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Ontario Francophone cooperative leader recognized internationally as a top educator

Denver, Aug. 2, 2017 -- The executive director of the Francophone cooperative association for Ontario, Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario, is 2017's recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to Cooperative Education and Training Award from the international Association of Cooperative Educators. He was recognized at the recent annual ACE Institute held at Regis University, Denver.

Luc Morin, based in Ottawa, has created opportunities within French-speaking communities of Ontario. Among those benefitting are youth, immigrants, women and rural communities, said his nominator, colleague Julien Geremie. "Luc believes there is always a solution (to economic and social challenges), and most often it's through cooperation," added Geremie.

In addition, Morin was part of creating a collaborative with the Ontario Co-operative Association to allow the Ontario cooperative movement to speak with one voice to government agencies and deliver key programs to certain communities. He has also helped establish more than 50 cooperative entities in the 35 years he has worked with cooperatives.

In his acceptance speech, Morin said it is "very important to look for partners (to accomplish goals in community growth), such as L'Alliance des caisses populaires, the Desjardins Group (financial cooperatives) and the Co-operators Group." When speaking with youth, he advises them not to be afraid to step forward as leaders.

Joining Morin as a new ACE award recipient is Community Wealth Building Network of Metro Denver, one of the most dynamic and innovative local economic and social development organizations in North America. Nat Locke, a graduate student of Hamline University of Minneapolis, was also recognized for helping create educational programs including the Cooperative Empowerment curriculum. Bill Stevenson, director of the Cooperative Development Center of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, received the William J. Nelson Award for being at the center of the 2017 ACE Institute in Denver.

For more than sixty years, ACE has helped bridge geographic, cultural and language divides to share education about cooperation. Its 2017 Institute theme was Passing along Passion for Democratic Principles, focusing on new methods of education, platform (Internet) cooperatives, next generations and democratic processes. Helping support the conference were CoBank (presenting sponsor), the CHS Foundation, The Denver Foundation, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, La Coop fédérée of Quebec, the Ralph K. Morris Foundation, GROWMARK, Inc., Vancity credit union of Canada, The Cooperative Foundation, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada, and many more. Additional information is at www.ace.coop.

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