≝ GATHERING 2 ¥ 22

Making Western Canada the Best Place on Earth for Co-operative Businesses



NOVEMBER 1-3

Matrix Hotel, Edmonton

CONFERENCE PROGRAM 2022



WELCOME

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Alberta Community & Co-operative Association, we warmly welcome you to 'The Gathering 2022,' our annual conference in the beautiful city of Edmonton. This year's event is very special to the ACCA team; due to the pandemic, it has been two years since we had the privilege to come together. We are honoured that you are here.

This year's conference will allow us to share our thoughts and exchange ideas on how to chart our journey to making Western Canada the best place on earth for co-operative businesses.

Putting a conference together is not a small task. We want to thank the sponsoring organizations for their generous financial support. Lastly, we would like to thank you for your commitment to attending and making this conference a priority.

Enjoy the program, renew friendships, and extend your networks as we jointly explore current and future directions. We hope you will have a productive and fun-filled time at 'The Gathering 2022.'



Vicki Zinyk Board Chair, **ACCA**



Paul Cabaj Executive Director, **ACCA**

ABOUT THIS EVENT

A collaborative event bringing together co-operators, allies, and sector leaders and providing a forum for discussions about the future of the co-operative movement.















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MEET OUR SPONSORS





























Thank you for your commitment to making Western Canada the best place on earth for co-operative businesses.

AGENDA

All scheduled activities will be held at The Matrix Hotel, floor 2.

TUESDAY

7:00-9:00 pm

Welcome Reception

WEDNESDAY

8:00 - 9:00 am **Breakfast**

9:15 - 9:40 am **Session One:** Surveying the Field - Co-operatives in Bloom

9:40 - 10:00 am **Break**

Session Two: 10:00 - 11:00 am

Harvesting a Bumper Crop - Local Investment Solutions

11:00 - Noon **Session Three:** Tending the Field - Shared Services & Education

1:15 - 2:30 pm **Session Four:** Diversifying the Field - Women in Leadership

2:30 - 2:50 pm **Break**

2:50 - 4:00 pm **Session Five:** Bearing Fruit - How Governments Are Lobbied

4:00 - 4:45 pm. **Session Six:** Bountiful Harvests - Celebrating Success

7:00 - 10:00 pm. **Evening Event:** Elected Officials Reception & Co-op Awards

THURSDAY

8:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast

Session Seven: Breakout 9:00 - 10:00 am

Thorny Issues - Addressing Challenges

A. Not your Parent's Wheat Pool

B. Mergers & Acquisitions

10:00 - 10:20 am Break

10:20 - 11:30 am **Session Eight:** Sowing the Field - The Future of Co-ops

11:30 - 11:45 am **Closing Remarks**







Protecting your today. Preparing for your tomorrow.

We offer everything you need to plan for the future. Talk to us today.

cooperators.ca



SESSIONS Overview

All scheduled activities will be held at The Matrix Hotel





Session One: Surveying the Field - Co-operatives in Bloom

9:15 - 9:40 am

Together we can make Western Canada the best place on earth for co-operative businesses. Join us for an overview of what co-operatives worldwide are doing to prepare the field for co-operatives to grow and thrive.









Session Two: Harvesting a Bumper Crop - Local Investment Solutions 10:00 - 11:00 am

Learn more about Local Investment Solutions (LIS) - a new initiative designed to make it easier for people to invest where they live and work. We'll walk you through one of our projects where we provided assistance, cultivated local relationships, and made hay while the sun shines!









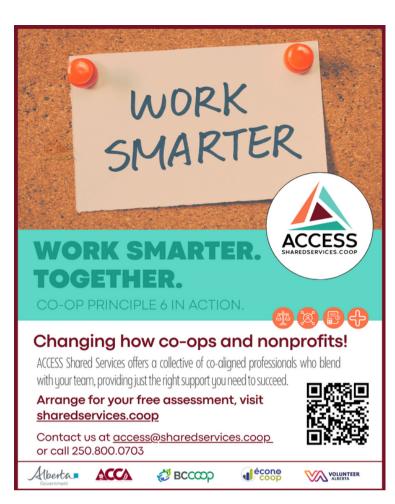




Session Three: Tending the Field - Education & Shared Services

11:00 - Noon

Discover how ACCA is nurturing the co-op sector through Allied Community and Co-operative Shared Services (ACCESS) - a co-operative shared service model specifically formed to provide administrative back-office support, Co-op Champions, and other educational and engagement initiatives in the field.







