



Collaborative Exchange

Promoting Co-operative Development in Saskatchewan

November 2006

co-operation is contagious

Photo: 2006 Saskatchewan Co-operative Association Youth Seminar Participants

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A publication of the Prairie Co-operative Development Hub (Saskatchewan) via partners Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and Conseil de la Coopération de la Saskatchewan. Financial support provided by the Co-operative Development Initiative.



Innovation Needed for Health Care

A new study by Canadian Policy Research Network (CPRN) reveals that a surprisingly high number of Canadians live beyond the reaches of mainstream health care and suffer a burden of illness greater than the rest of us. Approximately one-third of Canadians live on the health care margins - in rural, remote and northern communities, where life expectancy is shorter, and death and infant mortality rates are higher than the rest of Canada - but health services are fewer.

The study found that two-thirds of residents in Canada's northern and remote regions live more than 100 km from the nearest doctor. And many rural emergency rooms are "just one retirement away from closing." The underserved can also live in the urban core: the estimated 100,000 homeless Canadians, recent

immigrants, the frail elderly or aboriginal peoples populations that may have poor language or social skills, or substance abuse, or mental health issues. The study, **Frontline Health Care in Canada: Innovations in Delivering** profiles a dedicated corps of health care providers who are struggling to help these vulnerable Canadians.

CPRN interviewed for the first time, 48 frontline health care providers across the country to learn about their innovative ways of reaching underserved Canadians. For example, a Toronto clinic uses a bus to bring health care to immigrant women working in factories; a Calgary health centre in a low-income neighborhood operates a laundromat that serves as a safe gathering place for women and in Labrador, a unique program has been implemented to train physicians and encourage them to stay in the community.

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Co-operative Entrepreneurial Youth Project

The Saskatchewan economy is currently growing at a record pace despite the fact that large numbers of youth still choose to look for employment outside of the Province. One organization, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association (SCA) is doing what it can to reverse this out-migration trend and support the Province's expanding economy at the same time. SCA, a provincial coalition of co-operatives and credit unions that collaborates to support and promote the co-operative model for community and economic development, is doing what it can to encourage youth to stay, work and participate in their communities through initiatives focused on providing employment and skills building experiences. By promoting the co-operative model, one that already has a deep and successful history in Saskatchewan and includes businesses such as Federated Co-operatives LTD, Saskatchewan Credit Union Systems and Access Communications, SCA hopes to create economic opportunities for youth who will share their skills and leadership with the Province in the future.

Although the number of available jobs has also increased with the growing economy,

a statistic that is easily observed by the countless "Help Wanted" signs covering shop windows and billboards across the Province, SCA is looking to help create more than just minimum wage employment and is already taking steps to develop young leaders in Saskatchewan.

Through its successful youth program, youth 14 to 18 years old participate in camp seminars that develop leadership skills and promote the advantages of the co-operative model. But as youth continue to find economic opportunities outside of Saskatchewan SCA has recognized the need to expand the program to develop more employment opportunities.

Improving career skills, promoting community development and cultivating the entrepreneurial spirit in Saskatchewan's youth has become a main priority with many of the proposed initiatives focusing on practical internships, mentoring and co-operative self-employment. A major focus of SCA strategy also includes creating opportunities for groups facing barriers to meaningful employment, such as Aboriginal, immigrant and at-risk youth in both urban and rural areas across Saskatchewan.

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Co-operative Entrepreneurial Youth Project continued from page 1

Project proposals that are currently being developed include everything from creating youth-run retail co-operatives to co-operative internships hosted by a variety of co-ops in the Province. Proposals will include:

School Co-operative Leadership Programs - The aim of this program would be to deliver in-school workshops as part of the Career and Work Exploration curriculum across the Province. These workshops focus on the personal development of youth and encourage their active involvement in community and co-operative organizations.

Co-operative Work Experience Program (WEP) - The WEP is designed for post-secondary graduates that are interested in gaining employment and relevant career experience at the same time. The program features 20 six-month work experience placements in co-operatives and credit unions throughout Saskatchewan, where host organizations contribute a small amount of the intern's wage while benefiting from the creativity, enthusiasm and hard work of youth eager to test their knowledge and skills. This program is intended to facilitate the transition from post-secondary to the work force while providing employers access to the Province's best and brightest graduates.

