



# Director's REPORT

to the  
Management  
Advisory  
Board

Michael Gertler  
Acting Director  
Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

November 2011



The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives is an interdisciplinary teaching and research institution located on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon. Contract partners in the co-operative sector include Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan, Federated Co-operatives Ltd., Concentra Financial, and The Co-operators.

The centre is also supported by the University of Saskatchewan. The university not only houses our offices but provides in-kind contributions from a number of departments and units — the School of Public Policy, Management and Marketing, and Sociology, among others — as well as financial assistance with operations and nonsalary expenditures.

We acknowledge with gratitude the ongoing support of all our sponsoring organizations.



# Overview and Highlights



Awards for Sponsors



International Year of Co-operatives



The Building Renovations



Building Community Exhibit



Social Economy Project Update



Impact of Co-operatives Research Update



Other Research Update



Communications Plan Update



Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings



Publications



Faculty/Staff/Student News



Partners and Developments



# Overview and Highlights

## ▲ Awards for Sponsors

We are always pleased to acknowledge honours received by our sponsoring organizations.

- ▲ The Co-operators has been recognized for the ninth consecutive year as one of Canada's Fifty Best Employers; the ranking is based on the results of confidential employee surveys from workplaces across the country. It has also been named as one of Canada's top thirty green employers.
- ▲ Concentra Financial has been designated as one of Canada's Fifty Best Managed Companies for the eighth consecutive year.
- ▲ Federated Co-operatives Ltd. received a leadership award from Tourism Saskatoon for its contribution to the economy by bringing conferences and meetings to the city.

In addition to these awards, Federated Co-operatives Ltd. and The Co-operators have made the new Global 300 List, which reports the total revenues of the world's 300 largest co-operatives. This year revenues amount to USD \$1.6 trillion, which is comparable to the GDP of the world's ninth largest economy.

## ▲ International Year of Co-operatives

The United Nations marked the official launch of the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives at the UN General Assembly in New York City on 31 October 2011. More than 150 CEOs and presidents of some of the world's largest co-operatives gathered for the official launch of a year that will celebrate the important role co-operatives play in global sustainable development and financial stability. Activities in Saskatchewan include a launch in Regina in January, a province-wide co-op sector week of volunteering, and a major conference sponsored by the centre, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, and others titled Co-operating to Build a Better West. Plans are already underway.

## ▲ The Building Renovations

The renovations to the building are nearly complete, with all the main rooms now accessible for the first time in a year. The only significant hurdle for the centre this past few months was emptying the library of its more than five thousand items, along with all the built-in shelving, in order to replace the floors in that area. The removal and accurate replacement of library materials went remarkably smoothly with the assistance of Facilities Management Staff and the organizational skills of librarian Heather Acton and clerical assistant Karen Neufeldt. Several of our offices have been reconfigured for research assistants and graduate students and we are now sharing some of the space with the School of Public Policy. Losing our storage room was a particular challenge but we have made the necessary adjustments by paring down outdated material and donating a great many publications

to Better World Books, run by an organization on campus that sends proceeds of sales to Africa.

### ▲ Building Community Exhibit

After a great deal of planning by centre personnel Lou Hammond Ketilson and Maria Basualdo in collaboration with local residents, the Building Community exhibit opened in Melfort 17 October 2011 and ran for two weeks. Community support was strong, with more than ten local co-ops and organizations providing sponsorships and volunteers. Some schools in the area brought their entire student population from kindergarten to grade twelve. The Saskatchewan Co-operative Association gave a one-day workshop on co-op housing that attracted broad representation from the City of Melfort and beyond. Preliminary discussions are underway with officials in Swift Current to take the exhibit there in the spring of 2012.

We have hired Maria Basualdo, one of our PhD students, to act as Exhibit Co-ordinator. She is in discussions with people in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Northern Ontario regarding reconfiguring the exhibit into three smaller components for travel in these areas.

### ▲ Social Economy Project Update

Researchers and students are busy finishing up projects and writing final reports as this five-year project winds down. Publications officer Nora Russell has completed the editorial work on eight more reports, bringing the total to about half of the expected final count. Office manager Patty Scheidl has spent many hours dealing with the final budgeting matters. Librarian Heather Acton is making preparations to collect the material for the final report on the overall project to the funder, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, which is due February 2012. Lou Hammond Ketilson has made winding up the project a primary focus of her sabbatical leave.

### ▲ Impact of Co-operatives Research Update

Research is on-going on Measuring the Social, Environmental, and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada, spear-headed by the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA). The centre is involved in two projects under this umbrella. Lou Hammond Ketilson and Visiting Scholar Jessica Gordon Nembhard have partnered with Advantage and Affinity credit unions to study “The Impacts of Credit Unions on Communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba: Measuring Member and Community Benefits and Asset Building from Credit Union Ownership.” The first draft of the survey of Affinity members has been completed and is ready to be shared with Affinity’s Steering Committee. The other project is examining “The Impact of Co-operative Housing on Household Income, Skills, and Social Capital.” This is a five-year, \$1 million SSHRC-funded project involving CCA, the

centre, Saint Mary's University, the University of Victoria, and Mount Saint Vincent University, plus more than a dozen co-operative associations and credit unions.

### ▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ Lou Hammond Ketilson and Michael Gertler have a new project partnering with Affinity Credit Union to examine the provision of financial services to immigrant communities
- ▲ Murray Fulton and Michael Atkinson's (School of Public Policy) examination of executive compensation in government offices, Crown corporations, universities, and co-operatives; ongoing
- ▲ Michael Gertler's work with a variety of partners on "Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan"; ongoing
- ▲ Michael Gertler's "Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives, and Opportunities"; ongoing
- ▲ Catherine Leviten-Reid's "Multistakeholder Governance in the Social Economy: Towards a New Framework for Research"; ongoing
- ▲ Catherine's work with the Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) on an evaluation of Crocus Co-op; complete
- ▲ Catherine's research on health services in Duck Lake in partnership with the Saskatoon Health Region and CUISR; ongoing

### ▲ Communications Plan Update

Centre personnel and Carla Roppel from University Advancement continue to work on developing a formal communications plan for the centre. A number of activities are under consideration. At the top of the list is permanent signage recognizing our long-term sponsors, which has been difficult to address for the past year due to the extensive renovations in the building. Also under discussion are fundraising ideas, more advertising of the centre's activities, a review of our current promotional package, the development of a combined U of S/centre logo, and University Advancement and *On Campus News* promotion of the International Year of Co-operatives.

### ▲ Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings

- ▲ Congress of the Canadian Co-operative Association, Halifax, 27–29 June; Michael Gertler attended and chaired a roundtable on research
- ▲ Canadian Agricultural Economics Association meetings, Banff, 29 June – 1 July; Murray Fulton attended and presented
- ▲ European Summer School on the Social Economy, Bertinoro, Italy, 18–22 July; PhD student Annette Johnson attended
- ▲ Association of Cooperative Educators Institute, Winnipeg, 26–29 July; Michael and Lou attended; PhD student Monica Juarez Adeler attended and presented
- ▲ International Co-operative Alliance Global Research Conference, New

Opportunities for Co-operatives, Mikkeli, Finland, August; Lou Hammond Ketilson attended and presented

- ▲ IMPACT! The Co-operators Youth Conference for Sustainability Leadership, University of Guelph, 15–18 September; Michael Gertler was on planning committee and attended conference; Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay attended and served as a faculty resource person co-leading a workshop on civic engagement
- ▲ International Co-operative Alliance General Assembly in Cancun, 14–18 November 2011; Lou will attend and present

## ▲ Publications

“Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” the centre book based on Social Cohesion research edited by Brett Fairbairn and Nora Russell, has been accepted for publication by UBC Press; we received a very positive response at the peer-review stage; the manuscript is now in revise-and-resubmit mode, with Nora addressing reviewers’ recommendations with individual authors.

In more publishing news, Lou Hammond Ketilson and Johnston Birchall’s *Resilience of the Co-operative Business Model in Times of Crisis*, a report written for the International Labour Office’s Sustainable Enterprise Programme, has been translated into Greek and Italian.

Other publications appearing over the past few months include:

- ▲ *Models for Effective Credit Union Governance: Maintaining Community Connections Following a Merger*, occasional paper, printed and posted
- ▲ *Understanding and Promoting Effective Partnerships for CED: A Case Study of SEED Winnipeg’s Partnerships*, Linking, Learning, Leveraging (LLL) final report, printed and posted
- ▲ *Economic Impact of Credit Unions on Rural Communities*, LLL final report (MA thesis); printed and posted
- ▲ *An Economic Analysis of Microcredit Lending*, LLL final report (PhD dissertation); printed and posted
- ▲ *Empowerment through Co-operation: Disability Inclusion via Multistakeholder Co-operative Development*, LLL final report (MA thesis); printed and posted
- ▲ *Building a Federal Policy Framework and Program in Support of Community Economic Development*, LLL final report; printed and posted
- ▲ “A Place to Learn, Work, and Heal”: *An Evaluation of Crocus Co-operative*, LLL final report; with printer
- ▲ With Greg Marchildon, School of Public Policy (Regina), Catherine is working on a revised and expanded edition of Stan Rands’s *Privilege and Policy: A History of the Community Clinics in Saskatchewan*, forthcoming
- ▲ “A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form,” by Roger Herman and Jorge Sousa; centre book, in process

## ▲ Faculty/Scholar/Staff/Student News

- ▲ We have two new employees at the centre:
  - Audra Krueger began work at the beginning of October, replacing Roger Herman as the Research, Education, and Liaison Officer; she came to us from a position as Program Officer at the university's International Centre for Northern Governance and Development; she has also worked for Oxfam Canada and the Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op
  - our PhD student Maria Basualdo began working for us half time in September as the co-ordinator for the Building Community Exhibit in its travels around the province; she will also co-ordinate the reconfiguration of the exhibit into smaller components for travel in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Northern Ontario
- ▲ former centre employee Roger Herman was presented with a Co-operative Contribution Award at the annual Co-op Merit Awards dinner, 17 October, in Regina; all centre personnel attended the event to celebrate this significant achievement by a long-time centre colleague and supporter
- ▲ Visiting Scholar Jessica Gordon Nembhard spent time at the centre on two occasions over the past few months; Jessica was recently honoured with the Co-operative Advocacy and Education Award by the US-based Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy; Jessica is an associate professor of Community Justice and Social Economic Development at John Jay College, City University of New York, in the African American Studies Department
- ▲ PhD student Mitch Diamantopoulos successfully defended his dissertation in July and graduated this fall; the rewrite of his dissertation ("Globalization, Social Innovation, and Worker Co-operatives: A Comparative Analysis of Co-operative Development in Quebec and Saskatchewan from 1980 to 2010") has been accepted for publication by University of Toronto Press
- ▲ PhD student Monica Juarez Adeler was elected as a board member for the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) at its annual institute, held this year in Winnipeg; at the same event she was awarded the John Logue ACE Award, which "recognizes an individual ... whose ... research acts as a catalyst for change by creating innovative co-operatives that promote a democratic work environment and economic sustainability for people and communities"
- ▲ our co-op intern, Bryce Donaldson, concluded his term at the centre at the end of August
- ▲ we hired two research assistants during the summer — Maxim Gertler-Jaffe and Cornelius Christian; Maxim and Cornelius worked with Lou Hammond Ketilson on the Affinity Credit Union project examining the provision of financial services to immigrant communities; Cornelius also worked with her on the Measuring the Impact of Co-ops and Credit Unions project with CCA
- ▲ Carolyn Camman, an Applied Social Psychology student, joined us in October to do her practicum; she is assisting Maria Basualdo with the Building Community exhibit and will write a case study on the pilot project that took the exhibit to Melfort



