

# **Community Building through Co-operative Research: Challenges and Opportunities at Home and Abroad**

## **2010 Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC)**

Co-operative research plays an important role in building equitable and sustainable community-based enterprises, which in turn contribute to vibrant local economies and healthy communities in Canada and throughout the world. Co-operative research is a foundational component of this movement; it provides insights that enrich our practice and offers us an enhanced understanding of the vital underpinnings of this work.

The important role of research has been highlighted in Canada through the five-year investment made in the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships as well as through grants to support Community-University Research Alliances. It has also been acknowledged with new research funding made available through the Co-operative Secretariat's Co-op Development Initiative and the recent undertaking by the Co-operative Secretariat, the Canadian Co-operative Association and the *Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité* to foster the development of a national research agenda. Internationally, we see co-operative research contributing to community building through university-community partnerships focused on topics such as co-operative education, women and co-operatives, and the development of social enterprises, to name a few.

This year's CASC conference will be held at Concordia University in Montréal from the evening of June 1<sup>st</sup> to the afternoon of June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010. **Abstracts are due on January 11, 2010. We invite researchers, students, and practitioners to submit abstracts.**

### **Conference Topics**

We invite conference participants to submit abstracts that in some way reflect on the importance of co-operative research to building equitable and sustainable communities. Possible topic areas include the following:

- innovations in community-based or participatory research
- co-operatives and the economic crisis
- co-operatives and urban environments
- new roles for co-operatives in international development (such as Fair Trade)
- co-operative governance
- co-operatives and changing population demographics
- co-operatives and green economies
- co-operatives and community economic development
- developments in co-operative theory
- funding/capitalization of co-operatives
- organizing co-operatives at local, provincial, national, and international levels

### **Submission Guidelines**

Abstracts and proposals for panels are due on **January 11, 2010**. They may be submitted in English or French in either Word or Rich Text Format. Please include your name, affiliation, title, and email address in your submission, as well as the title and a 100- to 200-word description of your presentation (including your research question, methods, and findings, where applicable).

Abstracts can be sent by email to [casc.acec@usask.ca](mailto:casc.acec@usask.ca). We will be publishing a directory of conference delegates in our 2010 program; if you do not want to have your name, contact information and institutional affiliation published, please notify us when you submit your abstract.