



NEWS AND VIEWS

MAY, 2008

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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: Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations



Functions and Services

The **Alberta Federation of REAs** (AFREA) represents approximately 80 percent of the Rural Electrification Association (REA) services in the province. The REAs were established to provide electricity to rural Alberta when the investor owned utilities determined it was not economically feasible to provide this service. The AFREA provides a strong voice for rural Albertans, serving all rural electrification association members, offers them indispensable services, which reflect the diversity and growth of REAs. It provides key leadership and lobbying on their behalf, creates strategic alliances to attain REA goals, and communicates effectively and efficiently with all REAs and the wider electricity industry.

Membership

Direct membership is limited to Rural Electrification Associations in Alberta. There is an opportunity for limited membership to investor-owned utilities, direct-served farm consumers, agricultural commodity groups, industry related organizations and farm-oriented community groups.

Objectives

The Mission of the Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations is to provide support, communication, development, programs and services, leadership and lobbying to assist Rural Electrification Associations.

The Vision is *Vibrant and Innovative Rural Electrification Associations*.

The AFREA acts as a strong unified voice for member REAs – bringing the interests of rural Albertans to electricity industry stakeholders and to Government. The AFREA promotes the interest of its members and maintains a strong profile for REAs across the province. The AFREA also monitors the electricity industry, keeping our members informed about issues from the latest technological innovations to political decisions that affect the REAs' ability to effectively deliver rural power.

ACCA Summer Co-operative Youth Program

Registrations for the 2008 ACCA Summer Co-operative Youth Program are now being accepted. We have four phases to our program: the new Pre-Teen Program for ages 11-12, the Teen Program for ages 13-14, the Youth Program for ages 15-16 and the Grad Program for ages 17-18. Registration forms can be found on our website at www.acca.coop/SummerBrochure08.pdf or you can contact our office at 780.963.3766.

ACCA Annual General Meeting

ACCA held its Annual General Meeting on April 30, 2008. The meeting followed the 2008 Co-operative Merit Award and was attended by 45 people. The meeting consisted of two member profiles, Calgary Co-op and The Co-operators, followed by three presentations. Mountain Equipment Co-op spoke on their sustainability policies and The Co-operators spoke on Corporate Social Responsibility. The third presentation was from Corridor Communications and the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops on their last mile connectivity project. The business meeting followed the presentations. The Annual Report can be downloaded from the ACCA website. Thank you to everyone who attended this most successful meeting.

ACCA Announces Co-Op Development Grant Opportunity

The Alberta Community & Co-operative Association is again offering co-op advisory services grants (to a maximum of \$1,500) for 2008-09. The grants are available for both developing and existing co-ops, and are designed to be used for advisory services support such as feasibility studies, consultant expertise, business plans, learning exchanges or other non-capital expenditures that enhance the development of your co-op.

The grant deadline is June 30, 2008.

The Application Form and Guide are available on our website: www.acca.coop. For further information, contact our Director of Co-op Development, Carol Murray, at accainfo@telus.net or 780.963.3766.

ACCA Seeks Facilitators For Co-Op Development Outreach Team

ACCA is currently seeking those with strong co-op experience (for example, those who have worked in co-op development, lived in a housing co-operative, have co-op board experience, have taken co-op governance or management workshops, etc.) to provide co-op outreach to developing co-op groups. We are looking for individuals who can work in an advisory capacity with newly forming groups to support them through to the pre-feasibility stage of co-op development by answering questions, guiding the process, leading an outreach presentation workshop, facilitating a self-assessment process and providing appropriate resources for further development.

ACCA will provide an outreach PowerPoint presentation (which facilitators would customize for each group), other support and resource materials and a teleconference orientation session. However, outreach facilitators must be able to work independently. Depending on the requirements of the developing co-op group, facilitators will be paid \$250 to \$500 for outreach services provided to each group. As our resources are limited, ACCA cannot cover travel or other expenses. ACCA currently provides 10-15 outreaches per year, many of them during the day, but some in the evenings or on weekends (this would be negotiated with the group). Some of the outreach will be by email and telephone, although some sessions will be in-person. These opportunities will be rotated through the team of facilitators, depending on availability, geographic location and suitability of the experience and background of the facilitator to the needs of the group.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please send a resumé and cover letter to Carol Murray, Director of Co-op Development, at accainfo@telus.net. Deadline for applications is May 30, 2008. The orientation session will be held in mid- to late-June.



