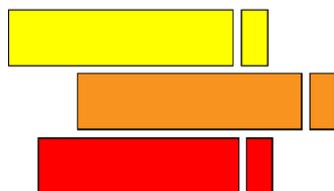


# CASC/ACÉC

## FALL NEWSLETTER 2021

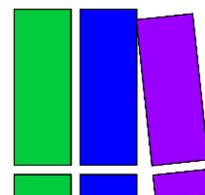
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**CASC | ACÉC**

Canadian Association for  
Studies in Co-operation  
Since 1982

L'Association Canadienne pour  
les Études sur la Coopération  
Depuis 1982



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



~ Judith Harris

This newsletter comes at a momentous time. Leaders from over 100 nations are meeting at COP26. Countries in the south bear the greatest burden of climate change and are still waiting for promised support for adaptation. Countries in the north are challenged with reducing emissions and eliminating subsidies for fossil fuels. There are expectations and hopes that this, the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, with the motivation of recent extreme heat events, will initiate the type of **systems change** that co-op researchers are calling for.

The ICA emphasizes in their recent report (see *Cooperation for the transition to a Green Economy*, Sept. 2021, ICA-EU Partnership, p. 11) that “**the cooperative movement is far from being a marginal phenomenon, at least 12% of humanity is a cooperator** of any of the 3 million cooperatives on earth. The vast scope of the cooperative movement means that it is particularly well placed to contribute to global challenges affecting our planet, the most urgent of which include climate change and environmental degradation.” We, as cooperators, are challenged to build back better and to listen to those

who live close to the land. Small Island states are calling for “1.5 to stay alive”. In Canada’s northern regions, the degradation of permafrost and extreme weather threaten to isolate whole communities. In a *Collective statement regarding Climate Change* (July 22, 2021, [www.turtlelodge.org](http://www.turtlelodge.org)), elders urge us to work together “Change is paramount, we cannot wait much longer ... **Collectively, there is the necessary knowledge available that can enable change in our relationships** with each other and our relationship to the land.” At the 2021 CASC conference, our keynotes and panelists reflected on the issues of climate change and voice with the urgency we are all feeling at this time.

The theme of CASC’s annual conference, held virtually this year at the University of Alberta, from June 2 to June 4, was “Northern Alternatives: Democratizing and Decolonizing Co-operative Theory and Practice”. Congress as a whole reported that 6,200 people registered from 72 countries, while a healthy crowd of 60 attended CASC. We launched the conference with a panel discussion (Nirlungayuk, Champagne, and Wuttunee) on *Making Space for Economic Reconciliation*. Louise Champagne urged CASC to begin by “acknowledging the damage done”. Given the “news” of children’s burial grounds at residential schools, she asked what it takes “for the rest of Canadian society to believe” what Indigenous peoples have been telling them for many years.

“The Making of a Democratic Economy: Prosperity for the Many, not just the

Few” was the title of Ted Howard’s keynote. Ted is President of the Democracy Collaborative ([www.democracycollaborative.org](http://www.democracycollaborative.org)). Ted is a leading voice calling for systems change (see Speth & Courrier, *The New Systems Reader: Alternatives to a Failed Economy*, Routledge, 2021). “Asset ownership is the foundation of every economy—who owns the wealth, who controls it and who benefits from it. That’s what determines power in a society.” At the community level, Ted argues that an effective tool of systems change is grassroots “listening sessions ... where we go out and explain the idea of the co-operative.”

Jessica Gordon-Nembhard (CUNY) spoke about “Racial Justice and Co-operatives”. A challenge to CASC is to “make people of African descent comfortable in the organization ... we can do better.” She quoted Johnston Bertrand who, like Louise Champagne, identified the first step in achieving greater equity “first the victims must be noticed ... they must be seen.” Dr. Gordon-Nembhard has tracked the history of the sabotage of black co-ops and their members. See *Collective Courage: A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2014). And this continues today, according to Gordon-Nembhard as “Settler attitudes sit right on top of our organizations and hinder us from either seeing or acknowledging or

embracing or making other people feel comfortable.” An example of these attitudes is demonstrated in the assumption that people in wealthier or certain levels of income are better targets [for co-ops] or can make better, stronger co-ops.

To hear the full presentations please find the links to these presentations on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC30QOYrxzP6tM8TsNcDMARA>

This year’s rich contributions by more than fifty presenters focused on a range of topics: including co-op conversions, social justice, co-operative identity, senior care, fair trade, SDG indicators, values-based governance, and experiential education and marginalized or racialized communities. The program for the conference is available on our website and we urge you to contact the authors for papers and further resources on these topics.

CASC is preparing for our conference in May and has established two new committees: on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization and one establishing new scholarship opportunities to promote inclusion. If you would be willing to volunteer for either of these committees or for the Congress organizing committee, send an email to [j.harris@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:j.harris@uwinnipeg.ca) or contact any of the CASC board members

## CASC/ACÉC 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE, CONGRESS 2021



~Isobel M. Findlay

After not participating in the virtual Congress of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences in 2020 and hosting a virtual AGM in October 2020, we committed to hosting our **37<sup>th</sup> annual conference**, June 2-4, as part of the virtual Congress 2021—and to significant learning about virtual processes and products as well as more emails and meetings than we ever imagined! Our theme, **Northern Alternatives: Democratizing and Decolonizing Co-operative Theory and Practice**, turned our attention to the North and to northern peoples leading the conversation on some of the most pressing matters: climate change, food sovereignty, governance, social justice, reconciliation, reciprocity, education, and a just recovery. We learned about the contributions of racialized and marginalized communities to the co-operative movement and reflected critically on how we can more effectively make spaces where diverse people from the North and the South can come together in

solidarity to advance northern alternatives for a just recovery.

After a virtual wine and cheese celebrating co-operative producers on June 1, the interdisciplinary panel and joint CASC/ANSER session (funded by the Federation and open to all delegates) got us off to a powerful start on **Creating Space for Economic Reconciliation**. Indigenous women who are leaders in scholarship and in practice in the field of Indigenous co-operative development, **Mary Nirlungayuk** (corporate secretary, Arctic Co-operatives Ltd.), **Louise Champagne** (co-founder, Neechi Foods Co-op Ltd), and **Wanda Wuttunee** (professor, Native Studies, U of Manitoba) addressed questions about the role of community, what inclusivity and economic justice look like, and how they define Indigenous prosperity.

Mary Nirlungayuk spoke of the importance of language and investment in people as the foundation for a convergent, inclusive economy – one that is guided by respected elders. Louise Champagne reminded us that the first key step is to acknowledge the damage that has been done by colonized systems of organizations and institutions. She recalled the economies that existed before colonization and asked us to think about current, destructive activities taking place in the name of economic development. Wanda Wuttunee provided case studies of initiatives headed by Indigenous change agents such as AKI Energy. All three urged the group to learn from successful co-operative enterprises that reflect community values and are models of inclusivity. They challenged the audience

to consider what creative solutions for economic reconciliation they could bring to the table—ensuring ongoing reflection and conversation.

In another open and thought-provoking session (funded by the Federation's International Keynote Fund), **Ted Howard**, co-founder and president of the Democracy Collaborative, shared insights into best practices of community wealth building in the United States and the United Kingdom were both informative and ignited a lengthy discussion around the applicability of these models in Canada. These discussions were drawn from throughout the rest of the conference, helping make racial justice and community wealth building a key theme.

These themes carried through sessions on co-operatives and social justice, on equity, diversity, and inclusion, the contradictions in Canadian cooperation, and identity recognition and the co-op movement among Inuit in Nunavik, on the CoopConvert project, literature and co-operative language of identity, and the versatility of co-op responses to COVID-19, through the powerful examples of the human books library, and in the inspiring keynote by **Jessica Gordon-Nembhard** in another joint session with ANSER funded by the Federation's International Keynote Fund.

Jessica's focus was on co-operatives and their place in the solidarity economy. While the history of co-operatives is often taught as a structure with its roots in Rochdale, informal, culturally-based forms of co-operation were historically made invisible or excluded. Rotating Savings and Credit Organizations or ROSCOs are an example (see Dr. Carolyn Shenaz Hossein, York University). The

co-op movement must examine the role of white fragility as a factor that inhibits movement and meaningful engagement. Diversity and inclusion are not enough but rather the co-op movement must be actively anti-discriminatory. Strengthening this action requires connecting with BIPOC communities toward initiatives that promote greater economic justice. Dr. Gordon-Nembhard posed questions to the audience: What are you prepared to do, recognizing that complacency can kill. "We must be that blizzard, getting deeper and bigger." Sessions on our final day continued with questions about meaningful co-op indicators for the SDGs, values-based governance, co-op conversions, experiential education and co-operation and culturally appropriate learning opportunities for co-op development with marginalized and racialized communities. All in all, a good experience, though we missed the fun and friendship of the in-person experience.

### **CASC/ACÉC AGM**

#### *President's report highlights:*

The Conference theme was importantly related to two issues central to our work, and ongoing commitment to the CASC Statement of Solidarity with Black Lives Matter and to listen, speak up, and act in support of a more just world:

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Decolonization
- Economic responses to the pandemic and what COVID-19 revealed
- CASC/ ACÉC has a new look - a new logo/ banner designed by a York University Student. Please check out the new T-Shirts.
- Our Communications Committee is launching a new strategy which will draw on social media opportunities.

- Key partnerships with the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, CMC, and ICA—CCR remain invaluable.

*CASC representative to the ICA-CCR*  
Judith Harris thanked **Sonja Novkovik** for all her work on behalf of CASC/ACÉC over her terms as ICA-CCR Chair. Sonja in turn acknowledged those who preceded her: Ian MacPherson and Lou Hammond Ketilson.

**Marcelo Vieta** (moved Fiona Duguid seconded Isobel Findlay) was acclaimed as the CASC/ACÉC representative to the ICA-CCR. Many congratulations to Marcelo.

*Congress Graduate Merit Award*  
The Congress Graduate Merit Award worth \$500 is funded by the Federation and recognizes the academic excellence of presenting graduate students. Eligibility criteria include a currently registered graduate student with documented accomplishment, an association member in good standing presenting at the conference (250-word abstract submitted). Isobel Findlay announced the winner: **Anne-Marie Merrien** of Université de Sherbrooke for her presentation on Identity recognition and co-operative movement in the experience of the Inuit of Nunavik. Many congratulations to Anne-Marie.

