

Manager of co-operative services for Alberta association gains notice of international educators

May 24, 2016 — A young Calgarian who opens doors for many exploring economic betterment through co-operation is this year's William Hlushko Award to Young Co-operative Educators from the international Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE).



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Seth Leon is the Calgary-based manager of Co-operative Services for the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association. He was involved in developing the Unleashing Local Capital Program to spur new co-op development. He volunteers in his community as a board member for Calgary Can, supporting recycling and economic opportunities, and CommunityWise Resource Centre that provides affordable meeting spaces. He is also participating in the Alt/Now: Economic Inequality program for innovation in the social economy.

The William Hlushko Award was established in the seventies to acknowledge those who are changing society although they are just at the start of their careers. "Seth's optimism for the possibilities of what can be accomplished is infectious," says Sarah Pike, executive director of ACE. "We expect his influence in co-op development to grow."

He will be recognized at the joint conference of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation and ACE at the University of Calgary on June 2. Joining him in honors is another Calgary resident, Hazel Corcoran, executive director of the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation. She receives William J. Nelson Contribution to ACE Award recognizing those who add significant value to the association. Corcoran has raised the profile of the conference among those in Alberta and government bodies, as well as provided personal support to bring people to the conference.

Scholars and leaders of CASC and the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research will also be acknowledged.

The CASC-ACE Conference theme is Energizing Communities: Co-operatives Nurturing Democratic Practices. It is held at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences from May 31 to June 3. In addition to the awards banquet, highlights include a First Nations, Metis and Inuit Co-op Education and Development panel, a public policy for co-operation discussion, two free receptions about renewable energy and popular education, and tours to area co-operatives and a credit union.

ACE unites co-operative researchers, educators, practitioners and developers in a single association serving, primarily but not exclusively, Canada, United States and the Caribbean. With beginnings that date to 1952, it has helped bridge geographic, cultural and language divides to share education about co-operation. For an agenda of the 2016 CASC-ACE Conference in Calgary, May 31-June 3, visit www.ace.coop/agenda-at-a-glance.

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