

# Co-operative Spotlight

February 2010

An overview of Saskatchewan co-operative sector news and activities

## Sno-Dome Classic Only Days Away!



SCA's second annual Sno-Dome Classic golf event is quickly approaching. The event, a fundraiser for the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada and the Saskatchewan Co-operative

Youth Program, will be held on Friday, February 26 in Saskatoon. Carol Hunter, Executive Director of the Canadian Co-operative Association, will be attending the event and bringing greetings on behalf of CDF and CCA.

The event will feature various games and competitions in the Ramada Golf Dome, hot appetizers, a silent auction and lots of prizes.

Credit unions, co-operatives and suppliers are already demonstrating significant support for the fundraiser by sending golfers, sponsoring and donating prizes. Concentra Financial has been confirmed as a major sponsor, but there are still sponsorship opportunities available. Your involvement in the event directly contributes to CDF's work in Haiti and SCYP's work in Saskatchewan!

Sponsorship and registration forms can be found on the "What's New" page of the SCA website. **Registration and sponsorship deadline is Feb. 19th.**



## Saskatchewan Co-operative Association Launches New Websites

SCA is pleased to announce the unveiling of our new website in late January. The site features many improvements, including a stronger visual appeal, more intuitive navigating and more information than ever before.

New features on the SCA site include information about starting your own co-op, a full listing of our member organizations highlighting their work, and profiles of different types of co-ops.

Also available are back issues of the Co-operative Spotlight, information about upcoming SCA events and links to other relevant sites, including our own Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program site.

The SCYP site is much more interactive, featuring videos, our I Heart Co-ops Ezine, links to SCYP facebook groups, our twitter account and a new flickr account which accesses photos from previous Co-op Camps. The site appeals to a wide audience, with easily accessed sections for parents, sponsors, staff, alumni and youth.

"We are already seeing the benefits of the new sites," says Victoria Morris, Executive Director of SCA. "With the new features and structure of the sites, we can more easily direct people to

find out about our programming and resources. We are also pleased that we will be able to more prominently feature our member organizations and a number of individual co-operatives, increasing site visitors' awareness of the many applications of the co-op model."

Designed by Desirea Zolinsky, the website project was made possible through Canadian Community Economic Development Network's CreateAction Internship Program. Of her experience, Ms. Zolinsky says, "The project was a

great learning experience. Besides the technical skills I gained working on the website, the project gave me the opportunity to learn about the co-operative sector. Despite the challenges along the way, I feel really excited about the way the project turned out."

"Desirea did a great job on the very large task of redesigning the sites. We would not have been able to develop new sites without her help and the CreateAction Program," says Morris.

Check out the new sites at [www.sask.coop](http://www.sask.coop) and <http://youth.sask.coop>.



# Co-op Camp Staff Application Deadline Nears

The dedication and commitment of the Co-op Camp staff teams is a key component to the success of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program over the past 80 years. Whether you are from the co-op sector or a SCYP alumni, returning or applying for the first time, by staffing Co-op Camp you will help to make a difference in the lives of youth. You will also have the chance to meet and work with fellow co-operators, polish presentation and leadership skills, share information and ideas about your co-operative or credit union and have an amazing, unique experience with a great group of people.

More information and application forms are posted in the Staff Section of our website ([http://youth.sask.coop/scyp\\_staff\\_intro.html](http://youth.sask.coop/scyp_staff_intro.html)). Also, check out our media gallery to get a feel for that Co-op Camp magic!

Sherelle, from The Co-operators, and a former Co-op Camp staffer said, "What I like best about the seminar, is that somehow I feel my time here makes a difference in the participants. I love to see them grow and open up."

The Staff Application deadline for 2010 is March 19.



## Ken Kosolofski Appointed President & CEO of Conentra

Wayne McLeod, Board Chair of Conentra Financial announced on January 25, 2010 that the Board of Directors has appointed Mr. Ken Kosolofski as President and Chief Executive Officer of Conentra Financial Services Association, effective April 1, 2010.

Myrna Bentley, current President and CEO, will continue to actively lead Conentra until her retirement on March 31, 2010. "My sincere congratulations to Ken on his appointment as my successor," says Myrna. "I am confident he will find the team at Conentra ready, willing and more than capable of achieving and exceeding the company's objectives. He has my best wishes for great success."