## ▲ Partners and Developments

Mary Beckett, Herb Carlson, and Ken Sherwin will present verbal reports on the relevant activities of their organizations. Karl Baumgardner's report from The Co-operators is below.

### The Co-operators

#### *Financial*

31 August 2011 — \$73.1m (planned — \$69.0m); 2010 — \$42.8m  
Storms, the Slave Lake fire, and lower returns on investment influenced the bottom line.

#### *Client Experience*

- ▲ an Insurance Client Satisfaction survey revealed a thirty-point improvement in ranking ratings
- ▲ the website has been redesigned ([www.cooperators.ca](http://www.cooperators.ca))
- ▲ did you see the new TV ads?
- ▲ eleven projects are underway to improve client experience

#### *Co-op Experience*

- ▲ emphasis on the co-op difference
- ▲ active role in the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives
- ▲ expanded “member of member” benefits (within their own membership)

#### *Competitiveness*

- ▲ centralized “business intelligence” for all the companies
- ▲ rehabilitating The Farm Portfolio

#### *Distribution*

- ▲ equity and bond markets have been less profitable (US debt and Euro Zone issue)
- ▲ Quebec now has thirteen agents
- ▲ Sovereign General is ahead of plan
- ▲ the number of agencies is down, but the number of licensed agents is on the increase

#### *Trust and Reputation*

- ▲ working with partners to promote awareness of fire prevention
- ▲ contacts will be active with the new administration arising from the provincial election
- ▲ IMPACT Youth Conference (15–18 September) brought 165 students to the University of Guelph (thank you to Michael Gertler for his participation)
- ▲ “Sustainability at Home” toolkit enables people to make their homes more sustainable
- ▲ “Leave for Change” program will support seven staff for a volunteer project in the spring of 2012

*People*

- ▲ employee engagement is up from 2010
- ▲ Carol Hunter, former executive director of the Canadian Co-operative Association, will succeed Dennis Deters as Executive Vice-President, Member Relations and Corporate Services, 31 October 2011; Dennis is retiring after more than forty years at The Co-operators
- ▲ Carol Poulsen, a former senior vice-president with RBC, has been appointed Executive Vice-President and Chief Information Officer at The Co-operators; the position has been vacant since May

*Co-op Life*

- ▲ ranks eighth among Saskatchewan's Top 100 companies

## Teaching, Research, Publications, Presentations, Administration, and Outreach

### Michael Gertler

Michael is acting director of the Centre until 31 December 2011.

#### ▲ Teaching

Sociology 204.3: Rural Sociology

INTD 898.3: Co-operatives and International Development

#### ▲ Graduate Supervision

Michael was a member and acting chair of Mitch Diamantopoulos's PhD committee; Mitch successfully defended his dissertation in the Co-op Concentration in July. Michael has on-going supervisory duties for one PhD student in the Co-operative Studies Concentration and one PhD student in the School of Environment and Sustainability. He is also on advisory committees and acting chair for one InterD MA student and four InterD PhD students in the Co-op Concentration, and a committee member for one PhD student in Sociology.

#### ▲ Research

- ▲ with Lou Hammond Ketilson, a project with Affinity Credit Union to examine its relationships with immigrant communities
- ▲ principal investigator, "Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives and Opportunities"

- ▲ principal investigator, “Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan”
  - ▲ co-applicant on the centre’s SSHRC project on the Social Economy and a collaborator on the Canadian Social Economy Hub, which promotes collaboration among the six regional Social Economy nodes across Canada
- ▲ Conferences and Meetings
- ▲ represented the centre and participated in IMPACT! Youth Conference for Sustainability Leadership, University of Guelph, 15–18 September
  - ▲ represented the centre at the Association of Cooperative Educators Institute, Winnipeg, 26–29 July
  - ▲ represented the centre at 2011 Congress of the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), 27–29 June, Halifax
  - ▲ meeting of CCA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Sustainability, 26 June, Halifax
  - ▲ visit with faculty and students of St. Mary’s University, Master of Management — Co-operatives and Credit Unions program, Halifax, 27 June
- ▲ Administration/Professional/Outreach and Engagement
- ▲ member, IMPACT! Steering Committee (The Co-operators Youth Leadership Conference, September 2011)
  - ▲ board member, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, 2010–2012
  - ▲ resource person/advisor, Co-operative Issues Council, Enterprise Saskatchewan
  - ▲ associate member, School of Environment and Sustainability, 1 July 2008–
  - ▲ management board member, Community-University Institute for Social Research, U of S
  - ▲ member, Social Economy Project administrative committee for CUISR
  - ▲ member, College of Graduate Studies and Research Interdisciplinary Committee, 2008–11
  - ▲ member, Regional and Urban Planning Administrative Committee, College of Arts and Sciences
  - ▲ member, Canada-USA Relations Working Group, Division of Social Sciences, College of Arts Science
  - ▲ member, Department of Sociology Library Committee
  - ▲ member, editorial board, *Journal of Cooperatives*, January 07–
  - ▲ member, Canadian Co-operative Association Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Sustainability
  - ▲ member, “Research Needs: Cooperatives, Social Enterprises, and Rural Civil Society” discussion group, US Department of Agriculture
  - ▲ member, editorial board, *Journal of Co-operatives*, 2009–
  - ▲ representing the centre on IYC 2012 Saskatchewan Planning Committee.
  - ▲ member, conference co-ordinating committee, “Co-operating to Build a Better West” conference, 1–3 November 2012, Saskatoon

