



NEWS AND VIEWS

NOVEMBER, 2007

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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.

If you wish to have your name removed from our subscribers list, please send an email to acca@acca.coop.



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Did you know ...

that Alberta has three of the top 300 co-operatives in the world? Congratulations to Federated Co-operatives, UFA Cooperative Ltd and Calgary Co-op who are listed in the ICA (International Co-operative Alliance) Global300 Project Report.

For more information on this, visit <http://www.ica.coop/al-ica/>.

Two Successful Events Celebrating Co-op Development

- ACCA's *Second Annual Breakfast Forum on Co-op Development* was held October 15. This year's Forum was a huge success with over 50 in attendance. Speakers John Restakis (BC Co-op Association), Ted Zettel (Organic Meadow dairy co-op), Dave Mowat (former CEO of Vancity credit union) and Francoise Morissette (co-author of *Made in Canada Leadership*) provided remarks on various aspects of our theme – "Principle Six: Co-ops Helping Co-ops." We plan to have links to these presentations on our website soon.
- A *Housing Co-op Learning Event*, co-organized and sponsored by the City of Edmonton, was held at the Green & Gold Room on October 31st. Over 30 people turned out to hear Carol Murray of ACCA, Beatrice McMillan of the City of Edmonton, Lynn Hannley, a housing co-op developer, and Bob McKeon who lives in a housing co-op, speak to the many aspects of co-op housing development. Participants also heard from representatives of the Northern Alberta Co-operative Housing Association, the City's Social Enterprise Fund and the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund who provided a synopsis of their services.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors met on November 1 and 2 for a Board Meeting and a Strategic Planning session. The Board and Management are excited about the strategic direction that ACCA is taking in the next three years.

Our Condolences

Our sincere condolences go out to the family of Samantha Danielle Lipka who passed away on October 23, 2007. Samantha was involved with our youth program for numerous years and treasured her Goldeye experiences. She will be greatly missed.



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Credit Union Central and the Youth Program

Credit Union Central of Alberta once again has supported the ACCA Co-operative Youth Program with their second grant in the amount of \$5,000. The money received will be used to purchase much needed computer equipment and software for the youth program. Many thanks to Credit Union Central for their continued support.

ACCA Co-operative Youth Program Information

Planning for the 2008 ACCA Co-operative Youth Program is underway. We are looking forward to another successful year in educating the youth in our province in co-operatives, agriculture, communication, team building, and self esteem. Thank you to our 2007 Sponsors for their tremendous support. Check our website at www.acca.coop and future News and Views for updated information.

ACCA Partners With Brown Governance To Bring You the Corporate Secretaries Forum

To view the days agenda please visit:

<http://www.browngovernance.com/Publications/2007CorpSecSeminarAgenda.pdf>

For more information and to register for this exciting forum, please visit:

<http://www.browngovernance.com/SemCorpSec.htm>

There are 4,000 companies in Canada that must follow the new Internal Control over Financial Reporting (ICFR) and Compensation Discussion and Analysis (CD&A) standards – but there are 400,000 organizations, from not-for-profits to hospitals, to public sector organizations, to privately-held firms, that will be expected to answer: “Did you adopt these governance practices? If not, why not?” This forum will bring you some timely and practical information, help and tools.

The forum is being held at the Coast Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre in Calgary on December 5, 2007.



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Current Course Offerings from ACCA

ACCA is pleased to offer the following courses.

Co-operative Basics

Learning Objectives

- Co-ops from other business forms
- Clarifying principles
- Build a sense of pride in the history
- Learn about other co-operatives
- Identifying the co-operative advantage
- Basic roles of the delegates and directors

Date, Time, Location and Price

January 9 and 10, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Please note: This is a two-day workshop.
Executive Royal Inn, 8450 Sparrow Drive, Leduc
Members: \$500 + gst; Non-Members: \$550 + gst

Financial Analysis and Planning for Non-Financial Managers

Learning Objectives

- Understand budgets and their role in internal control
- Understand the key information contained in financial statements and statement relationships
- Identify sources and uses of cash
- Calculate ratios for liquidity, return on equity and return on investment
- Discover aids to financial decision-making and comparison.

Date, Time, Location and Price

February 22, 2008: 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
February 23, 2008: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Please note: This is a one and a half day workshop.
Executive Royal Inn, 2828 – 23 Street NE, Calgary, AB
Members: \$385 + gst; Non-Members: \$435 + gst

Parliamentary Procedures

Learning Objectives

- 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

Date, Time, Location and Price

March 1, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Executive Royal Inn, 2828 - 23 Street NE, Calgary, AB
Members: \$450 + gst. Non-Members: \$500 + gst

The Essentials of Board Governance

Learning Objectives

- Understand your responsibilities as a Director
- Explore different approaches to governance
- Examine ways to:
 - Pursue future focused 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.