SESSIONS Overview

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Session Four: Diversifying the Field - Women in Leadership

1:15 - 2:30 pm

Many farmers believe cultivating various crops is the best way to regenerate soil health and contribute to resilient yields. In the co-operative sector, however, we have long been 'mono-cultural' at the highest level. Join us for this panel discussion around women in co-op leadership and learn about what ACCA is doing to support underrepresented groups to have their place in the sun.









Session Five: Bearing Fruit - How Governments Are Lobbied

2:50 - 4:00 pm

How can we successfully lobby governments to grow the sector and affect legislative change? Hear from elected officials representing various government levels about the most effective GR tactics and how co-operatives can reap the rewards of their efforts. Later, you'll discover how the ACCA GR team is mobilizing different tools to advocate on behalf of our members.







Session Six: Bountiful Harvests - Celebrating Success

4:00 - 4:45 pm

A series of short Pecha Kucha-style presentations highlighting members and opportunities.

















We are passionate about people and the communities we serve. calgarycoop.com @calgarycoop @calgarycoop







acca.coop



SESSIONS Overview

All scheduled activities will be held at The Matrix Hotel









Breakout Session Seven: A. Thorny Issues - Mergers & Acquisitions

8:50 - 10:00 am

Every field has its share of weeds. In these breakout sessions, you'll hear about specific challenges facing co-operatives and the response from a group of seasoned experts on how to address these issues to make fertile ground for growing co-op organizations.

Session Description - Like in agriculture, the last number of years in the co-op sector has seen business consolidation, particularly among credit unions. In this session, you'll hear people who've lived this reality speak about the opportunities and challenges of mergers and acquisitions.











Breakout Session Seven: B. Thorny Issues - Not Your Parents Wheat Pool 8:50 - 10:00 am

Every field has its share of weeds. In these breakout sessions, you'll hear about specific challenges facing co-operatives and the response from a group of seasoned experts on how to address these issues to make fertile ground for growing co-op organizations. Session Description - With the demise of the Wheat Pool monopoly, smaller producers are once again at the mercy of players that don't necessarily have their interests at heart. In this session, panelists will discuss the issue and see if a co-op solution can be found to level the playing field.



Session Eight: Sowing the Field - The Future of Co-ops

10:20 - 11:30 am

To make Western Canada the best place on earth for co-operative businesses, we must be deliberate about planting seeds that will grow into a bumper crop of inspired co-operators. In this concluding session, we'll discuss what we learned throughout the conference in breakout sessions and germinate ideas that will develop into bountiful harvests.



















INTRODUCING Speaker Bios

EGATHERING 2 業22











IAN GLASSFORD

HOST

lan, now happily retired, is the former Chief Financial Officer of Servus Credit Union. His background includes Money Market and Foreign Exchange trading, managing the interest risk of a \$15 billion book of loans and deposits, and structuring mortgage-backed securities. Ian has also served as a Director for a national Investment Dealer and led the strategic planning function of the credit union. In his spare time, he has accumulated a few designations, including a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario, Harvard Negotiation Executive Program, Institute of Corporate Directors, and the Investment Dealers Association of Canada.



JINEE CHONG

RESEARCH INTERN | ACCA

Jinee served as the research intern with the ACCA and BC Co-op Association (BCCA) in the summer of 2022, supporting government relations efforts across the Rockies. She holds a Bachelor of Political Science (Honours) Degree from the University of Alberta, and completed her Honors thesis - "A Comparative Analysis of Welfare States and Their Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic" in April, 2022. Before joining the ACCA, Jinee was the Development and Communications Intern for the DC Bar Foundation in Washington, DC, and volunteered on the events team at the Child Advocacy Society of the University of Alberta..



