

Making money while you bank? Members share in our profits! **\$80,000** returned to members in 2023

PLUS: 3.00% DIVIDEND PAID TO QUALIFYING MEMBERS

As a **member-owned cooperative**, Belgian-Alliance Credit Union has put **people before profits** for 85 years and counting

Your Board of Directors is proud to announce a Patronage rebate and Dividends on all qualifying surplus shares held at the credit union for this past year.

2023 Patronage Payment of \$80,000

We are pleased to announce that **Belgian-Alliance Credit Union is paying members \$80,000** in a patronage distribution for 2023. As noted above, this payment is our way of returning supplementary profits to our members. It is calculated based on the amount of interest paid and earned during the year. All payments will be credited this spring to your surplus share accounts.

2023 Dividend of \$34,141

We are also pleased to report that BACU has once again paid a dividend on surplus shares. The 2023 dividend is 3.00%, which comes to \$34,141. Payments are credited to the share account on which the dividend is calculated.

What is Patronage?

Patronage is a payment we provide to our members representing a portion of the credit union's profit — a refund based on the interest a member has paid on their loans and interest earned on savings and investments. The more you use BACU's products and services throughout the year, the larger your patronage dividend. It's a little something extra we provide to our owners as a Thank You!

Joanne Mercier

Chair, Board of Directors

Since 2008, BACU has returned over \$1.77 million to members!



BACU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 23 Registration 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:00 p.m.

NORWOOD HOTEL • 112 MARION STREET

**Mark your
calendar!**

See insert for details

BACU FAMILY **SATURDAY**
SHRED DAY **MAY 4**

1177 Portage Avenue | 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

SUPPORTING


HARVEST

Don't miss it! See insert for details!

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**



Cybersecurity Awareness



As the use of technology increases in our daily lives, it offers us convenience at our fingertips and access to a multitude of apps, services, and programs. With all the benefits technology provides, though, it also increases the risk of cybercrime, which is becoming more and more prevalent every day.

Here are some tips to help stay safe online as our use of digital devices and resources continues to increase.

General Safety Tips

- Keep devices and software up to date with the latest security upgrades.
- Use Anti-virus programs.
- Use a secure network and avoid using public WiFi.

Password Tips

- Use strong passwords with more than 12 characters, including letters, numbers, and special characters.
- Do not choose passwords that can be easily guessed.
- Change passwords regularly.
- Do not use the same password for multiple applications.
- Never share your passwords.
- Use multifactor authentication when available.
- Set up automatic alerts, to notify you of account login, password changes, etc.



Belgian Credit Union's new building shortly after it opened in 1975

Celebrating 85 Years

While it has been 16 years since Belgian and Alliance credit unions merged to create the Belgian-Alliance Credit Union you know today, this year marks the 85th anniversary of the financial cooperative where it all began. Belgian Sacred Hearts Society was founded by Reverend Father Damas-Van Dyck on February 17, 1939 to serve the financial needs of local parishioners, thus establishing the 'roots' of our credit union.

The credit union has transformed over the years, opening the bond of membership and merging with various original founding credit unions, but we remember why we were formed and remain committed to being there for every member.

From past to present, through strong leadership from Boards of Directors, Presidents/Chairs, Chief Executive Officers, Senior Management, and dedicated staff, BACU continues to live the co-operative values, putting members first and being there to help support them on their financial journey — all with a personal touch.

We are proud to acknowledge this truly remarkable milestone that is such a rich part of the heritage of Belgian-Alliance Credit Union.

From left: BACU employees making a difference at West End Biz Sweep Off, Shred Day again, and Folklorama



Living our co-operative values by giving back to our community!

