



NEWS AND VIEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

#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.

In this issue ...

ACCA Calls for Alberta Co-operative Awards Nominations.....	2
Summer Youth Program News.....	3
Items Wanted for Summer Youth Program	4
Schools Wanted for Winter Co-operative Youth Program.....	5
The Members Forum, Co-operative Awards Luncheon and Annual General Meeting	5
Bright Young Minds Available to Your Organization.....	6
Upcoming ACCA Workshops.....	8
Take Our Parliamentary Procedure Quiz!	9
New CEO for Federated Co-operatives Limited.....	10
Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Casino.....	10
CCA News.....	11
Time to Start Planning for 2012	11
Co-op Sector Responds to Earthquake in Haiti	12
Co-Op Investment Strategy Campaign Gears Up During Parliamentary Break	12
Junior Researcher – Co-operative and Credit Union Database	13
Co-operators, Central 1 Complete Acquisition of Cumis	14
Co-op Sector Represented in 50 Best Employers List	14
Government Endorses Co-ops to Combat Rural Poverty	15
Credit Union, Co-op Win Chamber of Commerce Honours	15
CCA Helps in Malawi after Quakes	16
New Book Offers Insights into Agricultural Co-Ops	17
FCL Reports Solid Year, Despite Recession.....	17
Senate Poverty Report Includes Input from Co-Op Sector.....	18
Twelve Co-ops with a Difference	18
Canadian Co-operators to Help Strengthen Credit Unions in Malawi	19
Food Banks Benefit from Co-op Fundraising.....	19
Answers to the Parliamentary Procedures quiz:	21

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

Search
 First
 Previous
 Next
 Last
 Quit
 1
 Page

ACCA Calls for Alberta Co-operative Awards Nominations

March 15th is the deadline for the Alberta Co-operative Awards nominations. Nominations are being accepted in five categories including:

- The longstanding Co-operative Merit Award recognizes outstanding and continuous contributions of a local, provincial, and national nature.
- The Co-operative Visionary Leadership Award recognizes leadership that inspires and perseveres toward a better future for the co-operative's membership.
- The Co-operative Innovations Award recognizes those advances that enable a co-operative to meet member's needs in a new way, or for development of new co-operative structures, or for new ways of applying the co-operative principles.
- The Young Co-operative Leaders Award will recognize young leadership that exemplifies co-operative values and principles.
- The Inspiring Young Co-operators Award will recognize leadership that responds to the needs and values of younger members and motivates younger individuals to meaningfully participate in the co-operative.

Nominations packages are available on the [ACCA website](#) or contact ACCA at 780-963-3766 and request forms for one or more categories of nominations.

Summer Youth Program News

We are hard at work preparing for the 2010 ACCA Summer Co-operative Youth Program in January. 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 will be available on our website soon.

Please contact the office at 780-963-3766 if you would like promotional materials mailed to you. Additional information regarding these programs can be found on our website at www.acca.coop.youthcamps.html

Summer Volunteer Staff

The 2010 Staff Training will take place from April 29 to May 2, 2010 at the Goldeye Centre. We have a great weekend planned with exciting guest speakers. Registration packages and information may be found on our website.



Search



First



Previous



Next



Last



Quit

3

Page

Items Wanted for Summer Youth Program

The ACCA Co-operative Youth Program uses many supplies throughout the summer. Please look at our website if you are able to donate supplies to the program.

Wish List 2010

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

- Colored pushpins – 600
- Permanent black markers(thick) – 20
- 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 – 300
- Small envelopes – 300
- Gently used fax machine
- Balloons (black, red, white) – 4 packages of each
- Flip chart paper – 15 pads
- Tealights – 100
- 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 and water (about 225 cans of Coke, diet Coke, Nestea, Barq's Rootbeer, Sprite, Mountain Dew, Aquafina water, Crystal Light)
- **Peanut-free** chocolate bars (about 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 (about 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¢ candy: about 22 containers
- Small dollar store items for Secret Friend gifts

Schools Wanted for 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 3 ½ hour educational hands-on learning experience for youth in grades five and six. The students learn to work together harmoniously. They also learn about co-operative ideals and how they can benefit them and their communities.

