



2014

ANNUAL REPORT



STRENGTHENING ALBERTA COMMUNITIES BY PROVIDING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND FOSTERING CO-OPERATIVE VALUES

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The nature and mission of the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association has prospered by embracing co-operative values and people-powered solutions. Many conversations in 2014 circulated around how an organization of ACCA's complexity could clearly demonstrate value to such a variety of stakeholders.

Providing both member voice and value has its challenges when you consider our association represents a variety of industries, initiatives and communities who all aim to uphold a strong sense of social responsibility. ACCA is an advocate for co-ops as a whole, at home and afar. In our staff and directors we see leaders whose life passions have married their professions, or is it the other way around?

Our staff are excited about their programs, they're proud of the partnerships they've established and they earnestly work to engage, connect and empower the sector. ACCA's members come from the fields of healthcare, family services, agriculture, retail, finance, housing and others; one of the greatest benefits of membership in ACCA, is the innovative ideas and meaningful networking that is effortlessly facilitated through the co-op movement.

ACCA is actively a part of the larger global movement. This year, I personally joined the Canadian Co-operative Association's (CCA) board of directors as Vice Chair. As ACCA's Executive Director, I also serve as one of the Canadian representatives on the board of the Association for Cooperative Educators, which represents Canada, the United States and the Caribbean. I'm pleased to also be working on the Committee of Regions Executives, discussing best practices, skills sharing and areas of convergence that makes sense for Canadian provincial co-operative associations.

In 2014, ACCA organized its first international co-op study tour, which brought 15 people to the United Kingdom to learn from the roots and progression of the community co-op crusade. ACCA also designated a new full-time position to communications and welcomed credit union and co-op advocate Lacey Chyz to the team as she returned home from a CCA internship in Malawi. Paul Cabaj, ACCA's Director of Co-op Development also lent his expertise to CCA's partners in Peru.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

While our talents and anecdotes may cross borders, our focus is still very much at home. The third annual Gathering of Alberta Co-operatives was arguably the best one yet, over 100 guests came together to discuss the co-op identity and co-operation among co-operatives! The dynamic speaker line-up was predominantly Alberta based, with guests from Ottawa and Saskatoon also presenting.

Our greatest teachings this year came from sharing successes and studying co-operative and community development models in many contexts. Alberta's grassroots community development strategies are getting noticed. Our co-ops and credit unions across the province are strong and growing. ACCA worked with many partners in 2014 like the Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative and Social Enterprise Fund as well as individual economic development officers and volunteers to live out our mission of strengthening Alberta communities by providing leadership development and fostering co-operative values.

While our experience and support in strengthening communities and providing coaching for success has made monumental victories for our partner organizations, it has been taxing on ACCA to maintain financial stability as we continually develop and deliver relevant programming. The depletion of grant opportunities and stringent economic conditions affecting our members have shaped the strong strategic plan our association will be moving forward with in 2015.

Thank you to the staff, directors, members, volunteers and many others whose voice and shared vision has made many amazing things possible! We hope the pages of this annual report will be as informative, entertaining and inspiring as our last year has been.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Michele Aasgard'. The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Michele Aasgard,
Executive Director**

RANDY'S REPORT

This year the board of directors looked deeply at the strengths and opportunities of the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association. What we found were the same strengths a co-operative finds as it is being founded. A spirit of excitement, drawing resources together for a common goal, people willing to share, being ready to take ownership and empower others along the way, active participation in both the benefits and obstacles of something that is alive and innovative.

The roots of the seven universal co-op principles trace back to Rochdale in the United Kingdom and earlier work with the Plunkett Foundation sparked an interest to take a more in-depth co-op history lesson. ACCA brought a group of 15 enthusiasts to the UK in April of 2014 and the energy of the experience was brought back to many other ACCA initiatives throughout the year.

In some ways, 2014 was a crusade of accomplishments. ACCA gained its first international member, the Plunkett Foundation. We became a more prevalent guest with Ministers and MLAs. Our presentations to various groups like the Rural Health Care committee have been influential in offering solutions our province has never seen before. The Alberta sector as a whole saw a record number of new co-operatives incorporated in the province, with numbers doubling between 2013 and 2014.

