

Co-operative Spotlight

December 2009

An overview of Saskatchewan co-operative sector news and activities

Holiday Greetings!

Saskatchewan Co-operative Association extends best wishes to all our members, partners and friends during the holiday season.

We hope you will all enjoy safe and happy holiday celebrations with your loved ones and that 2010 will bring health and prosperity to you, your family and your community.

Our holiday hours are:

December 24
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

December 28
Closed

December 29 & 30
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

December 31
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

January 1
Closed

January 4

Resume regular office hours:
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday to Friday

Co-op Developer Training Valued by Participants

On December 1 and 2, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and Conseil de la coopération de la Saskatchewan presented a Co-op Developer Training Seminar at Queen's House Retreat in Saskatoon. Attended by 14 participants from across Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta, the workshop explored the technical and practical aspects of forming a co-operative.



Facilitator Mary Frost guided participants through the six step co-op development process, which includes pre-development; group building and establishing the form of the co-operative; planning and organizing the co-operative's business; finance; implementation and launch; aftercare and follow-up.

Participants enjoyed the seminar and interprovincial networking opportunities. Many stated they would be more able in their current work to assist others in starting co-ops. One participant stated



that they would use the training to "help youth co-ops get started and structure themselves effectively" and another said the course had "enhanced my general understanding about the co-op sector for potential further work/projects in the co-op movement".

TOP: Marty Frost lead Co-op Developer Training;
BOTTOM: Seminar participants at Queen's House

Marty Frost is the founder and a

member consultant of FWC Development Co-operative (Devco) formed 1996. He has designed, marketed and delivered co-op training and development services to co-operatives, local and provincial governments and development agencies across Canada. He has extensive development experience, having worked on over 90 projects in the last 13 years as a co-operative and non-profit business developer. Marty is a founding developer of CoopZone, the national network of co-op developers.

Seminar Explores Empowerment Through Co-operation

The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and the Fredeen Family are proud to present the 2009 F.J.H. Fredeen Memorial Scholarship Seminar. This year's seminar will be held on Thursday, December 17, 2009 from 2:30-4:00 pm at The Diefenbaker Canada Centre Theatre Room in Saskatoon. The presentation by Kama Soles, a MA student at University of Saskatchewan's Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, is entitled **Empowerment through Co-operation - Disability Solidarity in the Social Economy**.

Kama's MA thesis looks at the ways in which co-operatives can be vehicles for inclusion and empowerment for the disability community. It examines, in particular, the multistakeholder model, which is especially promising as it brings together different member categories in appropriate forms of interdependence. The disability community is one of the largest

Empowerment through Co-operation Disability Solidarity in the Social Economy

*Thursday, 17 December 2009
2:30-4:00 pm
Diefenbaker Canada Centre Theatre,
Saskatoon*

minority groups vulnerable to social exclusion and marginalization, too often forced into poverty, unemployment, and isolation through dependence on the state. The social model of disability is challenging this paradigm, empowering people with disabilities to dismantle barriers so they have choice, flexibility, and control to gain the dignity, autonomy, and equality associated with human rights and citizenship. It calls for research that takes an emancipatory approach and has a political commitment to confront oppression and exclusion. Kama's work recognizes that the disability community needs new opportunities for empowerment and community development. Her research will help build disability solidarity through co-operative development.

For more information on Multi-Stakeholder co-operatives, please see the article by Kama Soles and Rob Dobrohoczki in the November issue of Co-operative Spotlight.

Co-operative Development Initiative Now Accepting Applications for Funding

The Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI) is accepting applications for Innovative Co-operative Projects. The four priorities for funding are:

- agriculture, including farmer-driven projects for value-added agriculture and bio-fuels;
- rural/northern community development;
- innovative goods and services, including innovative uses of technology;
- projects that contribute to capacity building and sustainability of the co-operative sector as a whole.

Examples of activities that could be funded include, but are not limited to:

- Business development and feasibility plans
- Management development (education, advice, support)
- Membership structure
- Member education
- Governance & board training
- Development of by-laws, policies
- Legal structure (e.g. exploration of suitable co-operative models)

The application form and program guide can be downloaded from CDI's new web site at

<http://cccm.coopscanada.coop/en>.

The deadline for submitting your application is December 31, 2009.

Saskatchewan Co-operators Mourn the Loss of Robert Revet

Robert Revet passed away suddenly on Tuesday, December 1. He was a member of the Board at Prairie Lily Funeral Co-op, past president of Le Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité (CCCM) and was involved in many other co-operative organizations. The following is taken from the obituary in the Regina Leader Post.

"Robert A. Revet passed away on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at the young age of 65. Robert (Bob) was first and foremost an educator both in and outside of the classroom, always a student of life. Passionate about all the facets of his life, he loved his French roots, his cottage, playing music, genealogy, hunting and the great outdoors. Dedicated to his family, his community and his friends, he worked tirelessly in supporting all of them. We will miss him forever." SCA extends its condolences to Robert's family, friends and colleagues.

Source: <http://www.legacy.com/can-regina/Obituaries>

Working Toward a Pan-Canadian Co-operative Investment Strategy

Sector action urged to show support for new government / sector partnership proposal

The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) has followed up on its pre-budget submission with a lobbying campaign aimed at the establishment of a federal Co-operative Investment Strategy.

