

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Cooperative Youth Program Manager
from Guelph receives international recognition

Youth award winner delivers the cooperative message with humor

MONTREAL, JULY 2012 -- If you have seen caricatures of cooperative heroes and social activists sporting tattoos lately, that's the imaginings of this year's top youth cooperative educator as named by the Association of Cooperative Educators. Guelph, Ont. resident Kerr Smith, education manager of the Ontario Co-operative Association, received the 2012 William Hlushko Award for Young Cooperative Educators. The award was presented at a unique international research and education conference on cooperation in Montreal in June.



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The annual award recognizes young leaders for achievement in cooperative education. Combining talents in animation, filmmaking, and art with a Masters of Education, Smith makes history and democracy fun. Smith recently created the *All 4 Each* project that gives high school teachers readymade lessons to help students work together to reach a goal.

Denyse Guy, executive director of the Canadian Co-operative Association which nominated Smith, says that his project meets a crucial need to provide resources for cooperators at all stages of their lives. The movement had adopted a program for schools created in Manitoba in the seventies, but Ontario later opted to use other strategies. Now Manitoba is using *All 4 Each* and has translated it into French.

Smith is also the manager of the Ontario Co-operative Young Leaders program, a camp that has existed since 1967 for teenagers to promote thinking about being active community members. Helping launch a new program, Smith is developing a curriculum for a leadership collaborative in Ghana for youth from the west African country and Canada.

About the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE)

ACE members are educators, researchers, communicators, and students and developers of cooperatives and credit unions, primarily in Canada, United States and Puerto Rico. An annual conference, held in a different city each year, allows members to learn from one another and their host region, and highlights new learning about cooperatives and credit unions. www.ace.coop

About the Ontario Co-operative Association

The Ontario Co-operative Association is a resource and common voice for Ontario credit unions and cooperatives, with a mission to lead, cultivate and connect the Ontario cooperative movement. Visit www.ontario.coop to learn more.

About CCA

CCA is a national association for cooperatives in Canada, representing more than ten million cooperative and credit union members across Canada. CCA members come from many sectors of the economy, including finance, insurance, agri-food and supply, wholesale and retail, housing, health and the service sector. CCA provides leadership to promote, develop, and unite cooperatives and credit unions for the benefit of people in Canada and around the world.

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