



# Awards Banquet

MANITOBA COOPERATIVE  
AWARDS PROGRAM

## 2023 Award Recipients

**Distinguished Cooperator** | Doug Wiebe

**Cooperative Merit** | Eva Cameron

**Cooperative Merit** | Allen Friesen

**Cooperative Achievement** |

ANAK Publishing Worker Cooperative Ltd.



Manitoba Cooperative  
Association Inc.





# Award Descriptions

## **DISTINGUISHED COOPERATOR**

This award recognizes and honours Manitobans who have made significant contributions to the development and success of the cooperative community through long, varied and meritorious services in volunteer, elected or employed positions within cooperatives and credit unions. This individual will have contributed to a variety of co-ops, including co-ops on the local, regional and national level. Current, former and retired employees, elected officials, volunteers and members of cooperatives and credit unions are eligible for nomination. The nominee must have lived in Manitoba and contributed to cooperatives and credit unions.

## **COOPERATIVE MERIT**

This award recognizes and honours Manitobans who have made significant contributions to the development and success of a cooperative through service in volunteer, elected or employed positions within a single cooperative or credit union. The contributions of this individual to their co-op have enabled their co-op to grow and thrive. Current, former and retired employees, members, elected officials, volunteers and others who have supported the cooperative or credit union are eligible for nomination. The nominee must have lived in Manitoba.

## **COOPERATIVE ACHIEVEMENT**

To recognize and honour cooperative organizations in Manitoba that have implemented projects and ventures that embody the cooperative values and principles and that benefit cooperative members and their communities. The achievement must be apparent within the last 10 years and have already demonstrated recognizable benefits to the members and community. Cooperative and credit unions are eligible for nomination but must be operating in Manitoba.

# Distinguished Cooperator

DOUG WIEBE



***“Working collaboratively with the Red River board Doug was able to initiate a major asset rejuvenation program ... growing their revenue to \$800 million.”***

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Doug's career with the *Co-operative Retailing System* (CRS) spans 43 years. He has held positions with both *Federated Co-operatives Limited* (FCL) and various positions at retail co-ops across western Canada.

Doug's career began in Rosetown, Saskatchewan in 1980, as a food manager trainee, after graduating from Red River College. Doug's time with FCL included positions within their Human Resource, Petroleum and Retail Divisions, with his final position being the Associate Vice-President for the Regina Region. Doug's positions with the retail co-ops included time as General Manager for the *Delton* and *Assiniboia Co-operatives*, prior to culminating in Winnipeg as Chief Executive Officer of *Red River Co-op*. Working collaboratively with the Red River board Doug was able to initiate a major asset rejuvenation program for their energy assets, re-entered the food business with the acquisition of five Safeway food stores, the acquisition of 13 Husky gas bars, while growing their revenue to \$800 million.

Doug takes pride in the relationships he has fostered throughout the CRS, as well as being associated with a business that gives back to the communities they serve through donations and sharing of profits. Doug has three children; two daughters Ashton and Meghan and son Benjamin.

# Cooperative Merit

EVA CAMERON



***“Eva has been actively approaching all levels of Government to bring forward the concerns of ensuring that affordable housing remains.”***

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Eva grew up on the family farm in Sandy Lake - where she not only learned the value of hard work but the importance of standing up for what you believe in and, if you want to see change, then get involved. Eva’s father was on Municipal Council for many years and her mother was on the Board of Directors at *Spruce Woods Housing Co-op* in her later years.

Being a working single parent of two children, Eva saw the need for a safe place for children to eat their lunch during the school day. She joined the parent council and worked with the Principal/Parents to create a lunch program at Kirkcaldy School. Eva also joined the *Brandon Group Parent Council* and the *Division Parent-Liaison Committee*. She felt that all children, no matter where you lived, deserved a good education so became involved in the *Manitoba Association of Parent Councils* and then represented Manitoba on the *Canadian Home and School Federation*.

