

CASC

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR
STUDIES IN CO-OPERATION

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L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR
LES ÉTUDES SUR LA COOPÉRATION

CASC NEWS

Welcome to the fall 2009 edition of the CASC Newsletter! This edition includes an update from the CASC board, information on the CASC conference, research highlights, dissemination strategies for researchers, and news from our members.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Your CASC Board for 2009/2010 ▶ This year's CASC board of directors includes Joy Emmanuel (a practitioner from British Columbia), Tanya Gracie (from the Canadian Co-operative Association), Catherine Leviten-Reid (from the University of Saskatchewan), Doug Lionais (from Cape Breton University), Robin Puga (a practitioner from British Columbia), Luc Thériault (from the University of New Brunswick), and Darryl Reed (from York University). Catherine Leviten-Reid is serving as president for a second year, and Luc Theriault is vice-president. Priorities for the board include dissemination of co-operative research and conference planning.

CASC Secretariat ▶ Lindsey Bruce is providing administrative support for the CASC Secretariat in 2009/10. Lindsey is a master's student in the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Saskatchewan. She has been busy doing mail-outs, taking meeting minutes, and contacting former CASC members about membership renewals. With the help of Robin Puga, she is also preparing a short manual on how to maintain the CASC website. Welcome, Lindsey!

Journal of Co-operative Studies ▶ After missing two issues of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies* during 2008–09, journal distribution for 2009–10 has been sorted out and reinstated (all CASC members should receive three issues between now and next summer). While there are no immediate plans for a Canadian edition, Luc Thériault has been invited to serve as deputy editor in order to integrate Canadian content into the journal more regularly. Luc has agreed in principle to play this role and is waiting for more details from the journal's editor on what the position involves and what it means for CASC members.

CASC Awards ▶ One of the responsibilities of the CASC board is to participate in the annual adjudication of the CASC awards. These awards are administered by the Canadian Co-operative Association, which received seventeen applications this year. Winners are Wassila Merkouche Tir (a master's student from HEC Montréal), Marcelo Vieta (a doctoral student from York University), and John McNamara and Andrew McLeod (both from the Masters of Management — Co-operatives and Credit Unions program at

St. Mary's University). In addition to the scholarships, these individuals also receive a one-year membership to our association and free registration at our upcoming conference. We hope that some of these students will be able to present their work at our 2010 conference.

Documenting the History of CASC ▶ Jorge Sousa, a CASC member at the University of Alberta, is working with Deb Schrader, a graduate student at the U of A, on this project during the fall semester. To date, they have compiled a list of former members of the executive, created a bibliography of papers presented at past conferences, and identified key moments in CASC's history based on existing newsletters and conference proceedings. Jorge or Deb would appreciate hearing your stories, and if you are willing to share old documents (such as meeting minutes or conference programs), please contact them to make arrangements. They can be reached at sousa@ualberta.ca or dschrade@ualberta.ca. This is a terrific opportunity to move forward as we reflect on our past.

Joining CASC ▶ Individuals can now join CASC at any time of the year. The membership form is on our website at coopresearch.coop. Current benefits include a subscription to the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*, a copy of our bi-annual newsletter, and announcements of interest (about conferences, new co-operative resources or initiatives, scholarships, etc.) through the CASC e-mail list.

CASC Finances ▶ We have about \$1,630 less than projected when our financial statement was presented to CASC members at the annual general meeting in June 2009 (our current balance is about \$1,900.) Almost all of our conference-related expenses are paid after the event occurs, so while we have a budget in place to guide our decisions as we prepare for the conference, we can (and did) miscalculate the cost of certain items. In particular, the banquet tickets did not include the room and equipment rental fees for

that evening, which resulted in an extra expense of \$400. We also spent \$400 more than budgeted for the 2009 wine and cheese, and did not build in GST and PST (charged by Carleton University) into last year's budget. In terms of administrative costs, we spent \$400 more than budgeted on translation and \$200 more than anticipated on conference calls for board meetings.