## Lou Hammond Ketilson

Lou is on sabbatical January–December 2011 but continues her active involvement in multiple centre activities.

### ▲ Graduate Supervision

Lou is supervising MA student Tsegi Chuluunbaatar and is a committee member for Monica Juarez Adeler and Douglas Akhimienmhonan, InterD PhD students in the Co-operative Studies Concentration.

### ▲ Research

- ▲ principal investigator for the centre’s Social Economy project, “Linking, Learning, Leveraging,” jointly undertaken by the centre and the Community-University Institute for Social Research in partnership with academics and community partners in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northern Ontario; this is the primary focus of Lou’s sabbatical activity
- ▲ co-applicant on the Canadian Co-operative Association’s five-year Community University Research Alliance (CURA) grant — Measuring the Social, Environmental, and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada; academic lead for the Prairie Cluster
- ▲ with Jessica Gordon Nembhard, partnered with Advantage and Affinity credit unions on a project titled “Impacts of Credit Unions on Communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba: Measuring Member and Community Benefits and Asset Building from Credit Union Ownership”; this is the secondary focus of Lou’s sabbatical activity; the first draft of survey of Affinity members has been completed; needs to be shared with Affinity Steering Committee
- ▲ Lou has a new project with Michael Gertler and in partnership with Affinity Credit Union to examine the provision of financial services to the immigrant community; she has two research assistants working with her; the literature review and four in-person interviews are complete to date
- ▲ met with directors of Ruralia Institute, University of Helsinki, the European Research Institute for Co-operatives and Social Enterprise, University of Trento, Italy, and The Centre for Co-operatives, University College Cork, Ireland, to learn more about their operations and explore opportunities for research collaboration and student and faculty exchange

### ▲ Presentations

- ▲ Lou has been invited by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (SFHSS) to provide a “Big Thinking” lecture 8 December in Ottawa; her topic will be the role and impact of co-operatives and credit unions in Canada; Credit Union Central of Canada, the Canadian Co-operative Association, Desjardins, and the 2012 International Summit of Co-operatives jointly proposed her name to SFHSS

- ▲ “Understanding Co-operatives through Research,” keynote address to International Co-operative Alliance Global Research Conference titled New Opportunities for Co-operatives, Mikkeli, Finland, August
- ▲ lecture to MA students in Co-operative Organization, Food Marketing and Rural Development, University College Cork, Ireland, September

### ▲ Publications

- ▲ with Jessica Gordon Nembhard and Pat Thomas, “Measuring the Impact of Credit Unions on Communities,” one of the projects for CCA’s CURA; will be submitted to the *Annals of Public and Co-operative Economy*
- ▲ working on the final report of the Issues-Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship Working Group, which will be submitted initially to the VP Research and VP Academic, then for circulation to all faculty
- ▲ with Thibault Martin, co-editing a special edition of the Ciriec Canada journal, *Économie et Solidarités*; the topic is What Is the Future for the Co-operative and Solidarity Economy in Aboriginal Communities?
- ▲ “First Nations Co-operatives in Canada: (Re)inventing Appropriate Forms of Enterprise,” chapter in forthcoming book “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” accepted for publication by UBC Press

### ▲ Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ worked with the community of Melfort and region to mount the Building Community Exhibit in Melfort during Co-op Week 2011; Lou has been to Melfort many times; helped set up and take down the exhibit; hired Maria Basualdo as exhibit co-ordinator; Carolyn Camman, a student in the Applied Social Psychology program, is doing her practicum with us, conducting an evaluation of the Melfort pilot
- ▲ preliminary conversations with Swift Current about mounting the exhibit there in spring of 2012

### ▲ Administration and Meetings

- ▲ commitment leader for the Issues-Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship priority of the U of S’s *Second Integrated Plan 2008–12*
- ▲ as member of the steering committee on Setting a National Co-operative Research Agenda, took part in a conference call in November
- ▲ as a member of the management board for Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network, conference calls in October and November
- ▲ as chair of ICA’s Committee on Co-operative Research
  - ▶ developed and submitted the ICA Committee on Co-operative Research SWOT Analysis and Strategic Plan to ICA’s Governance Committee; confirmed at the AGM in Mikkeli, Finland; resubmitted to Governance Committee
  - ▶ member of the steering committee for the ICA New Global 300 Initiative; met in Mikkeli, Finland, and Trento, Italy, in August; meeting again in Cancun, Mexico, in November

- ▶ member of the Scientific Committee for the ICA Global Research Conference in Mikkeli, Finland; co-leader of ICA's 2011 conference titled "Shared Leadership and Communities of Membership"; attended meetings in Finland in August
- ▶ organized a research symposium titled Measuring the Performance and Impact of Co-operatives for the ICA General Assembly in Cancun, 17 November 2011

## Brett Fairbairn

Most of Brett's time is devoted to his administrative responsibilities as University Provost and VP Academic, though in a reduced capacity he remains connected to the centre and co-operative studies in a variety of roles.