Ken brings with him many years of experience within the credit union system, the past two as Chief Financial Officer at SaskCentral. Prior to this role, he held a variety of senior finance positions at CUETS, SAHO, City of Regina and the Saskatchewan government. Ken received his Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1981, CA designation in 1984 and has participated in a variety of senior leadership programs throughout his career. He is married, with three grown children and is an active participant in a number of community and business organizations, including the Regina Food Bank and the Saskatchewan Entrepreneurial Foundation.

"I am very much looking forward to working within the national credit union system in my upcoming role at Conentra," says Ken. "With the support of the exceptional people at Conentra, together we will continue to grow the value Conentra delivers to credit unions throughout Canada."

Source: Conentra Financial, January 25, 2010

## Saskatoon Community Clinic to Benefit from Endowment

The Saskatoon Community Foundation was surprised and amazed by the generosity displayed by a new \$2.9 million donation to the endowment fund. The donation has been made by Vernon (Vern) O. Welker and Clara Madeline (Clara) Welker (formerly Wilson). The Foundation was notified about the bequest after Clara's death in 2009. Vern and Clara were both modest individuals, who owned and operated Vern Welker Men's Wear on 2nd Avenue from 1948 to 1970.

Their bequest creates the Vern and Clara Welker Fund at the Saskatoon Community Foundation. Annual disbursements from the fund will be shared equally to benefit five local charities: Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald House, Saskatoon Community Clinic Foundation, Saint Paul's Hospital, and the YWCA. Annual disbursements will depend on the amount allocated, but the fund should provide approximately \$20,000 every year beginning 2011.

"Saskatoon has a history of people connected to community," explains Trevor Forrest, Executive Director of the Foundation. "The generosity of this gift and the manner in which it was left reveals the underlying humanitarian thread that stitches the social fabric of this community together. We are honoured that the Welkers recognized our organization's role in building a strong community."

Source: Community Foundations of Canada news release, January 29, 2010

# Rainbow Housing Co-operative

## Benefits and opportunities enjoyed by members of housing co-operative

*This feature is excerpted from a co-operative profile prepared by Jennifer Divall for Saskatchewan Co-operative Association. This is first in a series of profiles we will be presenting. This month, Jen spoke to James Gilliard of the Rainbow Housing Co-operative about the benefits and challenges of being a member of a housing co-operative. The full profile is available on our website at [www.sask.coop](http://www.sask.coop). Follow the Co-op Profiles link on the home page.*

**What is the Rainbow Housing Co-operative? What community need does the co-operative address?**

Rainbow Housing Co-operative is a complex of affordable housing for any person(s) wanting a safe environment for themselves or their family. It was built in late 1984 and early 1985. Rainbow provides safe, affordable housing for mixed income families, seniors, people with disabilities, and youth.

**Who are the members of the Rainbow Housing Co-operative? How do they participate in the co-operative?**

Members are any person who lives at Rainbow and is 18 years or older. There are 116 members ranging in age from 18 to 90 years of age. All members participate in the co-op by attending the AGM and general membership meetings. Also, members are expected to join one of nine committees.

**What makes Rainbow Housing Co-operative different from non-co-operative housing complexes? How do people interact and relate with each other?**

At Rainbow, each member is a member-owner so they have a say in how Rainbow Housing is run as a business. At other non-profits, tenants are not members, therefore their say in how things are run is limited. The members of Rainbow make informed decisions from information supplied to them by the Board of Directors and staff. The decisions that the membership makes ensures that Rainbow as a business will succeed and be viable for future generations. This brings the community closer. It feels like when Rainbow succeeds the membership succeeds.

**What are the benefits of living in a housing co-operative? What are the challenges?**

Some of the benefits of living here include: a community within a community, everyone knows most of their neighbors, a sense of belonging to something that in time makes most of us better people, a great place to raise kids, and a great place for seniors; seniors are a wealth of knowledge, and from them some newer members learn. The challenge of being a member of Rainbow is that everyone has an opinion and wants their voice heard, some get frustrated but for the most part we all have one common goal and that is to ensure Rainbow is around for many more years.

**In your opinion, what is the most interesting part of living in a co-operative?**

For me, the most interesting part of living in a co-operative is that no matter what age you are, or how much money you make, you have a right and an obligation to get involved in your co-op. Sometimes people get involved just by helping their neighbor by cutting their grass or joining a committee or running for the Board of Directors. This gives everyone a sense of belonging to something bigger than oneself. Once one gets involved, it can become addictive. For me, I went from one committee to the Board of Directors, to being regional director for the national Board. I found that every meeting is a learning session, and one always learns new ways on how to help your own Co-op or other co-ops in the province.