*CASC Scholarships*  
Dan Brunette of CMC thanked the 2021 selection committee:  
Dr. Mitch Diamantopoulos (University of Regina)  
Dr. Judith Harris (University of Winnipeg)  
Dr. Daphne Rixon (Saint Mary's University)

Myriam Michaud (Université Laval)

He then announced the 2021 CASC Scholarship winners:

- **Dauphinee Scholarship: Louis Cousin, Université Laval: \$3000**
- **Lemaire Scholarship: Iva Jankovic (St. Mary's University): \$1000**
- **Lemaire Scholarship: Cynthia MacNeil-Burke (St. Mary's University): \$1000**
- **Laidlaw: Michael Kenny (York University): \$1000**

*CASC/ACÉC Board Elections*  
Board members moving into their 2<sup>nd</sup> year: \*

- **Darryl Reed,**
- **Fiona Duguid,**
- **Laurie Cook,**
- **Claude Andre Guillotte**
- Isobel Findlay represents the Usask Centre that supports the CASC Secretariat.

**Judith Harris, Derya Tarhan, Mitch Diamantopoulos, Sara Elder, Marcelo Vieta, and Esther Awotwe** were acclaimed and welcomed (back) to the CASC board.

*Acknowledgements*  
Renewed thanks to the conference organizing committee: Judith Harris, Isobel Findlay, Mitch Diamantopoulos, and Derya Tarhan.

Special thanks to the **Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives**, University of Saskatchewan (Director **Marc-André Pigeon**), for its ongoing hosting and funding of the Secretariat—and to **Esther Awotwe**, our redoubtable graduate student assistant at the Secretariat until the spring, and now a member of the board.

## INTRODUCING A NEW CASC/ACÉC BOARD MEMBER



*~Esther Awotwe*

*PhD candidate, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy  
University of Saskatchewan*

Esther Awotwe is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan. Her research interests include rural institutions, endogenous initiatives, self-organizing models, community economic development, regional development, governance and policy integration.

Esther is also a graduate of the Masters of Development Practice Program in Indigenous Development at the University of Winnipeg. She has also engaged in national and international development studies, having travelled across Canada's Arctic studying local co-operatives.

In addition, Ms. Awotwe holds an Executive Masters in Business Administration (MBA) Specialization in Human Resources from the University of Ghana. Her knowledge of human resource issues and economic development indicators, particularly in at-risk communities, motivates her to pursue a people-centered approach to policy.

## PROFILING CASC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



*Louis Cousin*

*Doctoral candidate, Administration and Management  
Université Laval*

*Winner of Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award, 2020*

*Louis Cousin has been involved in co-operative entrepreneurship and innovation for 10 years. He is a researcher and consultant, specializing on digital transitions of the co-operative movement. He is a member of Startin'blox, a co-operative start-up addressing corporate digital divide through open source Solid-based web applications.*

**La contribution des associations  
coopératives à la transformation  
numérique du mouvement coopératif**

Le développement et la démocratisation des technologies de l'information et de la communication ont accompagné une tendance à l'intensification des collaborations inter-organisationnelles: la capacité d'échanger des informations plus rapidement, en plus grande quantité et à moindre coût, permet aux organisations de se concentrer sur leurs fonctions-cœur en déléguant leurs activités accessoires à des partenaires extérieurs (Gulati et al., 2012). Dans cette perspective, certaines organisations se dotent collectivement de systèmes d'information inter-organisationnels (SIIO) qui automatisent l'échange de données entre les différentes parties prenantes (Robey et al., 2008).

Les SIIO ont permis à de nouvelles entreprises de s'imposer en quelques années comme multinationales incontournables. C'est par exemple le cas d'Amazon et de sa célèbre place de marché Amazon Marketplace, un SIIO rassemblant plus de 2 millions de marchands à travers le monde (Faconnier, 2015). Grâce à la transmission automatisée des données, le consommateur de consulter simultanément les produits proposés par ce réseau de marchands, les comparer, et effectuer ses achats. Créée en 1994, Amazon s'impose au troisième rang mondial des grandes enseignes dans l'industrie de la haute technologie en termes de chiffre d'affaires (« Classement mondial des entreprises leader par secteur », 2021).

Un SIIO n'est pas neutre: il s'intègre à une structure sociale de collaboration inter-organisationnelle. Les relations

entre organisations sont structurées en normes et idées, issues des rapports de force entre les acteurs organisationnels (Reimers et al., 2014). Ces normes et idées sont traduites en processus standardisés intégrés aux artefacts numériques (interfaces utilisateurs, protocoles d'échange de données...) utilisés pour faciliter la collaboration inter-organisationnelle: en ce sens, le SIO stabilise une structure sociale, et acte les rapports de force entre les acteurs de la collaboration. Dans le même temps, en automatisant l'échange de certaines informations, les artefacts numériques stimulent l'émergence de nouvelles pratiques de collaboration inter-organisationnelles.

Ainsi, le SIO contribue à stabiliser et à redéfinir la structure sociale définissant les relations entre organisations (Rodón & Sesé, 2010). Booking.com en est un exemple: la plateforme s'est positionnée sur le marché de l'intermédiation entre établissements hôteliers et consommateurs—marché sur lequel opèrent par exemple les agences de voyage. Sa valeur ajoutée repose notamment sur un SIO permettant d'automatiser les processus de réservation: un voyageur peut lui-même comparer et réserver un hébergement parmi 540 000 propriétés de 202 pays (« Booking.com », 2021). La structure du SIO prévoyant que les données clients soient conservées par l'intermédiaire, il participe à renforcer la dépendance des établissements hôteliers envers Booking.com qui se dote d'un pouvoir d'imposer unilatéralement ses conditions tarifaires (Luczak-Rougeaux, 2021).

Les SIO centralisés permettent ainsi à des entreprises de se constituer en quelques années une position dominante sur un marché international. Ce

phénomène relativement nouveau représente un changement de paradigme pour les coopératives, qui peinent à élaborer des réponses stratégiques adaptées (König et al., 2012). Uber en offre un exemple bien connu: créée en 2009, l'entreprise opère aujourd'hui dans 310 villes dans le monde (« Uber », 2021). Les applications coopératives alternatives émergent (par ex.: EVA et Taxi Coop Mtl à Montréal), mais leur capacité à offrir une alternative viable à la multinationale demeure incertaine (McNamara, 2020).

L'émergence des SIO n'est pas le premier changement de paradigme auquel sont confrontées les coopératives, qui revendiquent leur origine aux expérimentations de Robert Owen au début du XIX<sup>ème</sup> siècle (« Coopérative », 2021). L'étude des associations coopératives permet de mieux comprendre cette résilience collective aux changements paradigmatiques (König et al., 2012). Les associations coopératives sont des méta-organisations: leurs membres sont des organisations, plutôt que des individus (Ahrne & Brunsson, 2005). Elles ont pour fonction principale d'offrir à leurs membres, les coopératives, une structure sociale d'action collective: c'est le mouvement coopératif (Harter & Krone, 2001). Elles définissent, représentent et font évoluer cette structure sociale grâce à un ensemble d'actions stratégiques, telles que des activités d'information, de relations publiques, de formation, ou encore de standardisation (Spillman, 2018). Les coopératives funéraires du Québec ont par exemple eu recours à une association coopérative pour faire face à une mutation de leur environnement: la pénétration rapide du marché funéraire par des multinationales étatsuniennes au début des années 1990. En coordonnant leurs actions stratégiques

au sein de leur association, les coopératives ont assuré une préservation de leur champ tout en renforçant leur efficacité collective (Audebrand & Barros, 2018).

Tel qu'évoqué plus tôt, les SIO émergent au sein de structures sociales inter-organisationnelles: par conséquent, les associations coopératives paraissent être dotées d'atouts pertinents pour faire émerger et structurer des SIO. Si la littérature relative aux associations coopératives est peu abondante, plusieurs études ont documenté la contribution des méta-organisations dans des projets de SIO destinés à renforcer l'efficacité collective à l'échelle d'un champ organisationnel (par ex.: Kurnia et al., 2019; Reimers et al., 2014; Steinfield et al., 2005). En outre, les exemples de SIO établis dans le cadre d'associations coopératives sont nombreux et visibles: l'on peut citer le système de gestion bancaire Desjardins, placé sous la responsabilité de la Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec (*Structure du Mouvement Desjardins*, s. d.); ou encore le projet REScoop VPP visant à établir un SIO pour les acteurs européens de la transition énergétique, mené par l'association REScoop établie à Bruxelles (*About REScoop VPP*, s. d.). Dans le même temps, il apparaît que de nombreuses associations coopératives ne sont pas engagées dans des activités visant à établir des SIO.

Ces observations ont été traduites en une question de recherche, qui fait l'objet du présent projet de doctorat: pourquoi et comment une association coopérative conduit-elle un projet de changement numérique consistant à équiper ses membres d'un système d'information inter-organisationnel (SIO)?

Je cherche à répondre à cette question en me concentrant sur les actions de standardisation, à savoir la diffusion par les associations coopératives de standards d'interopérabilité permettant d'automatiser l'échange de données. Je souhaite identifier les facteurs qui amènent les associations coopératives à conduire des actions de standardisation; observer sous quelle forme se réalisent ces actions (événements, formations, recherches...); et finalement mesurer l'impact de ces actions sur les coopératives.

À travers ce projet de doctorat, j'espère aider les gestionnaires d'associations coopératives à concevoir et mener des stratégies de changement numérique adaptées au changement de paradigme auquel ils sont confrontés. Je souhaite également contribuer à la progression des connaissances en lien avec la théorie émergente des méta-organisations.

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## CO-OP CONVERT



Projet de conversion  
en coopératives | Conversion to  
Co-operatives Project

### Converting Businesses to Co-operatives: a solution for retiring business owners.

According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), a major challenge for Canada's 1.2 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is the potential for large-scale closures due to the growing number of retiring owners that lack a formal succession plan.

In 2018, 59 per cent of Canada's entrepreneurs were over 50 years of age. At that time, it was estimated that nearly three-quarters of them plan to retire within the next decade. While 81 per cent of retiring SME owners intend to transfer or sell their businesses, 2020 data suggests that only 14 per cent had a solid retirement plan. In addition to the increasing number of troubled enterprises due to the socio-economic ills brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, a potential crisis of SME closures across Canada has been looming for several years.

These facts came to light via a survey undertaken by the [Conversions to Co-operatives Project](#) (Co-op Convert), which identified in a recent research survey that:

- 7 per cent of SME Business owners had considered converting to a co-operative,

- 17 per cent were somewhat or likely to consider the BCC option for succession and,
- 14 per cent reported advantages to converting to a co-operative.

This research survey was created to learn the concerns of business owners over 45 years of age and determine whether they were aware that businesses could be converted to co-operatives. While these numbers are small, they suggest that a committed and not insignificant group of SME owners are already amenable to convert their businesses to co-operatives upon retirement.

Marcelo Vieta, Associate Professor at the University of Toronto and the project's lead researcher, says: "The project set out to better understand business conversion to co-operatives (BCCs) as outlets for saving jobs, addressing business succession needs, and creating new co-operatives across Canada." He further stated that conversions offer an option to retirement-aged owners who do not have a succession plan and can help maintain local businesses threatened by financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. BCCs can prevent the closure of locally based businesses and the elimination of economic drivers, usually in small or remote communities.