Co-operative Entrepreneurial Youth Project (CEYP) - Originally introduced by SCA in 1995-96 with some success, the CEYP program is meant to attract youth interested in developing leadership and entrepreneurial

skills in a practical setting through the creation of one or more youth-run co-operatives. With the assistance of SCA staff, mentors, co-op and industry leaders, participants create, organize and operate an employment co-operative of their choice, with the goal of creating a successful and

relevant product or community service while learning the benefits of a co-operative business model and supporting their local communities.

Addressing issues such as youth out-migration and increasing employment opportunities requires more than ideas and intentions alone, and finding solutions to these problems requires a broad and multifaceted approach. To that end, in order to concentrate more effort and resources into developing these successful programs the SCA, with help from a grant from the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) has hired

University of Saskatchewan graduate Stewart Low to research and initiate this program development. Stewart graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2005 with a Bachelors of Arts, Honors degree in International Studies and has also recently participated in the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program. Stewart's multidisciplinary academic career and legislative experience have placed him in an excellent position to research and develop this new program. Stewart has also been fortunate to travel extensively across Canada, the United States and much of Europe, experiencing the great hospitality that results from carrying a Canadian passport. Although Stewart has experienced first hand the many opportunities that exist beyond Saskatchewan's borders, he is deeply committed to making Saskatchewan his home and is eager to begin work on something that will encourage more of Saskatchewan's youth to remain in the Province.

Stewart will not be alone though, as SCA Executive Director Warren Crossman and SCA Program Officer Victoria Morris are both taking an active role in the direction and development of the projects. With this co-operative approach, SCA will now meet with stakeholders in community development including the co-operative sector, regional economic development officials, community groups and a variety of youth across the Province to develop programs that will promote co-operative development and increase entrepreneurial opportunities in Saskatchewan. It will first be important to find opportunities to connect the skills and aspirations of the youth of Saskatchewan with leadership roles and career experiences while promoting the benefits of living in Saskatchewan and the unique attributes of co-operative economic development. Combine this with the input of youth in search of opportunities in their own communities and SCA will be able to facilitate the creation of youth-centered economic opportunities that encourage youth to begin their own careers right here in Saskatchewan.

But SCA cannot do it alone. Saskatchewan and its economy are diverse and economic opportunities for youth will exist in many different areas, from manufacturing and production to retail and service industries. As a result, youth will benefit greatly through the participation and co-operation of many diverse businesses and organizations. If you or your organization have suggestions that will help SCA create these opportunities, or if you are interested in supporting community development initiatives by providing financial support, mentors or internship opportunities, please contact Stewart Low at the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association. The co-operative philosophy of the SCA is echoed within the Saskatchewan's Provincial motto, "From Many Peoples Strengths", and it is through this co-operation that all citizens will realize all of what Saskatchewan has to offer.



2006 Saskatchewan Co-operative Association Youth Seminar

Innovation Needed for Health Care continued from page 1

While innovative health initiatives exist across Canada, health care needs still go unmet. These initiatives recognize that there are specific groups such as street youth, people with HIV/AIDS, immigrants, refugees, women, the homeless and substance users with health care needs that are not addressed by mainstream health services. There are a number of innovations in how frontline health care is being delivered:

- Building partnerships among frontline health providers; public agencies; faith-based and other community organizations; and other allied health professionals;
- Developing new education, training and support models that help to attract, prepare and retain frontline medical professionals;
- Specific models of care for particular populations, e.g. women, ethno-cultural groups;
- Taking care and services out to the community - e.g., community health centres, street-based outreach programs and mobile services;
- Using technology such as virtual communities & tele-health (psychiatry, homecare, psychology, diagnostic services);
- Utilizing interdisciplinary teams and integrated service models that combine health services with other social services, i.e., "one-stop shops";

- Undertaking community economic development initiatives that provide services, skill development and income for individuals and agencies;
- Adopting new funding models, e.g., moving from fee-for-service arrangements to salary; organizations on global budgets.

