

## Co-operative Fact Sheet

### Co-ops & Membership

- There are well over **1 million memberships** in financial and non-financial co-operatives held by residents of Saskatchewan.
- In Canada, **four of every ten Canadians, or 18,000,000 people**, are members of at least one co-operative.
- There are **9,000 co-operatives** in Canada
- Canada has the **highest per-capita credit union membership** in the world with **33 per cent of Canadians being members of at least one credit union**.
- In Saskatchewan, there are **570,724 people** who are co-op members.
- As of December 31, 2010, there are **1,031 co-operatives in Saskatchewan**, including 61 credit unions serving 304 communities.

### Employment

- Co-operatives provide **over 100 million jobs around the world**.
- There were **340 worker co-ops in Canada with 12,800 employees**.
- In Canada, co-operatives and credit unions **employ over 155,000 people**.
- Co-operatives provide **jobs for over 10,000 people** in Saskatchewan.
- Co-operatives in Canada (including credit unions) have an estimated **\$330 billion in assets**.
- Co-operatives/credit unions in Saskatchewan control well over **\$12 billion in assets**.
- The long-term survival rate of co-operative enterprises in Canada is **almost twice that of investor-owned companies**.
- The **Saskatchewan Business Magazine's 2011** listing of the province's top 100 companies ranked FCL number two, Co-operator's Life Insurance number 9, and 8 other co-ops made the list this year.
- SaskCentral (Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan) made the list of Best Workplaces in Canada and was named "**Canada's Best Workplace for Women**" in 2011 by the Great Place to Work Institute of Canada.
- **Saskatchewan's Top Employers** declared Access Communications Co-operative Ltd. and Co-operators Life Insurance Company to two of Saskatchewan's top employers in 2011

## Co-operative Leadership

- **1861** - The first co-operative business in North America, a consumer's co-op store, was established by immigrant coal miners in Nova Scotia.
- **1895** - A group of dairy farmers in the settlement of Saltcoats formed Saskatchewan's first co-operative butter creamery, which was officially incorporated in 1897.
- **1910** - The Jewish Colonization Association established the first Credit Union in Western Canada in Wapella, Saskatchewan.
- **1935** - Canada's first and only Consumers' Co-operative Refinery, owned by Saskatchewan Federated Co-operatives Ltd., was established in Regina.
- **1977** - Sherwood Credit Union in Regina introduced the world's first Automated Teller Machine (ATM).
- **1985** - The first true debit card was piloted in the Swift Current area and involved the installation of a point-of-sale system at 28 Pioneer Co-op outlets.

# About Co-operative Business

## *What is a Co-operative Business?*

A co-op is an organization that is owned by its members and is designed to serve its members. Co-operatives represent a business model that combines a focus on a financial bottom line with putting people and communities first. With more than a 160 year track record of proven success, co-operatives have served the people of Saskatchewan as builders and drivers of the Saskatchewan economy for generations.

## *Co-operative Values*

Co-operatives are based on values of self-help, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. They believe in honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others.

## *Co-operative Principles*

- Voluntary & Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy & Independence
- Education, Training & Information
- Co-operation Among Co-operatives
- Concern for Community

# Saskatchewan Co-operative Association (SCA)

## **Mission Statement**

A strong & thriving co-operative presence in Saskatchewan communities.

## **What Does SCA Do?**

### ***Co-operative Development***

SCA promotes the co-operative model as a mechanism for community and economic development:

- Providing advisory services, information about the co-op model and training courses related to co-op development, governance and understanding co-operatives.
- Providing leadership to encourage the development and growth of new, emerging and existing co-operatives.
- Participating in development initiatives that benefit the co-operative sector.

### ***Community, Business and Government Relations***

SCA encourages, initiates and participates in activities that represent and advance the collective interests of the co-operative sector. In conjunction with the SCA Public Policy Committee, SCA provides support to help its members advance provincial policy issues. SCA advances co-operative sector issues by:

- Informing community, business and government agencies about the value and significance of the co-operatives and the co-operative model
- Encouraging government agencies to develop policies, programs and legislation that supports the development of co-operatives
- Building effective business relationships with elected government officials and bureaucrats

## **What Does SCA Do? (continued)**

### ***Youth Education and Involvement***

SCA engages youth in activities and development opportunities that strengthen their capacity and the co-operative sector through the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program. Our youth initiatives include:

- Arranging and coordinating interactive, education programs (e.g. employment initiatives; workshops and seminars; school programs and partnerships; and entrepreneurial opportunities) that introduce youth to the co-operative model encourage youth to become involved as co-operative members, employees and leaders
- Developing opportunities that enable youth to understand co-operatives and the co-operative model, including co-operative principles and values

### ***Member Services and Communications***

SCA provides quality information services that communicate the value of co-operatives and SCA, through events and activities such as the Co-op Merit Awards, Co-op Classic Golf Tournament, and the Co-operative Spotlight newsletter. Our communication strategies include:

- Utilizing co-operative and public media to communicate messages of significance to co-operatives.
- Creating awareness and understanding amongst members and potential members with initiatives that demonstrate the value and benefit of membership.
- Providing opportunities for members to share, to collaborate and to advance common interests.

# SCA Members

## **Access Communications Co-operative Limited**

<http://www.myaccess.ca>

Access Communications is a community service co-operative that supplies cable television, internet and digital services to 219 communities in Saskatchewan, and has over 400 employees and volunteers. Access Communications is one of the largest cable companies in Canada and generates annual revenues of over \$70 million for the Saskatchewan economy.

