

# 2023 **ANNUAL REPORT**







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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE COMMITMENT OF ACE BOARD MEMBERS, INSTITUTE 2023 PLANNING AND LOCAL COMMITTEE AND TO ALL ACE'S MEMBERS.**

**WE ALSO HEARTILY THANK OUR SPONSORS IN 2023 FOR MAKING THE ACE INSTITUTE SUCH A SUCCESSFUL EVENT:**



**THIS ANNUAL REPORT WAS PREPARED BY:**



# ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATORS

The Association of Cooperative Educators ([www.ace.coop](http://www.ace.coop)), incorporated in 1969, is an international non-profit organization that aims to convene co-operation educators, and to strengthen co-operations and the co-operation movement by promoting innovative educational content and practices to social and economic changes. ACE provides its members a forum to highlight programs and practices that increase understanding, innovation and professionalism in co-operation education. ACE has members all across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean.

ACE benefits co-operation education and the co-operation movement by:

1. Promoting co-operation research.
2. Developing linkages between universities, co-operations and supporting organizations.
3. Building capacity to support the development of innovation and acumen in co-operations.
4. Spreading the word by providing resources on co-operation education.
5. Celebrating the diversity of the co-operation movement.

### **ACE's vision:**

To strengthen co-operatives and the co-operation movement by promoting innovative educational responses to social and economic changes.

### **ACE's mission:**

To provide members a forum to highlight programs and practices that increase understanding, innovation and professionalism in co-operation education. ACE benefits co-operation education and the co-operation movement by:

- Promoting co-operation research.
- Developing linkages between universities, co-operations and supporting organizations.
- Building capacity to support the development of innovation and acumen in co-operatives.
- Spreading the word by providing resources on co-operation education.



# OUTGOING ACE BOARDMEMBERS 2023



President  
**STEVE DUBB**



Vice President  
**GARY HAMPTON**



Treasurer  
**JOHN PARK**



Secretary  
**AUDRA KRUEGER**



Director  
**KATE LATOUR**



Director  
**CHARITY SCHMIDT**



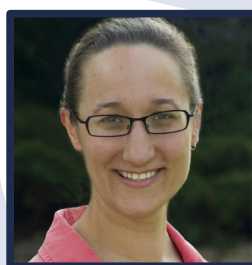
Director  
**JAIME CUEVAS**



Director  
**HÉLÈNE TURCOTTE**



Director  
**EMILY NAIL**



President Emeritus  
**CATHY STATZ**



Executive Administrator  
**JOSÉPHINE ADEGNON**

# INCOMING ACE BOARDMEMBERS 2024



President  
**GARY HAMPTON**



Vice President  
**CHARITY SCHMIDT**



Treasurer  
**Joel Mejia**



Secretary  
**STEVE DUBB**



Director  
**NATALIE KALLIO**



Director  
**JAIME CUEVAS**



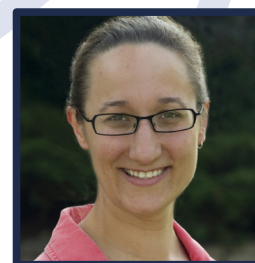
Director  
**ESTHER WEST**



Director  
**PASCAL BILLARD**



Director  
**KATE LATOUR**



President Emeritus  
**CATHY STATZ**



# I) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear ACE members and guests,

On behalf of the board of directors, welcome to the 2024 Institute of the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE). And welcome to Bismarck-Mandan, North Dakota!

This marks our 73rd annual Institute. Our first annual conference was held in 1952 and in three years ACE will turn 75. Thanks for joining us on this co-operation education journey.

Many thanks too to Bill Patrie, whose organization, Common Enterprise Development Corporation, served as the home of ACE for over a half-dozen years and who helped convene a group of folks in Bismarck-Mandan who helped to organize this gathering.

This Institute marks our association's first visit to North Dakota. Co-operators from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and elsewhere have much to learn from our hosts.

Our theme—Cultivating Cooperation—speaks to the rich history of co-operation in the state. North Dakota is home to a plethora of co-operations, both old and new. A little over a century ago, farmers got together, wrested control of the state government from both the Democrats and the Republicans, and through the Nonpartisan League created what remains the nation's only state-owned bank and only state-owned grain elevator. They showed the power of co-operation.

