

Mark Your Calendars

The annual general meeting of our Co-operative will once again be held simultaneously in Access Communications studios across the province. All members, and interested members of the public, are invited to attend on January 24, 2017.

Delegates (individual and organizational) may vote on issues at the meeting. These voting delegates are elected by individual members at biannual district meetings (recently held in fall 2016), or appointed by member organizations. As a co-operative, our quorum is set at 50% so it is important that each delegate attend the meeting.

This year's agenda includes board, management and financial reports. Also included in the meeting will be an election to fill four vacancies on the board of directors. The Board's Governance Committee acts as the nominating committee to search for qualified candidates to fill the vacant positions. Please contact Member Relations if you would like more information about this.

We invite all participants to take this opportunity to tour our facilities and meet with board and staff and learn more about what is happening with our co-operative.

Access Communications Co-operative Limited
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2017
 Registration - 6:30 pm
 Meeting - 7:00 pm

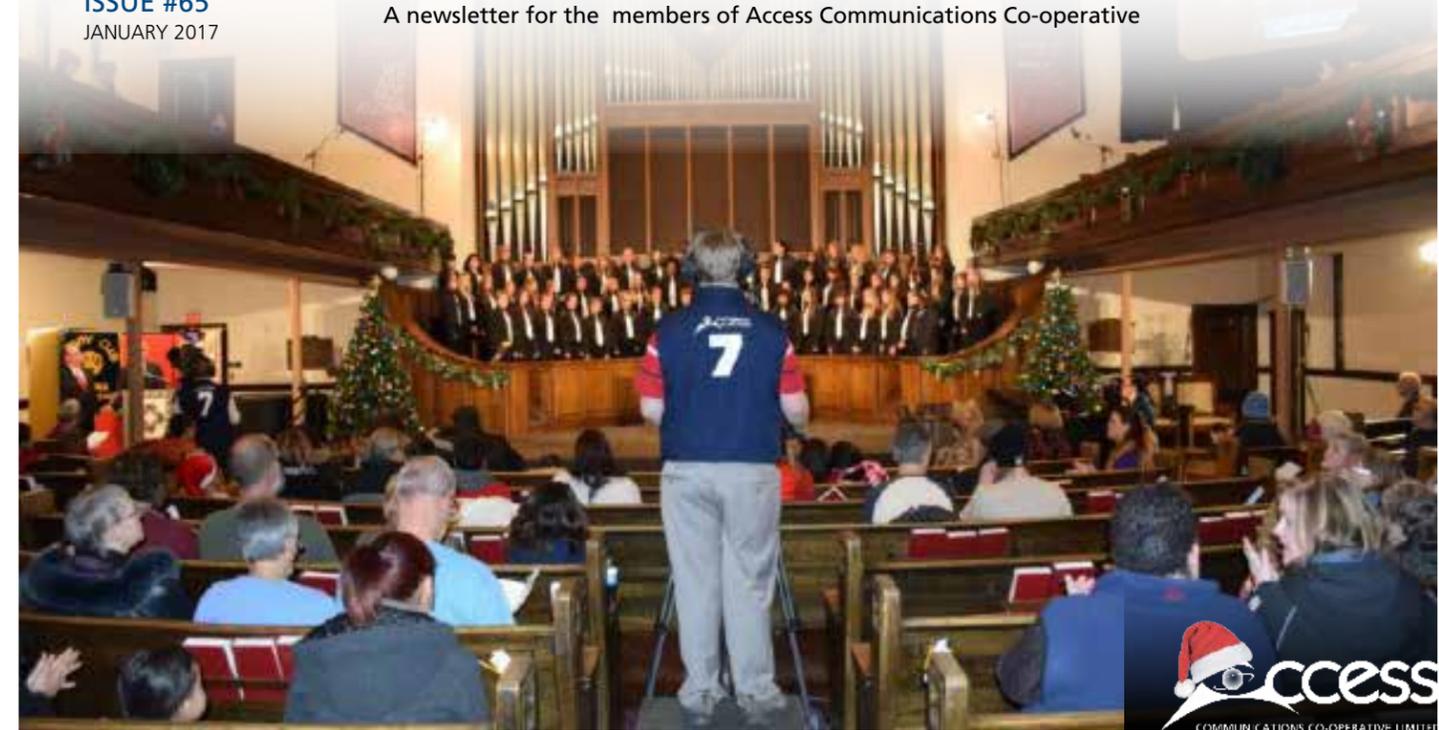
2250 Park Street, Regina
 120 10th Ave SE, Weyburn
 1126 6th Street, Estevan
 1192 99th Street, North Battleford
 22 Sixth Ave, Yorkton
 712 Finlayson St, La Ronge

AGM

YOUR ACCESS

ISSUE #65
JANUARY 2017

A newsletter for the members of Access Communications Co-operative



Access Celebrates the Spirit of Giving

Giving back to our communities is a core value of our Co-operative and for our staff. Throughout the year, Access Communications supports over 1,600 community organizations across Saskatchewan.