The Gathering of Alberta Co-operatives and the Co-operative Leadership Awards have been a magnet for attracting quality leaders of all ages and backgrounds. ACCA's 2014 events were networking hubs for co-operation among co-operatives and bringing together community stakeholders and experts from all fields. Through this, we've fulfilled and found more opportunities to strengthen Alberta communities.

I wish to extend a sincere thank you to Michele Aasgard and her entire team for their dedication to crafting relationships and providing meaningful experiences for members and everyone they work with.



Randy Taylor,
Chair of the Board



2014 BOARD OF DIRECTOR COMMITTEE COMMENTS

GOVERNANCE

ACCA's Governance Committee met four times throughout the last year. At our first meeting we reviewed the Committee's Terms of Reference and approved our work plan for the year based on the Committee's calendar. In the remaining three meetings we: reviewed the total compensation and performance of the Executive Director, ACCA's democratic structure, our Bylaws and the Board of Directors operating policies and processes including our existing Board Committee structure.

This work resulted in a draft of six Governance Policies and recommendations to enhance the work of several Board Committees. At our last meeting in March of

2015 we reviewed the AGM readiness including the status of resolutions, nominations and format. In each case, the Committee brought forward recommendations to the Board for decisions. Overall, the Committee performed its role and set a course for improved governance and accountability of Board members.

As Chair, I would like to thank the members of the Board, the Board Secretary and our Executive Director for their wisdom and support through the year.

VERN ALBUSH,
Chair, Governance Committee

AUDIT AND FINANCE

Out of the gate, ACCA optimistically began the year building on the success of our co-op and leadership development programming. As some initiatives moved out of their pilot phases and into fully proportional projects, funding for them became harder to find. In 2014, ACCA operated without any grant funding, though many applications were submitted, this was the first year in many that the budget was carried primarily through member-dues, sponsorships and event registrations.

As a co-operative, ACCA must remain autonomous and independent. For an organization that works with members, not-for-profits, various levels of government and many other stakeholders, ACCA's approach to sustainable funding is multi-faceted. ACCA staff members are always prudent in their spending and creative in finding cost-effective ways of enhancing

services. Responsibility to members and delivery of core services is always top of mind for the Audit and Finance Committee, but the rising cost of certain expenses is still a part of doing business.

Overall, 2014 was a strong year for ACCA with registration numbers for adult learning workshops increasing and sponsorship support for the Gathering of Alberta Co-operatives growing. Reflecting over the financial statements, we will see that some anticipated sources of revenue did not arrive and while our financial position at the end of 2014 is not ideal, our human resources and sector engagement levels, along with the adjustments already made by this committee, will make ACCA resilient in 2015.

CHRIS HANCOCK,
Chair, Audit and Finance Committee



RANDY TAYLOR,
FEDERATION OF ALBERTA
GAS CO-OPS

Board Chair



GARTH YEOMANS,
CREDIT UNION CENTRAL
OF ALBERTA



DOUG DRODZ,
EQUS LTD.



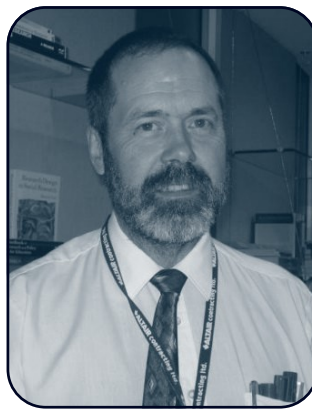
DON FLUNEY,
FEDERATED
CO-OPERATIVES LIMITED

Directors retiring in 2014

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



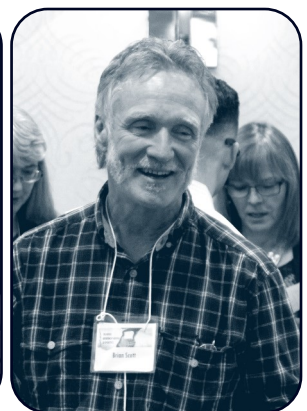
VERN ALBUSH,
SERVUS CREDIT UNION
Vice Chair



CHRIS HANCOCK,
ALBERTA FEDERATION
OF RURAL WATER
CO-OPERATIVES



ALBERT DEBOER,
THE CO-OPERATORS



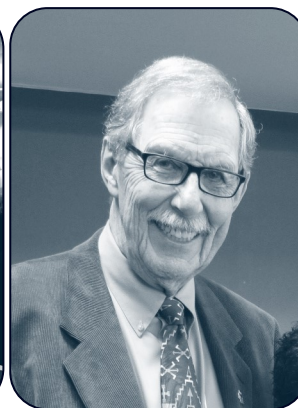
BRIAN SCOTT,
CANADIAN WORKER
CO-OPERATIVE
FEDERATION



DR. KEITH DEGENHARDT,
ALBERTA FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE



HARVEY HAGMAN,
UFA CO-OPERATIVE
LIMITED



RICK SMITH,
CALGARY CO-OPERATIVE
ASSOCIATION LTD.



