

# IYC 2012 – Saskatchewan's Plan

## Saskatchewan Co-operative Association



The United Nations has declared 2012 the International Year of Co-operatives (IYC). Local, provincial and national activities are being planned by organizing committees across Canada and around the world to promote the value of co-operatives and leave a lasting legacy to mark the year.

Saskatchewan Co-operative Association's IYC Committee has developed the following plan for provincial activities to celebrate IYC.

Co-operatives and credit unions are invited to get involved: in these activities, and to plan your own activities in your co-op and community! SCA has access to a banner stand, a presentation and may have other supports available, and we can also help promote your activity – contact SCA to talk about your IYC 2012 ideas!

### **MAJOR ACTIVITIES - PROPOSED DATES**

- **January 2012**      **Official IYC SK launch, Regina**
- **May 28 – June 3**      **Co-operative Sector Week of Volunteering, Province-wide**
- **October 14 - 20**      **Co-op Week IYC 2012 Activities, Province-wide**
- **November 1-3**      ***Co-operating to Build a Better West* Conference, Saskatoon**

### **Co-operative Sector Week of Volunteering**

Co-operatives and credit unions will be encouraged to form volunteer groups to work on community projects or at community events, focusing on the week of May 28 – June 3, 2012. The concept is similar to that of the SaskTel Pioneers Clubs ([www.sasktel-pioneers.com](http://www.sasktel-pioneers.com)) or the United Way Day of Caring® (check out Regina's info:

[http://www.unitedwayregina.ca/impact/impact\\_doc.html](http://www.unitedwayregina.ca/impact/impact_doc.html)). The groups could be made up of employees, leaders and retirees from:

- a specific co-op (e.g., The Co-operators volunteers or Saskatoon Co-op volunteers)
- a community (e.g., Watrous co-op and credit union volunteers), or
- an area (e.g., Estevan and area co-op and credit union volunteers).

The groups could develop projects for identified needs in the community, work with existing non-profits on their projects or volunteer at events sponsored by co-ops or credit unions. Co-op and credit union logos could be proudly displayed on apparel or signage. Some of these projects could be community legacy projects such as a new parks or school playground equipment.

Through their volunteer work, the groups would strengthen our communities while building relationships and understanding among the co-op community. The groups could become a legacy to International Year of Co-operatives if they continue to operate and volunteer in the community after 2012.

## Co-operating to Build a Better West Conference

This conference, tentatively scheduled for November 1-3, 2012 at the Radisson in Saskatoon, will bring current or retired directors and managers from all types of co-ops together to discuss topics of interest. SCA will collaborate with the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy to develop an IYC conference program. The conference would have different themes and therefore concurrent sessions. Examples could include:

- designing the future – best practices for specific sectors in areas of common interest such as governance, new forms of co-operative enterprise and public policy
- supporting co-op development – panel of experts discussing business plans of new co-operatives or ways to support their growth and development
- celebrating our record of achievement - recounting the stories of how Saskatchewan co-ops were developed and the innovations they have created
- reuniting co-operative friends and establishing new connections- events organized to gather sector specific attendees together, renew old acquaintances, reunite co-workers, or simply celebrate together
- group volunteering - organized during a morning or afternoon of the event.

## WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

- Saskatchewan Co-op Association's IYC webpage: [http://www.sask.coop/events.html#IYC\\_2012](http://www.sask.coop/events.html#IYC_2012)
- The Canadian IYC 2012 website (with links to how to order promo materials, events and other resources): <http://www.canada2012.coop/>
- SCA's IYC 2012 Facebook fanpage: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/IYC-2012-International-Year-of-Co-operatives-Saskatchewan/132936223444484>

The Saskatchewan Co-operative Association (SCA) IYC Planning Committee members are:

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