

## From the Big Chair



In writing these commentaries, many thoughts run through my mind. This time the thoughts rolling around were Hawaii, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Labour Day Classic and the Banjo Bowl; seemingly unrelated topics. The challenge was taking the thoughts and trying to make some sense of them.

At the beginning of the year, my wife and I took what we thought was a well-deserved break and spent a few days in Hawaii. We went to a presentation where the speaker was born and raised in Hawaii and was very passionate about his "homeland". At another meeting with a born and raised Hawaiian he was teaching us how to say things in Hawaiian. We were laughing and doing our best to have these greetings roll off our tongue. He encouraged us to try to use them as we toured around. As I was doing this, I felt guilty. I started thinking about our own indigenous people. Just like the Hawaiians, these people are passionate about their homeland, language and culture. With the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation I again felt guilty. I have worked with indigenous people for much of my career. My guilt stems from thinking I have not done enough to learn from them. I have never asked them how to say greetings in their language. I have attended some of their functions and ceremonies without fully understanding or seeking to understand the significance or meaning. However, when travelling in another country I jump at every opportunity to learn and try. In a true spirit of Truth and Reconciliation I should make the same effort in my homeland with my own neighbours.

So, you may ask how does the Labour Day Classic and Banjo Bowl figure into this commentary. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the 2024 version of the Labour Day Classic in Regina but have attended many in the past. Like so many in the past, this year's game was a sellout and the largest recorded crowd in the new Mosaic Stadium. I have a brother who lives in Winnipeg, and he invited us to the Banjo Bowl – the rematch between the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. It was our first time attending a football game, as Rider fans, in an opposing team's stadium. It was an interesting experience. Unfortunately, the Bombers won and the few Rider fans in attendance had to slink away rather than gloat.

Again, you ask how all these subjects tie together and where am I going with this. The thing that ties these subjects together is passion. The Hawaiians' passion for their homeland, language and way of life is evident when you take the time to listen to them. Our Indigenous peoples' passion is evident when you take the time to listen to their leaders. Rider fans' passion is evident on any game day. Listen to the crowd in Mosaic Stadium when the opposition's offense comes on the field. Look at all the green in the stands on any game day but especially at the Labour Day Classic. Look at the dedication to cheering the Riders, game in and game out – win or lose. In my first experience in another stadium, I experienced Bomber fan passion. I was amazed at the amount of blue walking into the stadium. Bomber fans are supposedly the loudest fans in the CFL. My wife disagreed but she has listened to me holler at Rider home games. What was clearly evident was the passion of the Bomber fans during the game – so similar to the fans in Mosaic Stadium.

If you will allow me, I would like to relate this to the credit union. I never took the opportunity to talk to my father about his passion for the credit union, but both my father and father-in-law were dedicated to their credit unions, retail co-ops and Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. I am guessing my grandfather was too. In my years in the credit union system, I have seen and heard the passion for the credit union in older generations.

I fear the passion is lessening from generation to generation and with time. I fear that finding the best deal outranks passion for a local financial institution that does what they can to support the community they live and work in. If I had my wish, I would love to see our members and community members have the same passion for their credit union as the Hawaiians and Indigenous peoples have for their homeland; and Rider and Bomber fans have for their team. Earning that passion takes time, service and commitment. We do our best to achieve this through our actions. We understand this becomes more difficult in a digital world, but people seem to have passion for other online organizations. We desire the same passion. We are committed to being competitive in rates. Our fees are low. We have promotions offering deals to qualifying members. We contribute in many ways to help keep our community exciting and vibrant. If you use our services – we thank you for your passion. If you are not using our services – yet – give us a chance to earn your passion. We would love to have your passion even if you now call another community home.

Gerald Hauta  
CEO



**Unity Credit Union**  
120 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East  
P.O. Box 370  
Unity, SK S0K 4L0

Phone: 306-228-2688  
Fax: 306-228-2185

Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

www.unitycu.ca  
Email: info@unitycu.ca




## UNITY CREDIT UNION NEWSLETTER

## CU in the Community

### Long Term Care Donation



*Pictured is Michelle Pilat, Ag & Commercial Lending Account Manager (L) and Carissa Ralston, Loan Administrator (R) presenting the cheque to Brianna Heck on behalf of Unity & District Long Term Care (Middle).*

Unity Credit Union staff donated \$965 to Unity & District Long Term Care! This represented staff donations to be able to "dress down" and wear jeans on Fridays from January-June 2024.

### Ladies Night Golf Sponsor



Unity Credit Union co-sponsored Unity Golf Club's Ladies Night with our Aviso Wealth/Aviso Insurance office with free supper and prizes.

### UCU Scholarships



*Pictured is Gerald Hauta, CEO, presenting the scholarships to Grace Heck and Molly Orobko.*

Congratulations to our Unity Credit Union scholarship recipients from Unity Composite High School - Grace Heck and Molly Orobko! They each received \$2,000 to be put toward their post-secondary education.

