

# Co-operative Spotlight

March 2009

An overview of  
Saskatchewan co-operative sector  
news and activities

## SCYP Introduces New Seminars for 2009

Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program (SCYP) is expanding the program to include two new levels this year. In addition to the Introductory, Intermediate and Graduate levels of the program, there will now be a Junior level and a Senior Grad level.

The Junior level is specifically designed for 12 and 13 year olds. Through fun and interactive activities participants will make new friends from across the province, build self-esteem and explore how we all belong in a world of co-operatives. Participants will have a chance to better understand the influence of the media, enhance co-operation and consensus building skills, and experience all the zany co-op camp traditions like rap sessions, warm fuzzies, and campfire songs!

The Senior Grad level is open to those who have recently completed Grad and can't get enough Co-op Camp! This seminar will not only provide participants with a chance to see old friends, but it will also take all the knowledge and skills learned at past seminars and take it to the next level! They will be challenged to take more of a leadership role and responsibility for making the seminar a success. There will



SCYP Youth Seminar in 2008

still be all the fun things that make Co-op Camp magical--like swimming, rap sessions, and warm fuzzies.

Heather Hale, the new Program Officer responsible for Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program, is excited to be expanding the program to include younger and older youth. "This program has an incredible history of serving Saskatchewan youth for over 80 years. It is also a program that has evolved to remain relevant to each generation. The strength of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program is its ability to get young people excited about co-operatives while building self-esteem and fostering positive peer relationships. This doesn't start at age 14, so we decided to offer the program to younger participants. We believe that the program has a lot to offer these youth, who are more savvy consumers and are exposed to more forms of media than ever before. They face challenges that SCYP has become known for helping youth navigate successfully."

The new Junior seminar will be offered from June 29 to July 2. The new Senior Grad level will take place July 24 to 27. Both sessions will be held at Candle Lake.

"In recent years we have seen an increase in alumni wanting to stay active and involved in the program, and the Senior Grad program is a way for them to do so," says Hale. "They just love the SCYP experience so much, they didn't want it to be over!"

For more information on all levels of SCYP, please visit our web site at [www.sask.coop](http://www.sask.coop).

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## Local Co-operative Invests \$4.5 Million in Estevan

Access Communications' recent investment of \$4.5 million into their southeast communities will now mean a new menu of services and a new building, in Estevan. This is one of the first steps in the co-operative's \$75 million strategic plan to enhance and increase the level of services available to Access customers across the province. The investment will provide consumers the same cable, internet and telephone service options available in larger centres.

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## Student Producer Co-ops Empowering Saskatoon Teens

Staff and students of Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon are developing two student producer co-operatives. The goals of this innovative project are to provide employment training, co-operative education, work experience and generate some revenue for students. SCA has been working with the educators and students to provide some initial co-operative training.

The two student co-ops are at different stages of development. SCA is working with both groups to define their needs and interests, roles and training needs.

**Student and Kids Centre (SAKS) Bag Co-op**, a co-op for female students and educators, is already producing and selling products. They are developing unique screen printing and stamping cloth bags and selling the finished products around Saskatoon. They have already had contracts to produce a number of bags for different local clients.



The second co-op, **IJobs T-shirt Co-op**, is not yet functioning, but is planned to be up and running this spring. This student co-op plans to run a silk-screening business, based on selling uniquely designed silk-screened t-shirts. The student mothers from SAKS hope to participate and possibly be peer learning leaders in the IJob t-shirt phase.

On behalf of SCA, Karen Timoshuk developed and delivered a one-day training workshop for the Nutana educators that focused on understanding co-operative philosophy, defining their co-operatives' structure and purpose, and facilitating the initial planning and implementation. Timoshuk said, "I am so excited to be involved in such a great project! The commitment of the teachers and the innovation of the students are inspiring. What is really great about the co-operative model is that it is so adaptable to fill any need. These co-ops are all about empowering the students and showing them that they have or can develop the tools for success."

For more information or to purchase bags, contact Lise Kossick-Kouri or Kristine Divall at SAKS:

Phone: (306) 683-8379; Fax: (306) 657-3951;  
E-mail: [contactus@studentandkidscentre.com](mailto:contactus@studentandkidscentre.com)

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## Congratulations to Farmer Direct Co-op -ABEX Award Finalist

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce announced Farmer Direct Co-operative as a 2008 ABEX Award finalist for the STEP (Sk. Trade & Export Partnership) Award for Exports.