CARL BENIUK,
NORTH PARKLAND
POWER REA

STAFF TEAM

MICHELE AASGARD,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PAUL CABAJ,
DIRECTOR OF CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

SETH LEON,
CO-OP RESEARCH OFFICER

LACEY CHYZ,
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

CINDY DIXON,
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

DIANNE FORTIN,
PROJECT COORDINATOR

LIANE COURCHESNE,
YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

MYRON BAILER,
ACCOUNTANT



MEMBERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR OF CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

CO-OP RESEARCH OFFICER

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

ACCOUNTANT

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

YOUTH PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

PROJECT
COORDINATOR

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





UNLEASHING LOCAL CAPITAL

Through intrigue and empowerment, ACCA saw 2014 build a lot of momentum around a western Canadian expansion of Unleashing Local Capital to include Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Unfortunately, 2014 saw an end to our long-term funding arrangement with the Rural Alberta Development Fund, and the application to Western Economic Diversification to expand the model to neighboring provinces was not successful, however that hasn't slowed Opportunity Development Co-operatives (ODCs) from gaining popularity points.

During Alberta Government consultations on the Rural Economic Action Plan, the desire for easier access to capital frequently arose, with ACCA's Unleashing Local Capital often being cited. As a result, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development has requested a proposal to expand the model. Funding support from Credit Union Central of Alberta remains on the table and may be used to leverage these government dollars.

The Canadian Centre for Impact Investing (MaRs) has committed legal services and other supports to enhance our existing offerings and to help Unleashing Local Capital reach more Alberta communities. The BC Beetle Action Coalition, an organization

dedicated to rural economic diversification following the pine beetle plague, continues to pursue developing a BC version of Unleashing Local Capital in conjunction with ACCA.

In 2014, three new communities signed up on a fee-for-service basis with ACCA to pursue the development of their own Opportunity Development Co-ops including Thorhild, Edmonton and Elnora.

Over 200 people attended webinars or presentations on the work of ACCA and the co-operative structure. Some of the groups that have attended include:

Town of Cochrane	Flagstaff County
University of Alberta	Red Deer College
Medicine Hat College	Skyfire Energy
Farm Credit Canada	Trico Foundation
Wildrose Community Futures	
Calgary Centre for Global Community	
Alberta Treasury Board and Finance	
Alberta Aboriginal Relations	
Agriculture and Rural Development	
Carya (Calgary Family Services)	

The year wrapped up with a great deal of excitement for community-owned renewable energy projects, which will become a key focus for co-operative development in 2015!

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

One of the main areas of co-operative development accomplished in 2014 was an increasing awareness of the co-operative structure, especially Opportunity Development Co-operatives, in building strong communities.

To this end, groups such as Thrive, International Avenue Business Revitalization Zone and the Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative included co-ops in their programming and identified co-operative projects that could be pursued.

The Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) created an outline for a co-operative grocery store in a low-income senior's complex; and International Avenue BRZ has

applied for funding with the City of Calgary to explore co-operatives as an engine for new business development.

In 2014, ACCA prepared a number of reports and briefings around the prospect for co-operative development in areas like:

- Elder Care
- Social Franchises
- Community Kitchens
- Regional Transportation Solutions
- Co-operative Solutions to Rural Health Care
- Co-op Development in Aboriginal Communities

ACCA staff also supported Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada on the national study of co-operative development as well as the presentation on the findings and results.

HEALTH CARE

ACCA has been promoting the consideration of co-operative health care models as part of the solution to Alberta's growing health care challenges. This work has ACCA providing consulting services, acting as a fiscal agent and helping the Calgary Aging in Place Co-operative obtain grant funding. In conjunction with this work, ACCA submitted a policy brief to the Minister of Seniors regarding the potential of co-operatives services for seniors.