BCCs have been solutions for business rescue and succession in numerous jurisdictions around the world for decades. As Vieta states: "I've conducted research with Italy's worker buyouts and Argentina's worker-recuperated companies and in both cases, BCCs have shown to be tried-and-true solutions for

business rescue and succession. However, the BCC opportunity for business success in Canada is not well known by Canada's SME owners, employees, unions, and policy makers and largely overlooked as succession or a business rescue solution."

In Canada, SME owners first think of transferring their business to their family. Retiring owners also seek to sell to third party investors. Yet, another option is a BCC – selling or transferring businesses to employees or other community stakeholders that then form a co-operative to continue the business. These converted businesses can take on different member ownership forms – worker, consumer, multi-stakeholder, or producer co-ops.

Co-operatives are sustainable and viable businesses co-owned by interested members rather than disconnected shareholders. Canada already has approximately 7,000 co-operatives in most of its economic sectors. Yet despite the enduring presence of co-operatives throughout the country and the overall success of Canada's approximately 205 BCCs to date, the BCC model is mostly overlooked and not well understood in Canada as an option for sustaining SMEs.

Cape Breton University Adjunct Prof. Fiona Duguid and co-lead on the project notes that only around a third of Canada's SME owners are at least somewhat familiar with co-operatives, and many of them have mistaken ideas of co-operatives. "There could be many more BCCs in Canada; the BCC solution is still not broadly known among SME owners, workers, unions, and policymakers in Canada. We believe that this is a lost opportunity for saving jobs and keeping potentially thousands of businesses alive in light of the SME succession crunch and

the business closure risk due to our current pandemic reality."

As part of the research project, 11 existing BCCs and 4 almost-completed BCCs were selected to serve as case studies showcasing a variety of business activities involved in BCCs, from a Western rail line to an Ontario architecture business to a community café. Co-lead Prof. Claude-André Guilloffe of the *Université de Sherbrooke's Institut de recherche et d'éducation pour les coopératives et les mutuelles* (IRECUS) confirmed that "Along with the SME business owner survey and the case studies, the project also inventoried conversions across Canada, which can be found on the [map](#) of co-operatives and mutuals in Canada."

Detailed information on the study and its findings can be found on the Conversion to Co-operatives website [here](#).

#### **About the Conversion to Co-operatives**

**Project:** The Conversion to Co-operatives Project is a university-community research partnership funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The project is led by Prof. Marcelo Vieta of the Centre for Learning, Social Economy & Work (CLSEW) at the University of Toronto, in collaboration with project co-leads Prof. Claude-André Guilloffe of the *Université de Sherbrooke's Institut de recherche et d'éducation pour les coopératives et les mutuelles* (IRECUS), Cape Breton University Adjunct Prof. Fiona Duguid, and the national co-operative apex association Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada.

**About Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC):** Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) is a member-driven association that supports and represents Canadian co-operatives and mutual businesses by working with key players in the co-operative sector and government. It helps to develop and promote the interests Canada's small, medium, and large Canadian co-operative businesses. Its vision is to build and work with this community, as well as contribute to its economic, social, and political development. The co-operative and mutual movement in Canada comprises memberships from approximately 7,000 co-operative and mutual enterprises.

For more information:

**[Conversions to Co-operatives Project \(Co-op Convert\)](#)**

Marcelo Vieta, Ph.d, Lead Project  
[marcelo.vieta@utoronto.ca](mailto:marcelo.vieta@utoronto.ca)

**[Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada](#)**

Daniel P. Brunette, Director – Advocacy and Partnerships  
[dbrunette@canada.coop](mailto:dbrunette@canada.coop)

## REMEMBERING JOHNSTON BIRCHALL



CASC/ACÉC is mourning the loss after an extended period of illness on June 3, 2021, of a scholar, author, social movement activist, and leader in co-operative studies, Johnston Birchall. Whether we met him or not, CASC/ACÉC members have been impacted by the work of Johnston Birchall who described himself on ResearchGate as having “always been fascinated by the idea of member-owned, as opposed to investor-owned, businesses”:

It seems to me that the co-operative business model is a serious alternative to corporate capitalism. My first two books were on small co-operative stores and co-operative housing. Then I wrote histories of the co-operative movement in Britain and internationally (published also in Japanese and Korean). My recent book, *People-centred Businesses*, is the culmination of this work as it provides a comprehensive analysis of all the main types of consumer and producer owned businesses. With the help of a Leverhulme Fellowship for 2012, I wrote a book on ‘customer-owned

banks’, demonstrating that wherever they are sizeable they have stabilized the banking sector and provided a more sustainable economy.

His books—*Building Communities the Co-operative Way* (1988; re-issued, 2014), *Co-op: The People's Business* (1994), *The International Co-operative Movement* (1997), *People-Centred Businesses: Co-operatives, Mutuals and the Idea of Membership* (2010), and *Finance in an Age of Austerity: The Power of Customer-owned Banks* (2013)—are among his publications that inspired and bridged so many divides within and beyond the co-op movement. They were widely translated for very good reason—striking a chord in so many settings. Never content with one co-op sector or one national setting, he helped us see connections in his efforts to bridge divides (across nations, sectors, histories and geographies).

From agricultural co-ops to financial co-ops, consumer and producer co-ops, from membership to governance, from small to large co-ops, from Italy to Ireland, Kenya to Kent, the Netherlands to New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, Brazil, Canada, and the US, he enlightened about the pressures on co-operatives, the problematics and the possibilities of the model. That early and long-lasting fascination with the co-operative business model—and the body of work it generated—leaves us all in his debt. The outpouring of grief in social and traditional media attests to the immense loss felt by those who had followed and learned from his work over the years.

In addition to numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals, he authored or co-authored for such bodies as the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, as well as the International Co-operative Alliance and Co-operatives UK many timely and influential reports that shaped and reshaped thinking in co-op studies. Reports such as *Rediscovering the cooperative advantage: Poverty reduction through self-help* (2003), *Co-operatives and the Millennium Development Goals* (2004), *Resilience of the Co-operative Business Model in Times of Crisis* co-authored with Lou Hammond Ketilson (2009), and *Resilience in a Downturn: The Power of Financial Co-operatives* (2013), *Good governance in minority investor-owned cooperatives* (2013), and *The Governance of Large Co-operative Businesses* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 2017), *Use of statistics on cooperatives in national policy making* (2017) continue to be much cited in the literature as they are studied in co-op courses in universities and colleges around the world.

After studying at Oxford, he spent five years as a housing association manager before completing his PhD at the University of York and going on to join the University of Stirling in 1999. It was there that the ICA 2017 Co-operative Research Conference was hosted in June—appropriately on the theme of Developing Inclusive and Responsible Businesses: Co-operatives in Theory, Policy, and Practice. Johnston was a session leader on the theory in the opening Emerging Scholars Day. At the

gala banquet and ceilidh, to which delegates were piped down the hill from Stirling Castle, Johnston was resplendent in his tartan trews!

At the time of his passing, Johnston Birchall was a professor emeritus in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Stirling University. A jazz lover and story teller, Johnston Birchall had an easy rapport with people and was as generous as he was modest in sharing his insights with audiences large and small. He had a singular ability to make complex ideas accessible and to motivate by his words. He will be sorely missed though his thinking will continue to inspire and motivate us.

So, we leave the last word to Johnston Birchall:

Co-operatives are always going to be in the spotlight because they are different. Things may be changing, though. More people are beginning to appreciate the co-operative difference, and to see member-owned businesses as an alternative to investor-ownership. This makes the occasional co-operative failure even harder to bear, because with it go the silent hopes of people who had a suspicion that there might be a better was but who now feel let down. For these reasons, it is imperative that we make sure co-operatives are as well governed as possible, and that we learn by our mistakes (*Governance*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2017, p. 9).

## REMEMBERING ROGER HERMAN



The CASC community mourns the passing on August 26, 2021, of a long-time co-op educator, developer, and researcher and CASC member after an eight-year struggle with of Multiple Myeloma, and in the past few months, Acute Myeloma Lukemia. Roger believed passionately in co-operatives as model and ethos and in the value of education—passions that shaped his career path and research interests first as Program Officer at the Canadian Co-operative Association (Saskatchewan region) managing the co-op youth program and other education initiatives. Then from 1998 for almost twenty years Roger was a valued colleague and friend at the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan. Liaising between the centre and co-op partners and sponsors, he shaped awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the sector and the centre. He co-edited with Jorge Sousa the book *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form* (2012).

Roger Herman was born on November 25, 1960 in Dauphin, Manitoba, to Fred

and Mary Herman, growing up on a farm outside Ethelbert with his older siblings, June, Helen, and Buddy. In Winnipeg, he met his wife Vicki, with whom he moved to Saskatoon, and went on to raise their two daughters: Lindsay and Sarah.

Travel was a particular pleasure and Roger participated in an archaeological dig in Europe, married Vicki in Greece, and travelled to Mongolia and Colombia, among many other locations, where he helped establish co-operatives. Iceland was a more recent destination. Closer to home, he took pleasure snowshoeing or skiing with friends and family, staying at cabins in the woods, or visiting conservation areas or a beloved property (Jadri) on Lake Winnipeg where he could relax and share experiences with his family.

In 2007 Roger chaired the organizing committee for the joint CASC/ACE/ICA conference at Congress at the University of Saskatchewan. The highly successful conference attracting 160 delegates from 15 countries began with a pre-conference workshop on community-based research for graduate students and a Social Economy Day on May 31. It concluded with a banquet and award ceremony where Roger was recognized for his Professional Contribution to ACE and was duly elected President of ACE. In 2011 Roger was honoured with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Contribution Award at the Saskatchewan Merit Awards event.

We celebrate his many contributions to the co-op community and cherish the memory of a truly remarkable person.

## UPDATE FROM THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CO-OPERATIVES



~ *Stan Yu*  
*Research and Communications*  
*Coordinator*  
*Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-*  
*operatives*  
*Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of*  
*Public Policy*  
*University of Saskatchewan*

### **1. Dionne Pohler joins the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives as CRS Chair in Co-operative Governance**

The CCSC is excited to announce that Dr. Dionne Pohler is the new Co-operative Retailing System (CRS) Chair in Co-operative Governance. Funded by Federated Co-operatives Limited, the CRS chair supports ambitious research and educational programming aimed at creating new ways of thinking about the unique governance model shared by co-operatives. Dr. Pohler is ecstatic about

returning the CCSC and the University of Saskatchewan, where she served as an assistant professor in the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (2013-2016) and the Edwards School of Business (2009-2013). During that time, she helped to develop a co-operative model of economic and social development, alongside rural settler and Indigenous communities in Western Canada, as one of the co-investigators on the [Co-operative Innovation Project](#). This project ultimately led to the creation of a not-for-profit organization, [Co-operatives First](#), dedicated to working with rural communities to address the needs identified by their own residents.