Today, the National Information Services Cooperative provides data services to over 950 utility co-operations and broadband companies, employs over 1,300 people, and has revenues of over \$300 million. Meanwhile, in the Standing Rock Nation, an hour south of Bismarck-Mandan, SAGE Development Authority, the first public power authority owned by a single Native nation in the United States, is developing a project that will lead to a 235 MW wind power facility, enough renewable energy to power an estimated 100,000 homes.

In the coming days, we look forward to your participation. We've organized the sessions this year around five themes: co-operation in agriculture, co-operation and the environment, co-operation in Indigenous communities, co-operation in communities of color, and co-operation as a tool for confronting marginalization. We hope you find the speakers and tours rewarding. We also hope you engage in many conversations during this conference. In this way, ACE and the international co-operation education and development movement can begin to prepare for 2025, the International Year of Cooperatives.

Thank you for making the trip to North Dakota. We know it was not easy for many of you to get here. Thanks too for lending your voice to this vital international conference gathering. Let us come together and co-operate!



ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATORS

## II) ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

With the theme “Climate, Cooperatives, and Resilience”, the ACE Institute 2023 was a really success in Puerto Rico.

We had **101** attendees.

### Co-op tours

**TOUR 1** CABACCOOP - Las Cabachuelas and  
Cafe Cibales Cooperativa de Agro  
Turismo PR in Ciales

**TOUR 2** Fabideas and Cooperativa de Energia  
de San Salvador (Pirucho Coop)

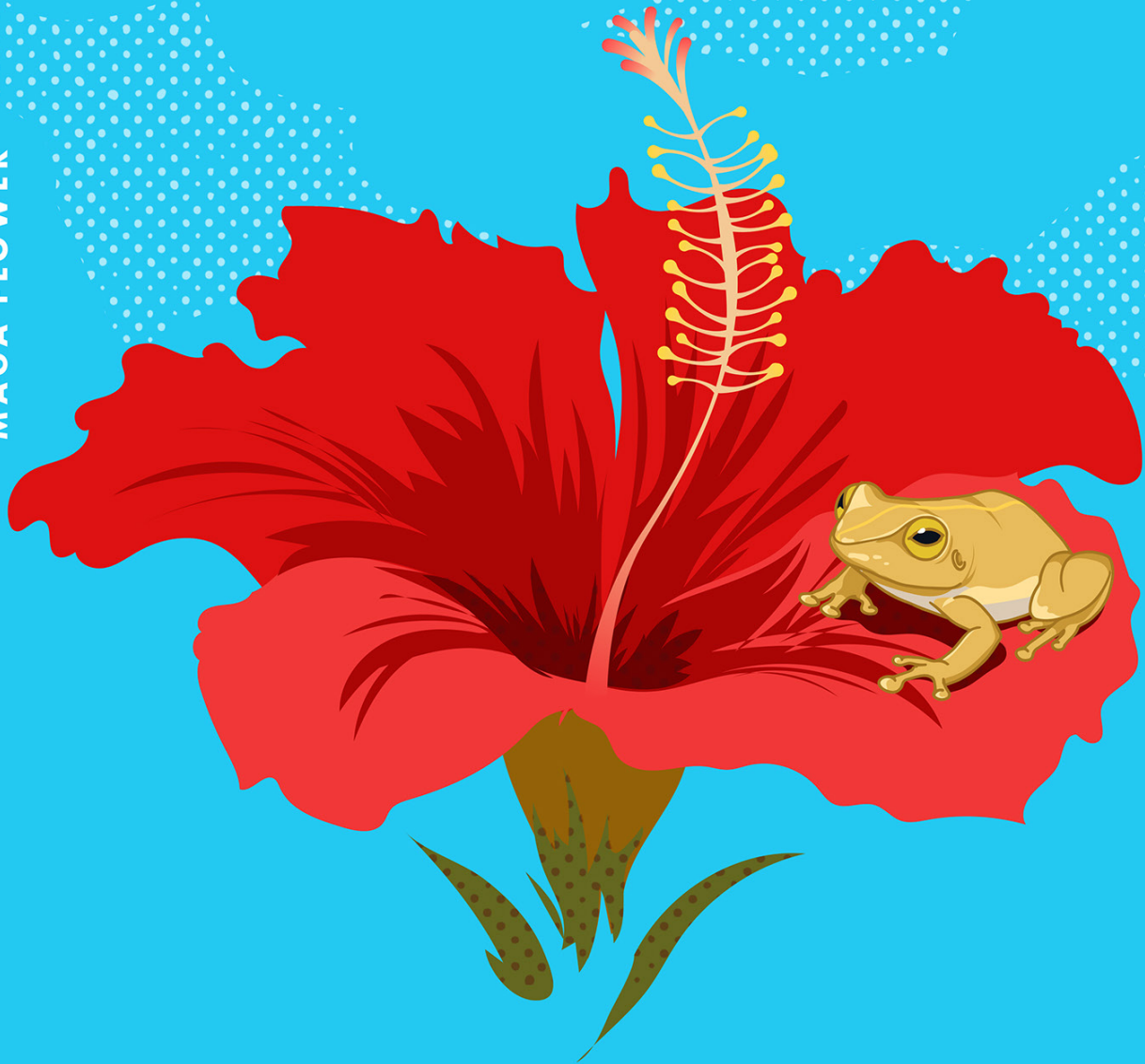
**TOUR 3** Cooperativa de Vivienda Alejandro  
Tapia y Rivera ; Liga de Cooperativas ;  
Instituto de Cooperativismo and  
Cultura Bicicleta