### ▲ Graduate Supervision

Brett continues to supervise one PhD student: Mark McCulloch (History) "Women's Groups and Consumer Co-operatives in East Germany, 1949-71." He also serves on a number of other PhD and MA student advisory committees.

### ▲ Research

- ▲ co-investigator, "Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation, the Social Economy, and Civil Society," SSHRC funded

### ▲ Presentations

- ▲ Brett was the keynote speaker at the launch of the Building Community Exhibit in Melfort, 19 October

### ▲ Publications

- ▲ "Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies," Brett is the editor as well as author or co-author of 4 chapters in this book accepted for publication by UBC Press
- ▲ "A Shift in Values: Credit Union Expansion by Conversion of Bank Branches," in *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, ed. Roger Herman and Jorge Sousa, forthcoming centre book

## Murray Fulton

### ▲ Teaching

JSGS 865.3: Decision Making in Organizations (co-taught with Michael Atkinson)

### ▲ Graduate Supervision

Murray is supervising four PhD students, three of whom are working on co-op topics; he is also supervising three master's students, one of whom is working on a co-op topic.

## ▲ Research

- ▲ executive compensation in the public and co-op sectors, including Crowns, universities, government executive offices, and co-operatives; ongoing
- ▲ Centre's SSHRC project on the Social Economy; academic co-lead of the Governance Cluster
- ▲ the role of producer associations in innovation activity, part of the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network; ongoing

## ▲ Presentations

- ▲ with Douglas Akhimienmhonan, "Households' Time Allocation to Micro Credit," at Canadian Agricultural Economics Association meetings, Banff, 29 June – 1 July
- ▲ "Policy Issues in the Transition from Organization to Market: The Case of the Canadian Wheat Board," at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2 October

## ▲ Publications

- ▲ with Lampros Lamprinakos, "Does a Takeover of a Co-operative Generate Greater Profits for the Buyer?" accepted by *Journal of Agricultural Economics*

## ▲ Administration

- ▲ graduate chair, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
- ▲ member of the College of Graduate Studies and Research executive committee

## Nora Russell

### ▲ Writing, Editing, Design, Print Supervision

- ▲ "Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies," book-length manuscript developed by the centre; accepted for publication by UBC Press; it has been through the peer-review process; both reviewers were very positive but have recommended some revisions; the manuscript is currently in the revise-and resubmit stage
- ▲ *Models for Effective Credit Union Governance: Maintaining Community Connections Following a Merger*, occasional paper; printed
- ▲ *Understanding and Promoting Effective Partnerships for CED: A Case Study of SEED Winnipeg's Partnerships*, LLL final report; printed and posted
- ▲ "Rural Youth Research Internship," editing complete; with authors for revisions
- ▲ *Economic Impact of Credit Unions on Rural Communities*, LLL final report (MA thesis); printed and posted
- ▲ *An Economic Analysis of Microcredit Lending*, LLL final report (PhD dissertation); printed and posted

- ▲ *Empowerment through Co-operation: Disability Inclusion via Multistakeholder Co-operative Development*, LLL final report (MA thesis); printed and posted
  - ▲ *Building a Federal Policy Framework and Program in Support of Community Economic Development*, LLL final report; printed and posted
  - ▲ *Labour Market Study: A Community-Based Research Report for Mamaweswen, the North Shore Tribal Council, Naadmaadwuiik, and Saulteaux Enterprises, Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement Local Delivery Mechanisms*, editing complete; with authors for revisions
  - ▲ “A Place to Learn, Work, and Heal”: *An Evaluation of Crocus Co-operative*, LLL final report; with printer
  - ▲ prepared comprehensive toolkit for prospective hosts of the Building Community exhibit, including background information, curriculum connections, a Q&A, tips for tour guides, and a “What You Need to Do” section, among other items
  - ▲ wrote grant application to the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Aid to Scholarly Publications Program for the Community Survival manuscript accepted by UBC Press; many other project management responsibilities around this manuscript
  - ▲ wrote article for the *StarPhoenix’s* Co-op Week Supplement
  - ▲ prepared ad for Co-op Week Supplement
  - ▲ co-ordinated the production of reprints of the centre’s promotional material, including brochures, presentation folders, and three insert pages
  - ▲ co-ordinated print supervision for reprints of a number of publications: *The Meaning of Rochdale, Rural Co-operatives and Sustainable Development, Innovations in Co-operative Marketing, and NGCs: Responding to Changes in Agriculture*
  - ▲ edited the minutes of the last advisory board meeting
  - ▲ co-ordinated, wrote, and did layout for this director’s report
- ▲ Other Activities
- ▲ many meetings, discussions, and proposals around new signage for the building; text, design, and imagery for individual unit wall panels; layout and signage for building map; design of window film throughout building
  - ▲ prepared material for Michael Gertler’s presentation on the centre at The Co-operators IMPACT Conference
  - ▲ prepared materials for the centre display in the Arts Tunnel during Co-op Week
  - ▲ advised on and assisted with cleanout of the centre’s publications storage area
- ▲ Professional, Outreach, and Other
- Nora attended a Co-op Luncheon 23 June; speakers Chris Sicotte and Cy Standing spoke about the history and development of Affinity Credit Union’s First Nations District. With new centre employee Audra Krueger, she attended the flag-raising ceremony and Co-op Week Luncheon in Regina on 17 October and



with all centre personnel, the Co-op Merit Awards dinner that evening, where former centre employee Roger Herman received a Co-op Merit Award. Nora also attended the Co-op Week Luncheon in Saskatoon. And she and Audra staffed a display booth in the Arts Tunnel highlighting some of the centre's activities and promoting the International Year of Co-operatives that same week.

