



ALBERTA COMMUNITY & CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MEMBER AND SECTOR RELATIONS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>YOUTH AND STUDENTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>AWARENESS BUILDING</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CO-OPERATIVE LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>7</b>



# MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Alberta's economic position is not news to our members, in fact the sector continues to show its resiliency in hard times, and ACCA is no different. While tough decisions had to be made about where we could focus efforts in 2016, our six-person staff team did so without hesitation and had another successful year, despite a wage-freeze and extra lean operating budget.

In our first quarter, we consulted with members about the purpose and future of ACCA. In the months that followed, we shared our member engagement report and set to work to be a more accountable and collaborative organization. We introduced a new working committee for Government Relations and invited members to have more influence on our Youth Advisory committee.

Every ACCA initiative was delivered on a cost-recovery basis, and the board of directors worked on finding a new member dues structure that would make ACCA a more financial sustainable provincial association. Some regular events were put on hold, like the Gathering of Alberta Co-operatives conference. In its place, we tried new things like hosting a reception for all Members of Legislative Assembly.

We're proud of our resourcefulness and the impact it's having on our strategic partnerships. We look back at 2016 as a year of building and re-positioning, and we thank our members for being with us every step of the way.

**RANDY TAYLOR,  
BOARD CHAIR AND  
MICHELE AASGARD,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# MEMBER AND SECTOR RELATIONS

**12** MEMBERS DIRECTLY COLLABORATED WITH AND SUPPORTED ACCA INITIATIVES IN 2016

**50** MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED FACILITATED ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS IN MARCH

**100** HOURS TALKING TO AND TEAMING-UP WITH OTHER PROVINCIAL CO-OP ASSOCIATIONS

**175** EMPLOYEES FROM MEMBER CO-OPS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ACCA WORKSHOPS

ACCA did not hold a Gathering of Alberta Co-operatives in 2016, and instead focused the year on member relations and building strategic partnerships, building organizational capacity and forming strategic alliances with important stakeholders.

# YOUTH AND STUDENT EDUCATION

**19** POST-SECONDARY GRADS PLACED IN INTERNSHIPS TO GAIN CAREER EXPERIENCE

**222** 11-18 YEAR OLDS ATTENDED THE ACCA CO-OPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

**290** STUDENTS AT 5 UNIVERSITIES WERE EDUCATED ON THE CO-OP BUSINESS MODEL

**6,160** VOLUNTEER HOURS INVESTED BY 44 STAFF FACILITATORS OVER THE SUMMER

ACCA updated the curriculum material for the summer youth program in 2016, to be launched in 2017. We also hired a Policy Analyst intern to help measure the impact co-ops have on Alberta's economy and communities.

# AWARENESS BUILDING

**3** TIMES ACCA PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES,  
TWICE AS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**4** RURAL COMMUNITIES WORKED WITH US TO  
EXPLORE CO-OPS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**50** PEOPLE REGISTERED FOR A CO-OPS 101  
OR UNLEASHING LOCAL CAPITAL WEBINAR

**60** PEOPLE CURIOUS ABOUT CO-OPS  
ATTENDED ONE OF OUR IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

**1,419** KILOMETERS ON ALBERTA  
HIGHWAYS FOR TEACHING  
AND PROMOTING CO-OPS

While the demand for co-op education increased in 2016, ACCA was only able to do awareness building on a cost-recovery basis.

# GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

**1** SECTOR HOSTED ALL-PARTY RECEPTION FOR MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**43** ELECTED OFFICIALS AT THE MLA RECEPTION

**50** CO-OP AND CREDIT UNION EXECUTIVES AND BOARD MEMBERS MET MLAS AND MINISTERS

**530** HOURS SPENT WORKING WITH THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND OUR SECTOR COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Our MLA Reception in November was a highlight of 2016 for ACCA and our members. The Government of Alberta also invited Executive Director, Michele Aasgard to represent co-operatives on the Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel.



## CO-OPERATIVE LEADERSHIP

# RECOGNITION

**SETH LEON, MANAGER OF CO-OP SERVICES**  
WILLIAM HLUSKO AWARD FOR YOUNG CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATORS  
ASSOCIATION OF CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATORS

**LACEY CHYZ, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**  
CANADA'S EMERGING CO-OPERATOR OF THE YEAR  
CO-OPERATIVES AND MUTUALS CANADA

# COOPERATION

**268** HOURS LENDING  
AND GAINING  
EXPERTISE WITH OTHER  
CO-OP ORGANIZATIONS