We also met with board and staff of the Alberta Medical Association to promote the concept of co-op health care clinics.

These contacts, with supportive links through the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops, led to ACCA being asked by the chair of the Alberta Government's Rural Health Care Review Committee to prepare a brief to present on the benefits of the co-operative sector. This raised the profile of ACCA and the co-operative structure with the government of Alberta.

ACCA was also able to connect outside groups to the co-op sector to meet common goals. We anticipate work on health care co-ops to be a prominent activity in 2015.

CO-OPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

PARTICIPANT HISTORY

The ACCA Co-operative Youth Leadership Program celebrated its 55th anniversary in 2014. This year we had six brand new volunteer staff participate, 32 returning volunteer staff and 19 junior staff, seven of which had graduated from the program in 2013.

Programs	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Pre-Teen A	53	51	58	30	28
Pre-Teen B	—	—	—	27	28
Teen A	45	48	47	60	57
Teen B	45	46	30	29	41
Teen C	20	20	49	—	—
Youth A	43	53	35	41	37
Youth B	58	46	46	40	24
Grad	36	18	19	23	37
Total Participants	300	282	254	250	252

PLEASE NOTE: An additional four participants had registered and cancelled before their program started. If they would have attended, the total number for 2014 would be 256.

In 2014, ACCA had the generous support of 57 staff volunteers during the Co-operative Youth Leadership Program. They each spent approximately 27 hours in on-site training at the Goldeye Centre, plus an average of 3.5 hours driving to and from the training weekend and their program week. A volunteer staff spends approximately 8 hours in prep time before the program starts, preparing and practicing sessions, gathering props and costumes, talking to their staff team and more. During a week at the program, a volunteer staff spends approximately 105 hours participating, mentoring and facilitating at the program. An average volunteer will dedicate at least 147 hours a year to the program.

Origin of Volunteers	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
ACCA	1	2	3	5	5
AB Credit Unions	3	3	2	2	1
Federated Co-operatives	1	---	---	1	0
'Other' Sponsors	1	1	---	---	1
The Co-operators	7	2	5	1	0
UFA Co-operatives	3	3	3	3	2
Co-op/CU Background <i>previously or currently employed but not sponsored</i>	---	3	3	4	7
Other Volunteers	41	41	36	38	41
Total Staff Volunteers	57	55	52	54	57

Coordinators & Back-Up Coordinators (seen as skilled labour)
14 Positions x 147 hours x \$25 = \$51,450 IN KIND

Core & Junior Volunteer Staff (seen as unskilled labour)
43 Positions x 147 hours x \$10 = \$63,210 IN KIND



TESTIMONY FROM A VOLUNTEER STAFF MEMBER

"The Alberta Community and Co-operative Association's Co-operative Youth Leadership Program has provided a tremendous amount of value in my life both personally and professionally.

During my time as a volunteer I was able to enhance presentation and communication skills while also having the opportunity to be a leader, both to my staff team and to the participants involved.

The Co-operative Youth Leadership Program provides an immensely positive and engaging environment which allowed me a platform to uncover some of my personal strengths. After participating I found in my return to work, I was able to take on new challenges and adjust to rapid changes more readily based on my experiences. It even opened new doors of opportunity within my company based on my involvement.

From a personal perspective I was able to gain a greater sense of self-awareness, confidence and determination after being surrounded by so many like-minded and passionate individuals. It is always clear to see that each staff member cares deeply about making a difference in their community and helping participants to discover their incredible potential.

I know that each time I return to volunteer with the program I will come away with a fun, rewarding and incredibly meaningful experience. I would strongly recommend that any employer or volunteer get involved as I have seen first-hand that the Co-operative Youth Leadership Program has the power to inspire and uncover the best in each one of us."

EMPLOYEE FROM THE CO-OPERATORS, THREE YEAR VOLUNTEER

FIRST YEAR WAS SPONSORED AS A VOLUNTEER STAFF FROM THE CO-OP SECTOR,
CONTINUES TO COME BACK TO VOLUNTEER EVERY SUMMER ON VACATION TIME

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



ACCA STAFF

Staff at ACCA dedicated nearly 930 hours to their professional development through workshops, webinars, conferences, and re-certifications. These hours are captured through participation in events like Vitalize hosted by Alberta Culture, the International Summit of Co-operatives in Quebec, Servus Young Leaders Top 35 Under 35 Retreat, first aid courses, endowment training, multiple webinars and much more.