Students learn about different leadership styles so that they can understand which style works best for them. They also 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 minimal and all we ask is that our travel costs be covered. Please contact our office at acca@acca.coop if you would be interested in hosting a Winter Co-operative Youth Program or if you would like some more information.

The Members Forum, Co-operative Awards Luncheon and Annual General Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Members Forum, Co-operative Awards Luncheon and Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association will be held in Red Deer, Alberta on Friday, April 30, 2010.

More information and the registration forms will be available on the ACCA website at www.acca.coop in the near future.



Bright Young Minds Available to Your Organization

Training Future Leaders ... Today

The Career Focus Internship Program provides organizations with qualified interns while building the skills and knowledge of a new generation of leaders.

The program is designed to provide a direct service to organizations by finding skilled students to help fill organizational needs.

By hosting interns, organizations can gain assistance with specific projects of importance to their operations while building their future.

Need for New Leadership

Have you envisioned who will succeed your organization's board and staff positions over the next ten years? The need for new leadership has never been so great. We need people who possess not only the necessary skills to perform their jobs, but also the vision and dedication.

The Career Focus Internship Program aims to:

- Develop skilled and visionary leaders
- Promote awareness and increased knowledge
- Encourage youth career development in the co-operative and non-co-operative sector in Canada

Why host an intern?

- Access Young, Skilled Talent: Experienced, visionary students can add value to your operations and management.
- Meet Personnel Needs: Complete special projects or specific assignments with competent short-term employees.
- Capitalize on Cost Effective Recruitment and Training: Assess new recruits without long-term commitment. Interns employed by host organizations upon completion of program require less training.
- Strengthen the Co-operative Movement: Develop future leaders.

How the program works

The internship incorporates three components:

- Meaningful internship, of at least 4 weeks, that allows the intern to develop specific employability skills
- Mentoring program to ensure mutual learning benefits for the host organizations and the interns
- Educational activities organized for the intern to demonstrate the values and principles of co-operative and non-cooperative organizations

The Career Focus Internship Program operates in part as a placement service, matching the needs of the host organizations with the interests and background of potential interns.

The program provides:

- Access to a candidate pool of motivated, skilled students with diversified backgrounds, and/or interest
- Screened intern applicants who meet internship specifications and requirements
- Communication with interns before, during, and after internship
- Educational activities for the intern to enhance their learning experience

The Matching Process

The Career Focus Internship Program custom matches the needs of the host organizations with the interests and background of potential interns.

1. The host organization identifies the needs and requirements for their internship.
2. ACCA initiates direct recruitment efforts and advertises internships on its website.
3. Youth submit their application for the internship.
4. ACCA will forward suitable candidate applications to the host organization.
5. The host organization interviews youth and informs ACCA of their selection.
6. ACCA will inform the youth and receives confirmation from students.

The Career Focus Internship Program provides organizations with qualified interns, while building the skills and knowledge of a new generation of leaders.

The program is designed to provide a direct service by finding skilled youth to help fill organizational needs.

By hosting interns, organizations can gain assistance with specific projects of importance to their operations while building the future of the organization.

At the present time I have interns who have graduated with Civil Engineering, Multimedia, Oilfield and Production Field Operations, Home Support Field Worker, Bachelor of Science and many more.

For more information, please call or e-mail Dianne at 780-963-3766 or e-mail dschoepp@acca.coop.

Upcoming ACCA Workshops

Improve your abilities to add value to your organization. Choose from the following three upcoming ACCA workshops:

- Financial Analysis and Planning for Non-Financial Managers
- Financial Analysis and Planning for Non-Financial Managers – Advanced
- Parliamentary Procedures

[Download the ACCA workshop brochure here.](#)

Take Our Parliamentary Procedure Quiz!

According to Robert's Rules of Order, what is the correct response for the following?