The Association of Cooperative Educators presents

# CLIMATE, COOPERATIVES *and* RESILIENCE

MAGA FLOWER



COQUI FROG



**Institute**  
**7-10 August, 2023**  
**in San Juan, Puerto Rico**

To contact us:

[www.ace.coop](http://www.ace.coop)  
[info@ace.coop](mailto:info@ace.coop)

# THE 2023 ACE INSTITUTE IN A FEW FIGURES

## 101 attendees

Our attendees are **co-op educators, co-op developers, co-op researchers** from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

## Over 15 panels and workshops

about Climate, Cooperatives and Resilience offered in all the three languages ACE aims to communicate: **English, Spanish and French.**

## 3 formal networking events

(Welcome Reception, Banquet, Lunch Open Mic)

## 4-days conference

in **San Juan, Puerto Rico**

## 3 Co-op Tours

to discover the local co-operation ecosystem and the Puerto Rican co-ops!

## 1 ACE Awards Ceremony

**and 3 Awardees this year**  
(Kirstie Boyette, Emprende Coop and Esther J. West)

## 18 Sponsors

(NCBA CLUSA and USDA, Cooperation Council of Ontario, CDF, Seguros Múltiples, Shared Capital Cooperative, Ralph K Morris Foundation, BancoCoop, Seed Commons, Cooperation Works, Co-operatives First, LEAF, Minnesota Farmers Union, Cabo Rojo Coop, RemCoop, FideCoop, Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito Morovena, Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito San José)

## 1 ACE Annual General Meeting

to go deeper into what ACE does and how to join the ACE Community and broaden co-op education beyond frontiers.

## 7 Puerto Rican co-operatives

visited and

## 3 institutions

supporting and developing co-ops visited

## 40% of our vendors/suppliers

for this event are themselves local co-ops (TraduCoop, PR Coop Tours, OldTown Glasswork co-op, Cooperativa de Servicios Empleados Departamento del Trabajo y Recursos Humanos)

## 33 speakers

from the United-States, Canada and Puerto Rico



**Dear ACE members and guests,**

The ACE Institute, an annual gathering of co-op educators, developers, and researchers, came to life in the vibrant city of San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2023. This four-day conference, supported by dedicated sponsors (NCBA CLUSA and USDA, Impact ON (formerly Cooperation Council of Ontario), CDF, Seguros Multiples, Shared Capital Cooperative, Ralph K Morris Foundation, BancoCoop, Seed Commons, Cooperation Works, Co-operatives First, LEAF, Minnesota Farmers Union, Cabo Rojo Coop, RemCoop, FideCoop, Cooperativa de Ahorro y Credito Morovena, Cooperativa de Ahorro y Credito San José), played host to 101 attendees hailing from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and the rest of the Caribbean. Participants explored the role of the co-operation movement in connection with climate, resilience and co-operations to discuss ways that co-operations can continue to meet the needs of communities.

