

CREATING CONNECTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE THE CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR.



# QUARTERLY REPORT:

2021 Q1





## ABOUT THE ACCA

**Mission:** ACCA provides education, advocacy, and development services to support our members and raise community awareness of co-operatives

**Vision:** A strong co-operative sector in Alberta

The Alberta Community and Co-operative Association (ACCA) is a leading provincial co-operative trade association representing over 676 co-operatives. Over the last 60 years, the ACCA and its many members have worked collaboratively with various levels of government to create social and economic development opportunities in Alberta communities.

32

ACCA Members -  
including  
federation  
members...

90%

... representing  
almost all Alberta  
Co-operatives.

2/3

2/3 of Albertans  
are co-op  
members.

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Government Relations Member Policy Issue Submission process and Government Relations Strategic Plan developed and approved by GRS Committee.
- Worked with the Federation of Gas Co-operatives regarding their Co-operative Rural Broadband Project, including meeting with Ministry of Municipal Affairs
- Advanced Self Regulated Securities Environment for Co-operatives including presenting to the UCP Rural Caucus and meeting with Grant Horner, Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction and dialogue with the Alberta Securities Commission.

# GOVERNANCE

- AGM taking place May 28th, 2021. A virtual meeting is planned though a potential for in person component is being considered as COVID restrictions lift.
- Governance Committee meeting scheduled for March 5th to include AGM planning, Director Elections and board executive succession. Members interested in nominating a delegate to the board of Directors are encouraged to do so.
- Structure for BCCA/ACCA Collaboration Task Force developed with chairs of ACCA/BCCA.

1165

ACCA Newsletter  
Subscribers

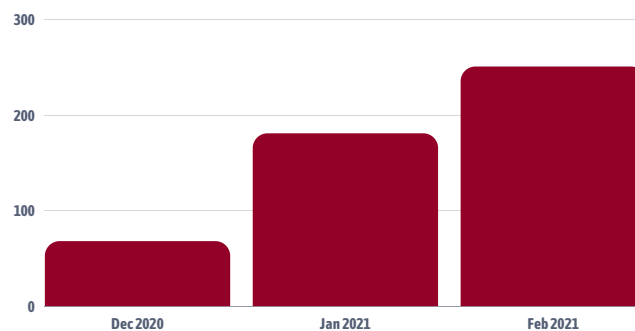
815

Facebook  
Followers



## Growth of ACCA LinkedIn Followers - Dec 2020 to Feb 2021

Goal: Drive awareness and advocacy for ACCA, members and the co-op movement by establishing relationships with engaging and relevant content and personalized interactions.



**269%** Strategic growth - reaching out & connecting ACCA to industry shakers & movers

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/coopalberta>



# FINANCES: Q4

## ✓ FINANCES

- ✓ Naushad Velani contracted as the new financial service coordinator for ACCA. Members are encouraged to contact Naushad for any financial matters at [finance@acca.coop](mailto:finance@acca.coop).
- ✓ The audit process delayed in part due to the onboarding of a new financial services coordinator and revising financial management protocols. An audited statement will be provided for members as part of the AGM package.
- ✓ Development of draft operational budget awaiting results of a draft audit.
- ✓ Member Dues invoices sent in January.
- ✓ Grant submitted to the Alberta Civil Society Fund to advance the development of ACCESS Shared Services c/o Ministry of Culture.
- ✓ Prepared submission to Employment and Social Development Canada Sector Initiative Grant in conjunction with Cooperatives and Mutuals Canada and other provincial associations on supporting a national platform co-operative strategy and coop conversions developed.
- ✓ Federal Covid Employment Wage Subsidy continues.
- ✓ Submission to Western Economic Diversification for 1.9 million in support to help the expansion of investment coops in Alberta and BC via a federation services model.

# SHARED SERVICES

- Developed strategy and proposal to launch the Alberta Community and Co-operative Share Services (ACCESS) to provide a range of back and administrative services for co-operatives, non-profits and charities in Alberta. Initial shared services offerings likely will be expanding legal services, accounting/bookkeeping and shared deposit pools. Interested ACCA members may contact Paul Cabaj for more details. [execdir@acca.coop](mailto:execdir@acca.coop)
- Community and Co-op Counsel website [coopcounsel.ca](http://coopcounsel.ca) launched and promoted. CCS now has 21 AB Clients and 9 BC Clients. ACCA members can reach out to Elliot or Bill directly [info@coopcounsel.ca](mailto:info@coopcounsel.ca)

CCC Community & Co-operative Counsel

LEGAL & CONSULTING SERVICES FOR CO-OPERATIVES, NON-PROFITS, AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE.

[coopcounsel.ca](http://coopcounsel.ca)

BC COOP ALBERTA COMMUNITY & CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

The graphic features a top-down view of a person's feet wearing brown sneakers with orange laces, standing on a grey asphalt surface. Two yellow arrows are painted on the asphalt, pointing outwards from the feet.

