



# SASKATCHEWAN CO-OPERATIVE MERIT AWARDS

2023

MONDAY | 16 | OCTOBER

TCU PLACE  
35-22 ST E, SASKATOON



*The Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Awards Program, started in 1980, honours individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to co-operatives and credit unions and to their members. Awards are presented in up to four categories, each of equal importance.*

*The Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Awards Committee selects recipients from nominations submitted annually by Saskatchewan co-operatives and credit unions. Saskatchewan co-operators, officials, staff, and members are eligible for awards. The Co-operative Merit Awards Committee members are:*

*Sheldon Stener, Federated Co-operatives Limited  
Lori Winnitowy, Co-operators  
Dawn Johnson, Affinity Credit Union  
Danika Dinko - Saskatchewan Co-operative Association*

*On behalf of all Saskatchewan co-operative and credit union members, the Committee is proud to honour Co-operative Merit Award recipients for their outstanding contributions to the development and prosperity of our co-operative sector and province.*

## *Welcome*

*Sheldon Stener, Master of Ceremonies*

## *Greetings*

*Carla Hirsch, Saskatchewan  
Co-operative Association*

*Mr. Ken Francis, Member of the Legislative  
Assembly, Kindersley*

## *Dinner*

## *AWARD PRESENTATIONS*

### *Lifetime Co-operative Achievement Award*

*Scott Banda*

*Jim Deane*

*Larry Malinowski*

### *Co-operative Enterprise Award*

*Crocus Co-operative*

## *Concluding Remarks*

*The Co-operative Enterprise Award is presented for leadership, innovation, and achievement in co-operative business and member service initiatives for the social and economic development of the co-operative sector.*

*The Co-operative Young Leader Award is presented to young people for outstanding contributions to co-operatives and credit unions in Saskatchewan.*

*The Co-operative Contribution Award is presented to those who have inspired others as a role model, leader, and mentor through the development and expansion of co-operatives and credit unions, and have increased awareness and understanding of co-operatives and co-operative principles.*

*The Lifetime Co-operative Achievement Award is presented for long, varied, and meritorious service by individuals in volunteer and/or elected positions within co-operatives and credit unions.*

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# *Soapstone Carvings & Commemorative Lapel Pins*

*Awards for the recipients are soapstone carvings from Arctic Co-operatives Limited. The arts marketing arm of this co-operative is dedicated to providing support for artists and craftspeople from Canada's North.*

*We are pleased to also present award recipients with commemorative lapel pins, featuring the Co-op Merit Awards Program logo, as a wearable symbol of their award.*

## *Acknowledgements*

*We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following:*

*The video profiles of the award recipients were produced by*



*This event is sponsored in part by the Ministry of Trade and Export Development*



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
OUR 2023 CO-OPERATIVE  
MERIT AWARD WINNERS



*Scott Banda*



*Jim Deane*



*Crocus Co-operative*



*Larry Malinowski*

## LIFETIME CO-OPERATIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



During his time as Chief Executive Officer of Federated Co-operatives Limited, Scott led the transformation of one of Saskatchewan's largest businesses.

Culture, brand, people practices and business performance – among other strategic areas - were revitalized.

Scott is genuinely a people person, approachable and a strong leader. His actions demonstrate how he feeds into the people around him.

Scott has dedicated much of his life and career to furthering the knowledge and growth of co-operatives. Scott lives and breathes co-op. He is passionate about the Co-operative Retailing System and how it is foundational to communities in Western Canada.

Even though he retired in 2022, Scott continues to be a brand ambassador on the local, national and international stages. He continues to believe that co-operatives have a sustainable competitive advantage and that the co-op model builds communities.

Scott Banda has an unwavering passion, knowledge, understanding and fundamental belief in the co-op model and its benefits to Western Canada.

## *LIFETIME CO-OPERATIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD*



Jim Deane has a legacy as a trailblazer at Access Communications Co-operative. He was responsible for the co-op becoming a significant player in the provincial telecommunications industry.

Jim was appointed Chief Executive Officer in 2000. His tenure at the co-operative was marked by strong and decisive management, and substantial community investment.

Jim believes the co-op identity defines who you are. He's helped foster a strong co-operative culture within Access Communications, and notably with its customers and partners.

Following Jim's roadmap, Access Communications continues to grow, both organically and through acquisitions and has proven that co-operatives can be enormously successful and able to withstand competition, amalgamations and access to capital challenges.

Jim retired from Access Communications Co-operative in 2023 after 42 years, but remains deeply connected to the co-op sector and his community. He is a role model to young co-operators entering the sector, and has achieved a career and impact for co-operatives in Saskatchewan that many would be fortunate to achieve.



## LIFETIME CO-OPERATIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Larry Malinowski began his journey with the credit union system at the board of Theodore Credit Union. In the almost five decades since, he has been part of – and often led – the evolution and the consolidation of the credit union system.

Larry's extensive meeting preparation and vast knowledge is almost legendary. Business minded and serious when it came to board work, but with a twinkle in his eye when he was off duty. A quiet, calming person.

In a pattern he repeated many times over almost 50 years, Larry guided board members through deliberations by giving them a forum and the permission to express their opinions in a safe space. Larry's leadership style gently steered the group towards consensus.