So what are we doing to improve our budgeting (and cut our expenses) for next year? During the 2008–09 year, teleconference costs were not paid for by the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives since their financial support was allocated to hiring a student. This year, fewer funds are needed for our graduate student and the centre can cover at least some of the administrative costs related to teleconferences and postage. To reduce our translation expenses, we are finding in-kind support (for example, the Co-operatives Secretariat agreed to translate this edition of the CASC newsletter). Next year's banquet tickets will cover the full cost of the event, and we will revisit our member fees at our next AGM. Please e-mail Catherine Leviten-Reid at casc_pres@coopresearch.coop if you have any additional questions (or suggestions).

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Call for Papers ▶ The theme of the 2010 CASC conference is "Community Building through Co-operative Research: Challenges and Opportunities at Home and Abroad." The conference will take place at Concordia University in Montreal from the evening of June 1st to the afternoon of June 4th. Abstracts are due January 11th. For more information, visit our website at coopresearch.coop, where you will find the formal call for papers. We invite abstracts from researchers, students, and co-op practitioners.

Planning Team ▶ Martine Vézina from HEC Montréal has joined our conference planning committee for this year. And we are

receiving logistical support from Ana Gomez at the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy at Concordia.

Conference Highlights ► Features of the 2010 conference include the CASC wine and cheese, joint sessions and a joint banquet with the Association for Non-profit and Social Economy Research (ANSER), and a joint session with CIRIEC-Canada. We also hope to have a follow-up workshop with the Canadian Co-operative Association and the *Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité* on Building a Co-operative Research Agenda.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past couple of months, we have invited CASC members to submit summaries of their research for us to include in this newsletter. To help with dissemination, the CASC newsletter will now be posted on the CoopZone Developer's Network website (under the research link in the resources section at coopzone.coop) and Donna Balkan, communications manager at the Canadian Co-operative Association, will be scanning the newsletter for research news she can feature on CCA's web site. We received the following submissions:

Publications from the Co-operatives for Development Program ► The Co-operatives for Development program, based at the Co-operative College in the UK, has recently launched three new publications investigating the unique role that co-operatives can play in helping people to work their way out of poverty. The publications cover a range of topics, from the role of education and training in shaping the global co-operative movement, to ways in which the co-operative and Fair Trade movements can work together to provide sustainable alternatives for modern supply chains. The publications can be downloaded from the program website at www.internationaldevelopment.coop.

The program, which is funded by the UK Department for International Development, builds on the Co-operative College's ninety years of experience working internationally. Dr. Linda Shaw, manager of the program, said, "The program has three main aims — to undertake and stimulate research, to provide evidence-based policy inputs, and to be a focal point for enquiries regarding co-operative development."



Students at the Co-operative College of Kenya

While co-operatives are undergoing a global revival and becoming increasingly recognized as a tool for addressing global anti-poverty agendas, there is relatively little recent research with which to inform effective and appropriate development policy and practice. The research team seeks to address this, and through exploring the contribution of co-ops in stimulating more sustainable patterns of growth, make a timely and innovative contribution to support international co-operative development projects and policy making.

In addition to the recent publications, the Co-operatives for Development team is also involved in a number of collaborative projects. These include a three-year project in Kenya to help smallholder tea farmers to form into co-operatives. The college has also undertaken reviews and conducted training with co-op colleges across east and southern Africa as part of the COOP Africa programme. This technical and

capacity-building support is instrumental in strengthening the African co-operative development sector.



Tea smallholders in Kenya discuss setting up a co-operative to market their products

To learn more about their research, the Co-operatives for Development team can be contacted at: cfid@co-op.ac.uk or +44(0)161 246 2952.

How Can a Credit Union Support Multicultural Entrepreneurs? ▶

A study conducted by master's student Wassila Merkouche Tir from HEC Montréal explores this question; the credit union involved is situated in a multicultural community. Ms. Merkouche Tir is using qualitative methods and has interviewed the board chair, a number of staff, as well as users of the credit union who are entrepreneurs from diverse cultural backgrounds. She finds that the credit union is very committed to differentiating itself from other credit unions and banks in terms of how multicultural entrepreneurs are served. To provide support to these members, the financial institution has staff who reflect the diversity of the community in which it is located, facilitates discussion groups and networking opportunities for these entrepreneurs, and is less rigid in processing loan applications. To learn more about this research, you can contact Ms. Merkouche Tir at wassila.merkouche@hec.ca.