During the four-day conference, August 7-10, over 100 people gathered in San Juan, Puerto Rico for the second in-person annual Association of Cooperative Educators Institute since COVID-19 pandemic. This was a great place and space to convene the co-operation educator community. The energy from the participants and speakers matched the energy of the vibrant Puerto Rico and the local hospitality.

The 2023 Institute brought reflection on the ability of co-operations to meet the challenge of resilience as shared in the messaging by Jose Ramirez Ruiz, who was the keynote speaker opening the conference. Mr. Ramirez Ruiz shared insight about the co-operative ecosystem in Puerto Rico where he serves as Executive Director of FIDECOOP, a co-operation investment and development fund. FIDECOOP provides loans, venture capital and business technical assistance services. His messaging was uplifting and communicated the political, business and economic environment that supports the co-operation ecosystem in Puerto Rico to include the General Cooperative Law that governs the establishment and operating of co-operations.

With the first ACE conference taking place in 1952, it has withstood and demonstrated a resilience to withstand time and global economic challenges, while holding the torch and being the beacon of co-operative education, community and principles for co-operators across Canada, United States and Puerto Rico. This year's conference was no different in the mission and outcomes of bringing people together to share, learn and connect around the power of co-operations to be a part of the solutions that bring people and communities together through trust and collaboration toward changing the world around us.

**In co-operation,****Gary W. Hampton**A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary W. Hampton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.



ACE was privileged to receive an additional year of funding in 2023 from CHS Foundation to continue the development and promotion of co-operation education resources specifically oriented towards youth, students and young professionals. The Co-operation Educators Network (CENet), more commonly known as ed.coop was founded in 2017 as a resource to organize and archive co-operation education resources for all co-operators on an online, easy to use platform. While the website was designed to be used on a desktop browser, consumption tendencies of co-operators had evolved over the resource's six year existence. In 2023, 67% of ed.coop visits were via a mobile phone or tablet. Therefore, a new mobile-friendly interface was required.

By developing new learning paths and by updating the e-learning platform, the primary goal was to align accessibility, quality content and gamification to enhance co-operator engagement in the learning process. The anticipated outcome of the ed.coop refresh was to bring the content to a younger audience, to foster an interest in co-operatives, to hone expertise in the Ag co-op sector and to draw youth and young professionals to a career in co-operations.

To this end, ACE sought to build partnerships with other co-operation content developers across the Americas, in ACE's three primary languages, English, French and Spanish. A partnership was fostered with Grassroots Economic Organizing (GEO), a decentralized collective of educators, researchers and activists working to promote a «solidarity economy»-through grassroots journalism and content development. Their GEO Newsletter, has been a trusted source for co-operation resources since 1991, published bi-monthly since then, and electronically since 2007. In Spanish, a partnership was fostered with La Liga de Cooperativas de Puerto Rico, via their editorial team of the periódico Puerto Rico Cooperativista journal. Many of the resources of these organizations may be found on the ed.coop platform, completely free.

With support from the aforementioned partners, ACE developed a new formative learning path called "Planting the seeds of change". This learning path was created to provide a general overview of the co-operation sector for youth and young professionals, and to prepare participants to take part in job fairs promoting rural and Ag co-op businesses. The pathway currently has 3 modules called Learn, Zoom In and Jobs. Each module consists of five short videos, followed by a quiz. In the Learn module, participants learn the basics about the co-operation model, including the cooperative principles, types of co-operatives, and brief explanations on governance. In ZOOM IN, we have 5 farming cooperatives of different sizes, models (worker/producer), and locations (rural/urban) showcasing the variety of co-operatives that exist within the sector. In the JOBS module, interns from various farm co-operatives give testimonials about their experiences, and recruiters explain the different career opportunities that exist, both for agricultural and non-agricultural positions.