The CPRN study shows that good communication, mutual trust and collaborative decision making- within organizations, and between partners and sectors - contributes to success in health care delivery. Roles and responsibilities are understood, and if they are not, or if they need to change, governance arrangements support information flows that ensure shared understandings and effective decision-making.

This research supports the current opportunities for Saskatchewan communities, with respect to building new partnerships amongst government, business, and non-profit interests - in a broad community context to improve health care delivery. Co-operative ventures within and across communities are actually well suited to rural areas, with government acting as an enabler, facilitator, and networker.

Health care, social services and education are areas that community stakeholders can step up and see that their needs are served. Collaborative decision making is most important when problems - or opportunities exceed the capacity of one individual/group/organization. The co-operative model can provide the framework for collaboration - and building effective solutions.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

CIRIEC Canada Journal Special Edition on Social Economy, Public Economy, and Aboriginal Economic Development

Aboriginal self-governance and socio-economic development are critical issues in Canada and pose special opportunities and challenges for social cohesion. Despite Canada's high rankings in the United Nations Human Development Index, the growing disparity in social health indicators between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations threatens to erode capacities for community identification and collective action and hence the formation of social capital. In the context of globalization, resource depletion and environmental degradation, and other such threats to shared commitment, Aboriginal identities, rights, cultures, heritages, and aspirations need to be better understood if they are not to intensify these trends to fragmentation and entrench cults of impossibility rather than nourish shared cultures of possibility.

Économie et Solidarités is an interdisciplinary journal on collective enterprises that accepts original articles in French accompanied by an abstract of 8 to 10 lines in English and in French. Articles in English should include brief abstracts in English and in French. Articles should not exceed 17 pages (1.5 spacing, double spacing between paragraphs; 32,000 characters not counting spaces; endnotes). Published texts are evaluated by three readers with expertise in an area of social economy or in the author's discipline.

For further information or to submit contributions by 1 December 2006 (three copies and a disc in Mac or IBM format with software specified), please contact: Professors Lou Hammond Ketilson or Isobel M. Findlay; Centre for the Study of Co-operatives; University of Saskatchewan Diefenbaker Centre 101 Diefenbaker Place Saskatoon SK S7N 5B8

2006 Merit Awards Presented

The Saskatchewan Cooperative Merit Awards Program honours outstanding and innovative contribution of co-operatives, credit unions and their members. Nominations are submitted annually and all Saskatchewan co-operators, officials, staff and members are eligible for the awards. On October 16, 2006, the Saskatchewan Cooperative Association and the Government of Saskatchewan were pleased to present the 2006 Merit Awards to recipients and guests at a dinner banquet in Regina.

The **Saskatchewan Co-operative Achievement Award** is presented in recognition of those who have provided long, varied and meritorious service in volunteer, elected, or employed positions within co-operatives and credit unions. Duane Bristow, Ivan Clayton Earl, Richard Kiedrowski, Mitch Ozeroff and Joseph Parent were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the sector.

The **Saskatchewan Co-operative Enterprise Award** is presented to co-operative organizations in recognition of leadership, innovation and achievement in business and member service initiatives in the social and economic development of the co-operative sector. Those recognized for their longstanding impact on the province were Access Communications Co-operative, Community Health Services Co-operative (Regina) and Farmer Direct Co-operative.

The **Saskatchewan Co-operative Contribution Award** recognizes those who have inspired others as a role model or through their innovative ideas and their inspiration, have significantly supported the growth and development of co-operatives and credit unions. There were no nominations in this category during 2006.



Nomination forms for 2007 Order of Merit Awards will be available in February 2007 at www.sask.coop. The Awards banquet will be held in Regina in October 2007 during Co-op Week.

