

Join the conversation, shape the future, grow the movement.



## Upcoming Events

November 3, 2016 - Taking Ownership of Local Economic Development, Webinar

November 22, 2016 - Reception for Members of Legislative Assembly, Edmonton

November 24, 2016 - ACCA Members Update, Webinar

November 29, 2016 - Co-op Basics Workshop, Edmonton

December 5, 2016 - Next ACCA Board Meeting

### Save the Date:

April 19 - 20, 2017 - Gathering of Alberta Co-operatives and ACCA Annual General Meeting

April 28 - 30, 2017 - Volunteer Staff Planning + Training, Co-op Youth Leadership Program

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**Taking Ownership of Local Economic  
Development  
Webinar - November 3, 2016**

## DISCOVER CO-OPERATIVES:

DEMOCRATIC DECISION MAKING.  
FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY.  
INVESTING LOCALLY.



WHERE THE COMMUNITY  
& ECONOMY COLLIDE

WWW.ACCA.COOP



Our lunchtime webinar is open to anyone interested and will provide:

- \* An overview of Unleashing Local Capital Program, background and local examples
- \* The basics on how to start an Opportunity Development Co-operative
- \* Info on the capital raising process and how local capital drives economic development
- \* Rules and regulations related to local financing, and how to raise capital in accordance to the current rules

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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**Just Around the Corner  
MLA Reception - November 22, 2016**

**Members of Legislative Assembly Reception  
on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 5:30 PM  
in the Amber Room of the Matrix Hotel  
10640—100 Avenue, Edmonton, AB**

The management and directors of Alberta's member-owned and locally-controlled businesses see a bright future for Alberta, and we know you do too.

We'd love for you to stop in for appetizers, refreshments and engaging conversation.  
Let's get to know each other and discover what we have in common.

*hosted by members of the*



The MLA Reception is turning into quite a special occasion. Co-operatives representing the housing, retail, financial and member-owned utility sectors have already bought their tickets. Join them, meet with MLAs across all political parties, and be part of showcasing Alberta's dynamic and invaluable co-operative advantage!

[GET YOUR TICKETS](#)

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## Co-op Sector Congratulates Lucie Moncion!



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., announced yesterday that he will recommend the appointment of Ms. Lucie Moncion to serve in the Senate for the province of Ontario to the Governor General of Canada.

Ms. Moncion's name was put forward for consideration to the Prime Minister by the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments as one of 2700 applicants.

Lucie Moncion is an accomplished professional who is a leader in Canada's co-operative movement. She has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Alliance des caisses populaires de l'Ontario since 2001, when she became the first woman to hold such a position in a credit union federation in Canada. Ms. Moncion became President

and Chair of the Board of Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada in 2016 and serves as President of the Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario.

ACCA proudly joins Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada in congratulating Lucie on receiving this honour. [To read more about it, please click here...](#)

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## **ACCA Members Webinar - Organizational Update Thursday, November 24 at 10:00 a.m.**

Earlier this year, ACCA members shared their thoughts on ACCA's purpose and future. Collectively, the membership determined that ACCA exists for five main reasons:

- Raising awareness about the co-operative model
- Involving and educating youth in the co-operative movement
- Advocating about co-operatives to government
- Creating networking opportunities to strengthen the co-op sector
- Being a resource for co-operative development and education

The board wishes to follow up with members via one-hour webinar on November 24 at 10:00 a.m. to provide an update on our focus areas this year. Our directors and staff will share details on how we're advancing member interests and improving our reach as a provincial association.

Members will each receive an invitation with the details of this meeting in their inbox.

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## **ACCA Partners with Member to host Co-op Basics Workshop - November 29, Edmonton**

# EDMONTON WORKSHOP CO-OP BASICS



DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE,  
DISCOVER CO-OPERATIVES.

We'll be uncovering community economic development tools, and sharing the fundamentals of the co-operative movement, structure and advantages.

**NOVEMBER 29 AT 6:30 PM**  
**9538 107 AVE, EDMONTON, AB**  
**EDMONTON INTERCULTURAL CENTRE**

To find out more and register, visit:  
[HTTP://ACCA.COOP/POST/EVENT/  
EDMONTONWORKSHOP/](http://acca.coop/post/event/edmontonworkshop/)

ACCA is partnering with the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative to host a workshop in Edmonton that will teach the community about Co-op Basics. On November 29 at 6:30 p.m. patrons will gather at the Edmonton Intercultural Centre to find out what a co-op is and what makes it unique from other business models.

The workshop will have a strong focus on community economic development, and provide a strong foundation on the co-operative movement, structure and advantages.

[ANYONE CAN REGISTER - CLICK HERE](#)

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## ACCA Active In Co-op Education and Development

As told by Seth Leon, Manager of Co-operative Services



This past summer I had the opportunity to instruct at two unique co-operative

development workshops, in Madison Wisconsin, and Fairmount, Montana. I led the workshops and provided insight on co-operative development and education in Alberta.

The workshop in Madison, [Cooperative Business Development Training Program for Practitioners: The Art and Science of Cooperative Development](#), was hosted by the [University of Wisconsin: Center for Cooperatives](#) and Cooperation Works. It brought co-op developers and economic development officers from all over the United States to learn together as well as advance their own projects.

