



Audrey Aczel, Communications and Event Manager

In this dual role, Audrey manages On Co-op's communications and marketing strategy, including the website, e-Newsletter, social media, and various print media and publications such as the Annual Report and other co-op resources. Through her communications work, she helps to promote the co-operative identity and encourages co-operative engagement. She also coordinates and executes the organization's conferences, fundraisers and events, such as the Annual General Meeting, the biennial provincial Conference and Celebration (aka "Gala") and the Regional Co-op Conferences.

Audrey also supports the work of other staff in the promotion of co-op development and youth engagement programs and initiatives, and provides support to the board of directors. She develops and maintains collaborative relationships with Members, Ontario co-operatives, credit unions, sector stakeholders, media and the public.

Since joining On Co-op in January 2007, Audrey has adopted many roles and applied her skills to various strategic areas, which included managing the association's Government Relations initiatives for over five years. During this time, she organized and executed numerous meetings with MPPs and key Ministers as well as six Queen's Park receptions, developed grassroots co-op advocacy campaigns, and provided GR and advocacy consulting services to member organizations.

Audrey was also the Project Manager for the Co-operative Internship Program for eight years, where she negotiated and administered the funding partnership with Service Canada that has provided well over 100 interns with paid internship placements with co-operative businesses across the province! Audrey developed eight workshop series conferences for this program, and has assisted in finding full-time employment for many of the program's graduates within the co-op sector.

Audrey studied Communications and Spanish at Carleton University and obtained her Masters in Communications from McGill University in 1997. She has also taken post-graduate courses in Events Planning and Management at George Brown College. She is the proud single mom to a twelve year old girl.

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About the Ontario Co-operative Association

The Ontario Co-operative Association is the trade association and capacity-building organization that develops, engages, educates and advocates for Ontario's 1,300 co-operative businesses. On Co-op is an information and resources network with a mission to lead, cultivate and connect co-operatives. We believe that co-operatives build a better world.

More than 60 organizations form the membership base of On Co-op, which now represents 85% of the province's English-speaking co-operatives. On Co-op celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2012, the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.