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[www.ace.coop](http://www.ace.coop)

Quebec-based agricultural cooperative La Coop fédérée  
recognized for leadership improvement program

MINNEAPOLIS, July 22, 2009 -- Critical to a cooperative's success is the quality of its elected leaders, and La Coop fédérée will be recognized for a director education program that has created excellence in cooperatives across Quebec, and other parts of central and eastern Canada at the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) Awards ceremony at The Depot Minneapolis on July 29.

The Programme de formation des élus was created in 1997, and refined over 12 years to include 17 one-day learning sessions and become the leadership development path for close to 450 directors.

The program weights education credits to encourage directors to pursue essential training. It also recognizes directors' participation in information meetings offered by La Coop fédérée, prompting directors to get to know one another and identify more strongly with the cooperative. The program now also has a facet to encourage more youth and women in leadership roles.

Each director receives his or her education activity review annually. Elected leaders earning the top distinction, Level 3 Commander, are honored at La Coop fédérée's annual meeting. "We believe that our program adds value to the cooperative image and that of the farmer as a respectable career choice, while further improving the confidence and feeling of belonging to a network, as well as providing our member cooperatives with a competitive edge," says Colette Lebel, director of cooperative affairs at La Coop fédérée.

Others receiving ACE awards at the association's annual institute are Minnesota pioneer Wedge Community Co-op; William J. Nelson, president of the CHS Foundation, Tanya Gracie of the Canadian Co-operative Association in Ottawa; Amy Fredregill, vice president of the Cooperative Network committed to building cooperative businesses in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and David P. Swanson, chair of the Agribusiness, Rural Electric and Cooperatives Practice Group of global law firm Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Minneapolis.

Founded in 1922, La Coop fédérée, based in Montreal, is the property of its 84,000 members and has sales of 3.6 billion

News Release  
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*Canadian dollars. It processes pork and poultry, and supplies cooperatives with farm inputs.*

*ACE is a membership organization that links educators, researchers, cooperative members, and cooperative developers across cooperative sectors and national borders to enhance cooperative development, strengthen cooperatives, promote professionalism and improve public understanding.*

*Registration and program information for the 2009 Institute in Minneapolis on July 28-31 is at [www.ace.coop](http://www.ace.coop) in French, English and Spanish.*

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