1. Debate has been long and drawn out. Members of the assembly begin to call out: "Question!,...Question, Madam Chair!". What should the chair do?
 - a. Ask if anyone else wishes to speak to the motion.
 - b. Call for the vote.
 - c. Ask the members: "What is your question?"
2. Nominations are being taken from the floor for the position of secretary. The chair has just received a second nomination and the nominee has agreed to stand for election. Immediately, Ms. Green stands and moves "that nominations cease". The chair should:
 - a. State that "the motion that nominations cease is out of order, and ask if there are any further nominations".
 - b. Call for volunteers to distribute and collect ballots.
 - c. Ask if someone will second the motion.
3. Debate on the main motion has been underway and it appears that all who wish to speak to the motion have done so. The Chair recognizes the member who moved the motion and that person speaks a second time to the motion. Immediately afterward, another member rises to speak to the motion. Which action should the chair take?
 - a. If the member has not exhausted her right to speak, the chair should allow her to do so.
 - b. Ask if the member wishes to raise a Point of Privilege.
 - c. Advise the member that the mover has spoken to the motion a second time, and therefore, debate is closed.
4. In the midst of debate on a main motion, a member rises and moves that the motion be tabled. Which action should the chair take?
 - a. Ask what the urgent matter is that would require the motion to be tabled.
 - b. Ask the mover to state when the motion should be removed from the table.
 - c. Ask that someone second the motion and then, as the motion to table is not debatable, call for a vote.
5. Approximately 20 minutes after the adoption of the meeting agenda, the chair announces that: "Susan Wilkes, who is presenting the building committee report, has just been unexpectedly called away this morning on a business matter. However, she is able to present the committee's report this afternoon. Therefore, if there are no objections, we will move the building committee report to the first item on this afternoon's agenda." After a few moments no-one objects and the chair declares that the agenda has been amended accordingly. According to Robert's Rules of Order, is the chair's action in order?

Get the correct answers here.

Need a parliamentary procedure tune-up or perhaps a complete overhaul? Check out our [Parliamentary Procedures workshop on March 5th](#). More information is available [here](#).

Financial Analysis & Planning for Non Financial Managers

Alberta Community and Co-operative Association

Date: February 19th & 20th, 2010

Time: February 19th - 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
February 20th - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Cost: \$385.00 + gst - Members
\$460.00 + gst - Non-members

Registration Deadline
February 15th, 2010

Executive Royal Inn, 2828 - 23rd Street NE
Calgary, Alberta

*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, 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.



To register please contact
our office or mail your
registration form.

Hurry ... spaces are limited.

#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



Search



First



Previous



Next



Last



Quit

10

Page

New CEO for Federated Co-operatives Limited

The Board of Directors of Federated Co-operatives Limited is pleased to announce the appointment of Scott Banda as Chief Executive Officer of FCL effective February 8, 2010.

Mr. Banda joined FCL in 2002 as the Legal Affairs Manager. In November 2004, he was appointed to the position of Vice-President - Corporate & Legal Affairs.

Following graduation from University of Saskatchewan Law School in 1990, Mr. Banda articulated and practiced in Saskatoon. He later served as the General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Saskatchewan Crown Investments Corporation and was the Manager, Legal Affairs and Corporate Secretary with COGEMA Resources Inc. prior to joining FCL in 2002. Mr. Banda also holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Saskatchewan and has done work on his Master of Arts in History. He is a graduate of the Banff School of Advanced Management.

In the past, Mr. Banda has served on numerous boards including the Board of Saskatoon Co-op.

Scott and his spouse, Tracy, have two daughters – Spencer and Paige.

The Board of Directors is looking forward to working with Mr. Banda in continuing the success of the Co-operative Retailing System.

Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Casino

Thursday, April 1 and Friday, April 2, 2010 at Century Casino – Edmonton

This is a large fundraiser for the Goldeye Foundation Society. If you are interested in being a volunteer cashier, chip runner or working in the count room, please contact Dianne @ 780-968-6806 or email dschoepp@acca.coop

Time to Start Planning for 2012

Co-operators in Canada and around the world received a very special holiday gift: the decision by the United Nations to proclaim 2012 the International Year of Co-operatives.