2006 Award Recipients

L-R: Ivan Clayton Earl, Dale Johnson (for Farmer Direct Co-operative Ltd.), Vince Parent (for Joseph Parent), Duane Bristow, Richard Kiedrowski, Jim Deane (for Access Communications Co-operative), Minister Clay Serby, Cheryl Loadman (President of SCA Board), Bryan Tudor (for Regina Community Clinic Co-operative), Mich Ozeroff

Public Relations Grant Opportunity: Not-for-profits



CyberAlert Inc., an online media monitoring company, recently announced they will award a minimum of 10 public relations grants to not-for-profit organizations in both Canada and the United States. Each grant consists of one full year of free news monitoring/ press clipping services, ranging in value from \$2,700 to \$3,900. The aggregate value of the grants is expected to total at least \$25,000. All not-for-profit, educational and charitable organizations are eligible to apply for the grants.

Application deadline is December 31, 2006.

For further information and a grant application, visit:
www.cyberalert.com/prgrants.html

Funding Co-op Development

In addition to financial services provided by your local Credit Union, the following are some of the resources available to new or existing co-operative enterprises:

Small Business Loans Program

For Profit co-operatives are eligible to a maximum of \$15,000.00 for a loan, subject to the SBLA restrictions. Money must be used for the purchase of assets and cannot be used for operating expenses or for repayment of existing debt. For more information visit : www.rd.gov.sk.ca/Small_Business_Loans.asp or contact Linda Welk at 306-787-7154.

Entrepreneurial Foundation of Saskatchewan

The Entrepreneurial Foundation of Saskatchewan is a non-profit organization formed to provide advisory services, training and mentorship to entrepreneurs seeking access to investment capital during the initial commercial start-up and expansion stages of their small businesses. It is a gateway to the Saskatchewan Entrepreneurial Fund, which provides investment funding of up to \$1 million to startup and expanding Saskatchewan businesses. This investment funding is available to co-operative enterprises with a sound business plan. Visit www.efsk.ca or call the Foundation at 1-888-964-2010.

Co-operative Development Assistance Program

Under this program, new co-operatives and co-operatives considering an expansion into new areas of business activity are eligible for up to \$10,000 to cover eligible expenses. For-profit co-operatives, with the exception of Employment (Worker) Co-operatives where a primary objective is to provide employment for members will be required to match any funding on a 50/50 basis. Not-for-profit co-operatives and Employment (Worker) Co-operatives will be funded up to 90 per cent of eligible funding, with 10 per cent to be cash from the applicant.

Any co-operative business incorporated or registered under [The Co-operatives Act, 1996](#), or [The New Generation Co-operatives Act](#) is eligible to apply, or any legal entity proposing a co-operative structure for their business opportunity.

New co-operatives may receive funding for a range of organizational development costs. Application forms and further information on this program are available at http://www.recd.gov.sk.ca/Cooperative_Development.asp or by contacting Wayne Thrasher, Manager Co-operative Development at (306) 787-0190 or wthrasher@rd.gov.sk.ca

The Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI)

This Government of Canada program supports the growth and development of co-operatives through two program components. The **Advisory Services** component provides technical assistance to groups who want to start new co-ops, or who need help to manage existing ones. The **Innovation and Research** component provides funding support to projects that study and demonstrate how co-ops can be used successfully in new ways, with a particular focus on the following priority areas:

- adding value to agriculture
- access to health care and home care
- economic development in rural, remote or northern communities
- development of Aboriginal communities
- integration of immigrants into Canadian communities
- community solutions to environmental challenges

For applications and further program guidelines visit: www.coop.gc.ca

Agriculture Co-operative Development Initiative (Ag-CDI)

The Federal Government has officially announced the launch of the Agricultural Co-operative Development Initiative (Ag-CDI) with \$1 million to assist in the development of co-operatives as a way for agriculture producers and communities to take advantage of opportunities associated with bio-fuels and other value-added activities. The program, a partnership between the co-operative sector and the Government of Canada, is being co-managed by the two national co-op associations, the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) and the Conseil Canadien de la Coopération (CCC).

Ag-CDI will support the development of bio-fuel and value-added agriculture co-ops in three ways. First, it will help fund technical assistance for developing co-ops. It will also promote the use of co-ops through various education and training tools. And, finally, it will help build capacity to support the successful development of bio-fuel and value-added co-ops over the long term. The program ends March 31, 2007. Program details and applications are located at www.coopzone.coop/en/ag-cdi.

