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Welcome back to our second academic year of operations. Wow how time flies when you are co-op networking!

I have recently returned from the ICA (International Co-operative Alliance) Global Research conference 2011 - [New Opportunities for Co-operatives held in Mikkeli Finland](#) about 2 hours by train from Helsinki. The Conference was organized by the ICA and University of Helsinki, Co-op Network Studies, Mikkeli University Consortium, Enterprising Together Project, and the two major Finnish co-op groups the Pellervo Confederation of Finnish Co-operatives (Agricultural co-ops) the first Finnish co-op body and the S-Group (which is the consumer co-op group with 2 million members). Our Network had a large contingent there including Sonja Novkovic, Lou Hammond Ketilson (who is Chair of the ICA Committee on Co-operative Research), Ian MacPherson, Isobel Findlay, Len Findlay from the Centre for Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan and Wendy Holm, graduate student at Saint Mary's University.

What was particularly impressive about the conference was that it allowed us to meet and greet participants from all over the world including representatives from academia, co-op organizations and co-op government representatives. The size and dynamism of the Finnish co-op movement was also evident when we discovered we were all staying in a Sokos hotel, one of over 40 hotels owned by the co-op sector!

As for the conference theme of *New Opportunities for Co-operatives*, you could not help but be impressed by the possible opportunities out there for co-operative development that were presented. The presentations including those of Pauline Green ICA President whetted

Our appetites for more study on new opportunity best practices. We have to examine how to better develop not only the traditional co-operative sectors but also new sectors including how to deliver more public services in a co-operative way. In Canada we already deliver health care through co-op clinics, as well as homecare and ambulance services in Quebec.



Finnish chefs prepare a traditional dessert for our last dinner – thin pancakes with whipped cream and lingonberries (photo thanks to Wendy Holm)

Full information on the ICA conference can be found at www.helsinki.fi/ruralia/ica2011 and all the presentations will soon be posted there.

We are looking forward to this next year which will soon morph in January into the United Nations 2012 International Year of Co-operatives. This network together with the [Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation](#), [the ICA Research Committee](#), [The Association for Co-operative Education](#), the [Quebec Co-op CURA](#) and others will be organizing a major integrated co-op research conference series (a Co-op Learned!) from June 25 to 27, 2012 in Montreal right before the [CCA](#) and [CCCM](#) AGMs and joint Congress. This promises to be an exciting event so please save the date and stay tuned for more details.

Wishing you a wonderful fall!

John Anderson, Principal Investigator
Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network
and Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy,
Canadian Co-operative Association



If you are looking for any of the following, visit www.cooperativedifference.coop

- List of projects
- More details on research partners
- Network activities to date
- Network structure



Congratulations to Co-op Atlantic: Atlantic Canada's 9th top company

For Progress Magazine's annual ranking of the Top 101 Atlantic Canadian Companies, thirteen co-operatives made the list, including Co-op Atlantic. We were also excited that Co-op Atlantic and the [Scorecard](#) project, currently being undertaken in partnership with the Atlantic Cluster of our Network, was featured in the article "Prospering under a "shared-value" leadership philosophy, Co-op Atlantic's innovative scorecard project is back to basics" by Quentin Casey.

<http://www.progressmedia.ca/article/2011/09/connecting-dots>

Network Welcomes Alicia Lake

Alicia Lake is a student in the MBA in Community Economic Development program at Cape Breton University. Alicia will be working with Catherine Leviten-Reid researching housing co-operatives, a project affiliated with the Prairie Cluster.

She holds two bachelor degrees from CBU, one in Community Studies and one in Political Science, as well as a diploma in Public Administration and Management. For the last several years Alicia has been actively involved with various housing projects and issues in the region. In keeping with these interests she has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and the Sydney Architectural Conservation Society.



