



NEWS AND VIEWS

FEBRUARY, 2008

#104, 5013 – 48 Street, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1L8
 Phone: 780.963.3766 Fax: 780.968.6733
 Website: www.acca.coop E-mail: 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.

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ACCA Member Profile: Southern Alberta Cooperative Housing Association (SACHA)

This is a new feature to *ACCA News and Views*. Each month ACCA will profile a member organization.

This month we are very proud to feature the Southern Alberta Cooperative Housing Association (SACHA).

Southern Alberta Co-operative Housing Association

In 1984-85 members of housing co-operatives recognized the advantages of a common table. Together they established the Southern Alberta Co-operative Housing Association (SACHA).



SACHA serves as the regional federation of housing co-operatives and is financed by membership fees and fees for services. Membership is open to housing co-operatives located in southern Alberta (Red Deer and south), as well as other individuals and organization which support SACHA's aims and accept the responsibilities of membership. SACHA has a sector membership agreement with the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada which requires membership in both organizations. Members enjoy benefits and services provided by both.

SACHA is located in Calgary, Alberta. There are 22 housing co-operatives in southern Alberta representing 1,477 households. The majority of the co-ops are in Calgary, two in Rocky Mountain House, one in Red Deer, Okotoks and Lethbridge. Nineteen of these housing co-operatives are members of SACHA.

SACHA is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors drawn from member housing co-operatives. SACHA, together with the members, forms a community working toward the same goals and operating by the co-operative principles. This partnership of working together, sharing information and supporting one another ensures continuing success.

SACHA's purpose is to provide operational and educational services and opportunities to housing co-operatives and other non-profit organizations. SACHA has been successful in harnessing the advantage of the collective buying power of housing co-ops in southern Alberta and provides members with savings on a variety of products. Some services are included with membership at no additional cost while others are offered for a fee that is discounted for members. For more information visit SACHA's web site: www.sacha.coop

ACCA Announcements

ACCA and the ACCA Leadership Foundation Annual General Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association and the ACCA Leadership Foundation will be held in Calgary, Alberta on Wednesday, April 30, 2008. The official Notice of Meeting and Registration materials will be available shortly.

2008 ACCA Co-operative Youth Program

Information and registration for the 2008 ACCA Co-operative Youth Program are now available on the ACCA website at www.acca.coop/youthcamps.html. Registrations are now being accepted on-line.

Summer Program 2008, Program Assistant/Lifeguard Position

The Co-operative Youth Program is looking for a Program Assistant/Lifeguard for the period April 28 to August 22, 2008. Details of this position are available on our website at <http://www.acca.coop/2008ProgramAsstAd.pdf>. Deadline for application is Feb. 29.

Acceptance of the 2008 Alberta Co-operative Merit Award Nominations

ACCA is pleased to announce that we are now accepting nominations for the 2008 Co-operative Merit Awards. The Alberta Community and Co-operative Association and the provincial government's Service Alberta department recognizes individuals and/or groups who have made outstanding and continuous contributions to co-operation and co-operative development at the provincial and community levels in Alberta.

The Alberta Co-operative Merit Award is an honorary award for outstanding co-operative achievement of a local, provincial and national nature. It will be presented to a maximum of three deserving individual(s) and/or group(s) chosen by the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association. Deadline for nominations is March 15.

A nomination kit is available for download from the ACCA website:

- as an [Adobe Acrobat file](#), or
- as a [Microsoft Word file](#).



Alberta Co-op Receives Federal Funding for Value-added Co-op Development

ACCA is pleased to announce that the Alberta Rhodiola Rosea Growers Organization (AARGO) has received a \$35,000 Agricultural CDI (Co-op Development Initiative). The federal program is intended to create sustainable livelihoods for Canadian farmers by helping develop biofuel and other value-added agricultural co-operatives. ACCA's Director of Co-op Development, Carol Murray, is available to assist other co-ops with the application process. Contact Carol at accainfo@telus.net. For more information on the federal government's Ag-CDI program go to the website: <http://www.coopscanada.coop/ag-CDI>.

MEC Names New CEO

David Labistour, formerly [Mountain Equipment Co-op](#)'s senior manager of buying and design, was appointed CEO of Canada's leading outdoor retailer. This marks the first time in the organization's 36-year history that the top job has been awarded internally. Mr. Labistour assumed the CEO position at MEC on January 2, 2008.

Mr. Labistour has headed up MEC's buying and design teams since 2003. He has spearheaded a product sustainability initiative aimed at reducing the ecological footprint of MEC-brand products. Mr. Labistour's professional experience spans over 25 years working for companies such as Adidas, Woolworths and Artizia.

Mr. Labistour will take over from Peter Robinson, who has led the co-op since 2000 and is moving to the chief executive position at the [David Suzuki Foundation](#).