Succession Planning Using Worker Co-op Model

Is there a Worker Buy-out Boom Ahead?

Analysts have forecasted more plant closures in industries like forestry across the prairies in the years ahead. But there could also be many more worker-led plant rescues and buyouts if a new joint task force has its way. The independent task force was commissioned in September at the Saskatoon movement-to-movement dialogue that brought together about 20 regional leaders of the trade union and worker co-op movements. They traveled from across the three Prairie provinces to discuss the spate of recent plant closures - including the former Weyerhaeuser plant in Prince Albert and Worldwide Pork in Moose Jaw - as well as other industries at-risk in the new globalized economic climate. Delegates to the Saskatoon Summit vowed to build their capacity to respond effectively and rapidly in future job-threatened situations.

Over two days of intensive discussions, leaders from the Prairie Region of the Canadian Labour Congress and the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation exchanged ideas for advancing the ability of workers and communities to defend their jobs and local economies and outlined some next steps. Legendary leader of the Steelworkers' plant rescues across North America, Lynn Williams, declared the meeting "historic." When the bottom fell out of the North American steel market and 250,000 jobs were lost, Williams emerged as one of the pioneers of union-led buyouts - like the rescue of Algoma Steel, a Sault St. Marie success story that is now buying other steel companies. Williams is now 82, but traveled from Toronto to be the weekend's opening speaker.



Facilitating the regional dialogue was Dan Bell of the Ohio Employee Ownership Center. In the heart of the so-called 'rustbelt,' where de-industrialization took a devastating toll, the Kent University-based OEOC has helped put employee ownership plans in place in 77 companies, maintaining about 14,400 jobs in Ohio since 1987.

Participants also struck a steering committee to guide further discussions on strategic joint planning. Priorities for that committee, the Prairie Labour-Worker Co-operative Council, will include:

1. developing an outreach and education campaign to raise awareness of the co-operative worker ownership model with union members, development partners and the public;
2. assembling a string of technical assistance 'SWAT teams' that can respond rapidly and effectively to shut-down threats, and;
3. rolling out a financing committee to assess and develop specialty financing tools for conversions to worker ownership.



The steering committee was also mandated to pursue proactive applications of the worker co-op model in non-crisis situations. These include orderly retirement succession plans to the large group of owners now approaching retirement age and the use of the worker co-op model as a tool for new enterprise development and job creation, particularly in distressed and vulnerable communities. The Saskatoon Summit was organized by Co-operative Ventures, a worker co-operative specializing in technical assistance delivery to other worker-owned firms in the Prairie region. It was primarily funded with the assistance of another worker co-op, The Big Carrot - a very successful organic grocery store in Toronto which created a fund called Carrot Cache to support other workers' efforts to take control of their economic lives.

For more information, contact: April Bourgeois, Co-operative Ventures and Prairies Region Director, Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation (306) 244-2210, Hazel Corcoran, Executive Director, Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation, (403) 287-2069 or David Winter, Prairie Region Director, Canadian Labour Congress (Regina) (306) 525-6137 or cell 536-7703

The *Collaborative Exchange* is produced bi-monthly. Submissions that may be of interest to Saskatchewan's co-op sector are most welcome.

Please forward inquiries to Saskatchewan Co-operative Association at: sca@sask.coop

Upcoming Events

Community Revitalization: Co-ops and Other Social Enterprises

The Rural Secretariat and partners invite you to take advantage of the third in a series of learning seminars to be held in Western and Northern Canada. **Monday, November 20, 2006** TCU Place Arts & Convention Centre Saskatoon, SK 8:30am - 4:30pm

Community Revitalization: Co-ops and Other Social Enterprises is an opportunity to learn more about the unique economic and social investments made by regional entrepreneurs. Across Canada, social enterprises make a considerable contribution to the Canadian economy as research indicates this "third sector" accounts for 2.5% of the GDP and continues to grow.

As a one-day learning event, regional enterprises and networks, academics, and researchers will provide a much-needed overview and definition of this community-based sector and its corresponding organizations, including co-ops and other social enterprises. This seminar promises to increase knowledge of concepts and principles and build the networks to support active and sustainable enterprises that promote community and economic well-being.