Read the full announcement here:  
<https://usaskstudies.coop/articles/leading-scholar-joins-usasks-internationally-recognized-co-operative-centre-as-crs-chair-in-co-operative-governance.php>



### **2. New Research Collaboration Focused on How Social Enterprises Can Improve Community Safety**

Thanks to [Research Junction](#)—an innovative partnership between the City of Saskatoon and the University of Saskatchewan—researchers and practitioners from the CCSC, City of Saskatoon, and Quint Development have been awarded \$30,000 to measure and evaluate the societal impact and economic value of social enterprises, using [BUILD UP Saskatoon](#) as a case study. BUILD UP Saskatoon provides opportunities for paid employment in the construction industry and peer, mentor, and cultural support for individuals who have had ongoing contact with the justice system and face multiple barriers to employment. This research will estimate the social and economic value of BUILD UP Saskatoon and aims to contribute to a wider conversation about the role that the social economy plays in addressing public issues and how governments and this sector can work closer together in solving those issues through creative arrangements.

Read more about this new research project here:

<https://usaskstudies.coop/articles/new-usask-research-collaboration-focused-on-examining-how-social-enterprises-can-improve-community-safety.php>

### **3. New Report: More Awareness on Challenges and Concerns “Big Data” Poses for Farmers Needed in Canada**

Like many other sectors, the agricultural sector is changing rapidly due to major developments in digital “smart” technologies and big data. While data aggregation provides significant value such as recommendations to calibrate seed and fertilizer levels, it also creates a set of problems and challenges, including concerns around privacy, security, data ownership, competition and market

power, and the transformation of work, which together are manifested in a lack of trust by farmers in the technology. A new CCSC report reviews the literature to examine the response in Canada and elsewhere by farmers, agri-business firms, agricultural organizations and governments to the emergence of big data. The report reveals that more awareness on the challenges and concerns Big Data poses for farmers is needed in Canada and provides recommendations on what players in Canadian agriculture could be doing.

The research is led by Dr. Murray Fulton (CCSC Research Fellow) and supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council’s Knowledge Synthesis Grant.

Read the full report here:

<https://usaskstudies.coop/documents/big-data-in-canadian-agriculture-report-fultonetal.pdf>

### **4. Announcing the CCSC Monthly Brown Bag!**

The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced opportunities for professionals across the co-operative sector to travel, meet new colleagues, and exchange ideas away from formal meetings. In response, the CCSC is launching the Monthly Brown Bag—an online gathering for co-operative sector professionals to learn from others in the field and exchange information in a casual setting.

The first Monthly Brown Bag will take place on Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and it features Eric Dillon, the chief executive officer of Conexus Credit Union, and Mary Weimer, the chief member experience officer of Conexus Credit Union. Eric and Mary will share the story

of how Conexus leveraged its co-operative and community connections to build a small business incubator (Conexus Cultivator) and venture capital fund (Conexus Venture Capital) to deliver technical advice, strategic guidance, and financial support for Saskatchewan's start-up businesses.

### RSVP to the first CCSC Monthly Brown Bag:

<https://jsgs.ohmedia.ca/form/932>

Future Monthly Brown Bags will be held during lunch hours (CST Saskatchewan) on the first Wednesday of each month.

The Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives presents

# MONTHLY BROWN BAG

A new casual online gathering for co-operative professionals to learn from others in the field and exchange information

## COMMUNITY-BASED INNOVATION: THE STORY OF THE CONEXUS INCUBATOR AND VENTURE CAPITAL FUND

**Date: Wednesday, November 3**  
**Time: 12:00 - 1:00 PM**  
**Where: on Zoom (free to attend)**



Join us for our first Monthly Brown Bag on November 3rd. Our speakers are Eric Dillon, the chief executive officer of Conexus Credit Union, and Mary Weimer, the chief member experience officer of Conexus Credit Union. Eric and Mary will share the story of how Conexus leveraged its co-operative and community connections to build a small business incubator (Conexus Cultivator) and venture capital fund (Conexus Venture Capital) to deliver technical advice, strategic guidance, and financial support for Saskatchewan's start-up businesses. To date, 66 Saskatchewan start-up companies have taken part in the Conexus Cultivator and raised \$19.4 million in capital and \$11.1 million in revenue.

RSVP HERE: [HTTPS://JSGS.OHMEDIA.CA/FORM/932](https://jsgs.ohmedia.ca/form/932)



**JOHNSON SHOYAMA**  
 Canadian Centre for the  
 Study of Co-operatives  
 UREGINA | USASK

## 5. Upcoming CCSC Events

Two signature lectures hosted by the CCSC will be taking place later on this fall. This includes:

- The 2021 Fredeen Lecture will take place on November 17, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM CST. It will feature the 2021 Hartley and Margaret Fredeen Scholarship recipient, Celeste Osses and her talk, “The Challenges of

Horizontal Governance: The Case of Workers Recovered Enterprises in Argentina”. More information on the 2021 Fredeen Lecture can be found here:

<https://usaskstudies.coop/public-talks/upcoming-talks/2021-fredeen-lecture-celeste-osses.php>

Stay tuned for the announcement of the Seventh Annual MacPherson Talk that

will be take place in early December. The MacPherson Talks honour the late Dr. Ian MacPherson, one of the leading lights of the international co-operative movement. Historian, educator, author, and passionate co-operator, Ian personified the relationship between Canadian co-operative academics and co-op practitioners.

### 6. Enroll in the Graduate Certificate in the Social Economy and Co-operatives today!

Applications are currently being accepted for the Graduate Certificate in the Social

Economy and Co-operatives. This Certificate is designed for working professionals and graduate students who are looking to deepen and refine their understanding of the vital roles played by co-operatives, non-profits, and social enterprises in today's economy. The program can currently be completed entirely online. Learn more about the certificate here:

<https://usaskstudies.coop/Learning-Opportunities/Programs.php#GraduateCertificateintheSocialEconomyandCooperatives>

## SOCIAL ECONOMY ORGANIZATIONS & CO-OPERATIVES: POLICY SOLUTIONS WORTH EXPLORING

Alongside the public and private sectors, there is a rich diversity of social economy organizations, including co-operatives, credit unions, non-profits organizations, charities, community associations, social enterprises, and more, working to provide goods and services to individuals and communities around the world.

The Graduate Certificate in the Social Economy and Co-operatives is designed for working professionals and graduate students who want to learn about, deepen, or refine their understanding of the social economy and its interaction with public policy.

### PROGRAM FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Three, graduate-level classes + one non-credit class
- An option to complete it entirely online or as a mix of in-person and online courses
- A laddering option for you to transfer into the Master of Public Administration program, and have your coursework count towards a graduate degree
- A focus on policy, governance, and leadership issues
- Courses use a series of readings and case studies to develop your core competencies and skills, while you learn how to bridge theory and practice

*This graduate certificate is offered in partnership with the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives.*



The Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy has campuses at both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina.

[www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca](http://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca)

## DES NOUVELLES DE L'IRECUS / NEWS FROM IRECUS



~Josée Charbonneau  
Research Assistant, IRECUS  
L'Université de Sherbrooke



~Anne-Marie Merrien  
Research Assistant, IRECUS  
L'Université de Sherbrooke

Tout d'abord, nous tenons à souligner qu'Anne-Marie Merrien a défendu avec succès sa thèse intitulée « [Reconnaissance identitaire et mouvement coopératif dans l'expérience des Inuit du Nunavik](#) ». Félicitations, Anne-Marie! L'une de ses principales conclusions est que la coopérative est un modèle adaptatif qui permet aux groupes et aux communautés d'exprimer leur identité spécifique, tout en répondant à leurs besoins et aspirations économiques, sociales et culturelles. Récemment, [Anne-Marie a aussi été interviewée par Les Affaires](#), un journal dédié au monde des affaires, qui a produit un numéro complet sur l'entrepreneuriat au sein des communautés des Premières nations, des Inuits et des Métis. Anne-Marie et l'équipe de l'IRECUS se

réjouissent de poursuivre leur partenariat avec la Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec dans les années à venir.

Comme beaucoup d'entre vous le savent peut-être déjà, le **projet CoopConvert** touche à sa fin. Un site Web reprenant l'ensemble des résultats sera disponible sous peu. L'IRECUS est fière d'avoir participé à cette recherche et a hâte de présenter des données et des analyses propres au Québec. Nous avons été peu surpris de constater que la plupart des cas de conversions coopératives ont eu lieu au Québec. Un environnement favorable et divers autres facteurs peuvent expliquer cette différence.

En partenariat avec CMC, l'Université Saint Mary's et l'Université du Cap Breton, l'IRECUS poursuit un projet de recherche visant à comprendre **l'impact de la pandémie de la COVID-19 sur les coopératives et mutuelles canadiennes**. Vous avez peut-être vu passer un sondage à cet effet. Les résultats devraient être disponibles sous peu. En attendant, vous pouvez consulter les rapports précédents: une [revue de littérature](#) sur la résilience coopérative et une [revue de presse](#) entourant les activités des coopératives et mutuelles canadiennes pendant la pandémie. Nous sommes heureux de participer à un autre effort de collaboration entre des centres de recherche canadiens!

La coopération académique est peut-être le thème récurrent des nouvelles de l'IRECUS. Nous élaborons actuellement une **formation en ligne, sous la forme d'un MOOC**, en collaboration avec trois centres de recherche du Québec, basés dans trois universités : UQAM, HEC et Université Laval. Jocelyne Racine Champagne et Claude-André Guillotte sont les porteurs de cette initiative qui offrira, à terme, du matériel pédagogique à l'intention des gestionnaires et des administrateurs des coopératives.

### News from IRECUS

First, we would like to point out that Anne-Marie Merrien successfully defended her dissertation titled "[Identity recognition and co-operative movement in the experience of the Inuit of Nunavik](#)". Congratulations, Anne-Marie! One of the main conclusions of here thesis is that a co-operative is an adaptative model that allows groups and communities to express their specific identity, all the while answering their economic, social and cultural needs and

aspirations. Recently, [Anne-Marie was interviewed by Les Affaires](#), a journal dedicated to the business community, that produced a complete issue on First nations, Inuit and Métis entrepreneurship. Anne-Marie and the IRECUS team is looking forward to continuing their partnership with the Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec in the years to come.

As many of you might already know, the **CoopConvert project** is almost coming to an end. IRECUS is proud to have been involved in this research and is looking forward to present Québec-specific data and analysis. It came with little surprise that most of the co-operative conversion cases were held in Québec. Enabling environment and various other factors can explain that difference.

