

CASC

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR
STUDIES IN CO-OPERATION

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L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR
LES ÉTUDES SUR LA COOPERATION

CASC NEWS

Welcome to the Spring 2009 edition of the CASC Newsletter! This edition includes an update from the CASC board, information on the CASC conference, and news from our members.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

CASC Scholarships ▶ The CASC board has worked with the Canadian Co-operative Association (the administrator of the CASC scholarships) to further our organization's link to the awards. While we will continue to have a board member on the adjudication committee, we will also offer the three winners of the annual awards a one-year membership to our association. Further, we will waive their conference fees for the year they are awarded a scholarship. While we don't have the resources to cover the travel costs for these students to present their work at our conference, we will also make a point of highlighting their research if they are able to attend through other means. We will also profile their research in our newsletter. Thanks to Donna Balkan from CCA for helping to make these links.

Board Elections ▶ Three people who ran for the CASC board in 2008 had one-year terms. Moreover, two of these individuals will not be running for re-election. According to our by-laws, nominations are accepted from the floor at the AGM; however, we would appreciate it if you could contact us as soon as possible if you are interested in running. That way, we can better gauge whether or not we need to more actively put together a slate of potential

candidates. Of course, if you are interested but you want more information on the kind of time commitment you will have to make as a director, please email Robin Puga at robin@eachforall.org.

Joining CASC ▶ This is just a reminder that following constitutional amendments made at last year's AGM, individuals and institutions may now join CASC at any time of the year. The membership form is available on our website at coopresearch.coop. Thanks again to J.J. McMurtry and Jorge Sousa for leading the important amendments last year.

Constitutional Amendments ▶ The board is proposing additional amendments to our current constitution (our constitution can be found at www.coopresearch.coop — scroll to the bottom of the page and you will see the link). The first issue concerns the institutional membership category. Although institutions can become members of CASC for a current fee of \$250, our constitution doesn't specify the maximum number of individuals from within these institutions who can join for that fee. We are thus proposing to add the following to section 3.5: "This membership category consists of a maximum of 3 individuals from one institution."

We are also proposing that a permanent seat on the CASC board be held by a representative

of the institution housing the CASC secretariat. This director would also serve as the secretary/treasurer. Thus, we are proposing that section 5.1 be modified to read as follows: “There are seven positions on the CASC board. All are elected by the CASC membership except for the secretary/treasurer: this individual will be a representative of the institution that houses the CASC secretariat and will normally be appointed by the CASC board at the AGM. If there are two individuals from the institution that houses the secretariat who are interested in serving as secretary/treasurer, the successful candidate will be elected by the CASC membership at the AGM. The secretary/treasurer reports to the Board.”

Finally, we are proposing to include more details about the responsibilities of the program chair, adding to section 5.11 the following: “The Program Chair is responsible for activities such as drafting the call for papers, receiving abstracts, co-ordinating the review of abstracts, and communicating with conference participants.”

Connections to CIRIEC-Canada ► We have talked with Dr. Marie Bouchard from CIRIEC-Canada about sharing information between our two associations and have agreed to exchange calls for papers and newsletters. CIRIEC-Canada has also invited us to provide a brief update on our work at their annual general meeting in May. You should also have received CIRIEC International’s call for papers through the CASC email list — more information can be found at http://socek.se/ciriec_research_2009. CIRIEC-Canada’s call for papers unfortunately closed before we were able to share the information with you, but for those of you interested in attending their conference, it will be held at the University of Ottawa, 11–12 May 2009.

Newsletter Translation ► Unfortunately, we are not able to translate the spring newsletter in full. We have prioritized making

board news and conference updates available in French and English; news from members is printed in the language in which it was received.

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Abstracts ► We are pleased to report that we received forty-four submissions to the CASC conference. While sessions have yet to be finalized, it looks as if papers will be organized into themes including (but not limited to!) multistakeholder governance, measuring the impact of co-operatives, co-operative accounting, community-based research, co-operatives and community development, and fair trade.

Highlights ► One of the highlights of this year’s conference will be our wine and cheese, which will be held on the evening of 27 May. We will formally recognize CASC’s 25th anniversary at this time, will honour this year’s recipient of the CASC award of merit, and will receive a keynote address by George Melnyk. The topic of the keynote is “The Search for Community” and how this search produces reciprocal demands from individuals and communities that are not easy to fulfill. Melnyk will review the past two centuries of experimentation and achievement in human co-operation to discover a foundation on which new movements for co-operation can be built and sustained in the twenty-first century. The creation of a new co-operative social order beyond capitalism and socialism is Melnyk’s answer to the environmental and economic crisis of our time.

Some of the other highlights of the conference will include a panel of Ottawa-based co-operatives discussing innovation and continuity in the co-operative sector; a plenary presentation by Ian MacPherson on the history of the Co-operative Union and the Canadian Co-operative Association; joint sessions and a joint banquet with our colleagues at ANSER; and a

workshop led by the Co-operatives Secretariat on charting a course for future co-operative research in Canada. Of course, our annual general meeting is also a key event that takes place during the conference.

Funding ► We have limited funding available to help cover the costs of travel to the conference. We are continuing our tradition of providing some financial support to students, although the amount available to students this year will be fairly modest. Some of the funding we have historically relied upon from SSHRC may no longer be available to us, and our organization has a small annual budget. If you are a student presenting at our conference and require financial assistance, please email catherine.levitenreid@usask.ca so that we can further discuss the level of support we may be able to provide.