As a single parent on a limited income, Eva was fortunate enough to move into *Aspen Woods Housing Co-op* and then into *Spruce Woods Housing Co-op*. Living in an affordable, community-oriented Co-op provided not only her but so many other families/seniors stability.

Fast forward several years, when her children were grown up and married with their own children, Eva joined the Board of Directors at *Spruce Woods Housing Co-op*. She has not only become known as the “Grant Lady” for Spruce Woods but is seen out working with the staff to get things done ie. Painting, building garden boxes, etc.

With the sky rocketing cost of living, she wanted to “Pay it Forward” and help keep not only *Spruce Woods Housing Co-op* but all Co-ops remain affordable. Eva has been actively approaching all levels of Government to bring forward the concerns of ensuring that affordable housing remains for not only this generation but for all generations to come.

# Cooperative Merit

ALLEN FRIESEN



***“[Allen] adeptly transitioned through six different banking platforms, showcasing his commitment to staying current with the industry’s developments.”***

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Allen Friesen is a seasoned banking professional and dedicated community leader who has left a significant impact on his community. With a remarkable 39-year career at *Rosenort Credit Union* (RCU), he has navigated through various challenges and witnessed enormous transformation of the banking landscape.

Throughout his long professional tenure, Allen embraced change and technological advancements in the banking sector. Having started his career in the era of manual ledger posting, he adeptly transitioned through six different banking platforms, showcasing his commitment to staying current with the industry’s developments. As new challenges arose, Allen remained resolute in his pursuit of excellence and contributed significantly to the growth of the Credit Union and support of its members.

In 2018, Allen retired from his career at RCU, leaving a legacy of dedication to customer service. Even after his departure, he has continued to remain enthusiastic about the Credit Union movement and its relevance in shaping Manitoba’s communities.

Currently, Allen engages in various community services and philanthropic pursuits. Presently, he serves as the Board chairperson for *Morris Youth for Christ*, where his leadership and insights play a vital role in shaping initiatives for supporting youth in the community. Additionally, he dedicates time to driving the Morris handi van; an endeavour that has allowed him to connect with numerous individuals from diverse backgrounds, many of whom face various disabilities and challenges.

Born and raised in Morris, Manitoba, Allen has deep roots in the community. He chose to raise his family in the same town, demonstrating his commitment to its growth and prosperity. Despite traveling the world on various trips and excursions, Allen remains a proud resident of Morris, cherishing the tight-knit community that has shaped his life and career.

# Cooperative Achievement

ANAK PUBLISHING WORKER COOPERATIVE LTD.



*“ANAK Publishing believes in building important social capital for its members and the community.”*

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ANAK Publishing Worker Cooperative Ltd. produces thought provoking Filipino-Canadian content; bringing together authors, educators, students, and readers to bridge cross-cultural understanding. ANAK Publishing believes in building important social capital for its members and the community. Each member plays a valuable role as an equal partner of the enterprise.

Founded in 2010 to address the cultural gap found in educational resources, ANAK Publishing produces quality works notably in oral history, children's literature, and creative writing anthologies. ANAK Publishing is an affiliate of the non-profit organization Aksyon Ng Ating Kabataan (ANAK) Inc. and supports its mandate to share, learn, and preserve Filipino-Canadian heritage and culture through resource, education, and mentorship.

To date, ANAK Publishing has produced nine original publications and continues to work towards diversifying Canada's literary landscape; establishing itself in the broader discussion of Canadian identity and diversity by working with educators and advocates in literacy and multiculturalism.