The cost to register is \$125/adult and \$50 youth/students. **For more information or to register, contact Forward Planning at 1-877-379-4402 or forwardplanning@sasktel.net.**

2006 AGM Canadian Worker Co-op Federation Edmonton AB

November 16-18 2006 Talking Global to Local More information at www.coopzone.coop

Volunteer Saskatoon Workshops

Wednesday, November 15, 2006; 5:30 pm - 9 pm Aboriginal Inclusion in Decision Making Presented in Partnership with City of Saskatoon Community Development Branch & Saskatoon Sports Council
Cost: \$20 for Volunteer Saskatoon and Saskatoon Sports Council Members; \$25 for non-members (includes a light supper) **Learning Circle Leaders:** Cheryl McCallum, Trust Coordinator, Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund & Mike Tanton, Program Coordinator, White Buffalo Youth Lodge

Wednesday, November 22, 2006; 1 - 4 pm Appreciative Inquiry Workshop Presented in partnership with Volunteer Management Group Cost: \$10 for Volunteer Saskatoon & VMG Members; \$20 for non-members Facilitator: Lisa Erickson

Thursday, November 30, 2006; 7 - 9 pm Grant Writing - Part 1 "Getting Started" workshop Cost: \$10.00 for Volunteer Saskatoon members; \$20 for non-members Facilitated by Rosalyn Kirkham.

For more information on Volunteer Saskatoon workshops contact (306) 975-3477 or volunteer@saskatoon.unitedway.ca

Volunteer Regina Workshops

November 14th, 2006 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Understanding Your Community Free of charge Session Leader: Doug Elliot

December 12, 2006 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Proposal Writing 101 Fees: \$20.00 Volunteer Regina Partners \$30.00 Non-Partners Session Leader: Tracey Mann

For more information on Volunteer Regina workshops contact (306) 757-5671 or office@unitedwayregina.ca

Canadian Conference on Social Enterprise

"Building Social Enterprise" National Conference on Social Enterprise, January 28-31, 2007 in Vancouver, B.C. This conference is a training and networking opportunity for social enterprise groups, managers and staff, government staff, consultants, funders and academics. It offers workshop sessions in four practical learning streams: Early Stage Planning, Operations and Growth, Enterprise Series, and Social Enterprise Environment.

For conference details and registration, go to <http://www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca>

Engaging Youth in Lifelong Service

A new report from *Independent Sector* and *Youth Service America* illustrates the strong impact of youth service on the giving and volunteering habits of adults. *Engaging Youth in Lifelong Service* reports that adults who engaged in volunteering in their youth give more money and volunteer more time than adults who began their philanthropy later in life.

Key findings:

- ✓ Forty-four percent of adults volunteer & two-thirds of these volunteers began volunteering their time when they were young.
- ✓ Adults who began volunteering as youth are twice as likely to volunteer as those who did not volunteer when they were young.
- ✓ High school volunteering recently reached the highest levels in the past 50 years.
- ✓ In every income and age group, those who volunteered as youth give and volunteer more than those who did not.
- ✓ Those who volunteered as youth and whose parents volunteered became the most generous adults in giving time.

Overcoming barriers to youth service:

Despite the many benefits outlined in the key findings, there still remain some barriers to youth service that must be overcome if programs are to be successful. The first one is the organizational “mindset” preparation needed for adults and youth so that working together is a productive and enjoyable experience for both groups. Some issues to address in the preparation stage include:

- Advice to adults about “dos and don’ts” on how to work with youth, and for youth on how to work with adults;
- An open discussion about stereotypes that adults and youth have about each other;
- Exercises to practice “shared power”;
- Appropriate training for various age groups;
- Clear definition of roles and responsibilities for both adults and youth;
- Decision-making processes that include youth in meaningful ways; and
- Attention to logistics such as the availability of transportation, suitable scheduling, and snacks for young volunteers who come after school.