2008 Alberta Co-operative Merit Award

Each year, the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association (ACCA) and the Alberta Government recognizes individuals and/or groups who have made outstanding and continuous co-operative development contributions at the provincial and community levels in Alberta. The Alberta Co-operative Merit Award is an honorary award for outstanding co-operative achievement

On April 30, 2008, Members of the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association are pleased to honor the recipient of the 2008 Alberta Co-operative Merit Award — Mr. Fred Lyczewski — at a luncheon attended by over 35 members and guests. Russell Wolf, Chair of the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association presented Mr. Lyczewski with an engraved plaque in recognition of his outstanding co-operative achievement on a local and provincial level.

Fred Lyczewski has a long history of living a co-operative life. He is one of the signing members when the Rockyview Gas Co-op Ltd. which was formed in 1987. He has also been a Director and Chairman since that time.

Fred has held a position at the Mountain View Credit Union for the last 31 years in addition to serving as the Secretary Treasurer for the Beiseker Medical Building Co-op Ltd for the last 18 years.

In addition to his many positions in the Co-operative community, Fred serves as a volunteer for a number of local organizations as well as being a member of the UFA and the Calgary Co-operative Association.

UFA Celebrates Another Record Year

UFA Co-operative Limited's sales in 2007 reached \$1.8 billion, a 12 per cent increase over 2006. It will distribute a record \$35.2 million patronage allocation to its members.

“UFA’s record financial results mean that we’re able to invest in growth opportunities that will enable us to continue serving our members and customers for another hundred years,” says Dallas Thorsteinson, president and CEO. “By expanding our business we can remain committed to enriching life in our rural communities.”

International Youth Internships

The Canadian Co-operative Association has been (conditionally) approved for nine Youth Experience International (YEI) Internships for 2008-09. CCA’s Youth Experience International Program offers young graduates the work experience they need to secure good jobs – in Canada or abroad. It also provides them with an opportunity to discover the world and themselves. Locations include El Salvador, Ghana, Honduras, Malawi, Nicaragua, Uganda and Ukraine. For more information go to

www.coopscanada.coop/coopdevelopment/internationaldev/youthexperience/

Call for CDI Innovations and Research Proposals

The five-year Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI), which expired March 31, 2008, has been renewed for a one-year transitional period while the federal, provincial and territorial governments negotiate a new Agricultural Policy Framework, which includes the CDI program. Advisory Services will continue as before.

There has been an important change in the operation of the Innovations and Research (I&R) component of the program. The application process is being managed

this year by the [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) and the [Conseil Canadien de la Coopération](#) while the financial administration and contracting will continue with the [Co-operatives Secretariat](#).

CCA and CCC are now seeking proposals for projects to research and test innovative ways of using the co-operative model. For information, call Mark Goldblatt at (613) 238-6711 ext. 205.

There will be two deadlines for the submission of proposals: May 2, 2008 and June 9, 2008. No applications will be accepted after June 9. Note: All project activities to be funded under the CDI I&R in 2008-09 must be completed by March 31, 2009.

Two National Co-Op Associations Join Forces for Co-Operation Without Limits June 25 – 27, Winnipeg

The [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) and the [Conseil Canadien de la Coopération](#), the two national associations of the co-operative movement in Canada, are working in partnership to organize a national Congress in Winnipeg, from June 25 – 27, 2008. The theme of the Congress is *Co-operation without Limits / Coopération sans limite* and builds upon the closer working relationship of the two associations. The Congress will open with a National Youth Forum on June 25 and will close with the AGMs of both organizations on Friday June 27.