DAN OHLER

LOCAL INVESTMENT SOLUTIONS | ACCA

Dan is a proud husband, father, lifelong entrepreneur, and community builder. He was instrumental in incorporating the Sangudo Opportunity Development Co-operative in 2010, which led to working with ACCA to develop the Unleashing Local Capital program. Dan has spoken about Opportunity Development Co-ops (OCDs) in dozens of communities across Western Canada and the USA, inspiring numerous ODCs, one being the Vermilion Community Development Co-operative through the support of Peavey Industries. Dan works with the ACCA team to support new and existing ODCs and develop Local Investment Solutions

Dan is a Professional Certified Coach with the International Coaching Federation, a Master Practitioner of Neuro-Linguistic Programming, and has numerous other certifications which allow him to bring out the best in community leaders.



MATTHEW ENRIGHT

GENERAL MANAGER | BATTLE RIVER
RAILWAY

Matthew grew up on a small grain farm near Rosalind. After receiving an MA in Economics from Simon Fraser University, he returned to start his own farming business in 2009 - just in time to become involved in the formation of Battle River Railway (BRR). Matthew has been the GM of BRR since 2016, balancing time between the railway and his farm. Like the rest of the shareholders of BRR, Matthew had no prior rail experience other than loading producer cars before the formation of BRR. There has been lots of learning along the way, but today BRR is a successful short-line railway providing infrastructure, jobs, and opportunities for the local communities it serves. Matthew lives on the farmstead he was raised on with his wife and three children.



TEGAN MARTIN-DRYSDALE

FOUNDER | HOMESTEAD COWORKING

Tegan opened Homestead Coworking - located on Jasper Avenue in the historic Alberta Block Building - in 2015. Homestead was created to create a safe, welcoming, and supportive space for Edmonton's freelancers, business owners and non-profits. It is a coworking space where equality and diversity is not only respected but encouraged; a place where running a business feels less lonely and new ideas sprout from connecting with a community that believes in you. Tegan is also the President of RedBrick Real Estate Services, and was featured as one of the "Top 40 Under 40" by Edify Magazine in 2010.



BARB DAVIES

COFOUNDER | LOCAL INVESTING YYC

As a co-founder of Local Investing YYC, Barb works collectively to mobilize community capital for investment in local Calgary-based businesses that generate positive social and environmental returns. Barb's passion for local business and community impact began as an entrepreneur in the natural health industry at a young age. During this time, she discovered the power of local business to create impactful change for employees, the broader community, and the planet through supply chain management, waste diversion and collaboration with other local businesses. This experience led Barb to a career in the social impact sector, working in food security, poverty reduction and local business development. Barb currently works as an educator and facilitator, empowering youth to apply systems thinking and social innovation frameworks to create change in their communities.



CORINNE REMPLE

DIRECTOR
MEMBER SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS |
ACCESS SHARED SERVICES

Born in the prairies, raised on the west coast and married to an Albertan might make Corinne the perfect person to fill a position that places her feet on both sides of the Rockies. Having spent many of her professional years in the non-profit world and as a business owner, jumping to the co-op business sector seemed like a natural progression. On behalf of ACCA, Corinne is leading the development of ACCESS, Communications & Member Services. A natural advocate and storyteller, Corinne has become quite passionate about sharing salient points about 'why co-ops' with friends, family and even strangers she meets along the way.



DANIELLE HASTINGS

OPERATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES
MANAGER | ACCESS SHARED SERVICES

With many years of experience in Operations Management, Danielle joined the Allied Community and Co-operative Shared Services (ACCESS) team as the Operations & Member Services Manager in August 2022. In collaboration with the Ops Team, Danielle has streamlined the back-end operations, ensuring communication, processes, and programs are operating as intended for a seamless transition from the initial inquiry to the inception of services. As the main support point for clients and contractors, she works tirelessly to create and maintain long-lasting relationships. Danielle's concern for the community has been evident since childhood; over the years she has volunteered for many organizations, lending her knowledge and experience. Danielle firmly believes that together we can achieve more; collaboration through shared services is one of the best ways to accomplish this.