The learning pathway was launched just before the 2023 ACE Institute in August 2023 in order to get some feedback from attendees. The response was positive for the first iteration. The project is ongoing and new materials are being added, particularly to the ZOOM IN and JOBS sections.



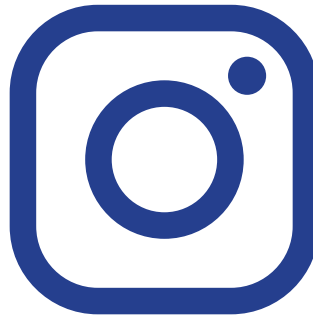
## FINALLY, WE HAVE INCREASED OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY:



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In 2023, we had on **Facebook**  
@ace.educators.coop

- ✓ 14 000 impressions
- ✓ 6 000 covers<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ 793 interactions with the content
- ✓ 137 new followers



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On **Instagram**, we reached  
36 new followers.



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We also  
published on ACE  
**LinkedIn** Page all  
year long to reach  
315 followers on  
May 29, 2024.



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We sent 20 newsletters using  
**MailChimp**.

<sup>1</sup> Number of people who have seen content from or about your Page. This indicator is an estimate. Impressions are the number of times content from or about your Page has appeared on someone's screen (Source: Facebook)

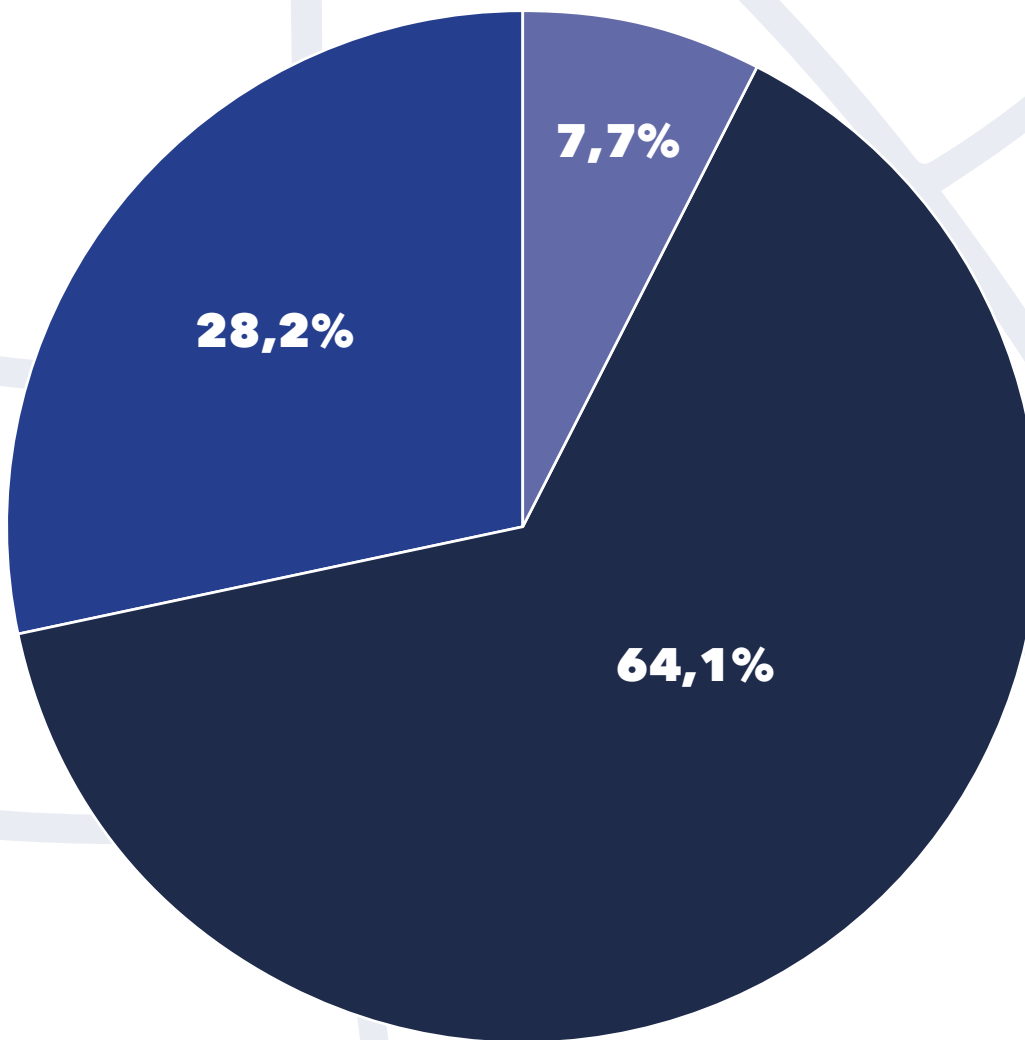
**FINALLY, SOME STATISTICS TAKEN ON MAY 29, 2024 ABOUT ACE WEBSITE:**

