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**Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board**

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Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

**Murray Fulton
Director**

March 1997

Centre Overview

The main activity this winter has been the Centre's participation and involvement in conferences and workshops. In conjunction with the Department of Social Services and Saskatchewan Centre for Community Development, the Centre is currently organizing a conference on community development to be held in Regina on 11 April. Focussing on such topics as CED and women, CED accomplishments in a northern community, support networks, and private and public roles and resources, the symposium will also include reactions from government and community officials. The keynote speaker is Dr. Stewart Perry, who has worked extensively in community economic development in both Canada and the United States since 1967. Other speakers include Melanie Conn from WomenFutures; Joan Corneil, Economic Development Officer for the Great River Lakes REDA; Brenda Stefanson from the Centre; and Dave McIlmoyl, general manager of the Kitsaki Development Corporation in La Ronge.

The Centre is also organizing a five-day study tour of New Generation Co-operatives (NGCs) in North Dakota and Minnesota from 1-5 April. The tour will provide a unique opportunity to learn about and gain understanding from actual new generation co-operatives that have been operating for some time. A highlight will be attendance at the international conference "From Europe to the Prairies" at Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota. The conference will examine how European farmers, their co-operatives, and rural communities are responding to changing world markets, international competition, and environmental pressures on production. It will also look at how Europe's experiences differ from or are influencing similar developments in North America. Murray and Brenda will be participants, along with other key authorities from the US and abroad.

During the past month, the Centre helped sponsor two conferences: "Farrowing Our Future" (3 March in Rosthern) and the "Round Table Discussions on the International Convention on the Right to Food" (21 and 22 March in Saskatoon). Details on these two conferences are available from Marianne.

The Centre organized a seminar on 4 March featuring Robert Theobald, who was in town for the "Farrowing Our Future" conference. Robert is perhaps best known for being asked to give last year's CBC Massey Lecture,

but the series was unfortunately cancelled. Robert's work is on the stresses confronting contemporary communities.

The Centre has recently written two letters of support and encouragement for proposed co-operative endeavours. The first was to Professor Ian MacPherson, Dean of Humanities, University of Victoria, who would like to establish a Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and Communities on his campus. The second was to Ms. Nicole St-Martin, director of the Program in Co-operative Management, IRECUS, University of Sherbrooke in Québec. She has proposed an MBA program focussed on co-operative management involving the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico and the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. Copies of both letters are attached to this report.

As will be discussed in Byron's section, Byron is spending three months at Apple Computer, beginning 22 March. This opportunity came about because of the Centre's involvement in the InContext Project, created by Byron, funding for which was provided by the University of Saskatchewan's New Initiatives Program. Apple is interested in designing computer hardware and software that can be used by people in different kinds of communities. They are intrigued by the co-operative community and by how people might be able to co-operate and collaborate using electronic means.

On a purely practical note, the renovations to the library are now complete, and we are pleased with the job that was done. It is nice to have a space that is truly ours.

New People at the Centre

Leslie Polsom returned from her education leave in January and is working half-time in the library (the rest of her time is spent in the Native Law Library). Leslie will be working on how the library can be better integrated into the Internet. Welcome back Leslie.

Nora Russell joined the Centre in March as a writer, editor, and researcher. Nora's first job will be to step in and take over some of Byron's duties while he is at Apple. Nora will be looking after the Newsletter and our Annual Report, as well as overseeing the publication of additional booklets. After Byron's return, Nora will shift her attention to producing publications that summarize some of the research work we have undertaken or that we wish to convey to a larger audience. Welcome Nora.

Research, Teaching, and Publication

Murray Fulton

Ongoing Research Projects

Murray and Brenda continue work on their New Generation Co-ops project. Murray is also working with Julia Taylor in Agricultural Economics on contracts in agricultural production and the role of NGCs in contracting.

He continues to do work on grain transportation and handling (with Ken Perlich and Ron Eley of Sask. Ag. and Food, and Richard Gray); on dual marketing (with James Vercammen and Nathalie Lavoie); and on the role of external institutions in industry development (with Andrea Harris).

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Publications

Murray released a paper entitled "A Discussion Paper on CWB Governance."

An Op-Ed piece on the Alberta and Manitoba Wheat Pool takeover bid of UGG appeared in *The Western Producer*.

