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ACE Founder Harold Chapman receives Order of Canada.

A key leader in the early history of ACE will be given one of Canada's top honours. His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, recently announced that Saskatchewan's Harold Chapman and 99 others would name to the Order of Canada. "I am delighted to recognize these new recipients of the Order of Canada in this milestone year," said the Governor General. "Besides marking Canada's 150th anniversary, 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Order. So let's be inspired by the examples set by these remarkable Canadians and use this occasion to build a smarter and more caring country in which every individual can succeed to the greatest extent possible."

Chapman, 99, is recognized for his years of leadership in cooperatives. In a 2013 interview with ACE, he recalled that his own journey as a cooperative educator began during a wave of cooperative development following the Second World War. People urgently needed information about forming cooperatives for their livelihoods, he said.

Chapman described being handpicked in 1945 for a new Saskatchewan Department of Cooperation and Co-operative Development. Success led to his appointment to the Secretariat of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and Rural Life, later becoming the director of the Cooperative Institute in Saskatchewan (which turned into the Co-operative College of Canada), and then director of member relations of Federated Co-operatives Limited.

In his 2012 book, *Sharing My Life: Building the Co-operative Movement*, Chapman wrote that he grew to understand the adage that: "a cooperative without an education program will only last a generation and a half" (p. 85, *Sharing My Life*). Founders are committed to the success of their ventures because they experienced the need that cooperatives or credit unions filled. The next generation may acquire the original group's loyalty, but as time passes, members won't understand benefits of control, democracy and community betterment without education. An informed membership helps rejuvenate cooperatives, advised Chapman.

"My concern is cooperatives are not doing an adequate job of educating second and third generations," said Chapman. Many organizations have moved away from having designated employees with responsibilities and skills to carry out member education. Critical to cooperative education is attention to how adults learn, he said. Another asset is information sharing, noted Chapman. Educators from the United States and Canada met in 1952 at the University of Minnesota at Duluth for an inaugural Institute on Cooperative Education.

The event was triumphant, and was held successive years in different cities, updating participants on educational programs and research. In 1964, participants asked a committee, including Chapman, to propose a "professional organization that would provide leadership in the development of co-operative educators, trainers and researchers," wrote Chapman in his book. It was in Levis, Quebec in 1969 that the organization was officially incorporated with the adoption of bylaws. Chapman was elected vice president.

Today's ACE is a resource to cooperative developers needing information during this new cooperative surge just as it was in the early days, said Chapman: "I am impressed with the role that ACE continues to play." In addition to its capacity to connect people within organizations, Chapman said he agrees with ACE having a greater role sponsoring research and as a channel for information sharing among researchers, developers and educators. There may be a need for ACE to again provide train-the trainer workshops and to offer certificate programs for participants to build continuity across Institutes.

He added that he'd like to see cooperatives and universities that were so instrumental in the formation of ACE taking a renewed leadership role.

Chapman is scheduled to travel to Ottawa in May to meet the Governor General.