In partnership with CMC, Saint Mary's University, and Cape Breton University, IRECUS is pursuing a research project aiming to understand the **impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Canadian co-operatives and mutuals**. You may have seen a survey to that effect. The results should be available shortly. In the meantime, you can consult the previous reports: a [literature review](#) on co-operative resilience and a [media review](#) about the activities of Canadian co-operatives and mutuals during the pandemic. It is great to participate in yet another collaborative effort of Canadian research centers!

Maybe cooperation among academic will be the recurring theme of this little update. IRECUS is currently elaborating a **massive open online course (MOOC)** with three other research centers in Québec, based in three different universities: UQAM, HEC and Université

Laval. Jocelyne Racine Champagne and Claude-André Guillotte are the promoters of this initiative that will, ultimately, offer educative material for co-operatives' managers and board members.



**IRECUS**

Institut de recherche et d'éducation  
pour les coopératives et les mutuelles  
de l'Université de Sherbrooke

## UPDATE FROM ST MARY'S INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT



**Saint Mary's  
University**

International Centre  
for Co-operative  
Management



*~Erin Hancock  
Program Manager, Co-operative  
Management Education  
International Centre for Co-operative  
Management  
Sobey School of Business  
Saint Mary's University  
Managementstudies.coop  
@CoopMgmt  
[Cme@smu.ca](mailto:Cme@smu.ca)*

*With Rosa Poirier-McKiggan, Program  
Assistant*

### **Hello from the International Centre for Co-operative Management**

The Centre elevates the performance and impact of co-operative enterprises

through customized co-operative business education, applied research and knowledge dissemination. There are many ways to get involved. We are happy to share what we've been cooking up.

### **The International Co-operative Business Education Consortium**

In the last few months, the Centre and the Co-operative Management Education Co-operative (CMEC) have been involved in the relaunch of the International Co-operative Business Education Consortium. Initially launched in 2013, the Consortium is a global network from which actors in co-operative business education can connect to better understand each other's programs and mandates, collaborate where mutually beneficial, avoid overlap where possible, and ensure program relevance to meet the needs of co-operative and mutual enterprises globally.

The Centre and CMEC will serve as the Secretariat of the Consortium in the first two years of the relaunch—to provide continuity with its past iteration and security as it develops a renewed work plan. In July and September, The Centre / CMEC convenes gatherings of Consortium participants from 200 organizations in 45 countries—and counting.

If you are interested in joining or supporting the Consortium, or if you know of an organization that offers co-operative business education and is not

yet involved, please get in touch:  
[hanan.elyoussef@smu.ca](mailto:hanan.elyoussef@smu.ca).

**Call for speakers: Winter Special Topics Webinar Series**

We host free webinars offered by researchers, educators and sector leaders on special topics in co-operative business, management, governance, economics and social movements. Do you have a presentation in mind? [Contact us](#) to explore! Check out our previous webinar recordings [here](#).

**Our community has expanded! Welcome students!**

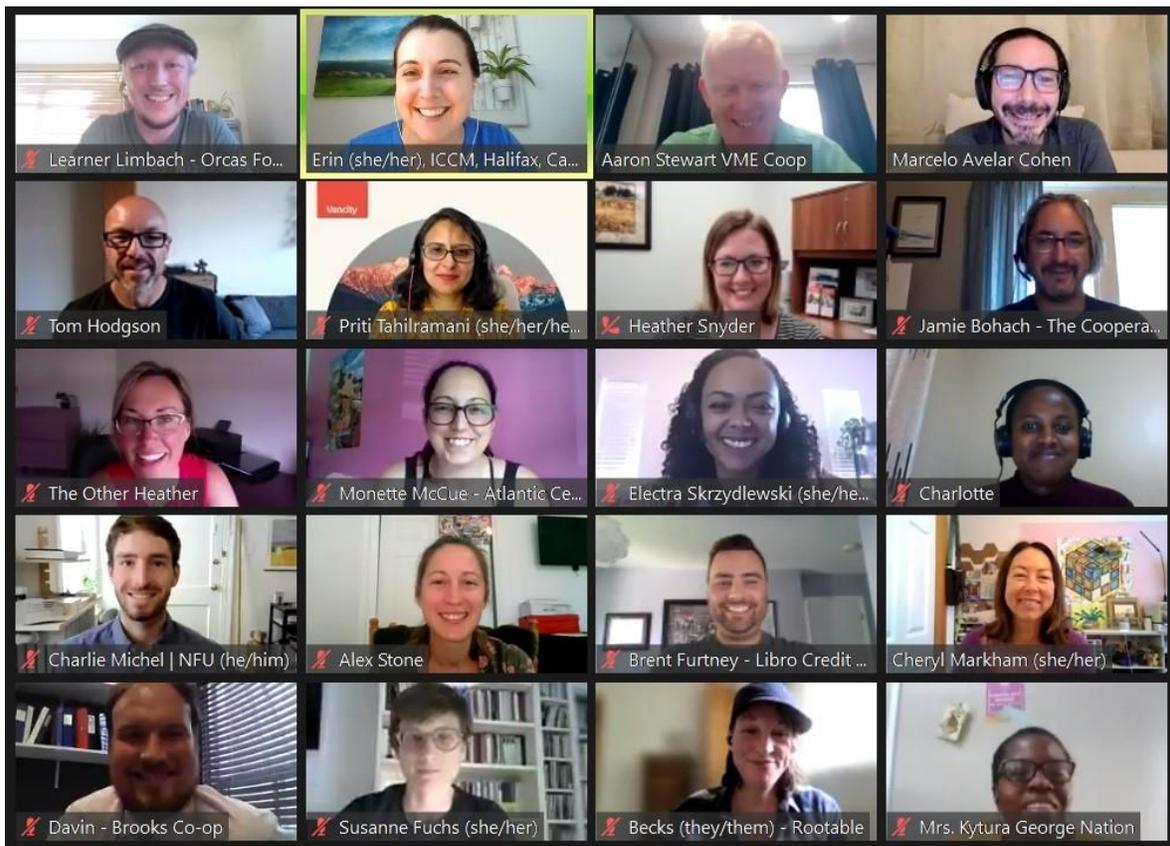
The Centre welcomes 33 new students this year across the online, part-time programs—Masters, Graduate Diploma and Certificate.

The cohorts capture the richness and diversity of the co-operative economy. Students come from consumer, producer, and worker co-ops, associations and organizations servicing co-ops from sectors including financial/insurance, food, agriculture, technology, development, education, daycare, law, and retail.

To date, the Centre has engaged 275+ students and graduates from 100+ organizations in 11 countries through our suite of Co-operative Management Education programs.

**Registration is now open for 2022.**

[Learn about these opportunities.](#)



**Congratulations to the graduating class!**

Big congratulations to the 10 graduates who completed their Master of Management, Co-operatives and Credit Unions program in September. Seven students and their families came to Halifax/Kjipuktuk, Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia to celebrate this milestone.

Special congratulations go to Rebecca Fisher-McGinty who resides in New Orleans, from Round Sky (worker co-op) for receiving the Pobihushy Award given to the student deemed by their colleagues as most exemplifying the principles and values of co-operation.



**International Co-operative Governance Symposium**

From June 17-19, the Centre convened its second International Co-operative Governance Symposium (virtual). This participatory gathering of governance professionals, experts, and researchers explored and discussed a plurality of governance models that maximize the benefit of the democratic, people-centred and jointly-owned nature of the co-operative model. It engaged over 200 attendees and 60 speakers from 12

countries! We are so grateful to all who contributed.

[Enjoy recordings of symposium sessions.](#) [Stay tuned for the Symposium Report,](#) forthcoming in October 2021.

**Credit Union Leadership Program - CanadaDE May 29-June 3, 2022 in Halifax**

You are invited to [CanadaDE - the Canada Development Education leadership program for credit union](#)

professionals! Join us from May 29-June 3, 2022 for this internationally accredited program hosted by the Centre in Halifax, NS (Kjipuktuk, Mi'kma'ki).

CanadaDE is a content-rich, full immersion program designed for both seasoned and emerging credit union leaders (staff, management and board). Renew and deepen your appreciation for the credit union model and develop skills to leverage it for increased impact for members, business success and local development. Come away with a well-

rounded knowledge of economic development paradigms fit for the 21st century, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), and proven strategies that will expand your credit union value proposition.

We encourage professionals from across the sector to attend. Join a global network of passionate and pioneering Credit Union Development Educators!

[Learn more and register.](#)



### **Connect with us!**

Visit us at our website, [managementstudies.coop](http://managementstudies.coop), follow us on social media at @CoopMgmt or reach out directly at [cme@smu.ca](mailto:cme@smu.ca)

## ICA-COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH UPDATE



*Dr. Marcelo Vieta  
Associate Professor  
University of Toronto, Ontario Institute for  
Studies in Education  
Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult  
Education  
- Program in Adult Education and  
Community Development  
- Collaborative Specialization in Workplace  
Learning and Social Change  
- Collaborative Specialization in Community  
Development  
- Centre for Learning, Social Economy &  
Work (CLSEW)*

As the ICA-CCR (Committee on Co-operative Research) rep for CASC, here is report to the board:

I met with the ICA-CCR members in August and they introduced me and a few other new members to the CCR committee executive. It was a fruitful discussion, mostly about the ICA-CCR conference plans to be held November 28-30, 2021, just before the 33<sup>rd</sup> ICA World Congress in Seoul, South Korea (December 1-3, 2021). The 2021 ICA-CCR conference will join panels from the original submissions for the cancelled 2020 conference and new paper submissions since. The conference will take place face-to-face

and virtually in Seoul, with many of the in-person participants already living in Seoul (although many are travelling from Europe, Africa, and other parts of Asia). As one of the three ICA-Americas reps on the ICA-CCR (together with Jessica Gordon-Nembhard and Claudia Sanchez Bajo), I am involved in helping co-co-organizing panels with a conference subcommittee, as well as participating in giving a talk to the youth scholars panel on research career opportunities for academics studying co-ops.

ICA-Americas is organizing their 22<sup>nd</sup> conference in November 4-5, purposefully prior to the ICA Congress later on in November. A virtual conference this year, they are expecting over 1000 participants from all across the Americas. Learnings and resolutions developed at ICA-Americas will be communicated to the ICA Congress in late November. In September the ICA-CCR Americas reps (Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, Claudia Sanchez Bajo, and I) met with Danilo Salerno (General Secretary) and Carlos Gonzalez of ICA-Americas about how our associations and constituents could participate. At the ICA-Americas conference, there will be a very prominent focus on the intersection between co-ops and the Covid-19 pandemic as one of the major panels. At the meeting, I mentioned the CMC-sponsored Covid and co-ops in Canada project being led by Sonja Novkovic at Saint Mary's University (with the participation of Claude-André Guillotte and the IRECUS team, Fiona Duguid, and other members and friends of CASC), and suggested that their project might be able to participate or even take the lead on this panel. They will be one of two projects to lead the Nov. 4 panel on "Measuring and Reporting on the Impact of Covid-19 on Co-ops". The other participating team on this panel is from Argentina. I will be moderating this panel.