The paper "A Graphical Analysis of the Cournot-Nash and Stackelberg Models" appeared in the Winter 1997 edition of the *Journal of Economic Education*.

Presentations

In early December 1996, Murray presented a paper on New Generation Co-operatives to "Hog and Poultry Days" in Winnipeg.

He presented a paper on New Generation Co-ops at a conference entitled "Co-operatives: Their Importance in the Future Food and Agricultural System," held in Las Vegas on 15-16 January. He was joined at the conference by Harvey Brooks, the holder of the Chair in Co-operative Marketing at the University of Alberta, and by Brian Oleson of the Canadian Wheat Board. Brian is actively working to establish a chair in co-operatives in the Agricultural Economics Department at the University of Manitoba.

On 22 January, Murray made a presentation on community development to the RM of Loreburn and the villages of Strongfield, Loreburn, and Elbow. He was asked to make the presentation by Prairie Centre Credit Union, which would like to see the villages and the RM work together on a community development strategy for that area. Out of this strategy Prairie Centre hopes that a decision can be made regarding the future of the credit

union branches in Loreburn and Elbow. Murray will continue to work with Prairie Centre on this initiative.

Murray made a presentation on NGCs to the Manitoba Co-op Council on 20 February.

He and his graduate student Xiao Yunlai presented a paper entitled "Fertilizer Market Development in China, 1988-1995" at the panel session on The Political Economy of Evolving Markets in Rural China at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Chicago, 15-16 March. From Chicago, Murray and Xiao travelled to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for a one-day workshop on the development of grain, fertilizer, and labour markets in China.

On 19 March, Murray made a presentation to the parliamentary committee examining Bill C-72 (the bill that introduces changes to the CWB Act). The presentation was based on his publication entitled "A Discussion Paper on CWB Governance."

Murray will be making a presentation to the NGC in Marshall, MN, at the "From Europe to the Prairies" conference organized by Southwest State University.

Teaching

Murray is currently teaching a graduate course, AGEC 851.3: Agricultural Policy. And he is working with the following graduate students (thesis topics in parentheses):

Dinos Giannakas (Agricultural Policy Formation and Misrepresentation by Farmers)

Julie Kennett (The Incentive for Quality Segmentation in Grain Marketing)

Don Lysyshyn (Barriers to Development in Emerging Industries: The Wild Boar Industry in Saskatchewan)

Ken Belcher (An Ecological and Economic Model of Prairie Agriculture)

Xiao Yunlai (Fertilizer Market Development in China)

Brett Fairbairn

New Research Projects

Brett has agreed to be a national "core" researcher supporting the "Co-operative Alternatives for Public Services" project, an initiative that will hold regional roundtables in the Atlantic provinces, Québec,

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Ontario, Saskatchewan, and BC to discuss co-operative development theory and possibilities in areas that have previously been state services. An example would be new co-operatives to help rural municipalities and communities provide common services more efficiently. The national research team will prepare background papers and attend all the regional roundtables; the other members of this group are Ian MacPherson of the University of Victoria and Evert Lindquist of the University of Toronto. This project is co-ordinated by the CCA, CCC, and the IPAC policy and research group of Toronto; the first roundtables are scheduled for 2 May in BC and 26 May in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan group includes Ken Rasmussen (U of R), Nial Kuyek, Tom Marwick, Wayne Thrasher, and Deb Chobotuk.

Brett is preparing a paper on the German economy in the twentieth century for a colloquium at the University of British Columbia in May.

Ongoing Research

Brett will not hear until July concerning his application to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for funds to bring his study of the German co-operative movement up to the present day.

Publications

"Principles of Organizational Restructuring in Rural Organizations: Co-operatives," in *Changing Rural Institutions*, ed. R.C. Rounds with assistance from Philip Ehrensaft (Brandon: Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation, forthcoming 1997).

Brett's book *Democracy in the Undemocratic State: German Reichstag Elections, 1898-1903* is still anticipated to appear shortly from University of Toronto Press.

Review of Ian MacPherson, "Co-operation, Conflict and Consensus: BC Central and the Credit Union Movement to 1994" (Vancouver: BC Central Credit Union, 1995), in *The Canadian Historical Review*, forthcoming.