### Farewell Danielle



*Pictured is our Board of Directors President, Colette Lewin, presenting a scholarship to Danielle Bowker.*

A big thank you to Danielle Bowker for being part of our Junior Board Member program for the past two years! Our Junior Board Member Program allows high school students to be a part of our Board of Directors. They are remunerated for each meeting they attend in the form of a scholarship towards their post-secondary education.

### Harvest Visits



Our Ag/Commercial Account Manager, Michelle Pilat, and Personal Account Manager, Nicole Headrick, took a trip out in the country to deliver some breakfast to the hard working farmers!

### Donation of Computers



*Pictured is Heather Quiring, Unity Community Resource Center Co-ordinator and James Acuna, our IT Analyst.*

We recently donated 2 computers to our local Unity Community Resource Center!

## International Credit Union Day - Thursday, October 17, 2024

International Credit Union Day has been celebrated on the third Thursday of October since 1948. It is designed to create awareness and celebrate how credit unions improve the lives of their members around the world. Credit unions truly have the perfect business model to make a commitment to members and communities across the world. The global credit union movement is now more than 393 million members strong, and they are served by more than 87,000 credit unions in 118 countries.

What sets credit unions in Canada apart from other financial institutions?

- As financial co-operatives, credit unions are guided by the seven co-operative principles.
- A credit union is a secure and well-regulated financial institution.
- Credit unions are for-profit,

member-owned financial institutions that offer financial services to individuals and businesses.

- Credit unions are local, community-based, full-service co-operatives that put their members' needs first.
- Credit unions give back to their member base and communities through profit-sharing and investing in local organizations and initiatives.
- Members have a say in how their credit union is run. All credit unions operate under the 'one member, one vote' model. No matter how much money is deposited, each credit union member has a say in how their credit union is run by democratically voting for its board of directors. The directors are selected from the membership base of the credit union.
- Credit unions' localized expertise

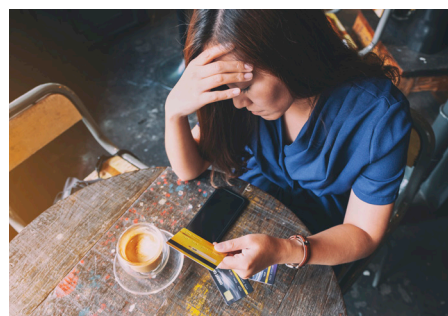
can allow them to offer their members greater flexibility and more personalized banking services than other financial institutions.

### Seven Co-operative Principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Co-operation among Co-operatives
7. Concern for Community



## Stuck in the Credit Card Loop? Debt Consolidation May Be the Answer



The average Canadian is carrying high levels of non-mortgage debt, and for many, that may include a mountain of high-interest credit card debt. Being stuck in the credit card loop is not

somewhere any of us want to be.

Consolidating your credit card debt with a loan from Unity Credit Union can help you get back on track to financial well-being. Instead of numerous payments to different accounts or credit cards with high interest, make a single payment each month with a manageable interest rate. Instead of worrying about how you're going to make all your payments each month, pay off that debt with a loan and get your financial

house back in order.

There are a number of different loan options available to members, such as secured or unsecured personal loans or even borrowing money against a mortgage. Any of the options offer much more manageable interest rates than the 15-28 per cent typically charged by credit card companies.

If you would like more information on debt consolidation, give us a call at 306.228.2688.

## The Origins of the Modern Credit Union System



Did you know that, as a credit union member, you're part of a co-operative movement that spans more than 160 years? The origin of the modern credit union movement dates back to 1844 in Rochdale, England. That's

where the first co-operative, in Toad Lane, was created to supply wholesome, unaltered food at reasonable prices to society members.

The success of that co-operative was based on their principles, which included: "one member, one vote; equality of the sexes amongst membership; only pure provisions should be sold, in full weight and measure; and the allocation of a 'divi' (dividend) to members," guaranteeing that all profits were divided pro

rata depending on the amount of purchases made by individual members.

The roots of the Seven International Co-operative Principles are clearly found in these first statements.

From Rochdale, the co-operative idea spread throughout Europe. The first credit society - the forerunner to the modern credit union - was founded in 1852 by Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen, the mayor of Flammersfeld, Germany.

## Credit Unions in Canada



The first credit union in North America was actually a caisse populaire (or people's bank) organized in 1900 by

a Canadian journalist and legislative reporter, Alfonse Desjardins, in Levis, Quebec.

Desjardins got his ideas of financial co-operatives - of people pooling resources for their mutual benefit - from credit union founders in Europe, including Raiffeisen.

Desjardins saw that credit unions offered a way out to the many poor who were suffering at the hands of unscrupulous lenders and so, after two years of study and correspondence, he opened North America's first co-operative loan and savings society.

## Credit Unions Today

Credit unions are more successful today than ever.

With more branches, more assets, more deposits and more loans at work in the community, the impact of member-owned credit unions is felt around the province.

And, in addition to electronic access through online and mobile channels, Saskatchewan credit unions continue to enhance their offerings to provide members and prospective members with responsive and friendly personal service.