The resolution, entitled “[Co-operatives in Social Development](#)” was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 18. In addition to the 2012 proclamation, it recognizes that co-operatives “promote the fullest participation in the economic and social development of all people” and “contribute to the eradication of poverty.”

The resolution also urges governments and international organizations to encourage and facilitate the establishment of co-operatives and create a supportive environment for co-op development.

Co-operators in Canada and around the world applauded the adoption of the resolution.

“At a time when so many people around the world have a heightened interest in doing business with organizations whose values reflect their own, raising awareness of co-operatives and what they stand for is very important,” said Kathy Bardswick, president and CEO of [The Co-operators](#), who was recently elected to represent Canada on the board of the [International Co-operative Alliance](#).

Carol Hunter, executive director of the [Canadian Co-operative Association](#), said Canadian co-operative leaders, together with partner organizations in Canada and around the world, will be working on a program of International Year activities highlighting the social and economic contributions of co-operatives, including credit unions.

For more information on the International Year of Co-operatives, go to <http://tinyurl.com/InternationalYear>.

Co-op Sector Responds to Earthquake in Haiti

Co-operatives and credit unions in Canada and around the world are raising funds in response to the massive earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12.

The [Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada](#) (CDF) is working in partnership with the [World Council of Credit Unions](#) (WOCCU) to provide relief to those affected by the disaster.

“The people of Haiti already had difficult lives, and it’s almost impossible to imagine the devastation the earthquake has brought them,” said CDF President Wayne McLeod.

CDF is now accepting donations to provide assistance to Haiti’s 175 credit unions and the nearly half-million members they serve. [Click here](#) to make a donation online or mail your donation to Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada, Suite 400, 275 Bank Street, Ottawa ON K2P 2L6.

In addition to CDF’s efforts, [Desjardins Group](#) has announced that it will provide \$300,000 in immediate support to those in need as a result of the earthquake. Donations to the Haiti relief fund can also be made at any Desjardins caisse populaire.

Co-Op Investment Strategy Campaign Gears Up During Parliamentary Break

With federal politicians on an extended break, it’s an excellent time to let your Member of Parliament know what the co-op sector wants to see in the next federal budget.

The [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) (CCA) has stepped up its campaign for a Co-operative Investment Strategy – including a Co-operative Investment Plan and a co-operative development fund – while Parliament is prorogued.

CCA has created an electronic tool for identifying your MP – just insert your postal code – and sending him or her an e-mail urging support for the co-op measures. You can also send an e-letter to National Revenue Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn, who is also the minister responsible for co-operatives, with a copy to Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

Go to www.coopscanada.coop/en/gov_affair/InvestStrategy to access the tool, which includes sample letters which you can personalize.



Search
First
Previous
Next
Last
Quit
13
Page

Junior Researcher – Co-operative and Credit Union Database

The Canadian Co-operative Association is seeking a self-motivated junior researcher to update its database of “top 100” credit unions and “top 100” co-operatives in Canada. The successful applicant will be expected to work from home and can be located anywhere in Canada.

This is a short-term part-time contract (max. 90 hours total). Work must be completed by March 31, 2010. We offer an hourly wage of \$13 - \$15 based on experience and qualifications.

The Junior Researcher will be expected to check relevant publications for rankings of credit unions and non-financial co-operatives, and verify or update existing information in 55+ fields (including contact information, staff positions, and financial information) for approximately 200 credit unions and non-financial co-operatives. It is expected that all of this information can be found on organizational websites.

Qualifications

- Post-secondary education in a relevant discipline.
- Strong understanding of the Canadian co-operative sector.
- Familiarity with Excel and internet search techniques.
- Proven ability to meet deadlines and submit high-quality work with minimal supervision.
- Attention to detail and sound judgement.

To apply, submit your CV and a cover letter to Christa McMillin, Manager of Member Services, at christa.mcmillin@coopscanada.coop by noon EST Monday, February 8th. Include the names and contact information of two references.