Review of Simone Lässig, Karl Heinrich Pohl, and James Retallack, eds., *Modernisierung und Region im wilhelminischen Deutschland* (Bielefeld: Verlag für Regionalgeschichte, 1995), commissioned by and distributed by the editor of H-GERMAN [listserv for professional historians], February 1997.

Presentations

"The Social Economy and the Development of Health Services in Canada: Past, Present & Future"—presented to the International Conference on the

Social Economy in the North and in the South, Ostend, Belgium, 7 March 1997. The conference was attended by 300–400 people from Belgium, Europe, Africa, Asia, Canada, and Latin America. Brett's paper surveyed the "social economy" in the health sector in Canada (nonprofits, mutuals, and co-operatives), but with a particular emphasis on the development of community clinics in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan and Canadian example of co-operative health-services centres remains unusual in the world and attracted considerable interest at the conference. Brett reports that he made numerous useful international contacts, and renewed the Centre's connection with Patrick Develtere of World Solidarity in Brussels (development agency for third-world co-operatives and social movements), who was a visiting researcher at the Centre in 1991. (Some of the research Develtere did while at the Centre appeared this year in a book of his on co-operatives and development.)

"The History of Saskatchewan Wheat Pool"—presented to Sask. Wheat Pool delegate and staff seminar on "Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and the Agriculture Industry," Regina, 21 January 1997 (2 1/2 hours). Written evaluations show this session was strongly appreciated by the participants, who also included a delegation from Manitoba Pool Elevators.

"The Economic Viability of Community"—presentation in panel on "community" at the convention of the New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan, November 1996. (7 pp.)

"Balancing Act: Crown Corporations in a Successful Economy"—presented to conference on Public Enterprise in an Era of Change, University of Regina, 6 December 1996. (12 pp. paper to be published in conference proceedings)

"New Generation Co-operatives and Globalization"—presented to International Conference on NAFTA and the New Rural Economy (Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation), Gimli, Manitoba, 25 October 1996.

Teaching

In the spring term of 1996–97, Brett is coteaching with Gary Storey a new class in the College of Agriculture entitled AGRIC 222.3: Intellectual and Social Foundations of Modern Agriculture. The class mixes history of science with social and economic history in order to give students a grounding in the origins and limitations of the structures, policies, and systems currently employed in agriculture. Topics covered in the class include the philosophy of science, economic and political ideas of the European Enlightenment, industrialization and its effect on agriculture,

agriculture and development, and others. Several lectures include portions concerning co-operatives in Europe, the United States, Canada, and developing countries.

Brett continues to teach HIST 884.6, the History Department's full-year graduate seminar in Modern European History.

Brett's MA student, Dion McGrath, successfully defended his thesis entitled "A Challenge to Tradition: Co-operative Farming in Saskatchewan, 1944-1960." Dion's thesis concerned the veterans' and civilian co-op farms developed with the assistance of the provincial government after World War Two. It was based on archival research, surveys, and interviews of former farm members. Michael Gertler served as the external examiner. A copy of Dion's thesis has been placed in the Co-operative Resource Centre.

Administration

Brett continues to serve on the College of Arts and Science Committee on Programs, which approves all course and program changes in the college; and on the History Department's Graduate Committee, which prepared revisions to the graduate program adopted by the department this year.

Other

Brett served as an assessor and wrote reports for two grant applications, one to the SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) in February 1997; the other to FCAR (Fonds pour la Formation de Chercheurs et l'Aide à la Recherche) in November 1996.

Brett's secondment as a policy adviser to the Saskatchewan Department of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training ended on 31 December 1996. During December Brett wrote an internal background analysis for the department concerning provincially funded programs for First Nations and Métis university education.

Michael Gertler

New Research Projects

As chair of the Research Committee, Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation, Michael participated in presentations to invited government, NGO, co-operative, and private sector officials re CRRF's research initiative on the New Rural Economy. Hosted by Human Resources Canada and the Rural Secretariat, Agriculture Canada, the sessions took place 5 December 1996 and 24 January 1997 in Ottawa.

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Michael is initiating a related project on the role of co-operation and co-operatives in the NRE, and is seeking partners for this research.

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Presentations

Michael gave an invited presentation at the Saskatoon Region Food Policy Workshop, "Our Food Future: A Vision," 29 November 1996. The panel was on Food Security Issues and his presentation was entitled "Why Has It Been Difficult to Move in the Direction of a More Sustainable Agriculture?"