Lastly, Sonja Novkovic will be leaving the role of Chair of ICA-CCR at the ICA World Congress in December. Akira Kurimoto, from Hosei University, was acclaimed as interim chair until a new permanent chair can be

voted on next year. Bruno Roelants, General Secretary of ICA, approved the ICA board. Akira's chairship will commence at the ICA Congress.

## CO-OPERATIVES AND MUTUALS CANADA UPDATE



*Daniel P. Brunette  
Director, Advocacy and Partnerships  
Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC)*

It's a pleasure to provide this update on behalf of Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada. I have taken the liberty of including topics that I believe will be of interest to CASC members, but please note that this is simply a snapshot of our recent, ongoing and upcoming activities. As such, I invite you to also read our 2020-2021 [annual report](#) or to contact us if you wish to have more information on any of the featured topics.

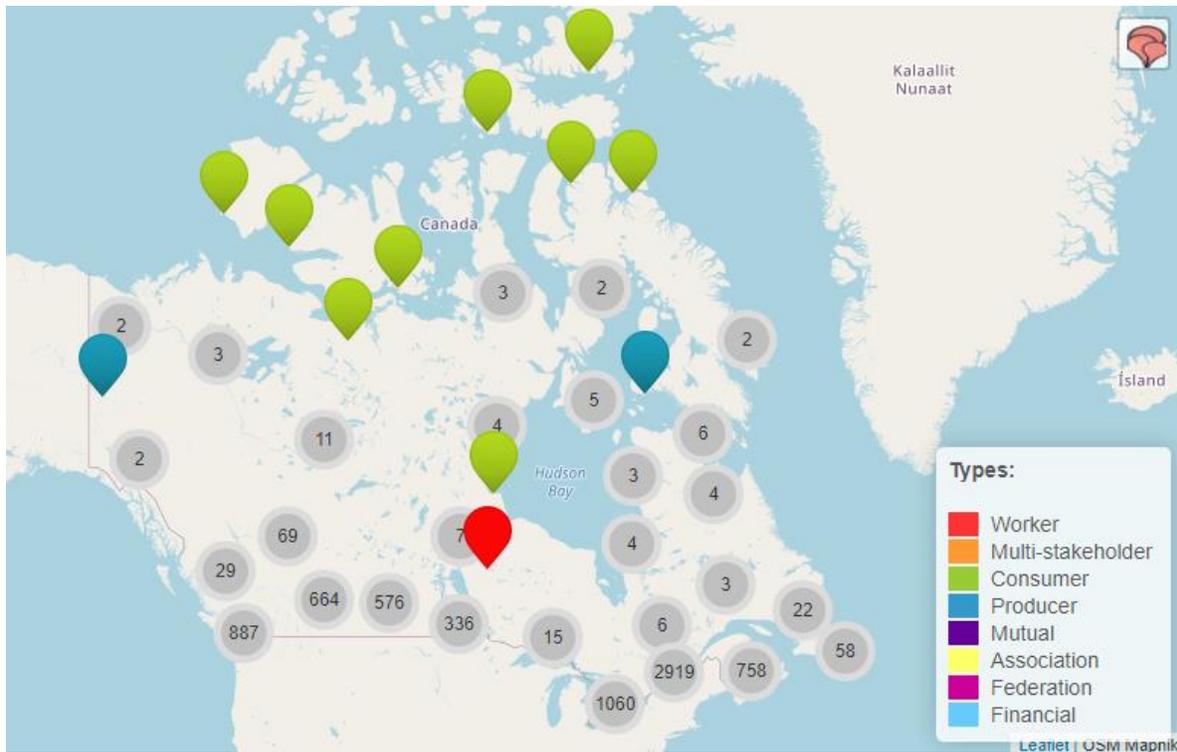


### **Advocacy**

CMC staff continue to engage with parliamentarians and senior public servants to advance the co-operative economy. This is accomplished through engagement around the sector's co-created [advocacy priorities](#), addressing obstacles such as the recently "unlocked" [CanExportSME Program](#) and collaboration with partners such as the [People-Centered Economy Group](#). With the recent election behind us, CMC will

continue to raise awareness and educate both new and returning parliamentarians and their staff on the co-operative and mutuals sector.

If you are aware of any co-op connections to your local member of parliament; wish to discuss any of the current advocacy files, or bring up issues accessing programs; please let me know by sending an email to [dbrunette@canada.coop](mailto:dbrunette@canada.coop) or calling 613-915-2846.



**The national database of co-ops, credit unions, *caisses populaires*, and mutuels in Canada**

CMC is completing a data collection and integrity project, to ensure that the database of co-operatives and mutuels in Canada that we manage is up to date. It now includes information on 7498 active co-operative organizations. Additionally, our database powers a searchable, interactive [co-op map](#) featuring key data points and contact information. It can be used by the public to locate co-ops, by co-operatives looking to partner with other co-ops, by government departments and by partners looking to learn about various aspects of Canadian co-operatives.

More importantly for CASC members, this comprehensive database can support the work of researchers and academics. It holds data that can be itemized and that is sometimes not captured by Statistics

Canada or Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

It is important to note that we will be launching new functionalities very soon, including tables to encourage co-op procurement as well as diversity-related search fields. These new codes are based on datamining, online searches, and cross-referencing of research papers, but it is likely that others can be added through self-identification or referrals. These can come from individuals involved with co-operative enterprises and or doing research on the topics in question, such as CASC members.

We look forward to leveraging our database to enhance membership value, research, and co-operation among co-operatives. Moreover, we welcome your views and suggestions on other sector

data that we might be able to gather and share with our members.

For any database inquiries, please contact my colleague Marie-Pier Duquette - Manager, Member Engagement, a [mpduquette@canada.coop](mailto:mpduquette@canada.coop) or (613) 238-6712.



**New website and media monitoring service**

In order to better meet the needs of the co-operative sector and those looking for information, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada launched a [new website](#) and also revamped its curated news service that circulates the latest stories about the Canadian co-operative movement. You can [click here](#) to subscribe to this free service.



**Investment Readiness Program**

CMC was pleased to have a mobilization mandate as part of the pilot project (2019-2021) and delighted that [59 co-operative projects](#) received \$3.46 million in capacity-building funding through it. CMC is expecting to have a similar role in the newest iteration of the [Investment Readiness Program](#), which should be launched very soon. CMC encourages all co-operators to keep an eye out for this

funding, and to utilize co-op developers to help meet the objectives of the co-operatives that they are involved with.



CMC participated in international discussions, representing our Canadian co-operatives and mutuals sector. This included being engaged with the International Co-operative Association (ICA) G20 Working Group and the resulting [Civil 20 \(C20\) policy pack](#). In addition, CMC participated in various consultations and the [SILK project](#), organized by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Please note that recently, the OECD asked CMC to help gather insight on youth-led social enterprises Canada. As such, we invite you to complete the following [survey](#), which should not take longer than 10-15 minutes to complete.

**Scholarships and other funding for individuals!**

CMC is involved in the administration and support of various scholarship programs that CASC Members should be aware of.



**CASC Scholarships.**

As it has for many years now, CMC administered the CASC scholarships. The [2021 recipients](#) are involved in very

interesting research and CMC would like to thank the scholarship committee for helping review the applications. The distinguished researchers that were involved were Dr. [Mitch Diamantopoulos](#) (University of Regina), Dr. [Judith Harris](#) (University of Winnipeg), Dr. [Daphne Rixon](#) (St-Mary's University) and [Myriam Michaud](#) (PhD Candidate - *Université Laval* and a former recipient).

The deadline to apply for these scholarships is March 31 of every year and you, your colleagues and other interested parties can download the application form [here](#).



### Ian Macpherson Legacy Fund

This fund supports student participation in research conferences, co-operative research and co-operative involvement. Students at post-secondary institutions under the age of 35 are given priority, with a preference for those presenting research at an in-person event.

[Applications](#) are accepted year-round, but it is recommended that applications be received at least 60 days before the date of an event.

If you have any questions or would like to make a contribution, please contact me by sending an email to

[dbrunette@canada.coop](mailto:dbrunette@canada.coop) or calling 613-915-2846.



### Emerging Co-operators Education Fund.

[Canada's Emerging Co-operators](#) (CEC), a committee created by Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada, coordinates the [Emerging Co-operators Education Fund](#). The ECEF objectives are two-fold:

1. supporting young cooperators' and mutualists' access to learning opportunities such as conferences, a professional development program or academic course, and
2. encouraging co-op research, into the creation of projects that can support the development of the cooperative and mutuals sector in Canada.

The next application deadline is January 22, 2022 and for more information, please click [here](#).



### S4ES Co-op Case Studies

CMC is involved in many partnerships and one of them is the Social Enterprise Ecosystem Project (S4ES). Established in

2017, the project is mandated to address five of the [Six Pillars of the Supportive Ecosystem for Social Enterprise Development](#), created by the Social Enterprise Council of Canada. We are pleased that three of their recent [case studies](#) focused on co-operatives, namely the Cape Breton Farmers Market Co-operative, Eva Co-op, and the Fredericton Bouldering Co-op (FBC).



## National Tables

As committed to during the Town Hall that followed the demise of MEC, CMC created two national leadership tables to identify and help address gaps impacting the Canadian Co-operative sector. These tables were made possible through special contributions from stakeholders to the *One Co-op, Every Co-op Fund*.

### 1. National Legislative Leadership Review Table

Mandated to review and advocate for changes in our legislative framework regulating co-ops and insolvencies, as well as address legislative inadequacies in protecting members' rights.

### 2. National Governance Leadership Table

Mandated to bring together collective intelligence on cooperative governance and generate action toward cooperative governance excellence in Canada. This table will review existing governance practices and assess the potential for a national governance program that may be linked to an accreditation model.

## Congress and Research visibility opportunity!

Due to the pandemic, CMC did not hold a congress in 2020 but rather offered a series of webinars known as the [Co-operation Virtual Institutes](#) (CVI). The [2021 Congress](#) was held virtually, as were the AGMs for both of these years. The recent AGM was also an opportunity to recognize the [2021 recipients of awards](#).

CMC's next congress will be held at Calgary's historic Palliser Hotel from June 14 to 16, 2022. Planning is already well underway and note that, as per the last in-person Congress in 2019, researchers will be invited to provide an overview poster, to help raise awareness of their research. Stay tuned for more details!