ACCA CO-OPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM VOLUNTEER STAFF



 **AVERAGE VOLUNTEER CAN SPEND**

27 HOURS	IN ON-SITE TRAINING	+	8 HOURS	PREP TIME
+	105 HOURS	ENGAGING, MENTORING, FACILITATING	=	
140 HOURS	OF VOLUNTEERISM THAT BUILDS SKILLS, CONFIDENCE AND FUTURE COMMUNITY + CO-OP LEADERS			

**× 57 VOLUNTEER
STAFF = 7,980
HOURS**

**OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN 2014
THROUGH THE CO-OPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

COMMITTED TO CONTINUED GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT

COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

OF THE GATHERING OF ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVES

This year ACCA recruited the help of a handful of volunteers from the Co-operative Youth Leadership Program to give guests of Gathering of Alberta Co-operatives a taste of our summer program.

Here's what one of the facilitators and youth committee volunteers had to say about the experience:

"It was an honour to present at The Gathering. The opportunity to present at The Gathering gave me a chance to advocate for the Co-operative Youth Leadership Program and continue to develop my own professional skill set.

The practice in facilitation, networking and presenting for a program I hold such great passion for feels empowering. Presenting at The Gathering this year left me both wondering how to challenge myself next and how to appreciate my own strengths.

Just as we do at the youth program, we advocated to those who joined us at The Gathering, that they have immense power to better their communities. It was a great networking opportunity to learn just how many great co-operative leaders are changing their communities.

*The journeys shared at The Gathering are diverse and aspiring. This year, a handful of the Youth Program volunteers teamed up to facilitate and share some of the 'warm fuzzy' energy with our highly intelligent crowd. **It was evident to me that this genuine and warm-energy helped facilitate greater comfort and creativity in co-operative brainstorming.** This is a great professional asset. I recognize that this particular warmth in leadership achieves the mark of excellence as it supports the development of great leaders.*

I could go on for days on the many positive impacts that the ACCA Youth Program has had to empower my development both as a person and in a professional capacity. I'm always excited for an opportunity to share!"



Chad Huseby
@HUSE59



Following

Congrats to all of the extremely hard working folks at @CoopAlberta for hosting an amazing event. #TALKCOOP2014 was all kinds of awesome!!



CAREER FOCUS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The new one year contract with the Federal Government through Service Canada began in May of 2014. The new twelve month contract had a participant quota of twelve interns. At the end of 2014, eleven interns were placed; six of them completed their internship in 2014 and continued on into full-time employment, the remaining five will complete their internship in the beginning of 2015. At ACCA's 2014 year-end there was one internship position left to be filled.

These individuals have trouble getting into the work force because they have one barrier to contend with, a lack of experience. The last seven months have seen many ambitious young people who were interested in this program but for one reason or another did not qualify. There were also individuals who may have qualified but whom ACCA was unable to find a position for, that would allow them to use their knowledge and experience from school.

The Career Focus Internship Program participants come from all corners of the province and all areas of study. This year ACCA helped young graduates in the following fields:

- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Arts
- Photographic Technology Diploma
- Computer Systems Technology
- Computation Arts
- Graphic Communications
- Communications Design
- Health Care Aide
- Early Childhood Education



MATCHING ENTHUSIASM WITH EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY

"I believe that the success of this program is gained from the relationship that is built between myself and the potential intern. I get the opportunity to understand their needs and where they are, or the direction they want to be heading."

The barriers for these individuals aren't necessarily anything that needs to be fixed or changed. The barrier for the majority of interns is that they are not hired because of their lack of experience. The energy and enthusiasm to work is at a high when talking to most of these individuals. They just want an opportunity to start their careers and put to work the knowledge that they have from their schooling."

DIANNE FORTIN, PROJECT COORDINATOR



"This was an awesome experience. The internship gave me a chance to do something in marketing and I have been trying to get that job since I got out of school. I will be forever grateful and even though I didn't get a job offer with the company I did my internship with, I can put on my resume that I have some experience in marketing. I would also like to say thank you to Dianne for helping me acquire this job and always being there every step of the way. Thank you!"

