

5th Annual Family Shred Day

Belgian-Alliance Credit Union will be hosting our 5th Annual Family Shred Day on **Saturday, September 19**, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at our 1177 Portage Avenue location. Sponsored in part by Iron Mountain, our document destruction company, Family Shred Day provides our members and the community at large the opportunity to bring their personal documents to be safely destroyed onsite, **free of charge**. Food and cash donations will be collected on behalf of Winnipeg Harvest throughout the day. While shredding will only take place at our Portage Avenue branch, donations of cash and non-perishable food items will be accepted at all three branches beginning Friday, September 4.

No summer event is complete without a barbeque — so, beginning at 11:00 am, you'll be able buy a hot dog, a bag of chips and a drink for just a dollar, with 100% of the money collected donated to Winnipeg Harvest!

To keep the little ones entertained while the adults are having their documents shredded, there will be **free face painting** from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Community involvement starts at a young age!

Making a difference in our community is one of our credit union's core values. Our annual Shred Day not only provides our members with an opportunity to protect themselves from identity theft, but also contributes to a wonderful cause (Winnipeg Harvest) *and* gives our staff and Board a chance to get to know our members and community a little better. Past support has been outstanding — last year alone, members contributed over 644 pounds of food and \$1,193.55 in cash to Winnipeg Harvest — a record for our event!

So join us on September 19, and bring your friends, family and neighbours. Don't forget to bring a "tin for the bin" and your appetite! We'll see you there!



Seeking Board Candidates

In an effort to maintain a vibrant and dynamic Board of Directors, the Governance Committee is proactively seeking qualified candidates to step forward to stand for election to our Board at next year's Annual General Meeting.

Directors of the credit union are involved in numerous aspects of planning, attending regular meetings and playing an integral part in ensuring the longevity and success of our credit union. They are responsible for ensuring effective governance, establishing strategic objectives and planning for the future. Sub-committees allow specialized professionals to offer their knowledge and guidance that will ultimately better our credit union.

While there are some requirements for directors — you must have been a member of the credit union for at least one year, for example — we are looking for candidates who can bring a diverse array of interests and expertise to our Board. If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving on our Board, please contact us.

If you are interested in running for election but have obligations that will not permit your involvement on our Board in the upcoming year, we encourage you to let us know and we will keep your name on file for the future.

You can make a difference for your credit union! For more information, contact BACU CEO Martin Trudeau at (204) 927-0482 or email nominations@bacumail.ca

We're on Board — are you?



Six tips on what to do with your tax refund

A wide-screen TV might entice you. A tropical beach might beckon. But if you can resist the temptations, there are ways to get a bigger bang for your tax refund buck.

- 1. Pay down debt** — especially that high interest, non-deductible credit card debt. Compounded monthly, a \$5,000 credit card balance at 18% costs you \$978 per year in interest. Ouch! A consolidation loan could also be a good decision — drop by your nearest branch to review your options.
- 2. Pay off RRSP loans** — Your RRSP loan was a smart strategy, and it created a larger tax refund. Now apply that refund to the balance of your loan. You'll save on interest charges and free up money that would otherwise go toward monthly loan payments. Channel that freed-up money into your RRSP by setting up a monthly Pre-Authorized Contribution (PAC) plan.
- 3. Make a lump sum RRSP contribution for the current tax year** — The sooner you contribute, the sooner your investments start to compound, and the more you end up with when you cash out.
- 4. Create a rainy day fund** — Are you prepared to cope with emergency purchases or unexpected interruptions to your household income? It's not a good idea to dip into your RRSP, especially if it contains the kind of investments that should be held for the long run. Instead, set up a separate rainy day fund, with three to six months' living expenses in secure, liquid assets. Start building your rainy day fund the stress-free way, using monthly Pre-Authorized Contributions.
- 5. Save for a child's education** — Drop your refund into a Registered Education Savings Plan on behalf of a child or grandchild. The federal government kicks in a 20% bonus to the plan, to a maximum of \$500 every year. Then, make sure that your child's education nest egg continues to grow by setting up monthly Pre-Authorized Contributions.
- 6. Avoid getting a tax refund in the first place** — After all, what's a tax refund? It's really an interest-free loan that you've made to the government as a result of paying too much tax. Solution? Set up a Pre-Authorized Contribution plan so you can make regular monthly payments to your RRSP. Your PAC plan entitles you to request a reduction of tax at source. You won't get a fat refund cheque in the spring, but you'll have more cash in your pocket each month. Contact your local Canada Revenue Agency office for more information or give me a call.

We'll be happy to help you build a plan that's right for you! Call our Wealth Management department at (204) 293-0179 today!