## Research projects

Building on the [Economic Impact study](#) released in 2019 and the [Co-ops and Mutuals in an Age of Uncertainty](#) released in 2020, CMC has moved forward on three more studies in order to provide members and key stakeholders with crucial data on the Canadian co-operative economy. Findings from this research helps us form various activities, from front-line co-op development to advocacy and policy initiatives. These include a comprehensive study on the [Impact of COVID-19 on Canadian Co-operatives](#), supporting the study [Measuring Sustainable Development Goals: Impact in the Co-operative Sector](#) and advancing the [Conversion to Co-operatives project](#), which is featured below. CMC would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has participated in these projects thus far, from those doing the research, to those who took the time to reply to various surveys and requests for participation.



### Release of Co-op Convert!

On 21 October 2021, the findings of the Conversion to Co-operatives Project ([Co-op Convert](#)) were released. The aim was to better understand this often-overlooked business transition option and how the model can help preserve jobs, address growing succession needs and help keep communities vibrant and growing through the creation of new co-operatives.

The project brought together two of Canada's leading research centres for co-operative and social economy research – the University of Toronto's Centre for Learning, Social Economy & Work (CLSEW) and the *Université de*

*Sherbrooke - Institut de recherche et d'éducation pour les coopératives et les mutuelles (IRECUS)* – with the participation of Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada (CMC). The Co-op Convert Project was primarily funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada's (SSHRC) Partnership Development Grants.

We invite you to familiarize yourself with the materials and to share the news with your network!

- [Highlights of the project](#)
- [Project Website](#)
- [Case Studies](#)
- [Executive Summary-Survey of Retirement-Aged SME Owners](#)
- [Full Report-Survey of Retirement-Aged SME Owners](#)
- [Project infographic: Co-ops](#)
- [Project infographic: SME owners](#)
-

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

### “THE IMPACT OF COOPERATIVES IN BUILDING RURAL CIVIL SOCIETY: LESSONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD”

- [Print Special Issue Flyer](#)
- [Special Issue Editors](#)
- [Special Issue Information](#)
- [Keywords](#)
- [Published Papers](#)

A special issue of *Sustainability* (ISSN 2071-1050). This special issue belongs to the section "[Sustainable Urban and Rural Development](#)".

Deadline for manuscript submissions: **31 October 2021**.

### EXTENDED DEADLINE - SPECIAL ISSUE CALL FOR PAPERS:

#### **Decolonizing Inequities: Indigenous self-sustenance in a social economy**

### EXTENDED DEADLINE - SPECIAL ISSUE CALL FOR PAPERS:

Decolonizing Inequities: Indigenous self-sustenance in a social economy -  
December 15th, 2021

Visit our website to read the [full announcement](#)

### EMNET CALLS

I want to invite you to submit your work on Economics and Management of Networks to the Springer book or Special Issues - see

<https://emnet.univie.ac.at/emnet2021/publicationpossibilities/>.

The publication possibilities are not only offered to the EMNet 2021 participants but also to the other EMNet members.

#### (i)BOOK:

We edit a BOOK at Springer with the title "Networks in International Business: Managing Franchises, Cooperatives, Alliances and Digital Platforms" (co-editors: G. Hendrikse, G. Cliquet, J. Windsperger, I. Hajdini).

The Submission deadline is December 31! the submissions for the book should be sent to me:

[josef.windsperger@univie.ac.at](mailto:josef.windsperger@univie.ac.at)

#### (ii) SPECIAL ISSUES

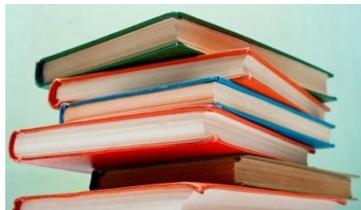
(I) "Progress in the Theory of the Firm and Networks" (co-editors: A. Grandori, G. Hendrikse, C. Menard, J. Windsperger) in International Journal of the Economics of Business; Deadline March 31, 2022

(II) "Strategy-Governance Relationship in International Business Networks" (co-editors: J. Windsperger, M. Jell-Ojabor, A. Raha, Z. Yaqub) in European Journal of International Management - Deadline March 31, 2022

(III) Journal of ENTREPRENEURSHIP, MANAGEMENT and INNOVATION - (including 5-10 papers) in cooperation with the University of Warsaw, Odessa National Economic University and University of Vienna.

## International Journal of Co-operative Accounting and Management (IJCAM)

Call for Papers: Impact of COVID-19 on Co-operatives and Credit Unions



### Call for papers - Regular issue

IJCAM publishes case studies and research monographs with a focus related to co-operative accounting and reporting, co-operative management, the social economy and sustainable development, or with outside perspectives that could be of strategic value to both co-operatives and the social economy.

### Special Issue – Impact of Covid-19 on co-operatives and credit unions (NEW)

We are devoting a special issue to the impact and lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic on the poorest communities and the co-operative and credit union response during the pandemic. Submission deadline – April 30, 2022.

### Please submit your papers accordingly:

--*Accounting and reporting and the COVID-19 issue*: Editor-in-Chief, Daphne Rixon, PhD, FCPA, FCMA: [daphne.rixon@smu.ca](mailto:daphne.rixon@smu.ca)

--*Co-operative management*: Senior Associate Editor, Peter Davis, PhD: [pd8@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:pd8@leicester.ac.uk)

**[READ THE MOST RECENT EDITION \(JUNE\) OF THE JOURNAL HERE](#)**

Stay tuned for our next issue to be released on November 15

## SUSTAINABLE ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE CONFERENCE: DATA-DRIVEN INVESTMENTS

**Save the Date!!** April 27 & 28, 2022

Sprott School of Business, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

Virtual Conference!

**Extended Call for Paper Abstracts:  
Nov.10th 2021**

As Sprott School of Business inaugurates its move into the new Nicol Building, Carleton University campus, we are hosting a two-day conference on [Sustainable Accounting and Finance on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022](#) to focus on the critical role of sustainability in our financial world. Working to advance this fast-changing discipline and to facilitate cross-sector learning, we are combining a peer-reviewed academic conference and a practitioner-focused conference with speakers, panelists, and respondents from industry. The event will feature leading-edge research and discussion of the practice and measurement of sustainable finance.

### Call for Abstracts

**Data-driven investments** affects both accounting and finance, creating the need for urgent collaboration between these two realms. How can accounting and finance work together to create a more sustainable world? How can we manage

and measure the impact of our investments? What issues and challenges remain to be overcome? Where do investments of the future need to be directed in order to begin to reverse the effects of the climate crisis and transition the world to a low-carbon future? The conference will address these and other themes related to the intersection of sustainable accounting and finance. **We invite Abstracts that include, but are not restricted to, the following areas of sustainable accounting and finance:**

- Sustainable corporate governance
- Sustainable finance
- Carbon accounting
- Accounting for biodiversity
- Sustainable performance measurement and reporting
- The use of sustainable accounting information in sustainable finance decision-making and investing
- Research at the intersection of sustainable accounting and sustainable finance

**Abstracts are due by November 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 for consideration for the Conference. Authors will be notified by November 30th 2021 if their Abstract is selected for full paper presentation at the conference. Full papers to be submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. Student papers are encouraged.**

**Please submit Abstracts to:**  
[saafc@sprott.carleton.ca](mailto:saafc@sprott.carleton.ca) by November 10.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES



Internacional Conference  
**SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY  
 ECONOMY**  
 22 a 26 novembro **ONLINE**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
 until 22 outubro



**AIPES**  
 Associação de Investigação e Promoção do Economico Social

MADEIRA

The **I International Conference on Social and Solidarity Economy and Sustainable Development Goals: Synergies and Opportunities** are to take place in Madeira Island (Portugal), online, between 22th and 26th november 2021. [International Conference Social and Solidarity Economy and Sustainable Development Goals: Synergies and Opportunities \(ciess2021.pt\)](#) and the following subthemes:

1. Eradicate Poverty and Reduce Inequalities
2. Decent Work, Economic Growth
3. Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Sustainable Development at the Local and Global Scale
7. Partnerships for Sustainable Development

We have launched a call for papers until 22 October but we will extend it until 31 October. [Submission of papers \(ciess2021.pt\)](#)

The programme is not yet fully closed, but it is already possible to see some panels and all the speakers confirmed so far, all of them experts in this area.

The event will have English translation and will be recorded. This way, participants can watch on the next day the recording of the previous day. The value for the five days is 25€, intending to cover the expenses with the event that cannot be covered by the support granted. AIPES associate, the value is 15,00.

[Registration \(ciess2021.pt\)](#)

We would be very grateful if you could spread the word. We also accept any and all comments you can and want to make or suggest for the event.

Organizing Committee

## ICA 33RD WORLD COOPERATIVE CONGRESS 2021

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that **registration is now open for [the ICA 33rd World Cooperative Congress \(1-3 December 2021\)](#) and [the ICA Cooperative Research Conference and the 3rd International Forum on Cooperative Law \(28-30 November 2021\)](#)**, which will be held in a hybrid format in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

Please find **the general information** on the ICA Cooperative Research Conference and the 3rd International Forum on Cooperative Law [HERE](#).

You can register either:

- **For the entire Congress** at the Congress registration page [HERE](#):  
or
- **Only for preparatory research events** (the ICA Cooperative Research Conference and the 3rd International Forum on Cooperative Law) by following the instructions [HERE](#).

If you are young and/or an emerging scholar, you are invited to **the Young Scholar Workshop on Cooperatives**. Please visit the call for participation [HERE](#).

For any further information, contact the Conference secretariat at [research.congress@icaworldcoopcongress.coop](mailto:research.congress@icaworldcoopcongress.coop)

\* \* \*

[FRANCAIS]

Cher(ère)s collègues,

Nous sommes heureux d'annoncer **l'ouverture des inscriptions pour [le 33ème Congrès Mondial des Coopératives de l'ACI \(1-3 décembre 2021\)](#) et la Conférence de l'ACI sur la Recherche Coopérative et le 3ème Forum International sur le Droit Coopératif (28-30 novembre 2021)**, qui seront organisés dans un format hybride à Séoul, République de Corée.

**Des informations générales** sur la Conférence de recherche coopérative de l'ACI et le 3ème Forum International sur le Droit Coopératif sont disponibles [ICI](#).

Vous pouvez vous inscrire

- **Pour l'ensemble du Congrès** sur la page d'inscription du Congrès [ICI](#) : ou
- **Pour les événements de recherche préparatoire uniquement** (la Conférence de l'ACI sur la Recherche Coopérative et le 3ème Forum International sur le Droit Coopératif) en suivant les instructions [ICI](#).

Si vous êtes un(e) jeune chercheur(se) et/ou un(e) chercheur(se) émergent(e), vous êtes invité(e) à **l'atelier des jeunes chercheurs sur les coopératives**. Veuillez consulter l'appel à participation [ICI](#).