Larry's reputation for integrity, intelligence, and living the co-operative values were significant factors in the expansion and success of Cornerstone Credit Union.

Larry retired from the Cornerstone board in 2022. His legacy includes a unique collaboration agreement between Cornerstone, Conexus and Innovation credit unions which resulted in sharing resources like internal audits and developing a wealth management subsidiary.

## CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISE AWARD



Crocus Co-operative provides a safe space for its members, and offers programming that reduces barriers, enriches the lives of its members, and creates positive, lasting friendships.

For a \$1.00 lifetime membership, Crocus Co-op members can enjoy meals, participate in daily social programs and earn income through employment programs.

Crocus members gain dignity and self esteem from doing real work while earning an income that contributes to poverty alleviation and improves their quality of life.

The co-operative model ensures that the organization is meeting the needs of its clientele. At least 51% of the board of directors at Crocus must be members.

Crocus is a partner in a coalition of community based mental health service providers. A vital community resource for its members, Crocus helps to reduce the number of relapses, the severity of relapses, and time spent in hospital. This results in a reduced strain on the health care system and helps to strengthen the community

Crocus Co-op has more than 2200 lifetime members and in 2023 is celebrating its 40th anniversary. by helping people to cope and thrive within it.

# CO-OPERATIVE MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

*The following is a list of all Co-operative Merit Award Recipients since 1980. As we honour new recipients this evening, we also remember past recipients who shaped Saskatchewan's co-operative sector.*

## 1980

Dr. B. N. Arneson  
Dr. Harry Fowler (P)  
Bjorn Johnson (P)  
Dr. Lewis Lloyd  
E. A. Partridge (P)  
A. F. Sproule (P)

## 1981

David Alexander Cunningham  
Evald J. Hansen (P)  
Lorayne Janeson  
Wilfred H. MacLeod  
Dr. Wilson Parker  
Dr. George W. Robertson (P)  
Cecil (Smockey) A. Robson  
Donald G. Tullis  
Dr. George Urwin (P)  
Dr. Clifford Whiting

## 1982

Collin Belt (P)  
J. Edmond H. Bilodeau (P)  
Tobaldo H. Bourassa (P)  
George Burden (P)  
Arthur Doucet (P)  
Victor Easton  
John Hubbard  
Bjorn (Barney) Josephson  
Donald Lockwood  
Breen Melvin  
Walter Mills  
Dan Westman

## 1983

Henry Andres  
Karl Bartelt  
Thomas Bobier (P)  
Verner Freed  
Thomas Hextall  
Dr. William Howell  
Paul Riviere (P)  
James Scrimbit  
Clifford Smith (P)  
James West

## 1984

Everett Baker (P)  
Andrew Barbarin  
M. Leland Brown  
E. A. (Ted) Boden  
Thomas W. Cator (P)  
Jacob (Jake) Fehr  
Paul Kernaleguen  
Norbert Koch  
Walter Nelson  
Harold A. (Buck) Wagner

# CO-OPERATIVE MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

## 1985

Jacob Bassendowske  
Arthur Fuller  
Grover Heavin  
Norma Lee  
Bill Marshall  
John McDermott (P)  
William McLeod (P)  
Ernest Muggli  
Violet & Clarence Pyett  
Cortland Shaner (P)

## 1986

Lorne Dietrick  
Wilfred Ellert (P)  
Stan Ferguson  
Lloyd Gavelin  
Dr. Orville Hjertaas  
Ralph Hjertaas  
Victor Keep  
Alvin Latrace  
Ralph Miner  
Jack Trevena

## 1987

Norman Baumung  
Carl Christenson  
Howard Haug  
Bill Kelly  
Ted Lingren  
Avery Sahl  
Elmer Sjolie  
Keith Sproule  
George Tarr  
Jim Wright

## 1988

Robert H. Cowan  
Emmett Johnson (P)  
Norman R. Lowe  
Albert Mennie  
Frank M. Mulatz  
Harrison I. Sherwin  
Leslie R. Tandler  
Edward K. Turner  
Archibald J. Wells (P)

## 1989

William E. Bergen  
Gerry A. Doucet  
Roger T. Gray  
Dr. Leo Kristjanson  
Ervin Ross Lee  
Robert C. Lee (P)  
Roger Lundquist  
Clint Manning  
G. Lloyd Matheson  
Donald H. McTaggart  
Harry W. Moffatt  
Clifford M. Thompson  
Arthur W. Young (P)

## 1990

Ronald Bishoff  
Ivan Burden (P)  
Wesley Glydon  
Charles Hewitt  
Fred Lowndes  
Harold Olive  
Robert Thomson  
Allan Wagar  
Harvey Wessner  
Aubrey Wood

# CO-OPERATIVE MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

## 1991

Raymond A. Arthur  
Leo J. Hayes  
Alvin H. Hewitt  
James F. Johnson  
Wilfred W. Morgenstern  
George A. Sanderson  
Murray E. Smith  
Dr. Gordon A. South

## 1992

Ken A. Elder  
Harold Johnson (P)  
Arthur Parrott  
Ronald Pike  
Ambrose Rieder  
Trevor Shepstone  
Milford Switzer

## 1993

Eldon Anderson  
James Conly  
Stanley Dwornik  
Albert Folmer  
Lloyd Loyns (P)  
Carl Lukey  
George Murphy  
Garf Stevenson

## 1994

Jake Berg  
Norm Bromberger  
Art Gray  
James Marjoram  
Paul Martyniuk  
Robert Mickleborough

## 1994 (cont'd)

Clifford Murch  
Brock Turner  
Thora Wiggins

## 1995

Herman Boehler  
Walter Dupin  
Don Milne  
Bernard Mundell  
Joyce Rasmussen  
James Van Eaton  
Prairie Centre Credit Union  
Ltd.