Alicia is the current Vice Chair of the Affordable Housing and Renovation Partnership as well as the Chair of the Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia (Cape Breton Project) Build Committee. Alicia's primary interest is in relating housing issues to Community Economic Development. Alicia is also passionate about sustainable agriculture as a foundational element in Community Economic Development. She is the founder and president of the Baddeck and Area Community Market and, to raise community awareness of local capacities and resources, she blogs about her local food projects: <http://cblocaldiet.ca/>

You are Invited to Join the Free Fall Webinars!

The environmental imperative: Do co-operatives have something unique to offer?

October 20, 1 p.m. Eastern

[Register today](#) on our website

This webinar is organized in partnership with CCA's Member Services department and will explore the dimensions of sustainability in the co-operative movement and review whether co-operatives serve as leaders in environmental innovation and commitment.

Speakers:

Esther Speck, Director, Sustainability and Community with Mountain Equipment Co-op

Maureen Cureton, Community Investment with Vancity
Moderator: Yuill Herbert, Director at Sustainability Solutions Group and Representative from the Canadian Co-operative Association's Board Environmental Committee

Building a Canada-wide co-operative research network: Our tools, our resources, our plans

November 24, 2 p.m.

[Register today](#) on our website

This webinar offers an overview of the current tools and resources available to co-op researchers and practitioners through various research centres, networks and organizations as well as to introduce a [new tool](#).

How do researchers connect-actually and virtually? Where can I find research that will be useful to my co-operative? How can researchers better communicate to produce research that is multi-disciplinary, collaborative, critical and useful to co-operative organizations? How do we link Anglophone and Francophone research networks? These questions and others will be addressed by a panel of co-op researchers and practitioners. Be there for the sneak peek of the new online co-op research network.

Materials from September webinar now available:

Co-operatives Building Pathways to Peace (Ian MacPherson, Smita Ramnarain, Andrew McLeod). The video of the entire webinar will soon be available if you missed it.

<http://cooperativedifference.coop/page/4-Events-Opportunities#peace>

Call for webinar speakers! (including international speakers) Have a co-op research project, initiative or case study you want to share with the wider community? [Contact us today](#).

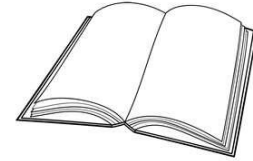
Upcoming Events

<p>Business Succession and North American Worker Co-operative Conferences October 11-15, 2011, Quebec Cite, Quebec http://www.cooperation2011.coop/</p>	<p>The Business Succession and Employee Ownership Conference runs October 11-13 and focuses on business transfer to employees using the co-operative model. The North American Worker Co-operative Conference runs from October 13-15 and focuses on sharing best practices and showing solidarity in building a caring economy based on ownership and control of co-operative enterprises by their workers.</p>
<p>International Forum on the Social and Solidarity Economy October 17-20, 2011, Montreal, Quebec http://www.fiess2011.org/en/</p>	<p>The Forum is held to bring together key players in the social and solidarity economy from countries across the North and South and their partners in government, labour movements, research institutes and international organizations, to strengthen partnerships and encourage exchange.</p>
<p>Global Launch of the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives October 31, 2011, New York City, USA http://social.un.org/coopsyear/global-launch.html</p>	<p>The United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly will officially launch the IYC. The event will also include roundtable discussions highlighting the role of cooperatives in addressing food security, financial and economic stability and environmental sustainability and focus on the unique nature of cooperatives and the resilience of the business model.</p>
<p>The Fourth Canadian Conference on Social Enterprise (learn · share · network · act) November 20-22, 2011, Halifax, Nova Scotia http://accse.ca/eventregistration-inscription/</p>	<p>Join hundreds of experienced and prospective social enterprise practitioners from across Canada to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about the difference that social enterprise makes for communities and how to do it; • Share your experience and ideas with other social enterprisers and supporters; • Network with social enterprise practitioners, supporters, funders, and government officials; and • Act on your questions, ideas or new knowledge – and make a difference in a community you care about.
<p>Promoting the Understanding of Co-operatives for a Better World March 15-16, 2012, Venice, Italy Registration now open at http://www.euricse.eu/node/1736</p>	<p>The aim of the conference, hosted by the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises, is to create a discussion forum that can promote a better understanding of cooperatives' rationale, roles, potential and impact.</p>
<p>Cooperative Responses to Global Challenges March 21-23, 2012 Berlin, Germany Register now at reduced rate with early bird bonus: http://www.coopsyear.hu-berlin.de/registration</p>	<p>The focal point of this conference is the cooperative idea as a design principle and the ways in which it is implemented in practice.</p>
<p>Joint Meetings of the Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network June 25-27, 2012, Montreal, Quebec</p>	<p>See 1st page of newsletter for more information. Updates will follow in future newsletters and on our website.</p>
<p>Mainstreaming Co-operation: An Alternative for the 21st Century? July 3-5, 2012, Manchester, UK http://www.co-op.ac.uk/mainstreaming-co-operation</p>	<p>Conference topics include history and heritage of co-operation, selling co-operation, mainstreaming the co-operative advantage, the politics of co-operation and more.</p>
<p>XVII. International Conference on Cooperative Studies (ICCS): Cooperatives in the focus of a new economic policy September 18-20, 2012, Vienna, Austria http://igt2012.univie.ac.at/en/home/</p>	<p>As a result of the financial crisis a new economic and legal framework is emerging in Europe, and the role of government could be transformed. In this environment, it is also necessary for cooperatives to define their position and face new challenges. The next International Conference on Cooperative Studies (ICCS) will focus on this development.</p>