## **Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation**

<http://www.canadianworker.coop/>

The Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation represents the interests of worker co-operatives and promotes, facilitates and supports employee ownership based on co-operative principles. In Saskatchewan, Hullabaloo Publishing Co-operative, the publisher of two alternative city newspapers, the prairie dog in Regina and Planet S Magazine in Saskatoon, is a co-operative owned by seven worker- owners. Both magazines are free publications and today, Planet S and Prairie Dog reach a combined readership of 120,000.

## **The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives**

<http://usaskstudies.coop/>

Known for community-based research and experiential learning, the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives is an internationally recognized institute that focuses on the economic and social roles of co-operatives at provincial, national, and global levels. Through interdisciplinary inquiry and a graduate program in co-operative studies, the centre supports the development of co-operative leadership and governance, and analyses how co-operatives promote mutual self-help, sustainable local and regional development, and policy innovation. The Centre is based in the Diefenbaker Building at the University of Saskatchewan.

## **Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada)**

[www.chfcanada.coop](http://www.chfcanada.coop)

CHF Canada is the organized national voice of co-op housing. CHF Canada's mission is to inspire, represent and serve its member co-ops in a united co-operative housing movement. Canada's housing co-ops are successful, community-oriented and serve members with a diverse range of cultural backgrounds, ages and incomes. Operating on a non-profit basis, co-ops are the most cost-efficient form of affordable housing and a crucial element in the mix of solutions for millions of Canadians currently living in core housing need. There are 17 housing co-operatives in Saskatchewan with 841 co-operative housing units.



### **The Co-operators**

*[www.cooperators.ca](http://www.cooperators.ca)*

The Co-operators Group Limited is a Canadian-owned co-operative with more than \$40 billion in assets under administration. Through its group of companies it offers home, auto, life, group, travel, commercial and farm insurance, as well as investment products, in communities across the country. The Co-operators has offices throughout Saskatchewan, where it employs 800 people, including the head office of Co-operators Life Insurance Company in Regina.

### **Community Health Co-operative Federation Limited**

*<http://www.saskatooncommunityclinic.ca>*

*<http://www.reginacommunityclinic.ca>*

*<http://www.coophealth.com/>*

Community Health Co-operative Federation Limited is made up of four co-operative health centres located in Saskatchewan (Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, and Wynyard). These centres provide community based member/patient directed health care services to approximately 53,000 people. The centres have 280 employees and revenues of \$24 million. The principal features of the community sponsored health care model include the provision of a variety of health care professionals in one location, interdisciplinary team based approaches to care, group medical practice and health support programs tailored to the special needs of groups such as the elderly, the impoverished, new Canadians and our First Nations populations.

### **Concentra Financial**

*<http://www.concentrafinancial.ca>*

Concentra Financial (Concentra) is a co-operative owned by the Canadian credit union community to provide corporate trust, personal trust, mortgage, and deposit services to credit unions and others across Canada. Concentra provides employment to 321 people. In 2011, Concentra was named as a Platinum Club Member of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies and is recognized as one of Saskatchewan's Top 100 Employers. Concentra has \$23.4 billion of assets under its administration and \$3.6 billion in corporate assets.

### **CUMIS**

*[www.cumis.com](http://www.cumis.com)*

The CUMIS Group Limited is the leading provider of insurance-related products and services to the Canadian credit union system, serving approximately 380 credit unions with a total of more than five million members. CUMIS is jointly owned by Co-operators Life Insurance Company, based in Regina, and Central 1 Credit Union.

### **Farmer Direct Co-operative Limited**

*[www.farmerdirect.coop](http://www.farmerdirect.coop)*

Farmer Direct Co-operative Ltd. is a farmer owned business that provides the world with ethically grown and traded food. Our co-operative of 60 Certified Organic, Fair Trade family farms and 120,000 acres of farmland produce high quality, 100% Certified Organic, Fair Trade grains, oilseeds, pulses and meats for food manufacturers, distributors, and food service providers in Canada, the United States, the European Union and Japan. FDC is a bulk supplier of organic grains specializing in containers, truckloads, railcars and 25lb bags of grain for retailers' bulk bins.

### **Federated Co-operatives Limited**

*<http://www.coopconnection.ca>*

Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL) is the central wholesale, administrative, manufacturing and marketing co-operative which supports approximately 140 member-owner retail co-operatives in Saskatchewan. The FCL home office is in Saskatoon. FCL also has: region offices in Saskatoon and Regina; a distribution centre in Saskatoon; feed plants in Saskatoon, Melfort, and Moosomin; ten propane distribution centres; and, operates the Consumers' Co-operative Refineries Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary) in Regina. FCL employs approximately 1,600 people in Saskatchewan, with a payroll of approximately \$135 million in 2010.

The retail co-operatives that comprise the Co-operative Retailing System (CRS) in Saskatchewan serve 374,000 members in 225 communities, employ 7,500 people with a payroll of approximately \$167 million in 2010.

### **Saskatchewan Credit Unions**

*<http://www.saskcu.com>*

Saskatchewan credit unions are independent co-operative organizations owned and controlled by their members. Saskatchewan credit unions build lives and fulfill dreams by helping their 497,700 members achieve financial well-being and investing in their communities. There are 61 credit unions in Saskatchewan serving 272 communities through 304 service outlets. In 2009, credit union assets reached \$13.5 billion with revenue of over \$755 million, and they returned \$12.6 million to their members in the form of patronage equity contribution and dividends.



# Contact Information

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