Teaching

SOC 204.3: Rural Sociology

SOC 402/802.3: Advanced Seminar in the Sociology of Agriculture

Administration

In addition to committee work in the Department of Sociology, Michael serves as a member of the administrative committees for two interdisciplinary programs: Regional and Urban Development, and Land Use and Environmental Studies.

Other

Michael was in Toronto 1-2 March to participate in planning sessions for the Annual Meetings of the Rural Sociological Society (to be held in Toronto 13-16 August 1997). The theme is "Global Competition and Community." Michael serves on the Membership Committee, as well as on the Task Force on the Future of the RSS. He is co-chair of the Sociology of Agriculture Interest Group and has been active as an associate editor of *Rural Sociology*.

Lou Hammond Ketilson

Publications

"Corporate Training and Development—Changes Ahead," co-written with Lillas Brown from Extension, has been accepted for publication by the *Credit Union Way*.

A paper entitled "The Role of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Women's Guild in Building Equity in the Co-operative Movement" has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*.

Presentations

"The Identification of Potential Market Segments for Home Banking," co-authored with Colleen McMahon, has been accepted for presentation to the Marketing Division, Administrative Sciences Association of Canada annual conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, June 1997.

A symposium entitled "Co-operatives in Action: But Where Are the Women?" has been accepted for presentation to the Women in Management Division, Administrative Sciences Association of Canada annual conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, June 1997. Lou will be joined in the symposium by Dr. Leslie Brown, Mount Saint Vincent University, and Rusty Neal, Dalhousie University. It is hoped that the symposium can be offered jointly with the CASC meetings being held in St. John's at the same time.

Teaching

Teaching and co-ordinating COMM 101: Introduction to Business (200+ students, four faculty). Lou's job as co-ordinator is to look after the logistics of exams, assignments, and workshops; to conduct focus groups with students to monitor the class; to respond to general student needs; to act as a liaison with the other three faculty; as well as to monitor course content and pedagogy to ensure that the objectives of the course are being met. The class was offered for the first time in September.

Management 345: Business and Public Policy. Lou is team-teaching the course with Dean Pearson.

Graduate Students under Supervision:

Colleen McMahon, MSc in Marketing, successfully defended her thesis, "Segmenting the Market for Electronic Financial Services," in November.

Laura Turner, MBA, thesis option. Her topic is "Encouraging and Sustaining Innovation in Federative Co-operative Systems: The Study of CUFIS." Her defence date is targeted for April.

Administration

College of Commerce Standing Committees:

- College Review Committee
- Equity Committee
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

University Standing Committees:

- University Council
- Steering Committee for the Whelen Lecture Series
- Nominations Committee for University Council

External Committees:

Board of the Community Health Services (Saskatoon) Association Limited (Community Clinic); also currently a member of the Member Services Committee

Vice-President, Membership, of the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada, the national association of business school faculty. In June 1998 Lou will be conference chair for the ASAC annual meeting to be held in Saskatoon.

Vice-Chair, ICA Research Committee. This committee organizes research forums annually, and in the past, typically in Europe. With the addition of Lou and a vice-chair from Japan, the expectation is that a research forum will be held in Canada, likely in 1999 or 2000.

Other

The symposium detailed above will serve as a starting point for a larger project, a book devoted to examining women's participation in co-operatives, which Lou hopes to get underway this summer.

Lou will be working with Deb Chobotuk and her counterpart in Manitoba to organize a conference focussing on women in co-operatives, planned for November 1997.

The chair of the ICA Women's Committee, Katarina Apelqvist, has contacted Lou regarding the possibility of organizing a national (possibly international) conference on women in co-operatives in conjunction with the next ICA International Researchers' Forum.

Reviewed the manuscript "The Company of Neighbors" for University of Toronto Press.

Byron Henderson

Ongoing Research and Presentations

In October 1996 the ICA invited Byron to make a seminar presentation to their Communications Committee on the subject of electronic networking for co-operatives. The ICA paid all expenses, and the meeting gave Byron the opportunity to make contact with ICA staff. This led to an invitation to spend time in the ICA's Geneva office to consult on the organization's communications plan for the next three years.