Pour toute information complémentaire, veuillez contacter le secrétariat de la conférence à l'adresse [research.congress@icaworldcoopcongress.coop](mailto:research.congress@icaworldcoopcongress.coop)

## ICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022 TO TAKE PLACE IN SEVILLE

05 OCT 2021



The next ICA General Assembly will be held on 20 June 2022 in Seville, Spain. The event will be hosted by [the Spanish Confederation of Worker Cooperatives \(COCETA\)](#).

The ICA Presidency and Board of Directors will be up for election at the General Assembly. More information on this will be made available in the coming months.

Spain is home to 20,000 cooperatives, which employ over 600,000 people. They can be found in all sectors of the economy and in every corner of the country.

A member of the ICA since 1999, COCETA works to support the creation and development of worker cooperatives, highlighting their important role in

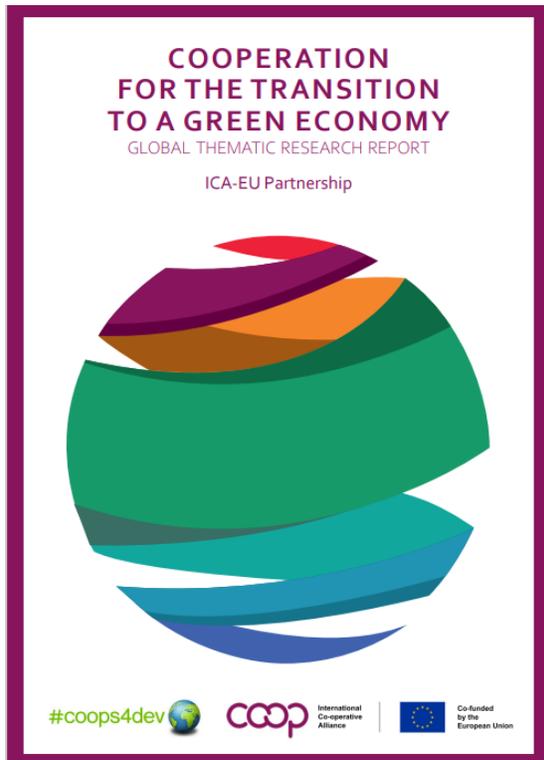
providing stable employment as well as generating wealth and social cohesion.

ICA President Ariel Guarco said: “We thank COCETA and the Spanish cooperative movement at large for offering to welcome us to Seville in June 2021. It is important for the cooperative movement to meet to discuss ways in which our different sectors can rebuild better together post pandemic. Following our World Cooperative Congress in December 2021, our General Assembly will be a good opportunity for us to engage with each other and plan for a better future for all.”

COCETA President Luis Miguel Jurado said: “Worker cooperatives played a key role in maintaining jobs during the COVID-19 crisis. We look forward to welcoming ICA members to Seville and showcasing the difference that cooperatives make in our country.”

## WORTH READING

**A new report highlights how the cooperative is a model of choice to tackle climate change**



*#coops4dev releases its latest global research report, co-produced by all ICA global and regional offices in the framework of the ICA-EU Partnership.*

A new thematic research publication “Cooperation for the transition to a green economy” provides an innovative overview on how cooperatives are acting to protect the environment, as well as

mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

[Cooperation for the transition to a green economy | coops4dev.coop](https://coops4dev.coop)

### The World Cooperative Monitor report

The report explores the economic and social impact of the largest cooperatives and mutuals worldwide, providing a ranking of the Top 300, sector rankings, employment data and a special analysis of cooperatives and the 13th United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (Climate Action - **SDG 13**). Also addressed is the COVID-19 pandemic and responses from the cooperative movement.



New report by our colleague Thomas Gray at the USDA.



## Organizational Charting for Member Control in Cooperatives



RB-CS Research Report 235  
September 2020

A fundamental aspect of cooperative organizations is “member control” or member governance of the organization. Member control is facilitated through a series of member offices, elections to those offices, and organizational bylaws. When challenges to the legitimacy of cooperative organization occurs, those

challenges often revolve around questions of member control. Do members actually control the cooperative? Our current era is of no exception given a context of acquisitions, mergers, and joint ventures in the cooperative community. This report presents a series of membership charts, from simple to complex, demonstrating

various ways to depict a membership structure, with the explicit highlighting of mechanisms for member control. The report begins with simple depictions of macro-membership structures, e.g., local, centralized and federated. It culminates with a “containment” method that is able to illustrate appointed and elected positions, positions with and without decision-making authority, a basis of

representation in geographic districts, flows and levels of authority, and whether authority is contained by the membership or outside of members’ control and oversight.

**Key Words:** Agricultural Cooperatives, Member Democratic Control, Charting Methods, Assessment Tool

## Cooperative CU Association Adopts ‘8th Cooperative Principle’ on DEI; Recognizes Best of the Best

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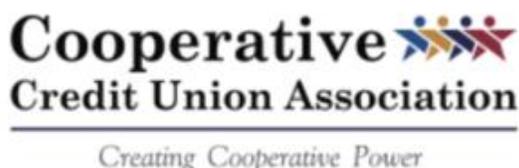
Share

MARLBOROUGH, Mass.—As the world marks International Credit Union Week, the Cooperative Credit Union Association said its board has voted to adopt what has become known as the “8<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Principle” in support of diversity, equity & inclusion (DEI).

“recognize and value the contributions of the diverse groups of individuals whose shared experiences enrich our corporate culture and advance the Cooperative philosophy through affirmative DEI programming.”

### How Resolution Reads

The DEI resolution adopted by the CCUA reads:



Separately, the CCUA also announced the winners of its Best of the Best Awards. In adopting the 8<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Principle, the association said it did so “to strengthen its commitment to credit unions and their work to bring about transformational and structural change in our nation to ensure financial inclusion for all, including those excluded from the traditional financial system.”

In addition, the CCUA, which represents credit unions in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Delaware, said the move also “deepens and strengthens” its on-going commitment to

- “WHEREAS Cooperative Credit Union Association values the contributions of a diverse group of individuals whose shared experiences enrich our corporate culture; and
- WHEREAS Cooperative Credit Union Association strongly believes diversity, equity and inclusion improve upon our ability to be a more resilient, productive and situationally aware institution; and
- WHEREAS Cooperative Credit Union Association holds that all people possess an inalienable right to an unimpeded path to succeed in the pursuit of their chosen professional ambitions; and
- WHEREAS Cooperative Credit Union Association seeks

opportunities to advance the Cooperative philosophy through affirmative Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programming;

- WHEREAS Cooperative Credit Union Association recognizes the establishment of the Seven Cooperative Principles in 1844 by the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers; and
- WHEREAS Cooperative Credit Union Association recognizes the adoption of the Seven Cooperative Principles in 1900 by the International Co-operative Alliance; and
- WHEREAS Cooperative Credit Union Association acknowledges the evolution of societal norms over the course of the past 176 years such that a different sensibility for our culture now exists; and
- WHEREAS Cooperative Credit Union Association seeks to publicly proclaim its commitment to a set of core values that echoes these ideals;
- NOW THEREFORE, BE IT SO RESOLVED:
- Cooperative Credit Union Association supports an 8th Cooperative Principle that asserts an unambiguous commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is adopted as a Call

to Action for the Cooperative Movement to do likewise.”

#### **Award Winners**

Separately, the Cooperative Credit Union Association honored the “Best of the Best” at the *Awards of Excellence* program held during its APEX Conference last week.

“Now, more than ever before, these awards honor those people who make a difference by their personal embrace of the credit union system and its values and principles - truly heroes and ‘credit union legends among us who set examples for all to follow,” the association said.

Honored by the CCUA were:

#### **Professional of the Year**

Meghan Leach, Service Credit Union (New Hampshire) and Debjani Ray, Harvard University Employees Credit Union (Massachusetts)

#### **CEO of the Year**

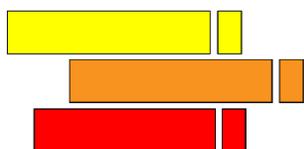
Douglas J. Petersen, Workers FCU (Massachusetts) and Michelle Dwyer, Franklin First FCU (Massachusetts)

#### **Volunteer of the Year**

Arthur R. Osborn, Jr., RTN FCU (Massachusetts)

#### **Hall of Fame**

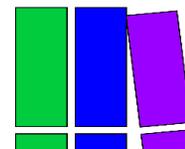
David C. Anderson, Bel



# CASC | ACÉC

Canadian Association for  
Studies in Co-operation  
Since 1982

L'Association Canadienne pour  
les Études sur la Coopération  
Depuis 1982



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership rates for the 2021/22 CASC year are regular members \$175 and students, retired individuals, and the underwaged \$55. Benefits include the following:

- *CASC /ACÉC Newsletter* twice yearly
- Regular *CASC /ACÉC Digest* announcements of interest (about conferences, new co-operative resources or initiatives, scholarships etc.) through the CASC /ACÉC listserv and Digest
- *Journal of Co-operative Studies* (3 issues per year)

**Contact Information** (*Please let us know if your contact information changes during the year*)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (postal code) \_\_\_\_\_ (country)

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### Membership Type

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### Optional donation

\_\_\_ In support of Ian MacPherson Fund

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**Total:**

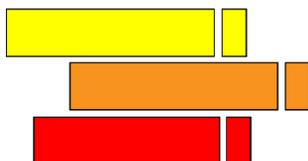
### Payment Information

Pay online with PayPal at <http://www.coopresearch.coop/how-to-join/>

Or mail the completed membership form, along with a cheque or money order made out to CASC in CDN or US dollars (at par) to:

Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation  
c/o Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives  
University of Saskatchewan  
101 Diefenbaker Place  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B8

Contact us at [casc.acec@usask.ca](mailto:casc.acec@usask.ca) if you have any questions.



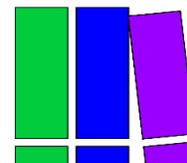
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## Formulaire de membre

Les frais d'adhésion à l'ACÉC en 2021-2022 sont de 55 \$ pour les étudiantes, les personnes retraitées, et les personnes sous-payées; 175 \$ pour les autres personnes. Au nombre des avantages, les membres reçoivent :

- Une copie de notre journal interne (deux numéros par an)
- Des nouvelles récentes (congrès, nouveaux outils et initiatives de coopération, bourses, etc.) par courriel ou digest
- *Journal of Co-operative Studies* (trois numéros par an)

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Nom \_\_\_\_\_

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ACÉC

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Utilisez PayPal à <http://www.coopresearch.coop/how-to-join/> Ou veuillez poster le formulaire dûment rempli, accompagné d'un chèque ou d'un mandat-poste poste à l'ordre de l'ACÉC en dollars canadiens ou américains (au pair) à l'adresse suivante :

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