**Can you tell us a little about the current challenges housing co-operatives are facing in Saskatchewan?**

As our buildings become older they cost more money to maintain. Right

now, Rainbow receives funding from Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, which is passed on from the Federal government, but when this mortgage ends, so does all funding from all levels of government. This will happen in the next few years with most of the housing co-operatives across the province and so each will need to be financially independent.

Also as our membership gets older,

**“It feels like when Rainbow succeeds the membership succeeds.”**

housing co-ops need to be able to supply services to help seniors maintain their membership within the co-op. The creation of home care co-operatives is a viable idea that is long overdue. Because senior's homes have long waiting lists and some seniors can maintain their home with minimal assistance, a homecare co-operative is an option that all levels of government should investigate. In Saskatchewan, 12 of the 17 housing co-ops are senior's co-ops. Seniors enjoy living in their communities and the provincial government should be open to assist with ideas that could maintain their membership and contribution to the community.

**How can people find out more about your co-operative?**

We are on Berini Drive, just south of 115th Avenue.  
Office: 72-302 Berini Drive, in Saskatoon  
Ph: 306-242-0604 [www.rainbowhousing.ca](http://www.rainbowhousing.ca)

# February 25th Luncheon Features Carol Hunter

CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SPEAK AT CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL OF REGINA LUNCHEON

Carol Hunter, Executive Director of Canadian Co-operative Association will speak at the Co-operative Council of Regina's February luncheon. Carol's presentation, entitled "The Co-operative Difference: Opportunities and Challenges in Making Our Case" will focus on making the case for Co-ops and Co-op differentiation.

**When:** Thursday, February 25, 2010  
11:45 a.m. - Registration  
12:00 noon - Lunch with speaker to follow

**Where:** Best Western Seven Oaks Hotel

**Cost:** \$20.00 (cheque or correct change appreciated)

The registration deadline is February 19, 2010. To register, please email [Vicky.cullen@conexus.ca](mailto:Vicky.cullen@conexus.ca). Please provide your name, company and contact information.

## Co-operative Sector Awards

There are a number of national awards that are currently open for nominations.

### CCA CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AWARDS

For the past two years, the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA)'s Leadership in Co-operative Governance Award has recognized the best in co-operative board governance across the country.

CCA and Brown Governance Inc. have now added a second award -- the Brown Governance Co-operative Award for Boardroom Culture -- which recognizes that the unwritten norms underlying governance power structures are crucial in ensuring organizational success. Individual personalities, personal relationships, decision-making processes, and the use of benchmarks and performance measurements are all factors in boardroom culture.

The 2010 awards will be presented at CCA's National Congress in Vancouver on June 16. Entries will be accepted until February 26, 2010. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/GovernanceAwards> for more information and to download the Call for Entries.



### The Canadian Co-operative Association is calling for nominations for the following CCA awards:

- **Canadian Co-operative Achievement Award**
- **Global Co-operator Award**
- **Canadian Co-operative Hall of Fame Pioneer Inductees**

The deadline for nominations for these three awards is Friday, April 9, 2010. The awards will be presented at CCA's National Congress in Vancouver on June 15, 2010.

### CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Honours outstanding individual contributions to the co-operative movement in Canada. For more information and Terms of Reference for nominations, go to <http://tinyurl.com/CoopAchievementAward>.

### GLOBAL CO-OPERATOR AWARD

Recognizes an individual who has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the international development work of CCA and the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF). For more information and Terms of Reference for nominations, go to <http://tinyurl.com/GlobalCooperator>.

### CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE HALL OF FAME: PIONEER INDUCTEES

Building upon the launch of the Canadian Co-operative Hall of Fame in 2009, up to five pioneers of the Canadian co-operative movement (deceased) will be inducted into the Hall of Fame each year. For more information and Terms of Reference for nominations, go to <http://tinyurl.com/PioneerInductees>.

## SCA Presents 31st Annual Co-operative Merit Awards

Saskatchewan Co-operative Association will be celebrating excellence in the Saskatchewan co-operative sector at the 31st Annual Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Awards Program on Monday, October 18, 2010 in Regina.

Nominations will be accepted in three Order of Merit categories: Co-operative Achievement Award, Co-operative Contribution Award and Co-operative Enterprise Award, as well as for the Co-operative Youth Leadership Award.

Nomination forms will be available soon, and details of the banquet will follow.

 **Saskatchewan  
Co-operative Association**

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