In October, Nora participated in a workshop on pitching stories and writing for newspapers organized by *On Campus News*. She is a member of EAC Saskatchewan, a branch of the Editors' Association of Canada, and attended a workshop organized by the group in November on writing reports, briefs, and proposals, for which she designed the poster and other promotional materials. Nora is a member of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group, which connects the centre to other publishing organizations throughout the province, and she is the centre's representative to the Saskatoon Co-op Network, a group that organizes lunch-time speakers on co-op topics throughout the year.

## Heather Acton

### ▲ The Library

Materials signed out: 21  
Materials returned: 25  
Reference and research requests responded to: 42  
Books catalogued: 48  
New Borrowers Registered: 4  
Online Catalogue Accesses: 87

### ▲ Events and Meetings

- ▲ 16 June — Social Economy Hub meeting (teleconference)
- ▲ 20 June — lunch with the Management Advisory Board
- ▲ 30 June — met with Michael Gertler and Rea Carlson regarding library renovations and office space
- ▲ 30 August — met with Mark Brown (CUISR) for LLL project updates
- ▲ 12 October — CUISR Brown Bag Lunch
- ▲ 17 October — Co-op Merit Awards (Regina)
- ▲ 19 October — opening reception for the Building Community Exhibit in Melfort
- ▲ 21 October — Co-op Network Luncheon

### ▲ The Websites and LLL Project

Website activity was typically low during the summer but picked up in the fall. We have now been gathering website statistics for one full year from Google Analytics. Sample comparative statistics for the past few months are included in your information items.

The websites require continual work to keep them current and to repair broken and outdated links. Our Twitter page continues to gain new followers. You can find it here — <http://twitter.com/#!/HeatherActon>

Heather spent a lot of time assisting the cluster leads in the Social Economy project with a rush of questions and guidance as their spending deadlines came and went at the end of August. She continues to gather statistics and results as well as encouraging researchers to finish their final reports, which continue to trickle in; we hope to have them all by the end of December. The final report to SSHRC is due at the end of February 2012.

### ▲ The Library

The library was inaccessible for most of June and July. Fortunately, library use is low in the summer and there were only about a dozen instances when the lack of access was especially inconvenient. The books were eventually returned to their rightful places with minimal confusion. Heather has shelf-read the collection to ensure that everything is in order and relabeled the shelves. We have new flooring, improvements in air circulation, and a fresh coat of paint. The loss of work space in the adjoining room to make way for research assistants, however, has meant moving the furniture into the library, which has made the space quite cramped.

Reference questions this past few months have required considerable time, but have resulted in useful material being added to the website.

## Audra Krueger

Audra joined the centre on 3 October as our new Research, Education, and Liaison Officer and has spent the first few weeks getting acquainted with faculty and staff, the centre's mandate, as well as the broader context in which the centre operates.

Attending Co-op Week events in Regina and Saskatoon helped her get acquainted with co-op sector leaders and other colleagues as well as centre sponsors. Staffing an information booth in the Arts tunnel with Nora Russell during that week gave her the opportunity to promote the centre to students and others in the university community. Exchanges with those who stopped to chat revealed interest and enthusiasm in the co-operative movement both locally and abroad.

Audra has wasted no time initiating projects in the month she has been with us. These include:

- ▲ investigating student interest in housing co-operatives and organizing a speakers series on the topic
- ▲ exploring the possibility of establishing a coffee and book co-op in the Diefenbaker Centre

- ▲ working with the Campus Childcare Co-op and the Task Force on Campus Childcare on a plan to expand their operations
- ▲ working with Michael Gertler on planning and logistics for the “Co-operating to Build a Better West” conference
- ▲ collaborating with our funders and other organizations in the co-op sector to create a research-focused internship for graduate students that would allow for experiential learning

## Maria Basualdo

### ▲ As Exhibit Co-ordinator

Maria began her position as Exhibit Co-ordinator at the centre in August. Her primary responsibility is to organize the reconfiguration of the Building Community exhibit into three, smaller, regionally focused components. She is also responsible for the co-ordination of two pilot mountings of the full exhibit in Saskatchewan. The first, launched in Melfort 19 October with overwhelming support from the community, has been wonderfully successful. Maria has met with Carolyn Camman, an Applied Social Psychology student, who has joined us to do her practicum on a case study of our experience with the exhibit in Melfort. The case study will collect the lessons learned and establish a set of protocols to be used as a guide for other communities interested in hosting the exhibit. Maria has begun work with Saskatchewan and Manitoba co-op officials to develop the regional exhibits. Both will be available at the end of this year.

### ▲ As a PhD Student

Maria has completed the course work for her PhD. She spent May 2010 to August 2011 as a Public Policy Incidence Advisor with CUSO/VSO (Canadian University Service Overseas / Voluntary Service Overseas) in Bolivia, gathering information related to Bolivian experiences in public policy development, with the aim of improving the environment for enterprise development. She observed the transformation and the struggle among government and individuals alike to effect change after centuries of exclusion, during which the majority of the population did not have any real civil, political, or economic rights. Her work in Bolivia will form the basis of the research for her dissertation.

