

The Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives presents

# CO-OP CONVERSATIONS

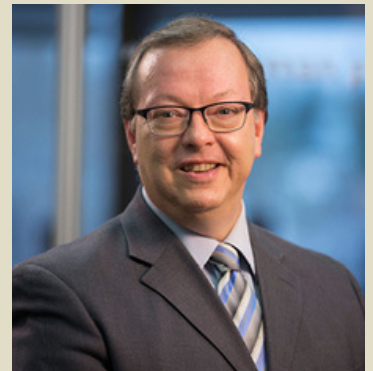
A casual online gathering for co-operative professionals to learn from others in the field and exchange information

## CO-OPS AND UNIVERSITIES: SOME MORE REFLECTIONS FEATURING BRETT FAIRBAIRN

**Date: Wednesday, September 4**

**Time: 12:00 - 1:00 PM CST (Saskatchewan time)**

**Where: In person (Diefenbaker Canada Centre) or  
on Zoom (free to attend)**



Over its 40 years as a research centre, the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives (CCSC), its fellows and its co-operative partners have often grappled with a simple but existential question: what is the place of co-operatives in a university environment? In this Co-op Conversation, CCSC fellow and Thomson River University president (and former USASK Provost) Dr. Brett Fairbairn will reflect on and revisit his answer to this question in his 2016 publication, "Co-ops and Universities: Some Reflections." At the time, Dr. Fairbairn argued that co-operatives and universities could enjoy a productive relationship, pointing to the overlap in their respective missions (service to the public) but also cautioning about the importance of each party recognizing and respecting the other's identity, constraints, and functions. But does the argument still hold? With some high-profile failures in recent years – Mountain Equipment Co-op and more recently the B.C. Tree Fruit Co-operative – and with Canadian universities struggling under funding and other pressures, should we be thinking about the relationship differently and if so, how? Join us in person or virtually (details below) to hear Dr. Fairbairn's updated reflections and to share some of your own in the interactive portion of the event.

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**JOHNSON SHOYAMA**

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