Funding Opportunity

The Institute for Nonprofit Studies at Mount Royal University is once again inviting applications to its applied research fund. Two proposals will be funded to a maximum of \$7,500 each. Applications should address practical issues in the area of governance, sustainability, or policy. Letters of Intent are due on **October 14th** and full proposals will be due on **November 14th**. The full application form is available on request. Find more information and previously funded research are profiled in the applied research section of the [Institute web site](#).

Contact Peter Elson for more information pelson@mtroyal.ca



Request to Review Books

The Association for Non-Profit and Social Economy Research Journal is currently seeking reviewers for the following books:

- "Toward Contemporary Co-operative Studies: Perspectives from Japan's Consumer Co-ops" by the Consumer Co-operative Institute of Japan
- "Beveridge and Voluntary Action in Britain and the Wider British World" Melanie Oppenheimer, Nicholas Deakin
- "The Social Economy: Working Alternatives in a Globalizing Era" by Hasmet M. Uluorta

The Association has also issued an open call for interested parties to contact the journal with suggestions of books you would like to review and deem important to the journal. Please contact editor@anserj.ca to indicate your interest. ANSERJ, the Canadian journal of nonprofit and social economy research has published its latest issue at <http://www.anserj.ca/index.php/cjnsr>

Hot Spot for Co-op Research

Canada's two national co-operative associations are in the process of finalizing a research [portal for new co-op research](#). The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) and the Conseil canadien de la co-opération et de la mutualité (CCCM) are working in partnership with the federal government's Rural & Co-operatives Secretariat to further Canada's co-op research agenda.

An expanded web-based inventory of existing co-op research in Canada (sorted by topic) is being developed, in conjunction with a user-friendly online hotspot of co-op research and an interactive forum for all researchers to stay connected between face-to-face meetings and conferences. While the portal of research is partially public now, the interactive website (that will allow for forums, information sharing, etc) will be active by November.

Please contact Erin Hancock (erin.hancock@coopscanada.coop) for more information.