On December 14th, Access staff hosted our 24th annual Christmas Dinner benefitting the **Salvation Army**. With the generous support of our friends in the community, our staff and their families, we raised over \$5,000 this year to help those who needed a little something to make their holidays brighter. (Picture right: Maj. Bruce MacKenzie and Access CEO Jim Deane).



In October, Access staff and families volunteered their time with the **Regina Food Bank Food Drive** manning the phones and picking up a truck load of food donations from all over Regina.



The **Access Communications Children's Fund** donated almost \$150,000 in 2016 to support programs across Saskatchewan to benefit children and youth at risk or in need. Funding is made possible through public donations to our registered charity, fundraising by Access Communications staff and of course, the weekly TV Bingo program on Access7. Tune in on Saturdays at 5 pm to check out many new on air features to make playing - and winning- even more fun.

And coming up, the 29th Annual **Regina Humane Society Telethon** airs on Sunday, February 19th. The broadcast features a behind-the-scenes look at the RHS and needs the public's assistance in raising its goal of \$50,000. Tune in from 6 - 10 pm or watch via a live video stream through myaccess.ca.



Bringing Local to You

Access7 kicked off its 2016 holiday programming with the 76th annual **Regina Rotary Carol Festival** on November 28th. The Festival was one of the first programs ever broadcast on our community channel when it first went on the air in 1978. A founding member organization of our co-operative, the Rotary Club of Regina is celebrating 100 years of service in Regina in 2017. We are congratulate them on their success over the years and are grateful that they chose the Access Communications Children's Fund again this year as one of the recipients of their Festival fundraising - helping the Children's Fund to help kids in our communities.

(Above) The annual Rotary Carol Festival live from Knox-Metropolitan United Church in Regina featured over 60 local choirs.

This past year Access7 community programming crews were busy with the coverage of many local municipal elections, parades, award banquets, and sports ranging from minor football, to high school championships, to the 2016 Saskatchewan Summer Games. We supported many telethons including the United Way telethons in Weyburn and Estevan in October. And Access7 televised in HD the first football game held in the new Regina Mosaic stadium to CIS fans across the province. Our dedicated community producers and volunteers are integral to the success of our channel bringing new ideas and a truly local perspective on what is happening in our communities.

Looking ahead on Access7 Sports, follow all the action of the **Regina Pats** with live HD junior hockey coverage for many home AND away matchups. **Rock the House** is featuring the junior provincial finals from Melfort as well as a daily highlight show from the Viterra Scotties Tournament of Hearts from Melville in January. Viewers can also tune in for all the action at local hockey games, University of Regina basketball, volleyball and hockey games, as well as great high school competitions.

Over 50% of all Access7 programming is produced by local community producers. If you have an idea for a show or you'd like to volunteer, we encourage you to contact us.

Go to myaccess.ca for the Access7 schedule in your community.



What's Inside

- ▶ District Meetings
- ▶ Departing Directors
- ▶ What's Happening in the Industry
- ▶ Annual General Meeting
- ▶ Giving Back

OUR MISSION

We are a community owned co-operative dedicated to providing exceptional communications and entertainment services and unique opportunities for local expression.

OUR VALUES

Integrity

We live by our belief in honesty, respect, and trust in everything we do.

Employee-Centered

We enable everyone's involvement, growth and contribution in a challenging, safe and fun environment.

Customer-Focused

We deliver extraordinary value reliably, dependably and consistently.

Community-Oriented

We are an integral part of the communities we serve, contributing to their energy and progress.

Innovative

We create and embrace change that enhances customer service, the community and our organization.

Contact Us

Head Office:

2250 Park Street
Regina, SK S4N 7K7

Member Relations:

member.relations@myaccess.coop
306-565-6640 in Regina or Toll Free
1.866.211.6334 ext. 6640

Toll-Free 24/7 Customer Service
1.866.363.2225

 @MyAccess_ca

 myaccessca

Access Communications Co-operative Limited 2016 Board of Directors

Ken Shaw - *Chair, Regina*
Dale Ripplinger - *Vice Chair, Regina*
Dick DeRyk - *Secretary, Yorkton*
Alan Bachynski, *Regina*
Deborah Charles, *La Ronge*
David Dekker, *North Battleford*
Howard Louie, *Regina*
David MacLeod, *Regina*
Bernadette McIntyre, *Regina*
Hiedi Pearson, *Regina*
Twila Walkeden, *Weyburn*
Brenda Watson, *Regina*

Individual Member Delegates Elected

A series of individual member meetings were held this fall across the province. The purpose of these meetings was to elect individual member delegates to represent their district at annual general meetings of the Co-operative for a two-year term.

Access Communications Co-operative is structured with a balanced voting system. Each organizational member appoints a voting delegate to represent their community organization. The number of delegates elected by individual members matches the number of delegates representing member organizations. This ensures that the viewpoints of the community organizations carry the same weight as the more numerous individual members.

Congratulations to the following individual members who were elected as voting delegates. Your commitment and support are very much appreciated.