CCA thanks all those who apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



Co-operators, Central 1 Complete Acquisition of Cumis

[Co-operators Life Insurance Company](#) and [Central 1 Credit Union](#) have completed their acquisition of [The CUMIS Group Limited](#).

The transaction was unanimously approved by CUMIS' shareholders in November and was completed on December 31, 2009.

The acquisition will result in a strong, Canadian-owned insurance company that provides products and services to Canadian credit unions and their members. Prior to this transaction, the majority shareholder of CUMIS was CUNA Mutual Group of Madison, Wisconsin.

“This is an exciting growth opportunity for Co-operators Life, which also strengthens our bonds with the Canadian credit union system,” said Kathy Bardswick, President and CEO of The Co-operators Group Limited and the new CEO of CUMIS. “We look forward to meeting and exceeding the insurance needs of credit unions, caisses populaires and their members throughout the country in the years ahead.”

CUMIS provides a full range of personal insurance, including credit and mortgage protection, life, disability and critical illness, home, auto, travel and employee benefits. It also provides business, liability and property insurance to credit unions themselves, as well as wealth management services and products, including credit union group retirement plans.

All existing CUMIS insurance policies remain in effect with no changes.

Co-op Sector Represented in 50 Best Employers List

Canada's co-operative sector was well represented in a new list of “the [50 best employers in Canada](#)” compiled by the international consulting firm Hewitt Associates.

[The Co-operators](#) ranked 18th on the list, while its subsidiary, Co-operators Life Insurance Company, was 32nd. Also making the list were [Conexus](#) (27), [Coast Capital Savings Credit Union](#) (40) and [Envision Financial](#) (42), now a division of First West Credit Union.

Co-sponsored by the *Globe and Mail Report on Business Magazine*, Hewitt Associates compiles the annual list, using the results of confidential surveys completed by employees. The surveys gauge “employee engagement”, which the firm describes as a measurement of employees’ willingness to speak positively about their employer, their desire to work there, and the extra effort they are willing to exert to ensure the success of the company.

Government Endorses Co-ops to Combat Rural Poverty

The federal government has endorsed the co-op model, as well as social economy enterprises, as important tools in developing rural Canada.

The government statement comes in a November 2009 comprehensive [response](#) to the Fourth Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry entitled “[Beyond Freefall: Halting Rural Poverty](#)”.

Responding to the issue of business succession planning in rural communities, the government said it “recognizes the potential for the co-operative model as a viable option to maintain and develop economic activities and provide essential goods and services.”

The government’s response also mentions the renewal of the Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI) and the former Agriculture CDI program as ways it has contributed to combating poverty in rural areas. It also refers to credit unions and the government’s support for co-operative housing under its Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI).

Credit Union, Co-op Win Chamber of Commerce Honours

A credit union in Kingston, ON and a retail co-operative in Medicine Hat, AB have received business awards from the Chambers of Commerce in their communities.

[Kingston Community Credit Union](#) was named that city’s 2009 “Large Business of the Year” by the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce.

In awarding the honour to KCCU, the Chamber said the credit union has “continued to build lasting relationships with their members through concern and respect for their dignity and self-worth.” The Chamber also cited KCCU’s success at expanding its business despite the recession through its award-winning “*Like, All Free!!!*” youth

campaign, its 100 per cent staff participation in the United Way campaign, and its involvement with more than 34 community initiatives and charities.

[Medicine Hat Co-op](#), a member of [Federated Co-operatives Ltd.](#), was honoured with two awards by the Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce. The Co-op received the “Employer of Persons With Disabilities Award” and the “Employer of Youth Award”. Awards were presented in twelve categories, recognizing those businesses that excelled in their sector or delivery of service and that made a significant contribution to their community.

CCA Helps in Malawi after Quakes

The [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) (CCA) stepped forward with immediate assistance to help people affected by recent earthquakes in Malawi.

On December 20, an earthquake struck the African country’s northern Karonga district, leaving three people dead, at least 200 injured and many thousands without shelter. The quake was the latest in a series dating back to the first week of December. At least 3,000 people were already homeless prior to the December 20 quake.