MADELYN READ

CO-OP EDUCATION COORDINATOR | ACCA

Madelyn Read is a co-op enthusiast, musician, and community builder based in Vancouver, BC. With an academic background in Cultural Studies and Sustainable Business Leadership, Madelyn was drawn to the cooperative model by its ability to support communities in addressing complex social, environmental, and economic issues. Her passions for community connection, arts, and sustainability have led Madelyn through numerous program coordinator roles, most recently landing her at the BC and Alberta Co-operative Associations as the Co-op Education Coordinator. As someone who has directly benefited from co-op education programs, Madelyn is passionate about bringing co-op education to the masses so that everyone can appreciate the benefits of cooperatives in their communities.



DR. CLARK BANACK

DIRECTOR | ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

Dr. Clark Banack is the Director of the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta in Camrose. Clark has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of British Columbia and is the co-editor of the forthcoming book: Building Inclusive Communities in Rural Canada (University of Alberta Press). He has authored two additional academic books and several academic articles and chapters on rural issues, Alberta politics, religion and politics, education policy, and populism in Canada. Clark is currently leading several research projects, including a two-year study exploring ways to utilize the co-op model in innovative ways in rural economic development.



MARC-ANDRE PIGEON

DIRECTOR AND STRATEGIC RESEARCH FELLOW, CANADIAN
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CO-OPERATIVES | JOHNSON
SHOYAMA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY,
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Marc-André Pigeon is an assistant professor at the Johnson Shoyama Craduate School of Public Policy and director of the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives. His research interests center around the study of cooperatives, banking, fiscal and monetary policy. Before joining Johnson Shoyama, Marc-Andre worked for the Canadian Credit Union Association, where he was responsible for monitoring, researching and advocating on behalf of credit unions. He has also served as an advisor at the Department of Finance, a lead analyst for the Senate Banking and House of Commons Finance Committees, an economist at the Levy Economics Institute, and a business reporter for Bloomberg Business News. Marc-André holds a Ph.D. from Carleton University in Mass Communications, a Masters Degree in economics from the University of Ottawa, and a journalism degree from Carleton University.



GRAEME DEARDEN

MANAGER, LEARNING AND RESOURCES | VOLUNTEER ALBERTA

Graeme has worked and volunteered within Alberta's nonprofit arts sector since 2012. They have worked in the architectural decorative glass field for over four years and received their Batchelor's of Fine Art from the Alberta College of Art + Design's Class Program in 2015. Graeme has been involved in ACCESS - Alberta Community and Co-operative Shared Services - since 2021 through his involvement with Volunteer Alberta.



MICHELLE TSUTSUMI

STRATEGIC CONVENER & ORGANIZER |
ACCA

Michelle Tsutsumi (she/her) is of Norwegian, Swedish, English, French, and Japanese ancestry. She currently lives rurally in Secwepemculecw, close to what is dominantly known as the Village of Chase. Growing up as a "city kid", Michelle's past work life focused on body-centred trauma counselling in Edmonton, Calgary, Wetaskiwin, and Lac La Biche. After burning out, then living, working, and regenerating in Tokyo (sounds counterintuitive, doesn't it?), Michelle returned to Syilx territory, where her father grew up. This is where she fell in love with organic farming and got more deeply involved in community organizing. She is passionately curious about organizational culture, shared leadens to organizational diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racist ways of being.



JACKIE LOVELY

MLA - CAMROSE | AB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Jackie Lovely was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, representing the Constituency of Camrose, on April 16, 2019. MLA Lovely previously served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Associate Minister of Status of Women. She has also served on the Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society, been involved in efforts to reduce red tape for business, and has participated on several advisory committees. Before her election, she was vice president of the Leduc Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Camrose Chamber of Commerce. MLA Lovely holds an MBA from Cape Breton University, a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Saskatchewan, and a diploma in Hotel and Restaurant Administration from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (Saskatchewan Polytechnic). MLA Lovely is an entrepreneur who has been running her family business for over twenty-five years



KIM WELBY

PROJECT MANAGER | SOUTHERN ALBERTA
RENEWABLE ENERGY CO-OP

Kim Welby is a dynamic, ambitious woman with a background in public administration and economic development. She has worked for the provincial government, Federal agencies, non-profits, co-ops, and private industry. Kim grew up in southern Alberta, where she attended the University of Lethbridge, receiving her BA in Political Science. She furthered her education at the University of Waterloo and received a designation in Local Authority Administration from the University of Alberta. Never one to shy away from a start-up, Kim has volunteered with many local grassroots organizations, supported entrepreneurs in their early-stage development and executed the establishment of the Southern Alberta Renewable Co-operative. Her professional experience includes facilitation, strategic planning, policy development, and municipal energy management. In 2022, Kim received the Outstanding Young Professional award from the Economic Developers of Alberta.