In the latter part of 1996, Byron worked on several versions of the InContext Project prototype. In December, Murray suggested that Apple Computer might well be interested in the concepts and software under development in the project, and sent them a project summary. This led, in February, to a

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Members paper
Conference in Italy
results of Economic Impact Study
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contact from Dr. Jim Spohrer of the Apple Advanced Technology Lab, who suggested that Byron send Apple a proposal for a visiting research position. Byron was consequently invited to a meeting of the Collaborative Learning Group, a consortium of businesses and universities brought together by Apple.

In mid-February, at their invitation, Byron visited with the Co-operative Wholesale Society in Manchester, England. Later, in Bristol, he met with World Television concerning a series of television promotions that will be aired world-wide in 1997 to deliver the co-operative message. Then Byron spent a week in the ICA's Geneva office discussing database development, electronic networks, and co-operative training. This visit was sponsored in full by the ICA.

Details of the projects involved in these visits are set out in the package titled "Collaborative Networking for Co-operatives," attached.

In early March, Byron met with officials at the Apple Advanced Technology Lab to discuss projects and a visiting position. He was invited to join them for three months as a visiting scholar, beginning 22 March. While there, Byron will work on several projects in the area of Collaborative Software Design. Apple is keenly interested in communities—how they learn, how they grow, and how software can contribute to this process—and co-operatives constitute a community they know little about but wish to understand more fully. Byron will also be working with Apple partners on these projects: Netscape, SunSoft, JavaSoft, and Stanford University. In addition, he will work on a final implementation of the InContext Project, drawing on tools and concepts from Apple's research. His work and time at Apple will be jointly supported by the University of Saskatchewan and Apple.

These visits have led to two project proposals to the ICA for Collaborative Networks. The ICA board considered one on 18 March and will look at the second sometime in April. Details are in the package mentioned above.

It is important to note that the Centre has supported all of these visits and initiatives by giving Byron the time to explore them. All direct financial costs have been borne totally by the university under the InContext Project, the ICA, or by Apple.

Brenda Stefanson

New Research Projects

Brenda attended the Co-operative Tour of the Netherlands and Denmark, and gathered information that will be incorporated into ongoing research projects.

Ongoing Research Projects

She continues her research into NGCs, as described in the last report.

Publications

Brenda is working on the production of a video and resource package—
“New Generation Co-operatives: Opportunities in Agricultural Processing.”
Funding for this project has been generously provided by the Agricultural
Institute of Management in Saskatchewan (AIMS). The final package will
supply farmers with basic information on NGC organizational structure.

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Presentations

Presentations on New Generation Co-operatives made to the following meetings:

- “Producer-Owned Agricultural Processing Ventures: New
Generation Co-operatives,” 31 October 1996, Saskatoon, SK
- Sask Ag and Food Specialty Crop Meeting, 4 December 1996,
Assiniboia, SK
- “Opportunities in Value-Added Processing,” 5 December 1996,
Gravelbourg, SK
- Sask Wheat Pool Annual Regional Meeting, 5 December 1996,
Hodgeville, SK
- Provincial Meeting of Sask Wheat Pool REDA Representatives,
6 December 1996, Manitou Beach, SK
- “Creating Wealth in Agriculture,” 27 January 1997, Humbolt, SK
- Canwood Feedlot Project, 7 February 1997, Canwood, SK
- “Northern Saskatchewan Business Opportunities Forum '97,”
8 February 1997, La Ronge SK
- Potashville Marketing Club, 10 February 1997, Langenburg, SK
- “Marketing Medicinal Herbs,” 13 February 1997, Melfort, SK
- Allen Marketing Club, 17 February 1997, Allen, SK
- “Focus on the Future,” 24 February 1997, Manitou Beach, SK
- Poplar Grove Marketing Club, 13 March 1997, Wolsely, SK
- “Pork Production Information Day,” 17 March 1997, Wishart, SK

Upcoming Presentations

- “From Europe to the Prairies,” 4 April 1997, Marshall, MN
- “Partnerships for Effective Community Economic Development,”
11 April 1997, Regina, SK
- RM of McKillop Spring Ratepayers Meeting, 17 April 1997,
Strasbourg, SK
- “Breaking Barriers: Building Co-operation for a New Millennium,”
ACE Institute 1997, 1 May 1997, Toronto, ON

Teaching, Administration, and Other Activities

Successfully organized "Producer-Owned Agricultural Processing Ventures: New Generation Co-operatives," in conjunction with "Prairie Forum," 31 October to 2 November 1996

