported by two of Canada's provincial credit union centrals.

Central 1 Credit Union reported a 275 per cent gain in its net income to \$99.9 million from \$26.6 million in 2008. Central 1 The central financial facility and trade association for the B.C. and Ontario credit union systems saw its assets rise 29.2 per cent to \$11.1 billion at year-end from \$8.6 billion in 2008. Asset gains reflected significant growth in the liquidity of Central 1's member credit unions.

Credit Union Central of Manitoba reported "a path of strong and steady growth" in 2009, with a 9.8 per cent increase in assets, an 11 per cent increase in loans and a 10.5 per cent increase in deposits. Manitobans opened more than 12,000 new credit union memberships during the year.

## **New Report Underlines Need for More Affordable Housing: CHF Canada**

The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada) is urging federal, provincial and territorial governments to act on the findings of a new report issued today by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) on Canada's fraying social safety net.

The new report highlights the need for a long-term funding plan for affordable housing in Canada's major urban municipalities.

Mending Canada's Social Safety Net: The role of municipal governments identifies affordable community housing development as key to addressing the needs of the 1.5 million Canadian households paying more than they can afford for suitable, adequate and affordable housing. This is the same data highlighted in The Dunning Report: Dimensions of Core Housing Need in Canada, a report released by CHF Canada in 2009.

"These findings call attention to the need for a national plan with measurable outcomes to tackle the shortage of affordable housing stock and long housing waiting lists in Canada's major cities and urban regions," said CHF Canada executive director Nicholas Gazzard.

## **Federally-Chartered Credit Unions Included in 2010 Budget**

The federal government will introduce legislation to allow Canadian credit unions to incorporate federally, paving the way for credit unions to expand beyond provincial borders.

The announcement, included in the March 4 federal budget, was hailed by [Credit Union Central of Canada](#) as "an historic announcement for the evolution of the credit union system in Canada." Canadian Central has been actively lobbying for this provision. More than 100 years ago, Alphonse Desjardins campaigned for federally-incorporated credit unions.

The credit union announcement was the only budget provision specifically aimed at the co-operative sector. The budget did not include elements of the proposed [Co-operative Investment Strategy](#): a Co-operative Investment Plan which would provide tax

credits for members of producer and worker co-ops who invest in their co-operatives, and a co-operative development fund which would be a repayable loan fund for co-ops seeking financing.

These proposals have received strong support from the co-op sector and were also endorsed by the all-party House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. The [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) (CCA), together with the [Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité](#) (CCCM), will continue to urge the government to institute these measures.

CCA was also concerned about the government's decision to cut back on planned increases to international development assistance over the next five years. There will be an eight per cent increase in international development spending this year; after that development assistance spending will be frozen.

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/Budget2010Coops> for CCA's full analysis of the federal budget and its impact on co-operatives and credit unions and to <http://tinyurl.com/CUCCPolicy>-Advocacy for Canadian Central's Policy and Advocacy report on the budget provisions affecting credit unions.

### **Glen Tully Re-Elected FCL President**

Glen Tully has been re-elected President of the board of [Federated Co-operatives Limited](#) (FCL), a position he has held since 2005. The election took place at the board reorganization meeting following FCL's 81st annual meeting, held in Saskatoon on March 1 and 2.

The FCL presidency is a full-time position, based at FCL's home office in Saskatoon. Beryl Bauer, who also chairs the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and is a Vice-President of the Canadian Co-operative Association, was re-elected Vice-Chair of the FCL board at the same meeting.

FCL also recently announced the appointment of Vic Huard as Vice-President, Corporate Affairs. He replaces Scott Banda, who is now FCL's Chief Executive Officer.

## Car Share Co-ops Hold First National Conference

Canada's car share co-operatives are one step closer to forming a national federation following the first-ever conference of car share co-ops, held March 5-7 in Calgary.

The conference, sponsored by the [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) (CCA) with funding from the [Co-operative Development Initiative](#) (CDI) brought together representatives of nine car share co-ops from across the country. The delegates shared their experiences and heard presentations from Rick Hutchinson of San Francisco-based [City CarShare](#), Tanya Paz of [The Car Co-op](#) (formerly the Co-operative Auto Network) based in Vancouver and Dave Steffler and Jason Hammond of [Grand River Car Share](#), based in the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

One of the items discussed was the creation of a national federation of car share co-ops. Conference organizer Mark Goldblatt said there was a lot of interest in the idea, and that the conference delegates will bring a proposal back to the boards of their co-ops for further consideration.

## Co-Ops in Documentary Films? Let George Melnyk Know

U.S. filmmaker Michael Moore portrayed two worker co-ops in his recent documentary film *Capitalism: A Love Story*. But how have Canadian documentaries dealt with co-ops?

George Melnyk, a Canadian Studies professor at the University of Calgary, wants to find out. He is researching the portrayal of co-operatives in Canadian documentary films over the past 80 years, and is seeking help from co-operators across the country.

If you are aware of any Canadian documentary films – in English or in French – that have dealt with co-ops, contact Professor Melnyk at [gmelnik@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gmelnik@ucalgary.ca).