



NEWS FROM BELGIAN-ALLIANCE CREDIT UNION

\$875,000 since 2008 \$70,000 patronage refund returned to members for 2013

Dear Belgian-Alliance
Credit Union members:

In an effort to reward YOU, our members, for your continual support, the board of directors is proud to once again declare a patronage refund, with Belgian-Alliance Credit Union returning \$70,000 to you, its owners, for 2013. Since its creation in 2008, Belgian-Alliance Credit Union has declared patronage totaling \$875,000.

Although many credit unions have discontinued the practice of issuing patronage refunds, your board believes that allowing our members to share in profits is one of the cornerstones of the credit union system. As such, our declared patronage will be paid to each member based on the amount of interest paid to the credit union (loans) and the amount of interest earned (deposits).

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the board has also approved a dividend payment of 2.75% of any outstanding shares, which were credited your account last December. This payment represents just one more benefit of belonging to our credit union.

We, the board of directors, appreciate your continued support. We look to continue rewarding our membership in the years to come.

Remi Brengman
Chair, Board of Directors

Annual General Meeting Tuesday, April 22

NOTICE OF MEETING
MEMBERS OF BELGIAN-ALLIANCE CREDIT UNION LIMITED
(the "Credit Union")

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CREDIT UNION

TAKE NOTICE THAT the annual general meeting of the Members of the Credit Union will be held at **7:00 pm** on **Tuesday**, the **22nd** day of **April, 2014**, at **The Norwood Hotel, 112 Marion Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba** for the following purposes:

1. To consider the annual report of the directors, the financial statements and the auditor's report;
2. To appoint an auditor;
3. To elect directors;
4. To consider the amendment of the Credit Union's Articles;
5. To consider the amendment of the By-Laws of the Credit Union;
6. Other business.

Proposed Article Amendments

It is proposed that the Articles of the Credit Union be amended to allow the Credit Union to issue Class "A" Preference Shares. The issue of Preference Shares would allow the Credit Union to raise its equity when the need arises.

By-Law Amendments

It is proposed that the By-Laws of the Credit Union will be amended by repealing the existing by-laws and enacting new ones. Apart from bringing the by-laws up to date and into compliance with changes to legislation and regulation, significant amendments provide for director nomination requirements, greater director accountability and new ways of voting and holding meetings of the members.

The full text of the proposed Articles of Amendment and By-Laws will be available on request for members' review at the Credit Union.

DATED this 1st day of April, 2014

BELGIAN-ALLIANCE CREDIT UNION LIMITED
By Order of the Board of Directors

Voting Registration opens at **6:00 pm**
Meeting commences at **7:00 pm**
Reception and refreshments to follow.
Door prizes will be awarded.

How to avoid the dreaded OAS Claw-back

Old Age Security (OAS) is a federal pension available to Canadian citizens 65 or better. In the first quarter of 2011, the maximum OAS payout was \$524.23 (payments are indexed to inflation).

But here's the catch.

High-income seniors (those with income over a certain threshold) must pay back all or some of the OAS. For example, if your 2011 net income is more than \$67,668, you must repay 15% of income over this amount. In effect, this is an additional 15% tax. You'll receive no OAS at all if your net income is \$109,607 or more in 2011.

There are, however, ways to manage retirement income so you can keep OAS payments intact.

Seniors with high income — or those who expect to have high income when they reach age 65 — should plan to reduce that income so it doesn't interfere with OAS. Here are a few strategies we can consider:

Defer income — Try to defer income to future years if it will help you stay below the OAS claw-back threshold. For example, if you have a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) and are expecting significant income from another source in a particular year (perhaps a retiring allowance), you might take only the minimum withdrawal.

Similarly, if you are currently in a low-income year you might want to take more from your RRIF. Your strategy will depend on the types of income you'll receive and how much control you have over when to receive them.

Base RRIF planning on the younger spouse — RRIF withdrawals for couples can be based on the younger spouse's age in order to reduce income.

Split pension income — Pension splitting allows one spouse to apportion up to 50% of pension income to the other spouse for tax purposes. Eligible pension income includes workplace pension plan payments and RRIF and annuity income. You can also split Canada Pension Plan (CPP) income.

Be wary of dividends — Investments that pay dividends can be tricky when you're close to the threshold. The "gross-up" used to calculate the dividend tax credit can bring you closer to the claw-back by inflating net income. If this is likely to be an issue, consider investing for other types of income.

Use your TFSA — Income from a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) isn't taxable and won't count toward income for the OAS calculation. You can even keep dividend-paying investments in your TFSA. The contribution limit for 2014 is \$5,500.00 per individual.

Whether you're already receiving OAS or not, now is the time to consider how you will be affected by the OAS claw-back. Call your Belgian-Alliance Credit Union Wealth Management Department for more information, and let us help you plan a strategy to help you keep more of your OAS.