CCA, which has been working in Malawi for a number of years supporting credit unions through the [Malawi Union of Savings and Credit Co-operatives](#) (MUSCCO), immediately forwarded \$20,000 in assistance to help the earthquake victims.

CCA is particularly concerned about Karonga Teachers Savings and Credit Union Co-operative; preliminary assessments indicate that more than half of credit union members’ homes were destroyed by the earthquake. The credit union is managed by Itai Msiska, a 2005 graduate of CCA’s Women’s Mentorship Program.

People wishing to support the local credit union in its efforts to help its members recover from this disaster may do so through a donation to the [Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada](#). [Click here](#) to make a donation online.

New Book Offers Insights into Agricultural Co-Ops

Agricultural co-operatives have played a significant role in both the Canadian and American co-op sectors, yet some have failed while others have thrived and succeeded.

Cooperative Conversions, Failures and Restructurings, a new book published by the University of Saskatchewan-based [Knowledge Impact in Society](#) (KIS) project, provides research findings that may have an impact on how today's co-operatives make decisions.

The 13 research case studies in the book are the work of 22 researchers from across Canada and the U.S. These experts explain why some agricultural co-operatives have failed, while others have persevered and thrived through the challenges that have faced the industry.

The book is co-edited by Murray Fulton, a faculty member of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina and Brent Hueth of the University of Wisconsin.

The book is available for downloading on the KIS website at: www.kis.usask.ca/CoopBook.html. Hard copies of the book can also be ordered from that location.

FCL Reports Solid Year, Despite Recession

Despite decreases in sales and earnings due to the recession, Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL) has had “a solid year”.

Canada's largest non-financial co-operative reported sales of \$6.5 billion and earnings of \$491.6 million during the last fiscal year. Sales decreased by \$1.9 billion and earnings decreased by \$264 million over the previous year.

Of FCL's total earnings, \$346.7 million was returned to member retail co-ops across western Canada. The remainder of the earnings were retained in FCL for its operations.

CEO Art Postle attributed the solid performance to the strength of the retail co-operative's marketing programs, the promotion of Co-op Membership Benefits and “to the growth of retail co-operatives due to their continued commitment to raise their standards on facilities, merchandising and selection, and service excellence by over 19,000 dedicated employees.”

“By working together, FCL and the retail co-operatives that own FCL have achieved remarkable results in a year of economic uncertainty,” he said.

Senate Poverty Report Includes Input from Co-Op Sector

A new [Senate report](#) on poverty, housing and homelessness in Canada includes several references to co-operatives as a result of presentations from the co-op sector.

The report, entitled *In from the margins: A call to action on poverty, housing and homelessness*, was issued by the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology.

The report quotes Nicholas Gazzard, Executive Director of the [Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada](#), on the lack of affordable housing. “Beyond ... housing statistics are the real people who pay the price for Canada’s lack of affordable housing... The Canadians who get hurt the most are those who are most vulnerable, the young, the old, lone-parent families, Aboriginal households, new immigrants and renters, who account for more than two thirds of those in core housing need.”

Also quoted is John Anderson, Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy for the [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) (CCA).

“Above all of the housing issues – both in terms of on- and off-reserve and in urban Canada – Aboriginal housing is the number-one issue we should be addressing. Their core housing need is so much more severe than for any other group in our society. Canada stands accused – and rightly so – all over the world for its negligence in dealing with that issue.”

Twelve Co-ops with a Difference

From financial services for First Nations to a virtual farmers’ market, from a hardware store that became a co-op after its owner closed it down to a processor and distributor of Fair Trade coffee, co-operatives are using the co-op model in a variety of innovative ways.

The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) has released a new booklet entitled *New futures: Innovative uses of the co-op model* which contains profiles of 12 co-ops across the country that illustrate the diversity and flexibility of the co-op model in a wide range of situations.

The booklet can be downloaded (in PDF format) from <http://tinyurl.com/CoopInnovation>. If you would like printed copies, please contact Donna Balkan at donna.balkan@coopscanada.coop.

