

May We Help?

This quarterly newsletter is meant to help familiarize you with the services offered by the Central 1 Information Centre. The centre is located in Central 1's Vancouver office, and provides services for the staff and directors of Central 1 Credit Union and the affiliated credit unions in British Columbia and Ontario.

We hope you like the new look for *Check It Out!* The great team in Central 1's Marketing & Creative Services department designed it. To learn more about the wide array of services they offer, please visit their website at

www.cumarketingandresearch.com

This issue focuses on:

Our "relatives" in the Canadian credit union family – In the Information Centre, we have annual reports, subject files and directories for the credit union systems across Canada.

The United Nations International Year of Co-operatives in 2012 – If you haven't heard about this yet, you will! Next year is the year to learn about and celebrate the co-operative system. Details on page 2...

Keep it in the family...

In an October 17 [press release](#), **Central 1 and Alberta Central** announced the initiation of merger discussions with the objective of enhancing core services to more than 190 credit unions in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. As noted by Don Rolfe, Central 1's President and CEO, a merger between these organizations would be another step towards the development of a strong, national organization to support Canada's growing and vibrant credit union system.

If you are interested to know more about the Canadian credit union system, you might like to check out these online resources from other branches of our credit union "family":...

[Credit Union Central of Alberta](#) is the central banking facility, service bureau and trade association for the credit union system in Alberta, representing and serving 45 credit unions. [Grassroots](#) provides a brief history of credit unions in the province. In 2006, Alberta Central produced a review of 40 years of [Working Together](#) with its partners. Read about the Alberta credit union system [here](#).

[Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan](#), or SaskCentral, is a financial services co-operative, providing research, support, consulting services and financial liquidity management to Saskatchewan's 61 credit unions. They have been in business since 1938. Read about credit unions in Saskatchewan [here](#).

Credit Union Central of Manitoba is the trade association and service provider for the province's 41 credit unions. Their [credit union history webpage](#) provides an overview starting with the founding of the first Manitoba credit unions in 1937. Read about Manitoba's credit unions [here](#).

[Atlantic Central](#) was founded on January 1, 2011, when Credit Union Central of Nova Scotia combined with the credit union centrals in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Its role is to provide liquidity management, payments processing and trade association services that support the 60 credit unions in the Atlantic provinces. The [history of credit unions in this region](#) goes back to 1931. The new [Atlantic FOCUS](#) semi-annual newsletter features stories from individual credit unions and news for the system. Read about the credit unions in the Atlantic region [here](#).

[Credit Union Central of Canada](#) is the national trade association for the Canadian credit union system. Incorporated in 1953, by a special act of Parliament and regulated under the Cooperative Credit Associations Act (Canada), Canadian Central provides a national forum, a national voice and national services to support and expand the Canadian credit union system. The Members section of Canadian Central's website provides a wide variety of resources and system statistics for use by authorized users. Register for Member access [here](#).

Enjoy learning more about our credit union system family!



International Year of **COOPERATIVES 2012**

The **2012 International Year of Cooperatives (IYC)** was officially launched at the UN General Assembly Hall on October 31. International years are declared by the United Nations to draw attention to and encourage action on major issues. The International Year of Cooperatives is intended to raise public awareness of the invaluable contributions of cooperative enterprises to poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration. The IYC will also highlight the strengths of the cooperative business model as an alternative means of doing business and further socioeconomic development.

With the theme of ***Cooperative enterprises build a better world***, the IYC seeks to encourage the growth and establishment of cooperatives all over the world. It also encourages individuals, communities and governments to recognize the agency of cooperatives in helping to achieve internationally agreed upon development goals.

The **key messages** of the IYC highlight aspects of the cooperative system which support the main idea of building a better world. Those aspects are:

- Cooperative enterprises are member owned, member serving and member driven
- Cooperatives empower people
- Cooperatives improve livelihoods and strengthen the economy
- Cooperatives enable sustainable development

- Cooperatives promote rural development
- Cooperatives balance both social and economic demands
- Cooperatives promote democratic principles
- Cooperatives and gender: a pathway out of poverty
- Cooperatives: a sustainable business model for youth

The United Nations website for the IYC official is at <http://social.un.org/coopsyear/>. The International Co-operative Alliance website for the IYC can be found at www.2012.coop.

Here in Canada, preparations are well underway for the IYC. A special website focusing on Canadian cooperative initiatives is at www.canada2012.coop. The Canadian Co-operative Association's IYC e-newsletter, **2012 Matters**, provides regular updates on IYC event plans and initiatives. The Co-op Associations in **BC** and **Ontario** are gearing up for special IYC celebrations.

An official IYC 2012 launch in Canada is being planned to include 12 events taking place throughout the country in 12 regions, all on Thursday January 12, 2012. Through web technology all 12 locations will be connected. Watch for details on this very special event which will be released in the coming weeks.

Contact us

The Corporate Information Centre is here to assist you. Here's how you can reach us...

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For further information about our services, visit the About Us section of the Information Centre website.