	Visits	Views	Logins
Today	<b>450</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>1</b>
This Week	<b>1,448</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>1</b>
This Month	<b>13,611</b>	<b>12,121</b>	<b>11</b>
Year to Date	<b>64,817</b>	<b>58,793</b>	<b>48</b>
All Time	<b>480,242</b>	<b>413,026</b>	<b>186</b>

Membership Stats		
	Signups	All cancellations
Today	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
This Month	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
This Year	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>
All Time	<b>66</b>	<b>28</b>

Sales and Revenue		
Period	Sales	Revenue
Today	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
This Month	<b>4</b>	<b>\$860.00</b>
This Year	<b>15</b>	<b>\$2,190.00</b>
All Time	<b>60</b>	<b>\$9,030.00</b>

**ACTIVE MEMBERS PER LEVEL**



**PROFESSIONAL**

**\$ 100.00 PER YEAR**



**ORGANIZATIONAL**

**\$ 330.00 PER YEAR**



**ASSOCIATE**

**\$ 40.00 PER YEAR**



From all the Impact ON staff members who worked for ACE, we want to thank you, and especially the board members, for your trust and collaboration.

We remain at your disposal for any further support you may require.

In co-operation,

Impact ON







**IMPACT  
ON**

# III) TREASURER'S REPORT

## Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE)

Joél Mejía

Treasurer, ACE Board

6/3/24

Dear ACE Members,

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As we gather again for the 2024 ACE Institute, we take this opportunity to review and reflect on the Association's financial health. As the Treasurer of the ACE Board, I am pleased to share with you that the association showed resilience and growth in important areas, and remained committed to using its finances to expand its membership in 2023. Going into this year, the Board has been in continuous reflection and engaged in providing a vision for our association. I am proud to report positive financial outcomes for the fiscal year 2023.

### Key Financial Takeaway for 2023

#### Increased Income

The Association saw a rise in income due to an increase in memberships, grants, and sponsorships of the ACE Institute, reflecting the membership's strong resonance with the themes of 2023. Total income for 2023 amounted to \$161,358.85 (2022: \$94,983.38, 69% change). This was derived from various sources:

- **Membership Dues:** \$7,908.69
- **Grants & Project Income:** \$71,383.84
- **Institute Sponsorships:** \$19,156.50
- **Institute Registration:** \$59,833.47
- **Institute Silent Auctions:** \$2,845.36
- **Other Income:** \$230.99

#### Higher Expenses

The rise in income allowed for a rise in expenses mostly attributed to the 2023 ACE Institute in Puerto Rico. We were fortunate to expand programs and provide scholarships to a number of attendees, many of them first-time ACE members.

Our total expenses for the year were \$160,879.90, categorized as follows:

- **Administration and Management:** \$46,836.27
- **Grants & Project Expenses:** \$50,669.53
- **Annual Institute:** \$48,867.93

- Institute Planning: \$3,521.40
- Institute Facilities: \$25,932.56
- Institute Food: \$12,440.64
- Institute Speakers: \$6,973.33
- **Other Fees:** \$1,169.33
- **Office Expenses:** \$3,982.14
- **Shipping and Delivery Expenses:** \$369.52
- **Communication Expenses:** \$8,985.18
  - Translation and Interpretation: \$3,372.21
  - Other Communications: \$5,612.97

After accounting for a minor exchange gain/loss of \$1.87, the net profit for the year stands at \$477.08.