While in Bolivia, in partnership with CCA, the centre, Centro Boliviano de Estudios Multidisciplinario, Simon Frasier University, and the U of S, Maria collaborated in the preparation of a concept paper for the International Development Research Centre competition. The goal of the project was to observe the effects of improved food security on sustainable livelihoods, production systems, nutrition patterns, access to food and market, and productivity. Unfortunately the group was not successful in the competition.

## ▲ Publications

- ▲ with Chipo Kangayi, *Cypress Hills Ability Centres, Inc.: Exploring Alternatives*, an LLL research report
- ▲ with Isobel Findlay and Clifford Ray, “Research as Engagement: Rebuilding the Knowledge Economy of the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association Co-operative,” in *Community-University Research Partnerships: Reflections on the Canadian Social Economy Experience*, ed. Peter Hall and Ian Macpherson, Social Economy Hub, University of Victoria
- ▲ with Isobel Findlay and Clifford Ray, “The Ethics of Engagement: Learning with Aboriginal Co-operatives in Saskatchewan,” in a forthcoming book on community-based research by the Community-University Institute for Social Research and the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, ed. Bonnie Jeffery, Isobel Findlay, Diane Martz, and Louise Clarke
- ▲ with Nicola Chopin and David McDine, “Community-Based Research Partnerships: Students, Community, and Faculty Coproducing Knowledge by Building Trust and Developing Lasting Relationships,” in same book

## ▲ Conferences

Participant and presenter, “Endogenous Development and Transdisciplinarity in Higher Education: Changes for the Co-evolution of Mainstream and Endogenous Knowledge Traditions,” an international conference held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, 30 October to 6 November 2011

Patty Scheidl

As office manager, Patty is responsible for the centre’s day-to-day operations and all financial matters including maintaining the monthly financial statements and all research accounts.

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ calculating contributions, issuing invoices, processing journal vouchers, and depositing sponsor dues for the first and second quarters
- ▲ preparing the centre’s year-end financial statements, including checking monthly financial statements for accuracy and cross-checking previous months to ensure that expenses were cleared and allocated to the appropriate category
- ▲ reviewing the expenditures in the Social Economy project fund for 2010–11, updating the information from our partner institutions, and preparing a spreadsheet summarizing all the expenses
- ▲ co-ordinating the monthly submission of hours and payroll information for three student researchers and our co-op intern
- ▲ preparing the paperwork to extend Tsegi Chuluunbaatar’s scholarship with the Social Economy project fund
- ▲ assisting faculty and staff in processing payments for travel claims and items purchased

Other responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ working with the School of Public Policy staff in reorganizing and furnishing office space for graduate students
- ▲ editing the minutes of the last board meeting
- ▲ assisting with the preparation and posting of the Research Officer position; co-ordinating interviews with potential candidates; sending letters of regret to unsuccessful applicants; completing payroll forms for Audra Krueger
- ▲ assisting with the hiring of student researchers Cornelius Christian and Maxim Gertler-Jaffe; letters of offer, payroll, email accounts and connections
- ▲ attending two workshops associated with the university's internal controls dealing with documenting revenue and expenditures within financial funds
- ▲ assisting visiting scholar Jessica Gordon Nembhard with flight arrangements for her September visit

On an ongoing basis, Patty is responsible for organizing the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes identifying a suitable date, preparing the minutes and other agenda materials, arranging for printing, assembling the board packages and couriering them out ahead of time, getting parking passes, booking rooms, and ordering lunch.

## Karen Neufeldt

Karen's regular duties as clerical assistant include the traditional activities of that position as well as extra activities as required.

Karen and Patty Scheidl, our office manager, spent a great deal of time this past few months reassembling a number of offices disrupted by building renovations, including organizing large amounts of surplus assets to be removed from the centre; acquiring appropriate office furnishings; finding space for and redistributing everything in our storage room; and reorganizing all centre publications and weeding out hundreds of items.

Special activities this quarter included:

- ▲ transcribing the minutes of the June advisory board meeting
- ▲ checking in and routing journals; assisting with circulation and research questions for library patrons; reshelving returns; placing book orders
- ▲ sending out the F.J.H. Fredeen scholarship announcement
- ▲ assisting Catherine Leviten-Reid with research questions for various projects
- ▲ mailing out completed Social Economy reports and centre publications to authors, community partners, and for legal deposit
- ▲ co-ordinating applications for the interview committee and helping set up interviews for Roger Herman's former position; assisting new employee Audra Krueger with a variety of admin chores in settling into her position
- ▲ assisting visiting scholar Jessica Gordon Nembhard with accommodations, travel claims, and office arrangements during her September visit

- ▲ ordering Co-op Week pamphlets and posters; co-ordinating rental of display table in Arts Tunnel during Co-op Week; assisting with gathering and preparation of materials for display
- ▲ setting up conference calls for Lou with IYC Committee
- ▲ posting articles to the centre blog; routing articles from email to faculty, staff, students, and scholars
- ▲ assisting Patty with the preparation and mailout of the Management Advisory Board packages
- ▲ making travel, accommodation, and conference arrangements for centre staff; processing claims upon return:

## The Students and Contract Researchers

**Monica Juarez Adeler** is working on revisions to her PhD dissertation. She is also teaching full time in the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Winnipeg, where she is developing co-op courses and a summer internship program to place students in local co-ops.

Monica made a presentation on the new Management of Co-operatives course she developed for the U of W Business School at the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) conference in Winnipeg in July, where she was also elected as a new board member. At the same conference, Monica received the John Logue ACE Award which “recognizes an individual or organization whose educational programs, technical assistance, or research acts as a catalyst for change by creating innovative co-operatives that promote a democratic work environment and economic sustainability for people and communities.”