In announcing the nomination, the Chamber said, "Farmer Direct Co-operative Ltd. is a joint venture between urban entrepreneurs and organic family farmers for the growing and exporting of many organic crops as well as beef. They believed that society could benefit from such things as their biodiesel project and their domestic fair trade initiative and is creating solutions to some of the challenges facing society and the current food industry. With a lucrative and consistently increasing export market, they have successfully achieved a positive triple bottom line of economic, social and environmental 'profit' with their innovations and green mandate."

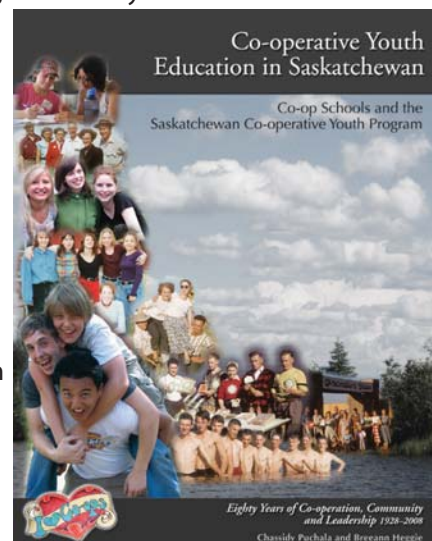
The Award for Exports goes to the business demonstrating exceptional performance in exporting Saskatchewan goods or services nationally or internationally. Judging takes into account the relative size of the business and factors such as the increase in export sales or successful entry into new markets.

Source: *Farmer Direct Co-operative website*

## New Books Celebrates 80 Years of Co-operative Youth Education

Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives are delighted with the recent publication of **Co-operative Youth Education in Saskatchewan**. This book captures the essence of the program and documents its history, development and achievements through archival research, personal interviews, and information gleaned from internal documents never before made public. Authors Chassidy Puchala and Breeann Heggie bring their own youthful enthusiasm to the telling of the story, adding new life and fresh insights to old documents.

A limited number of books are available for \$20 plus GST and shipping. Please contact the SCA office to order. Commemorative 80th Anniversary license plates are also available for only \$5 when ordering the book.



# Congratulations to Affinity Credit Union - New On-Reserve Branch

On February 4, 2009, Affinity Credit Union, the second largest credit union in Saskatchewan, opened a new 1,912 square foot full-service branch on Cowessess First Nation serving over 3,500 Band members.

The opening was attended by representatives from the Provincial Government, First Nations Leaders and Affinity Credit Union executives. It was followed by a cultural feast with members of the Cowessess Band and members of the community.

According to the credit union, this new branch opening represents a key investment in the area and is part of Affinity's strategic plan to provide access to financial services to First Nations people across the province through their First Nations District.

George Keter, Affinity's CEO, said: "The increasing importance of First Nations communities in the provincial

economy, and the young and growing Aboriginal population, make it a priority for our credit union to connect growth meaningfully with First Nations.

"Our newest location allows us to better serve our members and demonstrates our commitment to meeting the financial needs of this thriving community."

"This is an exciting opportunity for our band members," said Chief Gordon Lerat, Cowessess First Nation. "Our partnership with Affinity Credit Union will encourage the involvement and advancement of First Nations people in creating a more prosperous future for ourselves and for Saskatchewan."

Affinity has a long history of service to the First Nations community and is one of the first credit unions to open an on-reserve full-service branch on a First Nations reserve. In addition to offering banking expertise, Affinity will take an active role in supporting Cowessess partnership initiatives, educational programs and community development.

Source: Affinity Credit Union website



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Cowessess First Nation - Affinity Credit Union Branch

## Upcoming Events



### Co-op Classic, July 10, 2009

The Co-op Classic returns in 2009!

Plan to attend this annual fundraiser at Harbor Golf Club and Resort in Elbow, Saskatchewan. Mark your calendar and watch for registration forms in April.

### Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Awards

#### Nomination Deadline: May 1, 2009

Nomination forms are now available at [www.sask.coop](http://www.sask.coop) for both the Co-operative Merit Awards and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Leadership Awards. The awards are a great opportunity to recognize a person or co-operative that is making a difference in Saskatchewan communities. Award recipients will be recognized on October 13, 2009 in Regina during national Co-op Week, at a banquet attended by co-operative and credit union members and officials



and government representatives. **This year, a new pre-awards event will leave you feeling inspired!** This is your opportunity to network with young leaders from across Saskatchewan to brainstorm, learn from each other and discuss co-operatives for the next generation.