PATIENCE SUGLO, PAST INTERN



"We are a not-for-profit with an enormous public trust. Wage subsidiary programs and internships are essential to achieving our mandate. In return, we foster a workplace which provides an enriching growth experience for staff. The Career Focus Internship Program is unique in providing additional training workshops and the level of personal attention that is provided to the interns, it is rare in that it provides the host with a chance to hire graduates."

RECENT HOST ORGANIZATION

There were a few changes to the program in 2014 with the original 12 week internship being expanded to 16 weeks. The weeks are also a bit longer at 40 hours this year, when compared to the 37.5 hour work week seen in 2013.

THE THIRD ANNUAL GATHERING OF ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVES

NOVEMBER 14 – 15

Together We Are Co-op Strong, Celebrating our Identity— that was the theme of the 2014 Gathering of Alberta Co-operatives that brought in more than 20 speakers and nearly 100 guests to share and collaborate over a unique two-day symposium.

Friday, November 14, 2014 kicked off with a highlights reel of ACCA's trip earlier this year to the UK. Panelists Brenda Davies, Carl Beniuk, Judy McMillan-Evans and Randy Taylor were just a few of the participants who traveled across the pond in April of 2014 to study the history and changing times of co-operatives.

Denyse Guy, Executive Director of Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada delivered the opening keynote on principle six: co-operation among co-operatives. Her presentation was a hot topic for co-ops across the country, particularly since 2012, the International Year of Co-operatives, and ACCA's first year hosting the Gathering.

The principle six panel featured the electric and entertaining Glenn Nicol of North Parkland Power REA. Glenn fired up the audience and sparked inspiring conversation for the possibilities of people-driven service companies in Alberta. Bert Paulssen of the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops also spurred meaningful shared experiences from proud co-op members in attendance. Many spoke about the groundbreaking work their families or friendly farmers have done to change the landscape in rural Alberta from homesteading to full-utility, modern comforts.

Vic Huard, Executive Vice-President of Strategy for Federated Co-operative Limited (FCL) along with Dusty MacDonald, FCL's Board Chair, opened the afternoon with an in-depth look at FCL's approach to Re-Introducing the Co-operative Retailing System.



A diverse panel on co-op identity which included speakers from Mountain Equipment Co-op, UFA Co-operatives Limited, FCL and Connect First Credit Union followed, and it was voted best session in the post-evaluation feedback.





The first day of the Gathering wrapped up with an interactive glimpse at the Co-operative Youth Leadership Program. Alumni of the program and volunteer staff facilitated get-acquainted games and pushed leaders from the sector out of their comfort zone in an activity designed to demonstrate group process. The presentation ended with testimonies from parents, sponsors and volunteers of the program and Brian Kaliel of Miller Thomson LLP presented a cheque for \$5,000 to the ACCA Leadership Foundation to help sponsor youth to attend the program.

Saturday November 15, 2014 was just as packed with the morning forcing a breath of fresh air into a room full of stimulated co-operative leaders. The youth panel had all kinds of ideas about how the co-op sector views youth. Victoria Morris, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association revealed a few details of her master's study on credit union youth engagement in Ireland and Dave Christensen of The Co-operators shared what it is co-ops offer

that attract youth to see them as an employer of choice. Tanya Gracie, CMC's Manager of Member Engagement and Dave Vonesch of SPARK also complimented the panel with the audience making the most of the Q & A that followed.

The 2014 Gathering also featured a packed Pecha Kucha line-up that included Chad Huseby of Servus Credit Union, Hazel Corcoran of the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation, Angelina Rahimi with International Ave BRZ Calgary, Michael Wodzicki with Canadian Co-operative Association, Pablo Herrera of Localize, Tanya Gracie from Co-operative and Mutuels Canada and Nadine Riopel, the Savvy Do Gooder.

The 2014 Gathering of Alberta Co-operatives concluded with a luncheon song and story by Ken Eshpeter of Battle River Railway. Many attendees also stayed for some open sessions on corporate social responsibility, co-operative housing and Unleashing Local Capital.



2014 ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The Alberta Co-operative Leadership Awards are delicately selected and presented every year to a small handful of leaders in the co-operative movement. This year one organization and four individuals were recognized for co-operative merit, visionary leadership and inspiring youth.

CO-OPERATIVE MERIT

BILL LEE & DAVE FELSTAD

Presented to individuals who have contributed outstanding and continuous service to co-operatives and/or credit unions in a local, provincial and national nature.