# Past Recipients

## DISTINGUISHED COOPERATORS

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**2022**

Linda Ferguson

**2019**

Mary Nirlungayuk

**2018**

Dale Ward

**2016**

Norval Lee

**2015**

Richard Lemoing

**2014**

Allan Morin

Ken Jenner

**2012**

Barry Gosnell

**2011**

Wayne McLeod

**2010**

John Sandborn

**2009**

Allen Merritt

Mel Willis

**2007**

Stan Scarr

**2006**

Glen Shellborn

**2005**

Glen Tully

Manfred Homann

**2004**

Walter Arndt

David Hughes

Donald Joseph

Pavelick

Maurice Therrien

Kai Winther

**2003**

Harold Foster

Gordon Maxwell

Sinclair

Wasył Topolnicki

John Mathias Lee

**2002**

Jacob Redekop

Jocelyn Peifer

**2001**

Edwin Meyer

Ken Edie

Bill Halpenny

**2000**

Barry Durston

Wilfred Harder

Charles Swanson

**1999**

Lorne Robson

Charles Williams

**1998**

Edward Braun

Paul Hacault

**1997**

Harvey Fulton

Roy Kilburn

Erdman (Ed) Klassen

D. Mac MacNabb

**1996**

George Klassen

Jack Martin

**1995**

Theodore Breuer

Wes Hosler

Glenora Slimmon

William Strath

**1994**

David Day

Maurice Gauthier

Hugh McMullan

Harry Peters

Lorne Strandberg

**1993**

Les Brown

Lloyd Steen

Henry Wiebe

**1992**

Rudy Comeault

Andre Goussaert

Raynald Labossiere

Raymond Siemens

**1991**

Andrij Kachor

Ronald King

Denis Maynard

**1990**

Monsignor Belanger

James Deveson

Alexander Runciman

Oli Sigurdson

Donald Slimmon

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP

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**2022** Credit Union Young Leaders of Manitoba

**2018** The Wasagaming Foundation

**2018** La Coop Vélo-Cité

**2017** Stingers Credit Union

**2012** Natural Cycle Courier

**2010** Evan Bowness

**2008** War on Music Worker Co-op

**2006** Casera Credit Union



## COOPERATIVE MERIT

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**2022**

Dale Pouteau

**2020**

Gary Epler

Sandra Hardy

**2019**

Ernest Fraser

**2018**

Menno Plett

**2016**

Harvey Douglas

Robert Smith

**2015**

Ivan Sabesky

**2013**

Peter Vandermeulen

**2012**

Chris Dzisiak

**2011**

Marcel Daeninck

**2010**

David Kerr

Greg More

**2009**

Sandy Francis

Harold Stitt

**2008**

Judy Bewer

Rodney Crampton

Eric B. Irwin

Remi Tack

**2007**

Laurent Hacault

Marvin King

George Rideout

Emmanuel

VanDeVelde

**2006**

Calvin Shermerhorn

**2004**

John Castle

Elaine Clarke

Wayne Hacking

Eleanor Weedmark

**2003**

Peter Russell Jeffrey

Norma Jean McEwen

Kenneth MacBeth

Rogers

Nicholas Harry

Huminicki

Gary Cooper

Arlene Perry

## COOPERATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

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**2022** Westman Communications Group

**2020** Fireweed Food Co-op

**2017** DSI Tandem Co-op Resources Ltd.

**2016** Western Manitoba Seniors

Non-Profit Housing Inc.

**2015** Pembina Consumers Co-op 2000 Limited

**2013** Urban Eatin' Gardeners Worker Coop

**2012** Red River Co-operative Limited

**2011** Assiniboine Credit Union Limited

**2006** Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre

**2005** Winnipeg Beach Art + Culture Co-op

**2004** Assiniboine Credit Union Limited

**2004** Birchwood Funeral Chapel

**2003** Transcona Credit Union Limited

**2001** Brandon Seniors for Seniors Co-op Inc.

**1998** Winkler Consumers Cooperative Limited

## INNOVATIVE COOPERATIVE

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**1997** Astra Credit Union Ltd.



**THANK YOU TO THIS EVENING'S SPONSORS**



**Arctic  
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**Rosenort Credit Union**





**MANITOBA COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**

**(204) 989-5930**  
**[info@manitoba.coop](mailto:info@manitoba.coop)**