

Call for nominations to BACU board of directors



We are seeking nominations of qualified candidates to represent our membership and run for election to our Board of Directors. As part of our board, these individuals ensure the credit union respects a high level of governance and establish our strategic objectives while planning for the future.

Nominees must meet certain criteria in order to serve on the board, some of which are:

- The nominee must be 18 years of age or older.
- The nominee must be a member of BACU for more than a year and conduct a major portion of their banking business with the credit union.
- The nominee must comply with the Belgian-Alliance Credit Union Criminal Record Check provision.*
- The nominee cannot be an undischarged bankrupt.

Application forms and more information are available from the BACU Nominating Committee, who can be reached by email at nominations@bacumail.ca or by contacting Martin Trudeau, CEO, at (204) 927-0482.

* All nominations and related documentation, including Criminal Record Check, must be received by no later than 2:00 P.M. CST on December 31, 2014

If you are considering running for election to the BACU Board of Directors, give us a call

We're on Board. Are you?

Credit unions, members gear up to celebrate International Credit Union Day

Each year on the third Thursday of October, credit unions around the world join together to celebrate International Credit Union Day. This year, Credit Union Day will take place October 16.

Credit Union Day began in 1948 as a way to acknowledge the credit union movement's history and celebrate its achievements. The goal of the day is to raise awareness of the work credit unions do locally and internationally.

Fittingly, the theme for Credit Union Day in 2014 is "Local Service. Global Good." On October 16, 208 million credit union members from 103 different countries will come together to celebrate with open houses, picnics, fairs, festivals, parades and other activities.

This year, Belgian-Alliance Credit Union will be marking International Credit Union Day by serving Jeanne's cake and coffee in each of our facilities throughout the day. This year we are also celebrating our 75th year anniversary and invite you to join us for the festivities!



Local Service.
GLOBAL GOOD.[™]
INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY[®]
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Time to Tune Out the Noise

We live in an age of constant information. We're bombarded 24/7 by economic news — much of it confusing and contradictory — and all this news can easily raise your anxiety level as you worry about how it might be affecting your investments.

Yet much of what you hear is just “noise.” Focusing too much on it can detract from your long-term investment strategy and cause you to consider moves that might be harmful to your portfolio. Here's why it's wiser to tune it out:

- Knee-jerk reactions to temporary economic news can lead to the wrong investment moves. Making decisions based on short-term events is a form of market timing, an ill-advised strategy that seldom produces satisfactory results.
- Sticking with a strategy based on sound fundamentals and a longer-term time horizon can smooth out the temporary ups and downs.
- A number of factors determine investment success. Successful investing isn't about forecasting the economy; it's about finding high-quality companies with long-term potential.

It's also about creating and maintaining a diversified portfolio with the right mix of safety, income, and growth to help you achieve your long-term goals while weathering all kinds of economic climates.

Our Wealth Management Advisor, Erin Fitzgerald, can help you discern what's pertinent from the noise and keep your investment plan on track so you can have peace of mind.

To reach Erin directly, call 204-293-0179 or email wealth@bacumail.ca

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Erin Fitzgerald
Wealth Management Advisor

TFSA withdrawal issue causing headaches for many account holders

Since being introduced by the federal government in 2009, Tax Free Savings Accounts (TFSAs) have quickly grown to become one of the savings vehicles of choice among Canadians. Millions of Canadians have opened a TFSA, which is a flexible, registered, general-purpose savings account that allows Canadians to earn tax-free investment income. The TFSA was designed to complement existing registered savings plans like the Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP) and the Registered Education Savings Plans (RESP).

However, while TFSAs are an attractive option for saving money, there are rules you must keep in mind. One particular rule that has caused headaches for

thousands of Canadians relates to making withdrawals from TFSAs and when you can replace the money.

According to the regulations on TFSAs, account holders can replace withdrawn funds only in a later calendar year. If withdrawn funds are replaced in the same calendar year they can be subject to a tax hit for overcontributions. According to the Canada Revenue Agency, this rule caught 54,700 taxpayers off guard in 2013. Those taxpayers were told they face a penalty.

If you're interested in a TFSA or have questions about your existing account, we'd be happy to help. Please feel free to drop by or contact any BACU branch for assistance.

Community Involvement

Community involvement is important, and nobody knows that better than Belgian-Alliance Credit Union! Here are just a few of the ways we have given back to the communities that we serve in recent weeks.

Jefferson Branch Supports Community Book Drive

In keeping with our credit union's ongoing efforts to support community initiatives, our Jefferson branch held a book drive during the month of August in support of Seven Oaks General Hospital.