CO-OPERATIVE VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

DAN OHLER & BILL DOBSON

Presented for the recognition of demonstrated leadership in a co-operative or credit union, at any level, that inspired others to work toward something better, look beyond what is to what could be, capture the values of members, persevere and transcend personal interests.



INSPIRING YOUNG CO-OPERATORS

SHELL EMPLOYEES' CREDIT UNION LIMITED

Presented to individuals, co-operatives or credit unions who demonstrate leadership in responding to the needs and values of younger members and/or motivating younger individuals to meaningfully participate in a co-operative.



ACTIVE & ACCOUNTABLE

The Alberta Community and Co-operative Association's mission is to strengthen Alberta communities by providing leadership development and fostering co-operative values – but how?

We know co-operatives gain strength from the input and participation of members. In an ever quickening world where co-ops are growing and celebrating milestones and community building is more alive than ever, it's crucial that your provincial association stay engaging and relevant.

In September 2014, ACCA released its first exclusively member minded publication intended not just to share news from the sector but to really let you know how ACCA is living up to its mission and strategic goals.

We called it Active & Accountable, two issues of the newsletter came out in 2014 and it's expected to produce three to six issues a year.



A MORE PERSONAL TOUCH - STAFF CONTACTS



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2014 ADULT LEARNING AND WORKSHOPS

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

In 2014 Parliamentary Procedures was a very successful workshop. The maximum number of participants (16) was achieved and the day went without a hitch.

Some of the topics that are discussed during the day are:

1. What the different types of motions are and when to use them.
2. How to know which motion gets priority.
3. How to make motions and debate them.
4. How to amend a motion.
5. How to amend an amendment.

Mr. Pat Knoll has been the facilitator for this workshop for many years and still receives excellent evaluations at the end of the day. Through the evaluations it is recorded that all topics are valuable to those who attend, all the information that is passed on or taught throughout the day is excellent, very good, very organized, engaging, very knowledgeable and even someone wrote: *"Wow!! Wow!! Wow!! Pat is an amazing, understanding and extremely knowledgeable, hilarious, very inclusive and fun!"*

The ability for Pat to focus on the objectives and to teach in a way that the participants understand. The use of role play in the workshop is very effective in teaching a dry but critical part of an organization's board responsibilities.



AGRICULTURE
UPDATE FOR PROFESSIONALS

2014 Schedule



AGRICULTURE UPDATE FOR PROFESSIONALS

Alberta Community and Co-operative Association work together with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development to present a workshop known as the Agriculture Update for Professionals. This workshop is designed for Agriculture accountants and lawyers to learn about the new tax laws that have changed throughout the previous year or are in the process of changing.

2014 was the 35th year for this workshop. This workshop sees between 600 and 650 people every year in seven different locations around Alberta and one in Saskatchewan. This workshop has ebbs and flows as all other workshops do as far as participants attending however 2014 saw a small growth in participant numbers and we are hoping that 2015 will again attract new participants.

The facilitators for 2014 were Greg Gartner from Moodys Gartner Tax Law LLP, Colin Miller and Ebony Verbonac from KPMG and Joel Bokenfohr from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

MORE ADULT WORKSHOPS

The Alberta Community and Co-operative Association wants to help your organization reach its goals! We'd be happy to discuss customized workshops or training materials that can help build skillsets within your organization—from entry level and front-line staff, to executive management and boards of directors.

CO-OPS 101

Do you need to inspire a colleague or refresh your own interest in the co-op model? Look no further than Co-ops 101, in 2015 this session will be made accessible through monthly noon-hour webinars. This course can also be offered classroom style and be expanded for a more in depth look at the model, principles, values, operations and applications of co-operatives.

CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE

This year, ACCA will be crafting of a range of governance workshops specifically designed for co-operatives. What are the distinctions of governing a democratically controlled business? How can a co-op make the quick decisions it needs to, to keep pace in a competitive environment while holding true to member engagement? How can you better engage members to effectively move forward with your co-operative's goals? ACCA aims to launch this series of workshops for our members in the fall of 2015.

THE 2015 GATHERING OF ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVES

LEVERAGING THE POWER OF MEMBER OWNERSHIP

November 20—21, 2015 AT THE HOLIDAY INN AND SUITES RED DEER SOUTH



SAVE THE DATE 2015 GATHERING OF ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVES NOVEMBER 20 + 21, 2015 RED DEER, AB



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