BACU employees kept busy again in 2023, as volunteers and generous contributors to community events. In addition to our popular **Shred Day** on May 6, which collected 618 lbs. of food and raised over \$1,400 for Harvest Manitoba, and the **West End Biz Sweep Off** on April 18, BACU supported the good work of these community organizations in 2023:





From left: **Marissa Wagner**, Branch Manager, Provencher Branch; **Engelbert Leon**, Branch Manager, Jefferson Branch; and **Helder Sousa**, Wealth Advisor & Retail Branch Manager, Portage Branch

Meet BACU's Branch Managers

Belgian-Alliance Credit Union is proud to have three designated Branch Managers with combined experience of over 75 years! They are dedicated to providing personal and professional service to members, and understand the importance of building strong relationships — not only with members, but also with their staff. It is through their mentorship, support, guidance, and education that their staff continue to develop their knowledge and skills, providing an increased level of member service. The managers and staff at BACU are committed to providing personalized service, and are here to help members meet their financial goals. From lending and investments to everyday banking, we are here for you.

What's important to YOU, matters to US!



BACU's new look

Members can expect to start seeing more of our updated and modern-style 'myBACU' logo on items such as member statements, envelopes, letterhead, and business cards.

Until our transition to the new logos is complete, you may continue to see some areas that have the familiar Belgian-Alliance Credit Union logo ▾



Our Member Card is getting a makeover, too, with a clean, modern design featuring BACU's colours, the 'myBACU' logo, and a distinctive red edge to easily identify your Member Card in your wallet.

We are excited to share a sneak peek with you!



Members can anticipate receiving their newly designed BACU Member Card by mail when it's time to renew their current card

Portage Branch Renovations

As we announced in last year's *Member Advantage* newsletter, a remodel of our branch at 1177 Portage Avenue began in the spring of 2023.

We are happy to share that the renovations have been completed, with a new main floor layout that offers more functionality and privacy for members. We are also pleased to share that the new location of our walk-up ATM provides members access 24 hours a day.

We thank you for your patience throughout the renovation process and look forward to welcoming you in our newly designed branch.





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Mastercard®



Introducing **CardWise**, the new way to manage your BACU credit card with ease and security. Use the mobile app or online platform to view your balance, customize transaction alerts and controls, block merchants, and more — all in one place. Make the switch from MyCardInfo today! Visit **cardwiseonline.ca** or download the CardWise app from your phone's app store to make the smart move for your credit card.

Don't have a BACU Mastercard?

Explore our suite of personal and business cards from Mastercard, with generous rewards and benefits, to find the card that fits your needs!

Apply in branch or at **mybacu.ca**

* Terms and Conditions apply — visit **mybacu.ca** for details
Mastercard is a registered trademark, and the circles design is a trademark of Mastercard International Incorporated



Unlock up to **5,000** Welcome Points after your first purchase when you sign up for a new BACU Mastercard!

Do you have RSPs, TFSAs or RIFs with BACU?

Your **designation of beneficiary** by means of a designation form will not be revoked or changed automatically by any future marriage or divorce. Should you wish to change your beneficiary in the event of a future marriage or divorce, you will have to do so by means of a new designation.

Don't Forget...

If you've moved, or changed your phone number or email address, be sure to let us know so we can update your information.

Thank you!

The **Member Advantage** newsletter is published to inform members about financial matters and the credit union's activities.

Your comments and story ideas are welcome. Send or bring them to any branch, or email to: **info@bacumail.ca**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Martin Trudeau

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Kevin Baun

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Iurii Zhuk

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Joanne Mercier

VICE-CHAIR

John Vandewater

CORPORATE SECRETARY

Marc Lemoine

Bohdana Bashuk

Remi Brengman

Tom Daeninck

Ian Dunne

Rachelle Needham

Ron Wersch

Credit Union Holidays 2024

ALL BRANCHES CLOSED

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Monday, May 20 | Victoria Day |
| Monday, July 1 | Canada Day |
| Monday, August 5 | Terry Fox Day |
| Monday, September 2 | Labour Day |
| Monday, September 30 | National Day for Truth & Reconciliation |
| Monday, October 14 | Thanksgiving Day |
| Monday, November 11 | Remembrance Day |
| Wednesday, December 25 | Christmas Day |
| Thursday, December 26 | Boxing Day |

Branches will close at 1:30 pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31



Surcharge-free cash withdrawals 365 days a year at more than 200 credit union ATMs in Manitoba!