September 24-27:

**The Co-operators Youth Conference for Sustainability Leadership**, Guelph ON, featuring Dr. David Suzuki

[www.impactyouthsustainability.ca](http://www.impactyouthsustainability.ca)



May 27-29: Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) conference, Carlton University, Ottawa ON . More info: [www.coopresearch.coop/](http://www.coopresearch.coop/)

June 3-5: 2009 CCEDNET National Conference, University of Winnipeg. Visit [www.ccednet-rdec.ca/?q=en/conference/national\\_conference](http://www.ccednet-rdec.ca/?q=en/conference/national_conference) for details.

June 16-19: CCA National Congress, Westin Hotel, Ottawa ON [www.coopscanada.coop](http://www.coopscanada.coop)

## Canadian Co-operative Association Celebrates 100 Years!

In March 1909, the Co-operative Union of Canada – which became the Canadian Co-operative Association in 1987 – held its inaugural meeting in Hamilton, Ontario. To mark this momentous occasion and celebrate the contribution co-operatives and credit unions have made to the lives of Canadians and their communities over the past century, CCA is organizing a series of special centenary activities throughout 2009.

Activities relating to the 100th anniversary will include:

- The creation of a virtual Canadian Co-operative Hall of Fame and the selection of the Greatest Canadian Co-operator.
- The publication of *A Century of Co-operation*, a commemorative book on the history of the CUC/CCA and the Canadian co-operative movement by Ian MacPherson, Canada's pre-eminent co-op historian.
- The 2009 CCA Congress, which will include a gala reception and display of photos and co-op memorabilia at Library and Archives Canada. The Congress will take place at The Westin in Ottawa from June 16-19, 2009.
- A Youth Action Strategy for young Canadian co-operators, to engage Canadian youth in employment, leadership and education in the co-operative sector.



*Celebrating a Century of Co-operation*  
Honouring the Past, Building the Future  
Join us at the CCA National Congress June 16-19, 2009, in Ottawa.

## Two Co-operators Life Regina Staff to Volunteer Overseas

In March 2009, Cheryl Conly and Lori Winnitowy of Co-operators Life in Regina will be two of the five staff selected from across Canada by The Co-operators to participate in a short-term (3-week) volunteer opportunity overseas. They will be sharing their professional skills with community organizations in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is part of a new partnership The Co-operators has developed with Leave for Change, a volunteer program run by Uniterra. Uniterra is Canada's largest international volunteer organization and is funded through CIDA.

These volunteers will use 2 weeks of personal vacation time and 1 week of paid leave from The Co-operators. In addition, The Co-operators will make a \$5,000 donation to Uniterra for each of the 5 staff members. Volunteers are assigned work placements in one of 11 countries: Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Senegal and Vietnam. These volunteers will work with local partner organizations in such areas as finance management, information technology, business correspondence, youth leadership and English language instruction.

Source: *The Co-operators Website*

**CALLING ALL CO-OP AND CREDIT UNION SUPERHEROES!**

**Shazam!**

**KaBoom!**

Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program is looking for this year's Crew!

We need your superhero abilities to staff the 2009 SCYP seminars!

**POW!**

**BAM!**

For information on our Superhero Training Dates and Crew Applications check out: <http://youth.sask.coop/staff.html>

**DEADLINE FOR SUPERHERO APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 20TH, 2009**

**BANG!**

The graphic features silhouettes of superheroes at the bottom and various action words in starburst shapes.

## Local Co-operative Invests \$4.5 Million in Estevan

(Cont'd from page 1)

Estevan residents now have access to additional digital and high definition channels, increased internet speeds and a new choice in home phone service. A portion of the investment has also been used to purchase a new facility for the Access office in Estevan - on Access7, as well as a brand new retail environment for serving customers.

Access customers in Estevan received a package of information in the mail outlining their new options including choices of extra cable channels, HD channels, wireless networking options and phone services. They plan to offer a new Video on Demand service next month.

Access Communications Co-operative Limited is the 6th largest cable television provider in Canada. A 100% Saskatchewan-owned non-profit co-operative, Access Communications is a market leader, providing cable television, digital and high definition cable services, home phone services and a full complement of high speed internet products.

Combined, the cable company has over 400 employees and volunteers serving 33 communities including Regina, Estevan, Weyburn, Yorkton and area, North Battleford and area, and LaRonge.

Source: *Access Communications Co-operative website*

Subscribe or submit story ideas to: Saskatchewan Co-operative Association  
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