COLE KANDER

MANAGER, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS | ACCA

Cole was born and raised in Alberta and currently calls Edmonton home. He holds a degree in Political Studies from the University of Alberta, and has held various board positions in different political parties and managed political campaigns across Canada. Cole has worked for all three levels of government and brings with him extensive knowledge of the political system. His project management and team-building skills honed through campaigning will be an asset when it comes to building ACCA's Government Relations sector. In his spare time (when he is not taking care of his young son) he competes in powerlifting as well as chess. Cole is looking forward to reaching out to ACCA members to find out what your priorities are so he can represent your values to our elected officials.



JAMES CUMMING

James Cumming is a former Member of Parliament who was elected to represent the Federal riding of Edmonton-Centre in the House of Commons in the 2019 Canadian Federal election. Cumming formerly served as the President and CEO of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and the Chair of NAIT's Board of Governors. He served as Shadow Minister for Innovation, Science and Industry, and later served as Shadow Minister for COVID-19 Economic Recovery during his time as an MP.



DAVID DORWARD

David Dorward served in the Alberta Cabinet with Premier Jim Prentice as the MLA for Edmonton-Gold Bar from 2012-2015. He is a graduate of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and the University of Alberta. David is also registered as a member of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta. Dorward received the Top 50 Alumni award, chosen for the differences he made within the community. He served as Associate Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Deputy Government House Whip during his time as an MLA.



JON DZIADYK

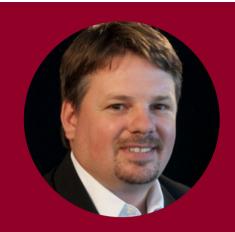
Jon Dziadyk is a former Edmonton City Councillor elected in 2017 to represent Ward 3. He holds a Masters of Urban Planning and a Masters of Business Administration. Jon is also a military reserve member and still serves with the rank of Lieutenant (Navy). In 2022 Jon won the nomination contest to be the UCP candidate for Edmonton-Castle Downs for the United Conservative Party. Jon served as Vice Chair of both the Community and Public Services Committee and the Edmonton Salutes Committee during his time as a Councillor.



LIANE COURCHESNE-DINGMAN

YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR | ACCA

Liane's first interaction with ACCA was when she was a shy, introverted teenager and attended the Rural Education and Development Association Co-operative (REDA) Youth Program. Following graduation, she landed a receptionist job at REDA/ACCA and transitioned into the Youth Program Coordinator position soon after. Liane (aka L-Smack) lives and breathes the program and is passionate about extolling the virtues of the co-operative model and positively affecting the lives of the staff, participants, and volunteers. Outside of work, Liane enjoys teaching dance in the evenings, spending time outdoors hunting, fishing & gardening and spending time with her dogs & her husband (who she met at the program)!



STEVE THOMSON

FOUNDER | COVA COOPERATIVE EV CHARGING NETWORK

An innovator, systems-thinker, and promoter of both technology and business model innovation, Steve is passionate about the transition to a low-carbon economy. He advocates for clean, renewable energy and Circular Carbon and the creation of local carbon markets that support both the drawdown of carbon by traditional employers and its reuse in new job-creating products and services. Steve is the Principal Consultant of Capasiti Consulting Inc., a consultancy working at the intersection of innovation, placemaking and rural economic development. Steve brings twenty-five years of experience working with technology start-ups and the enabling organizations governments, NGO's and social enterprises - that support the growth of start-up ecosystems.