A full day (June 26) will be devoted to an Open Forum that will provide the first opportunity for many members of both national associations to come together to share experiences and common views on how to grow and strengthen the movement. The session will explore common topics that affect and influence the co-operative movement and seek to identify opportunities for closer working partnerships. A blend of facilitated discussion, keynote presentations and audience participation will be key ingredients in making the Open Forum a productive and thought-provoking discussion. Themes that will be addressed include:

- Promoting the co-op image in a unified manner
- Co-operative development
- Alliances within the movement

Information will be posted on the website shortly.



Alternative Financing For Community-Based Projects

The Canadian Alternative Investment Co-operative (CAIC) launched an ambitious outreach campaign in the fall of 2007 with the stated goal of advancing an additional \$ 2 million to non-profits, co-operatives & community economic development organizations that are making a positive social impact on the Canadian landscape.

To date CAIC's campaign is on track with nearly \$1 million in new loans to projects across Canada and is looking to meet (and potentially exceed) the \$ 2 million target.

For more information about the [three streams of financing available](#), [the application process](#) and [FAQs](#) check out CAIC's website at www.caic.ca and/or contact Valerie Lemieux or Beth Coates at caic@caic.ca or 416-467-7797.

Please submit your application by e-mail to idc-cdi@ccc.coop. If you prefer, you may send it by regular mail or courier to CDI I&R Program, 275 Bank Street, Suite 400, Ottawa, ON K2P 2L6; or by fax to (613) 567-0658.

Co-operative World Fair — ICA Expo 2008

The [International Co-operative Alliance](#) (ICA) is organizing the first official fair of co-operative businesses. EXPO 2008, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, October 23-25, will give co-ops worldwide the opportunity to showcase the economic potential of the movement.

“The Co-operative World Fair will showcase the trade of co-operative products and services, and facilitate international business connections,” says Luiz Branco, the Fair's chairman.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, go to the website at www.icaexpo.coop.

ACCA welcomes new members



[Agrifoods International Co-operative Ltd.](#)



[Alberta Barley Commission](#)



[Calgary Alternative Transportation Company](#)

Lac La Biche Gas Co-op

New issue of Co-operative Management Advantage Newsletter available

**Co-operative
Management
ADVANTAGE**

Cooperative Management Advantage is the newsletter of the Master of Management—Co-operatives and Credit Unions (MMCCU). The MMCCU is the result of a partnership between Saint Mary's University in Halifax and the Cooperative Management Education Co-operative. The current issue can be downloaded from www.acca.coop/CoopMgmtSpring08.pdf

Alberta Federation of REAs announces new CEO

We are pleased to announce that effective April 14th, Mr. Allan Nagel will be the new Chief Executive Officer for the Alberta Federation of REAs. Al has worked in the electrical industry for over 40 years, with experience in both field and management positions. He began his career as a Lineman for a major utility company and from there worked his way up to Asset/Maintenance Superintendent. In the process he obtained a wealth of knowledge which he brings to the position. He possesses strong skills in management, problem solving and decision making, leadership, strategic planning and customer service. We are fortunate that he has joined the staff and hope you will join us in welcoming him to the AFREA.

Goldeye's 50th Anniversary Come Celebrate a Weekend of Fun and Fellowship on June 20–22

The Board is in the process of planning a weekend full of activities, great food and, of course, the Annual General Meeting. The weekend will consist of entertainment, the Chairman's Classic golf tournament, banquet, silent auction, AGM and other stuff. This is a great opportunity to enjoy time with your family and to meet other Goldeye Members.

The golf tournament will be held at the Nordegg Golf Course on Saturday morning so dust off your clubs and get ready to have some fun. The AGM will be held at 1:30 on Saturday afternoon so please come and hear about our successes from the past year and what's planned for the coming year.

Please call the Centre (1.877.721.2102) to book a room, or bring your trailers and camp for the weekend. There are also sponsorship opportunities available, such as sponsoring a hole for the Chairman's Classic or donating an item to the silent auction; please call Dianne at 780.968.6806 if you are interested. If you have any pictures or memorabilia from the past 50 years that you would like to share, please contact Colleen Zimmerman at 780.352.4994.