Currently organizing the "New Generation Co-operatives Spring Study Tour" to North Dakota and Minnesota, 1-5 April 1997

The study tour delegates will participate in "From Europe to the Prairies," an International Conference on Co-operatives in Economic Development, 4 April 1997 in Marshall, MN

Andrea Harris

Ongoing Research Projects

Andrea is working with Murray on a project entitled "The Role of External Agents in Fostering Industry Development," with a special emphasis on agriculture. This research is testing the hypothesis that industry development is more likely to occur when external agencies such as government, industry development groups, and existing firms in related industries provide critical services—education, research, information, etc.—to the emerging industry. These services allow the new industry to undertake collective activities such as exploiting economies of scale, pooling risk, offsetting market power, and research and development.

A theoretical framework developed through the use of "new institutional economics" (NIE) is applied to cases where external institutions have played a key role in fostering industry development in agriculture. To date, two case studies have been completed. The first examines rural development in North Dakota and Minnesota, where agricultural processing co-operatives are starting up at an unprecedented rate. The second focusses on the development of the seed potato industries in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Preliminary results from two additional cases, the specialty livestock industry and the organic food industry, further support the notion that collective action is a keystone to industry development, and that external agents can play a positive role in facilitating collective action at the industry level.

The project completion date is 1 July 1997, and it is expected that the results will be published in book form.

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Laura Turner

Laura is very near completion of her MBA thesis entitled "Encouraging and Sustaining Innovation in Federative Co-operative Systems: The Study of CUFIS." Her defence date will likely be set within the next week or so; she hopes to defend sometime in April.

Marianne Taillon

There has been an extraordinary amount of activity in the Centre during the past six months, and aspects of all of it at one stage or another have been channelled through the office as Marianne's responsibility. Besides her general duties as office manager, Marianne has also prepared the CASC Newsletter; dealt with CASC scholarship applications; and prepared the brochure and handled the mailout for the spring study tour of NGCs taking place 1-5 April in Minnesota and North Dakota. She helped organize the event and dealt with registrations as well. She is also responsible for the brochure mailout, organization, and registration for the CED Symposium to be held 11 April in Regina.

Karen Neufeldt

Karen has been working for the Centre from time to time on a casual basis for more than a year, but since November the volume of work in the office has been so great that she has been working every day on a half-time basis. She provides ongoing support to Leslie in the Resource Centre and has been an invaluable aid to Marianne in the office, cheerfully performing many thankless tasks, thus giving Marianne the extra time necessary for the organizational work on the recent and upcoming conferences, workshops, symposium, and study tour. Karen also works half-time in the College of Dentistry.

Leslie Polsom

At the beginning of January, Leslie returned from an educational leave of sixteen months, having completed her MLIS degree in London, Ontario. Thanks to Diana Kichuk's excellent work in the Resource Centre while Leslie was away, the transition period went smoothly.

Leslie's first major assignment on returning to the Centre was to oversee the reconstruction and move of the Resource Centre to its new location on the CSC hallway (Room 191). A decision was made in the fall of 1996 to physically split the Native Law Centre Library and the CSC Resource Centre. In order to complete the project, it was necessary to close the Resource Centre to the public for three weeks in February 1997. We are all pleased with the results and believe there is now room for the collection to grow at its current rate for at least the next six years.

A great deal of work has been done on the Resource Centre web page, giving access to information on co-operatives and co-operative organizations in one convenient location. The URL is: http://www.coop_studies.usask.ca/CSC_Library/CSC_Library.html. This is a link within the Centre's website.

We have recently received a donation of seventy older titles removed from the Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan collection. These historical materials will strengthen the CSC collection, helping to meet the teaching and research needs of the faculty, researchers, and students.

We have continued the process of automating the administration of the Resource Centre. Currently the catalogue, serials management, and patron listing are on the electronic library system. In the fall of 1996 we began converting the acquisitions procedures from paper to electronic. Once the system is fully electronic, those with access to the library catalogue will be able to find out the status of any item in the library, whether on-order, received, or fully catalogued. (Of course the patron listing is confidential and not available for public use).

During the last six months, an average of one hundred items per month were used by faculty, staff, students, and other researchers. Reference questions have ranged from an inquiry from the Philippines regarding social audit to a request for information on PEI co-operatives for an undergraduate class assignment.