## 1996

Harold Chapman  
Milton Fair  
Larry Gislason  
Vernon Leland  
Raymond Luterbach  
John Trew  
North West Credit Union Ltd.

## 1997

Leander Buhr  
Joe Hinz  
Robert Montgomery  
Terry Phalen  
George Potter  
Wesley Robbins  
John Vrabioff (P)  
Federated Co-operatives Ltd.,  
Agro Division

# CO-OPERATIVE MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

## 1998

Edward Gebert  
Fred Headford  
Eleanore King  
James MacDonald  
Quint Housing Co-operative

## 1999

Beryl Bauer  
James Cinnamon  
George Cristo  
Victor Hay  
Bryan Kirk  
Russell Simpson  
Enos Sproat  
New Beginnings Housing  
Co-op Limited

## 2000

Martin Arndt  
Harold Crossman  
Ken Elder  
Ronald Johnson  
Leroy Larsen  
Wilmer Senft  
John Vinek

## 2001

Alex Basaraba  
Harry R. Bastness  
Kenneth James Douglas (P)  
Daniel S. Palsich  
Shirley Ellen Sanderson  
Ernst Wengel

## 2002

Myrna Hewitt  
Victor Johnson (P)  
Norbert Lepage  
Gordon MacKenzie  
Don Slind  
Duroid Textor  
Bryan Tudor  
The Environmentors  
Co-operative  
(Core Neighbourhood Youth  
Co-op)

## 2003

Jim Crighton  
Loretta Eastley  
Wayne Haughn (P)  
Ed Mitrenga  
Albert Phalke  
Vern Pusch  
Daryl Snider (P)  
Bill Turner

## 2004

Kenneth Bender  
Elwood Harvey  
Maurice Kostichuk  
Gene Krepakevich  
Rudolph Leiter  
Marvin Weins

# CO-OPERATIVE MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

## 2005

Dennis Banda  
Louis Bertoia  
Vern Buck  
Keith Casewell  
Joe Dierker  
Wayne Pearson  
Concentra Financial &  
SaskCentral  
Kindersley Co-op Women's  
Guild

## 2006

Duane Bristow  
Ivan Clayton Earl  
Richard Kiedrowski  
Mich Ozeroff  
Joseph E. Parent  
Access Communications  
Co-operative  
Co-operative Health Services  
Association (Regina) Ltd.  
Farmer Direct Co-operative  
Limited

## 2007

Michael Crowter  
Robert (Bob) Allan Effa  
Tricia McNair  
Wayne Thompson (P)  
Laura Vance

## 2008

Sid Bildfell  
Mary Flynn  
Levern Horvey  
Edward Pretty  
William Walter

## 2009

Karl Baumgardner

## 2010

Myrna Bentley  
Ben Chung  
Warren Crossman  
Neale Morton  
Grant Tyson  
Consumers' Co-operative  
Refineries Limited

## 2011

Roger Herman  
Bob Kirkland  
Patrick Lapointe  
Lisa McEachern

## 2012

Saskatchewan Co-operative  
Youth Program

## 2013

Andre Perras  
(Grover) Harvey Heavin  
Sandy Richards  
Ilene Roy  
Bev Maxim  
Advantage Credit Union  
Heather Hale

# CO-OPERATIVE MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

## 2014

Ronald Breadner  
Herb Carlson  
Harold Chapman  
Lori Winnitowy

## 2015

Mary Beckett  
Beth Henderson  
Donald Russell  
Ken Sherwin  
Morris Smysnuik  
Karen Timoshuk

## 2016

Beryl Bauer  
Earl Hanson  
George Keter  
Lorna Knudson  
Marilyn McKee

## 2017

Betty Bauer  
Wayne Kabatoff  
Jordan Lemire  
Pieter McNair  
Dean Walde

## 2018

Brett Fairbairn  
Marianne Jurzyniec  
Gordon Young

## 2019

Affinity Credit Union  
Conexus Credit Union  
Fran Moran  
Morley Doerksen

## 2020

Wes Filson  
Stuart Dryland  
Brad Schultz

## 2021

Kim Schmidt  
Josh Noble  
Milton Kerpan (P)  
Keith Nixon  
Lori Sanders

## 2022

Naomi Seaborg  
Gordon Lightfoot  
Gene Krepakevich  
CSS Pension Plan





Saskatchewan  
Co-operative

**MERIT  
AWARDS**