A hop, skip, and a jump across the border to the South I led a session on our Unleashing Local Capital program to a group of local leaders in Great Falls, as well as supported the [Montana Cooperative Development Center's](#) initiative on housing entitled: [Prepared to Launch](#). MCDC had received funding from USDA to help rural communities in Idaho and Montana exploring housing issues to learn about how a co-operative structure could help them achieve their goals.

My time in both Madison and Montana was a lot of fun and was a great learning experience.



*Earlier this year Seth Leon accepted an award from the Association of Co-operative Educators for his contributions to co-op education in North America*

## TOP FIVE TAKE-AWAYS:

### 1. GO WHERE THE ACTION IS

It can be easier to build from existing momentum rather than starting from scratch. Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC) focused their approach on working with people who were already in the middle of a project. These groups often had resources and know-how. MCDC provided the co-op education and access to co-operative groups such as the National Cooperative Business Association as a prospective lender. It also forces co-operators to connect with other groups, rather than only looking within existing networks.

### 2. HARD LESSONS CAN BE THE BEST LESSONS

I got to spend an afternoon with Union Cabs, one of the biggest worker co-operatives in the United States, while I was in Madison. With Uber in their market, they are facing some new challenges. This has led to lots of frank discussions about both the operations of the co-op as well as their internal structure and succession planning. We tend to accentuate the positive when we talk about our work, sometimes focusing on challenges can get the message across clearer.

### 3. ALBERTA IS PART OF A NORTH AMERICAN CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Although there are differences in our co-operative acts, there is a lot of common ground to be explored between Canada and the United States; we face similar challenges and opportunities. When looking for resources, colleagues, or even a new insight on a co-op problem, it could be beneficial to expand our reach to our neighbours to the South.

### 4. INVESTING IN NETWORKS PAYS DIVIDENDS

The formal components of these workshops were amazing. In Montana I spent the day

working with National Cooperative Business Association staff as they developed financing strategies based on a limited equity model, with incredible focus and alacrity. Huge skills building. That said, getting the time to network with my American counterparts meant I could learn more, as well as have the relationship to drop a line to follow up.

## 5. HUGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH NEW AND EXISTING CO-OPERATIVES

There is a huge resurgence of co-operatives in the United States, in both traditional and less-traditional areas. Co-operatives that are aimed around part-time and precarious work to focus on community economic development as well as new retail co-operatives addressing food deserts. Lots of people are turning to co-operatives to mean something in their local economy. In many ways they are showing what is possible and could be replicated elsewhere.

## (6. THE FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES IS DELICIOUS, SO GO FORTH AND CO-OPERATE!)



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## Embracing and Expressing the Co-operative Identity

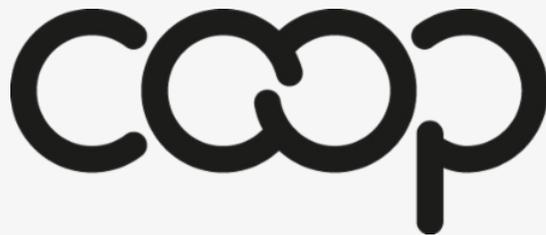
The Northern and Southern Alberta Co-operative Housing Associations held their annual conference on the theme: The Collective Impact of Co-operatives: Benefits of Ethical Business. As the provincial apex for co-ops, the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association was invited speak to conference guests about the co-operative identity.

ACCA's Executive Director, Michele Aasgard led the closing plenary that introduced housing co-ops to both identity and brand. The facilitated discussion called on participants to reflect on their own views and answer, "What does it mean to be a co-operative?" and "How do we identify as co-ops?" and perhaps more importantly, "How do we show communities and the world, who we are as co-operatives?"

As the session came to a close after a quick hour and a half, the audience began seeing their decision making and member interactions through a new lens. Identity is a key component in the International Co-operative Alliance's Blueprint for a Co-op Decade. The blueprint sets a vision for co-operatives to be a recognized, preferred model for people, and to be the fastest growing form of enterprise globally.

ACCA is proud to work one-on-one with our members to help them achieve their goals. Our member organizations share common objectives to grow awareness and strengthen the co-op movement, and ACCA is committed to unifying and supporting these initiatives.

Across Alberta, Canada, and the world, more co-operatives are aligning their own goals with those in the ICA Blueprint. The Blueprint strategy comprises five interconnecting themes: participation, sustainability, identity, legal framework and capital - all factors which co-ops cannot ignore, regardless of their size or business stream.



**Co-operative  
enterprises build  
a better world**

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## **Save the Date! April 19 - 20, 2017 in Red Deer, AB Gathering of Alberta Co-operatives is back!**

In 2017, ACCA will combine our annual general meeting with our annual Gathering of Alberta Co-operatives and the Co-operative Leadership Awards Celebration.

Planning has just begun, but emerging themes so far are Employees as Assets, and the Life Cycle of Members, two areas that will bring co-operative enterprises back to exploring engagement, governance and growing memberships and the co-op movement.

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**Questions? Comments? Contact Us.**

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