Call for Student Researchers (Two positions)

The National Cluster is currently seeking students to apply to serve as research assistants for the following projects:

- 1) **“Survey of co-operatives - measuring longevity, social and economic impact”** project, working with Dr. Luc Thériault (University of New Brunswick) and John Anderson (Canadian Co-operative Association). The researcher will be performing descriptive and longitudinal analysis and writing a research report based on data about agriculture co-ops in Canada with the intent to identify trends.
- 2) **“Co-operative development Initiative (CDI) and Innovation”** working with John Anderson (CCA) and Michael Gertler (University of Saskatchewan). The researcher will carry out interviews with people involved in co-operative start-ups across Canada. Being fluent in English and French is an asset.

Both positions require a Master's Degree in a social science or business administration (or a master's degree in progress) with understanding of co-ops and experience in using and analyzing data sets and tabular information for research purposes. Location is flexible. Contract runs October 31-March 31 2012 or until completion. Maximum compensation for each project will be \$5000 including HST. Submit your letters of experience and CVs by October 17 to erin.hancock@coopscanada.coop

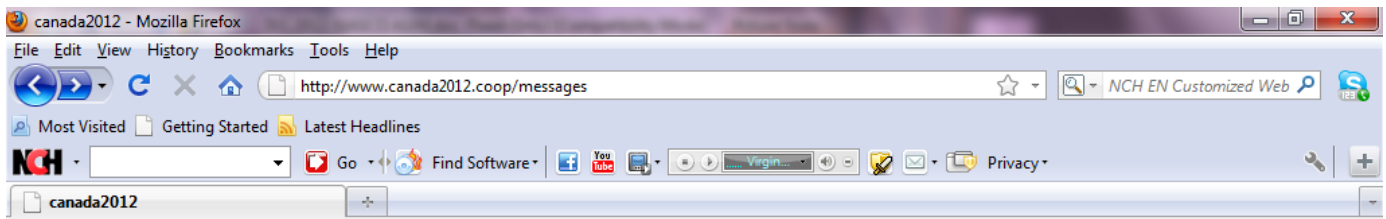
Add Your Co-op Research Messages for 2012 Today

The flashy 2012 International Year of Co-operatives website for Canada features a page to include your ideas and messages about 2012. It is easy and quick and a really excellent way to give more visibility to your work and co-op research in Canada. Let's amp up the postings about co-op research today! Let's include our ideas about how co-op research:

- Provides important information to the sector
- Inspires continual growth, reflection and development
- Provides evidence for the impact of co-ops

VISIT TODAY!

<http://www.canada2012.coop/messages>



CANADA'S IYC MESSAGES



LES MESSAGES DU CANADA POUR L'AIC



New Data Released from National Survey on Co-operatives

The 2008 data will soon be released publicly. The 2007 data is found below from the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat. Click links below to view report.

[Foreword](#)

[Benefits of co-operatives](#)

[Canada's social economy players](#)

[Co-operatives in Canada](#)

[Situation in 2007](#)

[Main activities of the non financial co-operatives](#)

[Overview of Canadian co-operatives](#)

- [Producer co-operatives](#)
- [Consumer co-operatives](#)
- [Workers' co-operatives](#)
- [Financial co-operatives](#)
- [Credit unions & caisses populaires](#)
- [Co-operatives and insurance mutuals](#)



Upcoming Newsletters

If you know of conferences, student opportunities or have a keen interest to write a piece for our newsletter, please contact Erin today (info below).

Measuring the Co-operative Difference



For more information, contact: **Erin Hancock, Program Coordinator**

Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network

Canadian Co-operative Association 275 Bank Street Ottawa, ON K2P 2L6

Phone: 613-238-6711 x211 Toll free: 866-266-7677 x211

Fax: 613-567-0658 Email: erin.hancock@coopscanada.coop

www.cooperativedifference.coop

Erin Hancock
Overall Program Coordinator and
National Cluster Coordinator
(info above)



Nick Montgomery
Western Coordinator
nmont@uvic.ca

Katherine Kitching
Overall Academic Coordinator and
Atlantic Cluster Coordinator
902-491-8685
coopcura.atlantic@smu.ca



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