North West District

David Dekker
Ed Lee
Kevin Kotzer
Terry Lumsdon
Martin Smith
Laura Ruby Stade
Bill Wells
Nicole Combres
Bruce Yockey

North District

Rob Carr
Deborah Charles
Doreen Polischuk
Jack Senft
Ron Woytowich

North East District

Warren Crossman
Dick DeRyk
Shannon Deveau
Ross Fisher

Central District

Ron Irvine
Bill O'Boyle
Terry Ortynsky
Evan Ortynsky
Juanita Polegi
Mike Stackhouse

Central District

Doug Alexander
Fred Anderson
Joni Andrychuk
Gord Archibald
Al Bachynski
Tom Boyko
Janis Campbell
Nicole Carter
Steve Compton
Chad Cunningham
Jim Deane
Rob Dewhirst
Eric Dillon
Brian Dusyk
Jean Freeman



Marj Gavigan
Larry Gregga
Carmela Haines
Don Hansen
Bill Harries
Wayne Hellquist
Douglas Keam
Pat Kelly
Ken Kulach
Kama Leier
Howard Louie
David MacLeod
Victor Martens
Wayne Matt
Luigi Mazzotti
Bernadette McIntyre
Leith McKay
Hiedi Pearson
Wade Peterson
Audrey Price
Dale Ripplinger
Ilene Roy
Carole Sauer

Ken Shaw
Karen Smith
Warren Sproule
Shelly Steinhubl
Barry Taman
Craig Van Ham
Brenda Watson
Gary Zaran

South District

Brent Allin
Mal Barber
Lynn Chiple
Nick Coroluick
Roberta DeRosier
Wendy Godfrey
Sabrina Kraft
James Lainton
Wendy Hoffart
Jerry Ponto
Jeff Richards
Twila Walkeden

MEMBER BENEFITS

Access Communications is a proud member-owner of The Co-operators Group. Discounts are available to Access Communications Co-operative members for travel insurance; life, health and dental benefits; farm insurance; and home and auto insurance. There is flexibility in the plans offered by The Co-operators and their advisors are available to assist Access members in choosing the appropriate plans. We encourage you to contact The Co-operators to find out more about the discounts and services they offer.

How to access the program or for more information:
Contact your local The Co-operators office directly;
or visit cooperators.ca/memberbenefits



DEPARTING BOARD DIRECTORS

Access Communications Co-operative has two directors who are completing their terms of office on the Board of Directors at the annual general meeting in January 2017.



Howard Louie joined the Access Communications Board of Directors in 2010 serving as Chair of the Board in 2015. Throughout his tenure, Howard demonstrated great commitment to the success of the organization as we went through a significant period of growth, adding more communities and services. His leadership was especially evident on the Board with providing strategic direction when faced with the ever-changing challenges of the telecommunications industry.

Deborah Charles brought a great deal of experience in the broadcasting industry when she joined the Access Board six years ago. Deborah is the CEO of Missinipi Broadcasting as well as serving on the APTN national board. Her perspective, especially pertaining to regulatory and with respect to First Nations issues, provided a depth of understanding valuable to the Board.



We thank Howard and Deborah for their dedication, leadership and valuable contribution of time and energy to our Co-operative.

What's Happening in the Industry

On December 1st, the latest component of the CRTC Let's Talk TV decision was implemented. TV distributors, such as Access Communications, are to provide increased choice to customers by offering digital channels on a stand-alone basis. Access Communications has always offered as many channels on pick & pay rates as we could on a contractual, technical and regulatory basis. We were only required to offer **AccessMicro** and stand-alone channels in our licensed Regina/White City system, but we have chosen to offer them as widely as possible.

Pick & Pay is not for everyone. Customers should be aware that networks have set rates for stand-alone channels and in some cases they are more than if you selected the same channel as part of one of Access's pre-assembled packages. The online *MyAccess Builder* tool provides customers with the breakdown of various options - and our 24/7 Customer Service Representatives are available to work with customers to optimize their TV viewing packages.

Coming up soon in 2017 is the **NFL Super Bowl** - and Canadians may get to enjoy those U.S. Super Bowl ads live this year. The CRTC issued a decision to eliminate the ability of Bell Media (TSN/CTV) to simulcast Canadian ads over the popular U.S. commercials. While strong opposition has been made by the Canadian program rights holder, the NFL and various U.S. politicians, Bell Media did lose its appeal in September and currently it is expected that U.S. advertising will be shown during the Super Bowl on February 5th.

The CRTC and the federal government are launching programs to encourage **Broadband Internet Connectivity** to rural and underserved areas of Canada. Access Communications is already expanding and enhancing our internet footprint in Saskatchewan by building more tower facilities for our Wireless Internet service - and we will be launching our faster HyperSpeed internet service in more and more communities in 2017. With our robust co-ax cable technology and expanded fibre optic cable connections, Access Communications is providing our customers across the province with the telecommunications tools they need to connect with their neighbours and the world.

Lastly, the CRTC is working through **License Renewals** for virtually all distributors this year. Access Communications has submitted our broadcast license renewal and expect to hear more about this early in 2017. We have again requested to retain required funding for Canadian content to go towards the good work that our own Access7 community channels provides to Saskatchewan viewers.