# OPERATIONS

- Management Services agreement signed with the BC Co-operative Association appointing Paul Cabaj as executive director for both the ACCA and BCCA.
- Move to new office shared with the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops, the Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations and the Federation of Alberta Water Co-operatives. 8429 - 24 St Edmonton AB T6P 1L3 Members are encouraged to drop by the office for a tour and a coffee once Covid restrictions allow.
- Combined BCCA/ACCA staff meeting occurring monthly and cross-training on shared functions and roles continue.



# PROGRAMMING

- Our work in Jasper, funded by Western Economic Diversification's COVID Relief and Recovery Program is coming to a close end of March. This project has led to the creation of one new co-op, a feasibility assessment for another, & the creation of a guide-book on local solutions for succession planning.
- Alternative Tenure Housing coop research continues in conjunction with the Rural Development Network, including a partnership with NACHA.
- Work continues with investment co-operatives in Stettler, Vermillion and the Metis Nation of Alberta with an estimated 4.5 Million targeted to be raised in share offers
- Work continues with Iron and Earth contract to develop a business plan focused on transitioning oilfield works to renewable energy/energy retrofit jobs
- Coop Intelligence Unit Terms of Reference finalized. This ACCA/BCCA Collaboration now includes fellows from across Canada and the US. CIU is now focusing its work on Data Co-operatives and will explore how existing and new co-operatives can provide solutions to co-operatives in risk of being left behind in a data driven economy. For more information please contact Seth Leon at sleon@acca.coop
- Planning underway for geothermal webinar session with Terrapin on April 15 for ACCA members to discuss the opportunity for co-operatives to capitalize on renewable heat to drive economic & energy diversification.
- Work continues in conjunction with BCCA on identifying target post secondary educators to introduce co-op curriculum. Co-op leaders open to presenting to post secondary classes are encouraged contact Ahmed Dafi at rprojects@acca.coop. A great way to inspire students, introduce the potential of the coop model. and perhaps recruit and up and comer.
- Co-op Innovation Series: Racial Equity and Inclusion in Co-ops set for March 18th in collaboration with BCCA
- **Save the Date: ACCA AGM - Virtual - May 28, 2021**
- **Save the Date: The Gathering - Oct 12 to 14 2021**

**MY JASPER WEDDING**

New Alberta Co-op uses Covid19 Funding to Take Guesswork out of Jasper Wedding Plans

myjasperwedding.ca

Ashley Kennedy Photography

Logos: Western Economic Diversification Canada, Community Enterprise West Yellowhead, JASPER EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION CENTRE, ACCA

**CO-OP INTELLIGENCE UNIT**

Topic of discussion...

... exploring how existing and new co-operatives can provide solutions to Canadians left behind in a data-driven economy.

Please contact Seth for further details, sleon@acca.coop or call 604-365-9884.

Logos: BCCo-op, ACCA

**Racial Equity and Inclusion in Co-ops: Where do we go from here?**

**Co-op Innovation Series: March 18 • 3 pm**

Join the virtual conversation. Register at [bccca.coop](http://bccca.coop)

Logos: BCCo-op, ACCA

# PROGRAMMING cont...

## Youth Leadership Program Update

Contingency plans for ongoing COVID restrictions have been identified, with mid-range plans for offering program to smaller groups. Registration to be open by the end of March with no deposit being taken at this point. When we are closer to the program start date & will be receiving payments, we will offer full refunds to participants and sponsors should the program be cancelled. Watch for more details - [accacoop.org/youth](https://accacoop.org/youth)



## ED Named for BCCA & ACCA

Since 1988, Paul Cabaj has consistently demonstrated his competence in leading social and economic innovation. He has a long history of co-operative development - both in Canada and abroad. "When you reviewed the strategic plans of both organizations, done independently, there is a remarkable degree of alignment," affirmed Randy Taylor, ACCA chair. "Paul has made great strides in Alberta since joining us in April of 2019, notably in such areas as establishing legal services for co-operatives and accelerating our government relations work. We look forward to extending these foundations to our colleagues in BC."

[Learn more about Paul's new role](#)



### Executive Director Named for BCCA and ACCA

"Paul brings with him deep co-op experience and proven commitment to promoting co-op values." Ben Hyman, BCCA chair

"Paul has made great strides in such areas as establishing legal services for co-operatives and accelerating our government relations work. We look forward to extending these foundations to our colleagues in BC." Randy Taylor, ACCA chair

**Paul Cabaj**







# SAVE THE DATE:

MAY



SAVE THE DATE

28

2021

VIRTUAL AGM

**DON'T FORGET**  
to submit your government relations priorities to ACCA before the deadline of April 9th. Visit [acca.coop/news](http://acca.coop/news)

**THE GATHERING: OCT 12 to 14, 2021  
EDMONTON, AB**



## STRENGTHENING THE VOICE OF CO-OPS

at the Legislature

Help set strategic direction -  
respond to the GR inquiry by April 9th.

[acca.coop/government-relations](http://acca.coop/government-relations)



## CONTACT US:

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Website: [acca.coop](http://acca.coop) Subscribe: [ACCA News](#)

Paul Cabaj - Executive Director

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