Erin Fitzgerald
Wealth Management Advisor

A word about PAC plans

Did you notice that Pre-Authorized Contribution (PAC) plans are recommended in four of our refund tips? Contribute as little as \$50 per month, or as much as your budget allows.

When financial markets are volatile, your PAC plan acts like a shock absorber, thanks to the advantages of dollar cost averaging. Since you invest the same amount every month, your money naturally buys more fund units when prices are lower, and fewer fund units when prices are higher. Over the long term, this simple strategy tends to reduce the average price you pay for fund units, so you can enjoy higher potential gains.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & AWARENESS ▼

Your Community, Your Credit Union

**Go Jets Go!**

1 Portage branch 2 3 Provencher 4 Jefferson

Playoff Fever struck the 'Peg this past April, as our Jets made the playoffs for the first time since returning to Winnipeg. The entire city got behind the team, and the staff of Belgian–Alliance Credit Union would not be left out! Management encouraged employees to wear their Jets gear on game days and, while the Jets didn't make it past the first round, they sure played their hearts out!

West End Biz Earth Day 5

Staff from BACU's Portage Avenue branch joined a number of other businesses and West End schools in the 23rd Annual West End Biz Sweep Off on April 23. BACU was a bronze sponsor, picking up trash in an area covering about eight city blocks around the branch. Please remind your friends, family and children of the importance of keeping our planet clean for future generations to enjoy. Our staff had fun participating, but we hope there's a little less to pick up next year!

Race for Kids 6

On Saturday, June 6, staff from our Provencher and Jefferson branches made up two of the teams at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada's Race for Kids at St. Vital Park. Despite the rain, our people had a great time supporting this worthwhile cause.

Nepal Earthquake Relief Effort

The effects of the massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on April 25, and the ensuing aftershocks, have been devastating for the country. The recovery effort continues today; the country and its people will require many years to rebuild.

In response, Belgian–Alliance Credit Union joined a number of other Manitoba credit unions in collecting funds on behalf of the Canadian Red Cross. The response was impressive, with a total of \$630.00 donated by our members by May 29. All donations were matched by the Government of Canada.



News from the AGM

Belgian-Alliance Credit Union's 7th Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. Member attendance was very good, and many were able to stay for appetizers and refreshments after the official meeting—and a handful of lucky members left with prizes! Congratulations are also in order for **Bob Seys** and **Joanne Mercier**, who were both re-elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors (see page 4 for a listing of all BACU directors for 2015–2016).

At the meeting, CEO **Martin Trudeau** recognized three employees for milestone achievements. **Erin Fitzgerald**, Wealth Management Advisor and Retail Manager at our Jefferson branch, received an award for her outstanding performance in Wealth Management product sales, finishing among Manitoba's top 25 salespeople in 2014. Our Chief Operating Officer, **David Domes**, was recognized for his 25 years of service in the Manitoba credit union system. **Daren Miguez**, Loans Clerk at our Portage Avenue branch, received her award for 30 years of service in the credit union system. Our employees are among our credit union's most valuable assets, and our Board and management are sincerely grateful to have such a dedicated group. Thank you to all of our employees for your hard work and ongoing commitment.

Sincere thanks to every member who attended this year's AGM. The annual meeting is a great way for our members to keep in touch with our staff and directors — and other members, with whom they share a common bond: to keep our credit union strong. Respecting and understanding our members is one of our credit union's core values. After all, it is our members who have made our credit union what it is today.

Coming Soon!

Interac e-Transfer*

You have spoken, and we have listened!

Technology is always changing, and we realize how important it is to offer our members the latest in convenient, secure channels to access and manage their money. We are pleased to announce that BACU will offer **Interac e-Transfer** beginning this fall.

e-Transfer will allow users to make payments to other people via email or mobile phone (through online or mobile banking) — anytime, anywhere. Funds are transferred directly between participating financial institutions without sharing personal financial information. It's a safe and convenient way to make payments, split a restaurant bill, pay your babysitter, or transfer funds to another financial institution. Check our website or visit any BACU branch for more information.

New Website

A new Belgian-Alliance Credit Union website is on its way! Our team is working hard on the new site, which will feature a modern look and feel and enhanced navigation. The new site is scheduled to go live this fall — watch our current website for upcoming news.

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Personal Loans

as low as **3%**
APR

With today's historically low interest rates, why not give us a call to discuss a loan for a new vehicle, a summer vacation or home renovations.

Contact your branch to find out how we can help!

IN MEMORIAM

*The staff and directors of Belgian-Alliance Credit Union extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of **Mr. Armand Taillieu**, who passed away on July 10, 2015.*

Mr. Taillieu was a long-time member of the credit union and also a member of the Board of Directors for over 25 years.

Belgian-Alliance
Credit Union

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 e-mail to: info@bacumail.ca

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