Ontario Co-Op Request for Proposal for an E-Learning Developer

The Ontario Co-operative Association (On Co-op) is seeking an E-Learning Developer to create learning materials for co-operative leaders and new co-operatives. [A complete RFP package is available for download.](#)



Federated Celebrates 16th Consecutive Year of Record Earnings

[Federated Co-operatives Limited](#) achieved sales of \$5.396 billion and its 16th consecutive year of record earnings on operations of \$583 million. Sales increased by \$416 million and earnings on operations increased by \$135 million over last year. When its 50 per cent ownership of NewGrade Energy Inc is included, consolidated net earnings reach \$659 million on sales of \$5.826 billion.

FCL provides central wholesaling, manufacturing, marketing and administrative services to member retail co-operatives located throughout western Canada. Approximately 275 retail co-ops, which represent more than 1.2 million individual co-o members, own FCL.

Advanced Co-op Developer Training

February 20-22 (Winnipeg, MB) and February 26-29 (Moncton, NB). *Advanced Co-op Developer Training*. The three day sessions will be designed and delivered by Devco (Marty Frost and Melanie Conn) in collaboration with regional co-op developers in Manitoba (Cindy Coker and Blair Hamilton) and in the Maritimes (Peter Hough and David Daughton). Information about the sessions and the registration form are posted at www.devco.coop

CASC Scholarships Application Deadline March 15

The [Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation](#) scholarship committee is accepting applications from undergraduate and graduate students undertaking studies in the area of co-operatives. The deadline to apply for the Alexander Fraser Laidlaw Fellowship, Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship, and Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award is March 15, 2008. Information is available at www.CoopsCanada.coop/cooplincs/education/awards.

Latest List of Canada's Top 50 Non-Financial Co-Ops Released

The federal [Co-operatives Secretariat](#) has released its annual [Top 50 non-financial co-operatives list for 2006](#). [Federated Co-operatives Ltd](#) ranked number one on the list for the sixth straight year with revenues of almost \$5.4 billion. The Saskatchewan based co-op provides jobs for 3,000 employees. [La Coop fédérée](#), with revenues of \$3.1 billion, was second on the list in terms of revenue. For more than 15 years it has ranked as the number one employer with over 11,000 employees. [Mountain Equipment Co-op](#) continues to have the largest member based with over 2.4 million members.

BALTA Update

The BC and Alberta node of the Canadian Social Economy Research Hub met on January 17-18 in Edmonton to review the progress of the research at almost the mid-point of the project. The Mapping Project – a comprehensive survey of social enterprises and co-operatives in the two provinces – is underway. Over 2000 organizations will be contacted by email and invited to participate in the survey. The resulting database will be a valuable tool for researchers and community organizations needing information on the map of social economy organizations in BC and Alberta.

Two of the three research clusters met to consolidate their research, identify areas still in need of a project and to initiate plans for the upcoming research year in anticipation of the Symposium to be held in Vancouver on April 10-12. BALTA will also hold a Student Forum in Vancouver on February 8-9 to review the challenges and successes of the project from the perspective of the student researchers.

BALTA: A North American Reader in CED and the Social Economy

The BC-Alberta Social Economy research Alliance (BALTA) has created this tool in order to share relevant information among those associated with BALTA. The reader should, however, be relevant to anyone with an interest in community economic development and the social economy.

The reader draws from the extensive collection under copyright with the Centre for Community Enterprise and many of the readings have previously been published in Canadian CED magazine, Making Waves. Students, practitioners, researchers, teachers, and policy makers can search the reader using keywords to find articles relevant to their interests.

Explore the North American Reader in CED and the Social Economy (<http://library.athabasca.ca/drr/view.php?course=ssrc&id=641&sub=0>).



Cooperative Events Courtesy of the Association for Cooperative Educators

The following events may be of interest to those involved in cooperative development:

- April 11–13: Irvine, California: The 2008 Parent Cooperative Preschools International Annual Meeting
- April 30–May 1: Washington D.C., George Washington University: Annual Cooperative Conference (NCBA) , Co-op solutions to help businesses and consumers prosper
- June 4–7: University of British Columbia, Vancouver:
 - Inaugural Annual Conference of the Association for Non-profit and Social Economy Research (June 4-6)
 - Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation meetings (June 5-7)

- June 25–27: Winnipeg, Manitoba:
 - Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada fundraiser (June 25)
- Joint open forums and annual meetings of le Conseil Canadien de la Cooperation and the Canadian Co-operative Association
- August 6–8: Sao Paulo, Brazil: Latin American Co-operative Research Conference
- September 22–24: Phoenix, Arizona: NCBA Conference for Purchasing Co-operatives, Co-ops Bridging the Gap
- November 17–19: B.C. Social Enterprise Summit (Vancouver)

Four Co-Ops on ROB's List of Canada's Top Employers

In late December, [Report on Business magazine](#) and [Hewitt Associates](#) released the [2008 edition](#) of their annual list of the country's best companies to work for as rated by their employees. BC's [Envision Financial](#) was the highest ranked co-op/credit union, placing eighth on the list. The others were [The Co-operators](#) (13) and its member [L'Union Canadienne](#) (39), and [CONEXUS](#) (46).