Date, Time, Location and Price

March 20 and 21, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Please note: This is a two-day workshop.
Holiday Inn – Red Deer, 6500- 67th Street 403.342.6567
Members: \$575 + gst; Non-Members: \$605 + gst

For more information please visit the ACCA website at www.acca.coop or contact the ACCA office at 780-963-3766.



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Lobbyist Act Update from Bob Wyatt (Muttart Foundation)

Dear Colleagues:

The Standing Committee on Government Services today released its report with recommendations for changes to the proposed Lobbyists Act. There are few surprises and little that addresses the concerns raised by so many of you with the committee and with MLAs. A copy of the report is available online at the following URL: <http://www.assembly.ab.ca/government/services/reports/Bill1FinalReport-Consolidated.pdf>.

A copy of the committee's news release is at <http://alberta.ca/home/NewsFrame.cfm?ReleaseID=/acn/200711/2246916C119A3-B680-A016-BOB90A4B26096A6F.html>.

The committee did address one issue raised by the Environmental Law Centre among others. The dual-role prohibition (which prevents lobbying if you, or a person associated with you, directly or indirectly receives payment for providing advice to the government on the same issue) will not apply to multi-stakeholder bodies. However, that exemption will only apply if the body is established by or under the authority of enactment, and there are at least two other members who represent other organizations or interests. The Ethics Commissioner will also be able to exempt someone from the dual-role prohibition if the Commissioner believes it would be in the public interest to do so.

The sector's broader concern about the dual-role prohibition has not been addressed, and remains problematic. It is not clear whether funding contracts will constitute an indirect payment for providing advice. The rules about associated persons are confusing and may create problems for some professionals who sit on boards of directors.

As I recounted in yesterday's e-mail, the committee is recommending that the definition of "public office holder" be changed by removing the reference to persons appointed to a body by a Minister or by Cabinet. As I outlined in the earlier e-mail, this makes sense for ANVSI but essentially will remove a number of bodies (such as the royalty review panel) that probably should remain covered by the act.

The 100-hour threshold is proposed to be included in the legislation, rather than in regulation. An organization that does less than 100 hours of lobbying in a year (including the lobbying activities of all persons who receive a payment) will not have



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to register under the bill. This is, as you know from previous e-mails, the lowest limit currently used by any Canadian jurisdiction. It comes from the Quebec legislation, but the committee did not mention in its report that public-service not-for-profit organizations are not covered under Quebec's legislation.

The committee has emphasized that a volunteer who does not receive a payment is not covered by the bill. That simply reinforces a provision that was already in the bill. However, we do not know how "payment" will be interpreted. It is defined in the bill as "money or anything of value ... but does not include reimbursement of expenses."

The fines for violation of the act have been reduced to a maximum of \$25,000 for a first offence and a maximum of \$100,000 for a second or subsequent offence. The committee did not address the power of the Ethics Commissioner to impose an administrative penalty of up to \$25,000.

The committee's recommendations will form part of the further debate on the bill. We do not know when that debate will be held.

In my view, it makes sense to continue to let MLAs know that the bill causes concern to the sector, and that valuable time and resources will be spent by organizations trying to determine if their contacts with government constitute lobbying and, if so, what others with whom those organizations are associated, are doing. I will be suggesting to the Foundation's Executive Committee that we write to all MLAs to express our concern. If that recommendation is approved, I'll be happy to send a copy of the letter to you.

Best regards,
Bob Wyatt



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Helping Canadians to Help Themselves

Harness the Power of Co-operation is a proposal for a renewed and improved Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI) program, submitted to the federal government by the Canadian Co-operative Association and the Conseil Canadien de la Coopération. The proposal is aimed at helping groups of people start new co-operatives and develop emerging ones. The new five-year program would replace the current CDI, which ends in March 2008.

The current Co-operative Development Initiative was started five years ago as a partnership between the federal Co-operatives Secretariat and the co-operative sector. It was designed to enhance the quality of life for disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities by supporting the development of co-operatives in areas of federal priority and help rural Canadians find solutions to local challenges. The current CDI helped create some 135 new co-operatives and provided advisory services to over 900 new and existing co-operatives, in both English and French, creating or maintaining hundreds of jobs. Today we have a national infrastructure of co-op development services in all parts of Canada.

The new proposal seeks a doubling of the Initiative from its current \$15 million to \$30 million, and was developed in consultation with the provincial co-operative associations, francophone conseils, and the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation. Like the existing CDI, the renewed \$30 million CDI would focus on two components: advisory services and project assistance grants to new and emerging co-ops. An additional \$70 million is being sought for a Co-operative Development Fund that would provide long-term loans or patient capital to new and emerging co-operatives.

An intensive lobby campaign is now underway, which will require the support of co-operatives and credit unions at all levels. Go to www.CoopsCanada.coop/CDI for information on how you can help.

Please consider helping to support the campaign. [Click here for more information on how you can take part](#) in the lobby effort and obtain sample letter to send to your Members of Parliament.



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