



OCA Board Member Profile



Megan Shipton
Youth Representative on the Board of OCA

Tell us a bit about yourself (i.e., your background (where you grew up, education, children, which co-operative you work for, your position, etc.)

I joined the co-operative movement as an employee of Ag Energy Co-operative Ltd. (AEC) in the role of Member Relations and Sales Analyst. My passion for AEC and energy is driven by my education in Electrical Engineering from Queen's University. I currently live in Hamilton and participate in local sporting organizations for ringette, hockey, baseball and golf. I am always looking for something new to challenge myself!

How long have you been involved in the co-operative movement, and what do you love most about it?

Over the past two and a half years I have been directly involved in the co-operative movement as an employee of Ag Energy Co-operative Ltd. (AEC). In this same time period, I have taken my

respect for the co-operative business model and started to show my support outside of the office, specifically when purchasing items at the grocery store.

It is great to know there are so many businesses that are co-operatives or supporters of the co-operative movement, and that there are many ways to support them ourselves.

If there is one thing you would want people to know about co-ops, what would it be?

A membership with a co-operative offers value other 'memberships' do not; it offers you a voice and the opportunity to be involved with the company's future. The impact co-operatives make is propelled by its membership.

Why is your co-operative a member of OCA?

AEC is powered by contribution, caring and co-operation. Working with OCA and their member's offers AEC a chance to enhance our member benefits and grow the co-op movement.

What do you think are some of the benefits of being a member of OCA?

Being a member of OCA allows AEC to provide our members with a voice on a larger, provincial, platform. The OCA provides a unique opportunity to work with and for other co-operatives, while keeping focus on what matters most to our members.

Why did you decide to join the OCA board as a Director?

I decided to join the OCA as the Youth Director to further my education on co-operatives. Working for a co-operative brings a great sense of purpose to my job as I have seen the positive effects of our business. I thrive in the co-operative culture and am happy I can immerse myself in it by participating on the Board of Directors.

How has your past experience helped you in this role?

Currently in my role at AEC, I provide members with insights into their energy consumption through reporting. I have also gained experience informing current and prospective members of the benefits of co-operatives.

I started work in the energy sector after studying Electrical Engineering at Queen's University. Since graduating, I have passed my Professional Engineers Ontario Professional Practice Examination (PPE) and am working towards my P.Eng. designation. The PPE exam taught me about ethics, professional practice, engineering law and professional liability. I understand what professional practice is to look like and am willing to do what it takes to implement it.

What do you think are some of the opportunities and challenges facing OCA in the next 3 - 5 years?

As the Youth Director on the Board, I look forward to the initiatives the OCA has in mind for outreach to youth across the province. As more youth become, and remain involved, the OCA is presented with opportunity and challenge to grow that outreach further. The OCA has had a very positive impact so far and I look forward to the future as some of these youth enter the workforce.

What is your vision for OCA?

My vision for OCA is that the education they have provided to youth, members and communities, strengthens and furthers support of the co-operative movement for this generation and those to come.

Share a fun/silly thing that not many people know about you!

My favourite game show is Jeopardy! While I can't say I would make it onto the show it always feels great when I can yell an answer out at the TV 😊