Erin Fitzgerald
Wealth Management Advisor

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

Candidates for the Board of Directors 2014

At Belgian-Alliance Credit Union's Annual General Meeting, which will take place Tuesday, April 22, two directors will be elected. When nominations closed on December 31, 2013, valid nominations were received for two incumbents: Remi Brengman and Rachelle Needham.



Remi
Brengman

Remi Brengman has been a member of Belgian-Alliance Credit Union for nearly 58 years. His parents opened his first account at Belgian Credit Union when he was very young, in hopes of teaching him the value of dollars saved and earned. Remi was first asked to stand for election to the board of directors in 1980 and, in 1981, was first elected chair of the board. He is currently the chair of the Belgian-Alliance Credit Union board.

Remi places great value in community involvement and this, coupled with his passion for working in a team environment, has led him to sit on a number of volunteer and private corporation boards. As a successful entrepreneur, he understands the value of the hard work and commitment required to make an organization successful. If elected, Remi looks forward to continuing to serve the members of Belgian-Alliance Credit Union.



Rachelle
Needham

Rachelle Needham has been a credit union member since she was 10 years old. It has been nearly 28 years since she became a member of Belgian-Alliance Credit Union. Rachelle worked in the credit union system for 21 years and proudly served the needs of members, both directly and indirectly. She has extensive experience working on the information technology side of the credit union system and has a vast understanding of finance operations — both considered to be essential attributes in today's economy. While working for Celero Solutions, Rachelle was involved in numerous business re-engineering projects that were undertaken due to mergers and new business offerings.

Rachelle is currently employed as an information technology consultant at Online Business Systems, where she works in the insurance sector.



CANADIAN
RED CROSS

Philippine Disaster Appeal — Typhoon Haiyan



In the months following the devastating typhoon that made landfall in the Philippines on November 8, 2013, Belgian-Alliance Credit Union partnered with Credit Union Central of Manitoba and other Manitoba credit unions to collect donations on behalf of the Canadian Red Cross. Due to the generosity of both members and non-members, we were able to contribute \$1,300 towards the \$42 million raised by the Canadian Red Cross.

With your help, Red Cross aid reached well over a million victims of this terrible disaster. A big thank-you to all who contributed!

Photos courtesy of Canadian Red Cross

BACU welcomes new staff members

Belgian-Alliance Credit Union is delighted to welcome two new members to our team:

Warren Banks joined the BACU staff in December 2013, as a Financial Services Officer at our Provencher location. Warren has over 17 years experience in the financial services industry at one of Canada's largest chartered banks. He has extensive experience in both the commercial and consumer sectors, and spent the last four years as a Commercial Account Manager. He has also served as a Customer Service Representative, Assistant Branch Manager and Personal Loans Officer. Warren's education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Bachelor of Education degree (Dean's Honour Roll), and he has completed a year of extra course work towards a Master's degree.

Warren looks forward to serving the personal loan, mortgage and investment needs of our members out of our Provencher branch, as well as providing guidance to our commercial account members when required.

We're also delighted to announce that **Cory Jaworski** joined the BACU team in January, as a Financial Services Officer at our Portage branch. Cory began his financial services career in 2012 as a Financial Services Representative II with one of Canada's largest chartered banks. In addition to personal lending, he was required to develop and implement retirement planning for clients, as well as to provide investment options that included GICs and mutual funds. Cory is certified in Canadian Investment Funds (CIFC) through IFSE and specialized in Financial Services in Red River College's Business Administration program.

Cory is looking forward to providing high-level service to members at our Portage location, serving their personal loan, mortgage and investment needs.



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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Martin Trudeau

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

David Domes

PROVENCHER BRANCH

387 Provencher Boulevard
Winnipeg MB R2H 0G9
Tel 204.982.3400
Fax 204.233.8644
Mon-Wed 9:30 am-5:00 pm
Thur-Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm
provencher@bacumail.ca

PORTAGE BRANCH

1177 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3G 0T2
Tel 204.927.0460
Fax 204.927.0461
Mon-Wed 9:30 am-5:00 pm
Thur-Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm
portage@bacumail.ca

JEFFERSON BRANCH

101-930 Jefferson Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2P 1W1
Tel 204.927.0450
Fax 204.927.0451
Mon-Wed 9:30 am-5:00 pm
Thur-Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm
jefferson@bacumail.ca

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Remi Brengman

VICE-CHAIR

Bob Seys

SECRETARY

Joanne Mercier

Bohdana Bashuk

Jim Beaulieu

Marcel Daeninck

Rachelle Needham



From sea to sea,

BACU members have access to over 1,800 surcharge-free ATMs. That's a bigger ATM network than most banks. And it's all ding free.®

Any credit union ATM is a BACU ATM.

Just look for a ding free sign on your ATM, and say goodbye to those pesky surcharge fees.



United Way
Winnipeg

With great pride, we announce that the staff and Board of Directors of Belgian-Alliance Credit Union have pledged **\$2,174** to support the United Way of Winnipeg. Together with our corporate pledge of **\$1,250**, BACU contributed a total of **\$3,424** in 2014 toward this wonderful and worthy cause!