DISSEMINATION

In response to members' interest, we have done a review of co-op/community economic development journals and newsletters across the country where CASC members could popularize their work. These publications can provide a direct connection for you with co-operators and practitioners who might benefit and draw on your research. Below is a short note on each publication and information on how to submit your work.

The Atlantic Co-operator is published nine times a year. It has primarily an Atlantic Canada readership. Articles highlight the work of local co-operatives, engage the international dimension of the co-op movement, and offer commentaries on critical CED issues. *The Atlantic Co-operator* has agreed to republish research articles carried in our CASC newsletter.

Co-op Circles is a small-scale, ambitious e-newsletter published every week by two passionate Atlantic Canada co-operators. You can contact the editor at circles1@nbnet.nb.ca. Let them know you are a CASC member.

Co-operative Management Advantage is published three times a year through the Masters in Management — Co-operatives and Credit Unions program at Saint Mary's University. They would be interested in research reviews of interest to managers in the co-op sector. Contact Tom Webb at jtwebb@auracom.com.

On Co-op E-newsletter is the bi-weekly publication of the Ontario Co-op Association. It has a readership of fifty-five hundred and is willing to consider short research clips of two hundred words or less. Their readership is diverse and the newsletter has a limit of ten articles per publication — so make it good. You can pitch your juicy research clip to editor Mark Ventry at mventry@ontario.coop.

Co-operative News Briefs is the bi-weekly e-newsletter of the Canadian Co-operative Association. They welcome short research articles from CASC members. Send your articles to Donna Balkan at communications@coopscanada.coop.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Two CASC Members Honoured ▶ Two CASC members have been honoured for their outstanding work in the co-operative sector in Ontario. Tanya Gracie has received the Co-operative Youth Leader Award and Jack Quarter has received the Outstanding Contribution to On Co-op Award for his long-time commitment to co-operative research and education. Congratulations to both of you!

Knowledge Mobilization with a Difference ▶ The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives is in full production mode with the exhibition of research results at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre. The exhibition is based on the large research project titled Linking, Learning, Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities (LLL), funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



Workers at Inner-City Renovations in Winnipeg, a construction company that offers people the opportunity to acquire the training and skills to build better lives (case study in the Enterprising Module).

The exhibition is titled **Building Community: Linking Social and Economic Goals** and has four interrelated modules: Building Sustainable Communities, Building Enterprising Communities, Building Engaged Communities, and Building Inclusive Communities.



Members of the Ohpahow Wawesecikiwak Arts Marketing Co-operative on the Big River First Nations reserve in Northern Saskatchewan, whose work is helping to preserve and promote language and culture as well as bring economic development to the region (CED subtheme in the Enterprising Module).

Subthemes within the modules include topics such as democratic participation, civic engagement, community economic development, innovation, social justice, sustainable food production, youth engagement, and cultural stewardship.

Research growing out of Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, the three regions covered by the LLL project, will be grouped to illustrate the subthemes and supplemented by photographs of researchers and community partners in action. Particular attention will be paid to the community-based research methodology employed by most of the projects.

An important feature of the exhibit is a travelling component that will be sent out to regional museums, schools, and local co-ops and credit unions after its initial run in Saskatoon.



The PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise, a community partner in the LLL project, helps women start their own small businesses in Northern Ontario (Enterprising Module).

The exhibit will be launched at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre at the University of Saskatchewan in May 2010 and run for six months. It will be the centrepiece of the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives's 25th anniversary celebrations. For more information contact the centre at (306) 966-8509 or e-mail coop.studies@usask.ca.



Participants in the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program, which helps young people to develop leadership skills that will give them the confidence to effect change in their own lives and their communities (youth subtheme in the Sustainable Module).

Thanks to the Co-operatives Secretariat
for translating the fall 2009 edition of the CASC newsletter!

◀ **Next Newsletter Deadline** ▶

The CASC newsletter is published twice a year.

The next deadline is **5 March 2010**.

Submissions can be sent to casc.acec@usask.ca

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