Green Conference Guide can make your conference more environmentally friendly

The Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication has developed a Green Conference Guide, which contains many ways to reduce the environmental impact of meetings and conferences. If you're planning on hosting a gathering, this guide will help you be environmentally-friendly. The Earth will thank you for it.

Download the Green Conference Guide and visit the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication for more information (http://www.eecom.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=39&Itemid=73&lang=en)

Saskcentral Has New CEO

Ken Anderson has been named the new CEO of [SaskCentral](#), replacing Sid Bildfell, who retired January 5. Mr. Anderson had been chief financial officer and vice-president of finance and strategic investment management for SaskCentral since January 2005 and held a variety of positions since joining organization in 1998.

Upcoming Conferences

2008 Weeds Across Borders (WAB) Conference

The 2008 WAB conference will be held in Banff, Alberta, Canada from May 27-30 to continue to raise awareness of the ecological, economic and social impacts of invasive species throughout North America. Continued continental cooperation across traditional boundaries will encourage the prevention and control of non-native plants. For more information please visit the website at www.acca.coop/wab.

WBGA 2008 Annual Convention, Barley Going Global

February 13, 14 and 15, 2008, Sheraton Cavalier, Calgary
Food • Fuel • Feed: Barley does it all
Please visit www.wbga.org/convention-08.html

2008 Going Organic Alberta Conference

The 2008 Going Organic Alberta conference will be held March 4 and 5 at the Norseman Inn in Camrose. Check out the flyer and download the registration form from the ACCA website www.acca.coop

Return registration form with payment to: GOING ORGANIC Alberta 2008 c/o MIH Consulting Inc., 4614 – 46 Street, Camrose, AB T4V 1G4.
Phone number (toll-free): 1-877-672-4416 Fax: 780-672-4413 organic08@telus.net

Financial Analysis and Planning for Non-Financial Managers

Alberta Community and Co-operative Association

Date: February 22 and 23, 2008

Time: February 22: 7 to 10 pm
February 23: 9 am to 4 pm

Cost: \$385 + gst Members
\$435 + gst Non-Members

Location: Executive Royal Inn
2828 – 23 Street NE, Calgary

**Registration Deadline
February 15, 2008**

Lunch, snacks and all
instructional materials will be
included in the cost of the
workshop.



Workshop Overview

- Understanding budgets and their role in internal control
- Understanding the key information contained in financial statements and statement relationships
- Identifying sources and uses of cash
- Calculating ratios for liquidity, return on equity and return on investment
- Discovering aids to financial decision-making and comparison

To Register:

Please contact our office at
780.963.3766.

Information is also available on our
website at www.acca.coop. Click on
Events Calendar.

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Parliamentary Procedures

Alberta Community and Co-operative Association

Date: March 1, 2008

Time: 9 am to 4 pm

Cost: \$450 + gst Members

\$500 + gst Non-Members

Location: Executive Royal Inn

2828 – 23 Street NE, Calgary

**Registration Deadline
February 22, 2008**

Lunch, snacks and all instructional materials will be included in the cost of the workshop.



Workshop Overview

- What are the different types of motions and when to use them
- How to know which motion gets priority
- How to make motions and debate them
- How to amend a motion
- How to amend an amendment

Participants should be prepared to participate in an intense learning session.

To Register:

Please contact our office at
780.963.3766.

Information is also available on our
website at www.acca.coop. Click on
Events Calendar.

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Essentials of Board Governance

Alberta Community and Co-operative Association

Date: March 20 and 21, 2008

Time: 9 am to 4 pm

Cost: \$575 + gst Members

\$605 + gst Non-Members

Location: Holiday Inn, Red Deer
6500 – 67th Street

**Registration Deadline
February 22, 2008**

Lunch and snacks will be provided throughout the seminar.



Workshop Overview

- Understand your responsibilities as a Director,
- Explore different approaches to governance,
- Examine ways to:
 - pursue future board leadership
 - enhance the board ownership relationship
 - delegate effectively to management
 - develop systems of accountability
 - improve the board's governance capabilities
 - recruit effective board members

To Register:

Please contact our office at
780.963.3766.

Information is also available on our
website at www.acca.coop. Click on
Events Calendar.

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