BEN HYMAN

BOARD CO-CHAIR | BCCA

Ben Hyman is attending The Gathering as the delegate for BC Co-op Association (BCCA) - a Board he has served on for ten years. Ben was Chair of the BCCA from 2016-2021 and continues to serve as a Director. Ben is currently the Executive Director of the Vancouver Island Regional Library and was previously the Founding Director of BC Libraries Cooperative - Canada's first Platform Cooperative. Ben's time on the Board of BCCA has focussed on deepening collaborations across the Rockies to advance common cause.



GLEN FOX

BOARD CHAIR | EQUS

Glen Fox has been the EQUS Board of Directors Chair since 2014. First elected to the Central Alberta REA (CAREA) Board in 2009, Glen has seen CAREA and EQUS through significant milestones, including the merger of Alberta's two largest rural electrification associations (REAs) and the subsequent formation of EQUS. Glen has always been interested in rural communities and development and enjoys the rural lifestyle. He believes that EQUS' continued success and growth as the largest member-owned utility in Canada will encourage other cooperatives to realize their full potential, ensuring continued economic development for rural Alberta.



DION LINKE

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER | SERVUS

Dion began his career with Servus in 2002 and has advanced through leadership positions in commercial, agriculture, business development and retail operations. He believes it is an honour to work for a memberowned, purpose driven organization that makes such a positive impact on people. Prior to his appointment as COO, Dion was Senior Vice President of Retail Banking since 2015. He oversaw Servus's 100+ branch network and was responsible for ensuring a high-quality member experience and strong employee engagement. He earned his MBA in 2015 and was a founding member of the Servus Young Leaders Network.



MATT SAWYER

DIRECTOR | UFA CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

Matt - a fourth-generation farmer - was elected to the UFA Board of Directors in 2021. Before that, Matt served as a UFA delegate and farmer representative - a position that allowed him to advocate for member interests and collaborate on the UFA government relations committee. In 2020, he was asked by Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Forestry to act as Interim Director of the Results Driven Ag Research Board. He has also served on the Alberta Agriculture Economic Recovery Team, providing insight and a strategic action plan for Alberta's economic recovery directly to the Covernment of Alberta. Matt, his wife, and three children farm the family plot, located near Acme, which dates back to 1903.



JEREMEY WELTER

BOARD DIRECTOR | AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

Jeremy Welter farms in West Central Saskatchewan, close to Kerrobert with his partner and Dad. Together they grow canola, wheat, barley, lentils, and camelina. Jeremy is an Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) Director for District 6. He is also on the board of directors for CAHRC (Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council) and is a councillor in his rural municipality.



SANDRA THORTON

DIRECTOR | EQUS

Sandra's career in communications spanned over thirty years. During that time, she has held leadership roles in the public and private sectors, becoming an independent consultant for the latter part of her career. Her expertise includes corporate communications, media relations, community investment, investor communications, acquisition communications, internal communications, and policy. Sandra taught for MacEwan University's Public Relations program from 2000 to 2014, and has taught at the University of Victoria since 2009. Sandra is Vice-Chair of EOUS and sits on the ACCA Board, where she is Chair of the Government & Stakeholder Relations Committee. She has served on the boards of Travel Alberta, Heart & Stroke Foundation (both provincial & national), YMCA of Northern Alberta, and the Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS). Sandra has a degree in applied arts from Athabasca University, is certified by the Institute for Crisis Management, and holds accreditation from, and was appointed a fellow of, the CPRS.



PAUL CABAJ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | ACCA

Paul joined ACCA as Executive Director in April 2019 and became the ED of BCCA in February, 2021. Paul has an extensive background in leading social and economic innovation and has a long history of cooperative development – both in Canada and abroad. Before his appointment, Paul was with Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada and has worked as a consultant, researcher, entrepreneur and leader going back to 1988. He sits on several co-operative boards and committees – local, provincial, and national. These connections provide Paul with the inspiration and motivation to push the co-operative movement forward. When not at work Paul can be found exploring the beautiful natural spaces of Western Canada and enjoying time with his family.

On behalf of the ACCA Board & Team,

THANK YOU for attending EGATHERING 2 1 22

Connect with us:

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Call: +1 780-963-3766 Email: info@acca.coop

Use this link to connect with the ACCA Team