Canadian Co-operators to Help Strengthen Credit Unions in Malawi

Six Canadian co-operators will soon head to Malawi as part of a pilot program designed to strengthen governance within the credit union system in Africa. The initiative is organized by the [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) (CCA).

The Canadians will participate in a classroom training session with more than 20 senior directors and managers before making site visits to credit unions to apply the learnings with local counterparts. The program is based on the Credit Union Director Achievement Program (CUDA) which [CUSOURCE®](#) has offered for use with CCA's international partners.

Lead facilitator Ed Sarnecki will work with two co-facilitators from Malawi to deliver the classroom sessions. If the pilot program proves to be successful, CCA will extend the offer to other credit union movements in Africa.

The six Canadian co-operators who will go to Malawi are:

- Daniel Burns, Central 1 Credit Union, Vancouver, BC
- Clarence Olthuis, UFA Co-operatives Limited, Neerlandia, AB
- Dave Sitaram, Auto Workers Community Credit Union, Oshawa, ON
- Norma Tomiczek, Co-op Atlantic, Dominion, NS
- Sandy Wallace, Credit Union Central of Manitoba, Ile Des Chenes, MB
- Ed Sarnecki, volunteer consultant (facilitator)

Food Banks Benefit from Co-op Fundraising

In the current economic climate, food banks across Canada have seen a drastic increase in the number of people who rely on their services.

In preparation for the holiday season, co-ops and credit unions across Canada have been holding food drives for their local food banks, and have reported enormous success.

Two examples are [Calgary Co-op](#) and [Access Communications](#), a major cable TV and internet co-operative in Saskatchewan. Both recorded a record year for their recent food bank drives.

Calgary Co-op's "Stuff a Bus" event, held on November 28 in partnership with Calgary Transit, raised more than \$162,000 in food and cash donations. This was the highest amount raised in the 17 years that the event has been held.

Access Communications raised a record \$47,000 in its annual "Food for Friends" marathon through live television coverage on its community cable station and radio coverage on local station 94.5 Jack FM. In the eight years the marathon has taken place, Access has raised over \$190,000 and over 65 tons of food in support of the Regina and District Food Bank.



Answers to the Parliamentary Procedures quiz:

1. The correct answer is:
a) *Ask if anyone else wishes to speak to the motion.* Debate cannot be closed by members of the assembly calling out "Question!" If members are still eligible to speak (i.e., they have not already spoken twice to the motion) they then have the right to speak in debate unless a limit was earlier placed on debate by the assembly or someone moves "that debate be closed" and it is duly voted upon and carried by a two-thirds vote.
2. The correct answer is:
a) *"...the motion that nominations cease is out of order..."* Nominations cannot be closed until all have had a reasonable opportunity to make nominations. Following the exhaustion of reasonable opportunities, the chair simply states: "Seeing as there are no further nominations, I declare that nominations are closed." There is no need for a motion of closure.
3. The correct answer is:
a) *If the member has not exhausted her right to speak, the chair should allow her to do so.* There is no provision in Robert's Rules of Order for the mover to close debate. Unless there is a restriction in some authority of the organization other than Robert's Rules of Order, each member has the right to speak *twice to the same main motion*.
4. The correct answer is:
a) *Ask what the urgent matter is that would require the motion to be tabled.* A motion to table a motion is used when there is an urgent matter that requires the assembly to change their order of business accordingly. The motion is commonly misused in place of the motion to postpone to a definite time which does not require an urgent matter to trigger the motion. Why should you know the difference? The motion to table is not debatable as the urgency of the situation speaks for itself. On the other hand, the motion to postpone to a definite time is debatable.
5. The correct answer is:
Yes, the Chair's action is in order to make such a proposal on a routine business item by using the process of *unanimous consent*. When the Chair states: "If there are no objections..." the Chair is signalling to the assembly that a decision will be made unless someone objects. If no one objects, the Chair proceeds in accordance with the proposal which, in this case, is to change the agenda. If one of more voting members of the assembly object, the Chair is obligated to put the proposal to a vote just as if the proposal had been made as a motion from the floor.