2006 Saskatchewan Co-operative Association Youth Seminar

Notable Downloads

The Leadership Deficit

One of the biggest challenges facing nonprofits today is their dearth of strong leaders - a problem that's only going to get worse as the sector expands and baby boom executives retire. Over the next decade nonprofits will need to find some 640,000 new executives, nearly two and a half times the number currently employed. To meet the growing demand for talent, the author offers creative ways of finding and recruiting new leaders from a wide range of groups, including business, the military, and the growing pool of retirees.

Read this article by Thomas J. Tierney in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review* Summer 2006

http://www.ssireview.org/articles/entry/the_leadership_deficit/

FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards

The 2007 FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards celebrate excellence in sustainable community development by highlighting the best municipal projects and initiatives that link economic, social and environmental goals.

Awards will be granted in eight categories: buildings, energy, residential development, solid waste, sustainable community planning, sustainable transportation, wastewater and water.

The application deadline is December 14, 2006.

http://www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/Programs/FCM-CH2M_Awards/

Community Spirit Award Winners

Congratulations to the **Nipawin Oasis Community Centre Co-operative**, recent recipient of the *Community Spirit Award 2006 - Children, Youth and Families*—and to **Quint Development Corporation**, recipient *Community Spirit Award 2006 Housing*. These awards celebrate and honour organizations and individuals that, through their efforts and actions, work to create stronger communities. The board and members of these two organizations are truly deserving recipients. Their commitment and dedication stands as a testament to the depth and quality of individuals in the co-operative movement, who believe in the value of families, communities, and citizens.

This is the first year of the Spirit Award for Community Based Organizations (CBO's). It was created to honour the human service CBOs that deliver programs and services on behalf of the Province of Saskatchewan, Department of Community Resources. CBOs that received funding in the last two years from Community Resources or the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, an agency of Community Resources, to provide programs or services in one of the five award categories were eligible.

St. Walburg Finalist in International Award

The Town of St. Walburg was notified recently that it is a finalist in the less than 20,000 population category for the International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom Awards). The focus of these awards is the quality of life created in the community by the management of the local environment, the preservation of heritage, environmentally sensitive practices, community sustainability and well-defined plans for the future. Involvement in this program results in international recognition for the community and an opportunity to learn from communities around the world.

St. Walburg is the first Saskatchewan community to be selected as a finalist and is one of only three communities in Canada and the United States represented in all the population categories. At the same time, notification was received that the town was also a finalist in the Bursary Awards Section. This award brings the same international recognition, as well as funds for a town project. For more information on the LivCom Awards, visit <http://www.livcomawards.com/index.htm>.

Upcoming Co-operative Training Opportunities

Co-op Developer Training - November 28-29, 2006 Class Limit is 25 [Register Today](#)

A two-day co-operative development training program for co-operative and community economic developers will be held November 28-29, 2006 at the Ramada Hotel in Saskatoon. Participants will explore how to develop a co-operative as a means for people to work together to their mutual benefit. Workshop facilitator **Marty Frost** will go through the six step co-op development process. By the end of the workshop, a community economic developer will be in a much better position to evaluate when a co-operative is the right structure to use to develop a business or service, based on the needs and resources of clients. Registration Fee \$200.

The Contemporary Director - February 5-6, 2007 in Regina

This very popular course will cover a number of topics of interest to co-operative sector leaders, including: the roles of co-operatives and credit unions in society; the roles and responsibilities of directors; strategic planning; performance management; and models of board governance. This course is intended for elected leaders of co-operatives and credit unions who already have a basic understanding of the role of a director, for those interested in moving in to a director role and for those who work closely with directors. The course will be facilitated by Jim Robbins, an experienced elected leader, who does consulting work for co-operative boards, municipal councils and not-for-profit organizations in the areas of board governance and performance management.

Co-operatives: The Basics - scheduled on demand

This exceptional course covers co-operative ideology; democracy in co-operatives; inter-co-operative relations; co-operative development; and the future of co-operatives. This course is intended for elected officials, employees and members who are new to co-operatives, or for anyone who wants to increase their knowledge about the function and purpose of co-operatives

Additional information on these training opportunities can be downloaded at www.sask.coop