Monica is also an active member of two Co-op Vision Strategy working groups in Manitoba and serves as a board member for the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation. In addition, she maintains her role as administrator for the Social Economy Project’s Manitoba partner, the Institute of Urban Studies.

**Rob Dobrohoczki**’s dissertation proposal has been accepted and he is well into the writing phase. He continues to work part time as a lawyer and will be teaching in the School of Public Policy next term. Rob has a number of recent publications:

- ▲ three articles on co-operatives and nonprofit law in the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association’s *Co-operative Spotlight*
- ▲ with Kim Brown and Isobel Findlay, *Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Innovation: The Case of the Social Economy in La Ronge*, an LLL final report
- ▲ with Brett Fairbairn, “I felt that I had lost myself”: Credit Unions, Economies, and the Construction of Locality” in centre book “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” accepted for publication by UBC Press

Rob serves on the board of the Good Food Junction and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

**Mitch Diamantopoulos** is the head of the School of Journalism at the University of Regina. He successfully defended his PhD dissertation in early July and graduated this fall. The title of his dissertation is “Globalization, Social Innovation, and Worker Co-operatives: A Comparative Analysis of Co-operative Development in Quebec and Saskatchewan from 1980 to 2010.” A reworked version has been accepted for publication by the University of Toronto Press. Mitch has also been invited to be a Centre Scholar.

#### *Publications*

- ▲ “A Tale of Two Movements: Globalization, Historical Blocs in Transition, and the Co-operative Development Gap between Québec and Saskatchewan from 1980 to 2010,” forthcoming in *Canadian Journal of Non-profit and Social Economy Research*
- ▲ “Rebuilding ‘Home’ in a Transient World: Globalization, Social Exclusion, and Innovations in Co-operative Housing,” chapter in *Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies*, book developed by the centre and accepted for publication by UBC Press
- ▲ with Len Usiskin, “A Provocative Proposition: Linking Research, Education and Action in Saskatoon’s Core Neighbourhoods,” a chapter in *Community-Based Research in Saskatchewan*, edited by Bonnie Zink, forthcoming from the Canadian Plains Research Centre
- ▲ “Education for Economic Action: The Case of the Canadian Co-operative Movement,” a chapter in *Free Knowledge: Global Stories of Knowledge Enslaved, Devalued, and Emancipated*, edited by Daryl Hepting and Patricia Elliott, forthcoming from the Canadian Plains Research Centre
- ▲ “Gimme Shelter: Case Study of an Innovative Co-operative Support Organization,” chapter forthcoming in a book from New Rochdale Press at the University of Victoria’s Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy

**Mike Chartier** has completed the course work for his PhD and is studying for his comprehensives. His research topic is “A Whiteheadian Approach to Ethical Decision Making: How Could It Facilitate Effective Co-operative Governance?” Mike teaches full time in the Saskatoon Public School system and continues to sit on the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic as well as the Community Clinic Foundation.

**Patricia Elliott** is awaiting ethics approval to proceed with research interviews for her dissertation, titled “Independent Voices: Third Sector Media Development and Local Governance.” It will look at how third sector media contributes to citizen participation and social change, and will examine how the co-operative sector and other social movement organizations can best support its development and sustainability.

#### *Other Research, Meetings, and Presentations*

- ▲ attended a Community Engaged Scholarship Partnership meeting in Toronto

- in June; the partnership is a national initiative aimed at promoting institutional changes and faculty supports that encourage community-engaged scholarship
- ▲ completed an LLL research report titled “Participatory Action Research: Challenges, Complications and Opportunities”; it is awaiting Nora Russell’s attention prior to printing and posting
  - ▲ submitted a manuscript to the Canadian Plains Research Centre titled “Free Knowledge: Global Stories of Knowledge Enslaved, Devalued and Emancipated,” co-edited with the University of Regina’s Daryl Hepting; the manuscript contains essays by scientists, Indigenous activists, farmers, librarians, academics, physicians, and others who are grappling with issues surrounding the privatization and commercialization of knowledge
  - ▲ working on a paper for the U.S.-based National Communications Association titled “Who’s Afraid of Community Radio?” It will be a written contribution to a panel discussion 20 November in New Orleans called “Fear of Weak Voices: Why National Broadcasting Interests Fight Community Radio.”
  - ▲ working on a documentary film on underground journalism in Burma called “Cat and Mouse: Getting the Story Out of Burma”
  - ▲ finishing up two participatory media projects — “This Is Us: Voices from the Street” and “Voices in Education: Exploring Digital Story-Telling”

Patricia is director of the Community Research Unit at the University of Regina and also teaches in the School of Journalism.

**Annette Johnson** has finished the coursework for her PhD in the InterD Co-op Concentration and is studying for her comprehensive exams. Her dissertation is titled “Finding a Way Out: An Investigation into the Amalgamation of Worker Co-ops and Canadian Unions.” Annette is the lead sociology instructor at the Regina SIAST campus and teaches an introductory course as well as Aboriginal awareness. She also teaches a course at the University of Regina titled Social Structure and Personality. Annette attended the European Summer School on the Social Economy, 18–22 July, in Bertinoro, Italy, an extension site for the University of Bologna.

**Tsegi Chuluunbaatar** is working on the last course for her MA, a special topics reading class titled Co-operatives and International Development, with Michael Gertler. She is working on her research proposal and ethics approval and later this term will leave for Mongolia, where she will conduct her research — case studies on selected rural Mongolian co-ops. She plans to finish her thesis by next summer.