Registration ► You can register for the conference by going to the Congress website at fedcan.virtuo.ca. The deadline to register at a reduced rate is 31 March 2009. You will also find information about accommodations and travelling to Ottawa on this site.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Identifying Priorities in Co-operative Research ► What is missing in Canadian co-operative research today? Are there issues or topics that should be considered priorities among researchers? How do these priorities compare across the country?

In February 2009, researchers canvassed stakeholders in the co-operative sector — including CASC members — on what they viewed as key priorities in co-operative research in Canada. To get a sense of the topics currently being researched, participants were also asked to list any major studies involving co-ops that have been conducted over the last five years. A number of participants will meet

in Ottawa in late March to discuss how to make the best use of the information and to look at ways of moving a national agenda forward. The information from the survey and the meeting will be compiled and made accessible to anyone interested in co-operatives. The expectation is that the project document will provide a clearer understanding of what issues the co-op community would like to see investigated in the near future. It may also be beneficial in setting research goals, establishing networks, or developing funding proposals. These activities represent only the beginning of what is hoped to be a long-term discussion and action plan within the sector about current and future directions in co-operative research.



Dwayne Pattison is one of the investigators involved in the co-op research survey.

The Canadian Co-operative Association, the Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité, and the Co-operatives Secretariat, which have spearheaded the project, anticipate that the co-op community will (in the spirit of the upcoming Winter Olympics) pick up the torch and use, adapt, develop, and promote the national research agenda as part of a common dialogue for years to come.

CASC plays an integral part because of its role in, and understanding of, co-operative research in Canada. CASC members are encouraged to share their ideas and be a part of this national research agenda now and well into the future. If you have not already filled out a survey, you can still do so. Please contact Dwayne at

dwpat@hotmail.com. The information you provide will be included in future material. Continue to watch for updates on other opportunities to get involved in the process in this newsletter or at CASC conferences.

Summer School ► The Faculty of Economics at Bologna University, Italy, is organizing the first edition of the European Summer School on Social Economy for graduate and postgraduate students. The deadline to apply is 31 March 2009. More information can be found at <http://www.esse.unibo.it/brochure.pdf>



Jean-Pierre Girard with other participants in the Health Care Conference in Saskatoon, October 2008.

Upcoming Conference ► The next ICA Research Conference will focus on People before Profit: The Response of Co-operatives to the Global Financial Crisis and Economic Recession. It will be held in Oxford, 2-4 September 2009. The deadline for abstracts is 30 April 2009. Contact Johnston.Birchall@stir.ac.uk for more information.

Past Conferences ► A number of co-op scholars presented papers at the 2008 ICA Research Meeting in Italy. Examples include Louise Clarke — “Snakes and Ladders: Co-operatives, Social Enterprise, and Public Policy in Saskatoon’s Core Neighbourhoods”; Isobel Findlay — “Bridging the Traditional

and Social Economy: The Case of the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association”; and John McNamara — “A Diagnostic Tool for the Management of Co-operative Firms.”

Last October, the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and the Community Health Co-operative Federation of Saskatchewan hosted representatives of the International Health Co-operative Organization for a symposium on the role of co-ops in health care delivery. This conference attracted people from Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Spain, and from across Canada.

Congratulations ► We would like to congratulate Bill Turner, an individual known to many CASC members. Last June, Bill received the Canadian Co-operative Association’s Global Co-operator Award, the most recent of a number of honours. Bill has served on regional, national, and international boards; he has contributed his time and wisdom to countless government agencies, advisory bodies, community groups, and farmers’ associations. He is also committed to sharing his co-op knowledge and experience abroad, designing co-op development and training programs, consulting with legislators developing co-op laws, and providing expert advice to emerging co-ops and credit unions. Here at home Bill has led numerous international guests and delegations travelling in Canada.

Scholarship Deadline ► The deadline for the CASC scholarships is 15 April 2009. The application form can be found on the CCA website at <http://www.coopscanada.coop/cooplincs/education/awards/>

Recent Publications on Co-operatives ► Ian MacPherson has three titles to share. One is called *One Path to Co-operative Studies: A Selection of Papers and Presentations*, which “reflect[s] the journey of one Canadian activist and researcher. It includes some essays from the beginning of his career as a historian and

others that demonstrate how and why he became devoted to the field of Co-operative Studies.” The second is *Responding, Remembering, Restructuring: Presentations in Japan and Korea, March 2008*. This book presents lectures delivered to co-operative organizations in Japan and Korea as well as “two snapshots of the community activism of the Seikatsu Club in Japan and the Dooreh Co-operative in the village of Sun-misan in Korea.” Finally, he has co-edited a volume with Erin McLaughlin-Jenkins entitled *Integrating Diversities within a Complex Heritage*. This tackles the following questions: “What is co-operative studies? Where did it come from? What are its possibilities? Why is it important?” Contributors include Brett Fairbairn, Leslie Brown, Viola Winstanley, Stephen Yeo, Daniel Côté, Jean-François Draperi, Mirta Vuotto, Gabor G. Szabo, Panu Kalmi, Madhav Madane, Rita Rhodes, Ian MacPherson, and Roger Spear.



Bill Turner, centre, and Brett Fairbairn on one of their recent trips to China. Bill received CCA's 2008 Global Co-operator Award.

Darryl Reed and J.J. McMurtry recently co-edited a book entitled *Co-operatives in a Global Economy: The Challenges of Co-operation across Borders*. Go to <http://www.c-s-p.org/Flyers/978-1-4438-0189-8-sample.pdf> for the table of contents and a sample chapter.

CASC NEWS

Next Newsletter Deadline ► The CASC newsletter is published twice a year. The next deadline is **30 October 2009**. Submissions can be sent to junzhao59@hotmail.com.