The book drive sought out gently used novels, non-fiction books, cookbooks and children's books for the hospital's book sale, which is held annually in support of their Summer Youth Volunteer Program. The volunteer program aids in patient care as well as providing support to staff at Seven Oaks Hospital.

Thanks to many generous donations from both members and staff, the Jefferson branch was able to donate five large (and heavy!) boxes of literature to this worthwhile cause. The book sale was held on August 26, 27 and 28 at the Seven Oaks General Hospital.

Belgian-Alliance Staff Lace 'em Up for Terry Fox Run

Braving the brisk morning temperatures that have characterized the late summer of 2014, Belgian-Alliance Credit Union staff showed their support at the 34th annual Terry Fox Run at Assiniboine Park on Sunday, September 14. Our team included three employees (shown left to right): **Warren Banks** (FSO, Provencher), **Gurpreet Sidhu** (MSR) and **Kattie Capulong** (MSR, Provencher). Gurpreet completed the 5K run and Warren and Kattie participated in the 10K run. Way to go guys!

A donation was made to the Terry Fox Foundation by Belgian-Alliance Credit Union.



CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

Punjab Cultural Centre Grand Opening

Belgian-Alliance Credit Union showed their support for the East Indian community at the grand opening of the Punjab Cultural Centre on Friday, September 19. Located at 1770 King Edward Street, the brand new community centre is home to facilities that include, among other things, three multi-purpose halls, a restaurant, shopping mall and daycare.

We wish the Centre much success and all the best for the future!

BACU Staff Help Raise Awareness of Multiple Myeloma

Belgian-Alliance Credit Union staff were on site at the Norwood Community Centre on Sunday, September 21 at the 4th annual Multiple Myeloma March, a 5K event with participants running, walking, or otherwise raising awareness towards the cause. Multiple Myeloma is a rare cancer of the bone marrow and affects the production of red cells, white cells and platelets.

BACU sponsored the event at a corporate level and sent a team of four employees (left to right): **Reece Needham** (MSR), **Warren Banks** (FSO, Provencher), **Cali Hitch** (Administrative Coordinator, Head Office), and **Kim Wiebe** (FSO, Provencher).

All funds raised by Team Belgian-Alliance and other participants will go towards improving myeloma patients' lives and promoting research to find a cure for this fatal disease.



Family Shred Day another huge success

It rained throughout much of the day, but that didn't dampen spirits as Belgian-Alliance Credit Union's 4th annual Family Shred Day on Saturday, September 20 was an enormous success.

A total of 167 families from communities across Winnipeg gathered at the Portage branch to take advantage of free shredding services. Family fun events included a balloon-twisting children's performance by Mago the Magician and face painting by Dee Dee the Clown. Volunteers from the West End BIZ helped organize food donations and pitched in with balloon art and face painting as well.

Winnipeg's well-known generosity was demonstrated through the massive collection of cash and food donations to Winnipeg Harvest. We collected a whopping 644 pounds of food, far exceeding the amount donated last year. A hot dog sale brought in even more donations to Winnipeg Harvest, with cash donations totaling \$1,193.55! David Northcott, Executive Director of Winnipeg Harvest, stopped by to give thanks and show his support of this fundraising initiative.

Overall, we are extremely thankful for the outpouring of generosity shown by everyone who attended despite the rainy weather. We would like to thank everyone for their support and assistance in making this year's Shred Day so successful. The staff and Board of Belgian-Alliance enjoyed hosting this event and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



Photo from deedeetheclown.com



TELEPHONE BANKING UPGRADES

Members encountering delays in reaching BACU's automated Telephone Banking service are asked to *please try again until you receive a successful connection*

Scheduled service interruptions

Four brief maintenance-related service interruptions are scheduled to take place in October, as follows:

- **Wednesday, October 8** beginning at 8:00 am (ATM & Internet banking — approximately 30 minutes)
- **Thursday, October 9** beginning at 8:00 am (ATM & Internet banking — approximately 30 minutes)
- **Wednesday, October 15** beginning at 8:00 am (ATM & Internet banking — approximately 30 minutes)
- **Thursday, October 23** beginning at 6:00 pm (ATM, Internet and telephone banking — overnight)

BACU successfully performed similar maintenance on June 24, August 28 and September 25.

Periodic maintenance is required to ensure that all systems that affect the credit union's functionality are running at full potential. Disruption to members has been minimal but we do encourage you to contact your branch if you're affected by this maintenance.



The **Member Advantage** newsletter is published quarterly 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 e-mail to: info@bacumail.ca

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