### Balance Sheet Strength

Total assets at the end of 2023 were \$120,970.40, with a total equity of \$121,183.93, indicating a strong financial position going into 2024.

**Strategic Financial Management:** Effective resource management, strategic planning, and steady stewardship by the Board in collaboration with Impact ON have contributed to positive financial outcomes that gave the organization flexibility going into 2024.

### Focus for 2024:

The focus for the upcoming year will be on diversifying income sources, expanding our membership, enhancing financial resilience, and continuing to produce the annual ACE Institute.

On behalf of the board, we thank you for your membership and your support of fellow co-op educators and developers. Our co-operation helps us steward a new vision for our world.



In solidarity,  
Joél Mejia  
Board Treasurer



# 1. ACE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ACE handles US & CAN dollars, and we have two separate bank accounts. As a reminder, the budget and reports are given in US dollars. Since our fiscal year starts on January 1st and ends on December 31st, our financial statements for 2023 are:

## Association of Cooperative Educators

### Profit and Loss

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>	
4000 Membership Dues	7,908.69
4100 Grants & Project Income	71,383.84
4200 Institute Sponsorships	19,156.50
4300 Institute Registration	59,833.47
4400 Institute Silent Auctions	2,845.36
4500 Other Income	230.99
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$161,358.85</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$161,358.85</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
5000 Administration and Management	110.37
5010 Management	43,300.00
5020 Institute Administration	3,425.90
<b>Total 5000 Administration and Management</b>	<b>46,836.27</b>
5100 Grants & Project Expenses	50,669.53
5300 Annual Institute	
5310 Institute Planning	3,521.40
5320 Institute Facilities	25,932.56
5330 Institute Food	12,440.64
5350 Institute Speakers	6,973.33
<b>Total 5300 Annual Institute</b>	<b>48,867.93</b>
5400 Other fees	0.00
5410 QuickBooks Fees	488.16
5420 Bank Fees	681.17
<b>Total 5400 Other fees</b>	<b>1,169.33</b>
5500 Office Expenses	3,982.14
5600 Shipping and Delivery Expenses	369.52
5700 Communication Expenses	
5710 Translation and Interpretation	3,372.21
5720 Other communications	5,612.97
<b>Total 5700 Communication Expenses</b>	<b>8,985.18</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$160,879.90</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>	
Exchange Gain or Loss	1.87
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$1.87</b>
<b>PROFIT</b>	<b>\$477.08</b>

## 2. ACE INCOME STATEMENT

### Association of Cooperative Educators

#### Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	TOTAL
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
Chèques Desjardins CAD	50,685.58
Chèques Desjardins USD	54,190.50
Compte chèques	-1,100.00
<b>Total Chèques Desjardins USD</b>	<b>53,090.50</b>
Chèques Heartland USD	2,647.16
Desjardins Compte Epargne CAD	57.60
Marché monétaire Heartland USD	5.46
Épargne Heartland USD	6.96
Undeposited Funds	760.00
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalent</b>	<b>\$107,253.26</b>
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	14,986.01
Accounts Receivable (A/R) - USD	-1,268.87
<b>Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)</b>	<b>\$13,717.14</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$120,970.40</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$120,970.40</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	28,659.85
<b>Total Accounts Payable (A/P)</b>	<b>\$28,659.85</b>
GST/HST Payable	-28,873.38
GST/HST Suspense	0.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ -213.53</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ -213.53</b>
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	-47,381.48
Retained Earnings	168,088.31
Profit for the year	477.10
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$121,183.93</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$120,970.40</b>

## **IV) CONCLUSION**

Since 1952, the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) has been sharing education and training. 2023 was not an exception and the missions were fully achieved.

The ACE Institute is a big part of it thanks to all our talented speakers, attendees and the support of our sponsors and access to scholarships.

We rely on all those insights in ACE Communication making great increases in the social media activities happening.

As ACE members, you are part of it. Your role is crucial to keep it evolving, to share and spread the word about co-operation. Education about co-operation has been a vital part of the success of collaborative organizations since their inception.

## **V) RECOMMENDATION**

Thank you for your support in the engagement of new Board Members and your dedication to the onboarding process. Your assistance ensured the governance of the Association for what is to come.