The **Co-operative Investment Strategy** is a proposed partnership between the federal government and the co-operative sector which would directly benefit many emerging as well as some established co-operatives. The Co-operative Investment Strategy consists of:

- A **Co-operative Investment Plan** (CIP) which would provide a tax credit for members or employees of producer or employee-owned co-operative businesses who invest in their own co-op. This would be a partnership between co-operative members and employees and the federal government which would provide tax incentives for member or employee investment. The cost of the CIP is estimated to be \$17-20 million per year and would generate some \$120 million

The Co-operative Investment Strategy . . . would directly benefit many emerging as well as some established co-operatives.

per year of new investments across Canada. This plan which has existed in Quebec since 1985 could directly benefit all agricultural co-operatives as well as employee owned co-operatives in Canada by securing much needed new investments.

- A **Co-operative Development Fund** (CDF), a repayable loan fund under which investments would be based on an analysis of a co-operative's business plan and its capacity to pay back loans on the negotiated terms and over a specified period of time. The CDF needs a one-time only investment of \$70 million from the federal government and after that it would be self-sustaining. The fund would also look for added capitalization from the sector at established interest rates.

Additional information is available at http://www.coopscanada.coop/en/gov_affair/InvestStrategy.

Source: CCA Co-operative NewsBriefs, December 3, 2009

YOU CAN HELP!

In an all party recommendation in December 2009, the House of Commons Finance Committee endorsed the major components of the Co-operative Investment Plan and the Co-operative Development Fund in their 2010 Budget Recommendations. This is a positive sign toward securing the implementation of the Co-op Investment Strategy for the coming year, but letters of support are needed.

CCA is asking co-operatives to write a letter of support to *Jean Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture)* and copy *James Flaherty, Minister of Finance*.

It would also be appreciated if you could send this letter to the Member or Members of Parliament in your city, region or province. Please also copy John Anderson, CCA's Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy, (400 – 275 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 2L6; john.anderson@coopscanada.coop) on any letters you send.

Co-operative Governance Awards

The Canadian Co-operative Association invites nominations for the Leadership in Co-operative Governance Award and The Brown Governance Co-operative Award for Boardroom Culture. Information about the awards and application forms can be found at http://www.coopscanada.coop/en/about_cca/Awards/Leadership-in-Co-operative-Governance-Award

Application deadline is February 26, 2010.

Can't get away for a tropical vacation this winter?

Don't worry! Plans are underway for the 2010 Sno-Dome Classic. This indoor golf fundraiser was a great success last year and promises to be an even more welcome break as it moves to February this year!

Funds raised at the Sno-Dome Classic go to the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program.

Watch the January issue of Co-operative Spotlight for details, registration and sponsorship information!



Canada World Youth Participants Arrive in Saskatoon

From December 14, 2009 until the end of February, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association will be hosting and providing work experience to 2 youth involved in the Canada World Youth exchange program. We are excited to welcome José and Cynthia to our office.

The youth will be working on a project that involves video interviews with SCA member organizations and other co-operatives in Saskatoon. The completed videos will be used for web based promotion on our web site, our YouTube channel and for possible future use at the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program seminars.

There are currently 18 youth involved in the exchange in Canada. Half are from Canada and the other half are from Nicaragua. The group recently arrived in Saskatoon after spending three months in Esteli, Nicaragua.

Federated Co-operatives Ltd. CEO Announces Retirement

Art Postle, CEO of Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL), has announced his retirement effective April 30, 2010.

Mr. Postle has been employed by FCL for more than 33 years; he originally joined the co-operative in 1976 as Internal Audit Manager. He later served as Finance Director and Senior Vice-President/Treasurer before becoming CEO in 2008.

FCL's Board of Directors is in the process of recruiting his successor.

FCL Directors Support CDF/SCYP at Fall Conference

The Saskatchewan Fall Conferences once again hosted highly successful silent auctions in both Saskatoon and Regina to raise funds for the Co-operative Development Foundation (CDF) and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program (SCYP).

Retail co-operatives throughout the Saskatoon and Regina regions were asked to donate or sponsor items for silent auction to conference delegates. All funds raised were divided between CDF and SCYP. When the bidding was over, more than \$2,900 was raised for each organization.

SCA would like to extend a huge thank you to the FCL directors who organized this event and all the co-ops and delegates who participated.

Cool Co-op Web Sites!

Planning to do some web surfing over the holidays? Here are some really cool new co-op web sites that are worth a look!

BCCA's new **"I Choose Co-op Campaign"**
<http://bccca.coop/content/i-choose-co-op>

BankerSpank
<http://www.bankerspank.com/>
Bank and Credit Union serve up some fun in this hilarious parody of the famous Mac/PC ads.



Had a cup of fair trade coffee.

Took a spin to the bike co-op.

Bought organic apples at the food co-op.

I choose co-op Visit bccca.coop to learn more.

Co-ops are cool!

<http://www.coopcreative.ca/Coops/index.html>

Created by the design team at The Co-operators, this web site provides an introduction to co-ops aimed at young people.

co-ops
are cool!

Believe it or not, co-ops are pretty cool. And with the recent economic crisis around the world, people should really start thinking about how co-ops can benefit them personally and the local community as a whole.