

# The Affinity Connection

Fall 2009

## Act like you own the place!



Affinity Director,  
Gayl Basler



Affinity Director,  
Dale Awasis

Local ownership and governance is the foundation of Affinity Credit Union.

Affinity's District Council Delegates play a powerful role in the governance of the credit union. They are elected by members in their local communities.

Delegates' use their local knowledge and established community relationships to provide strength to our local communities and ensure the local member's voice is heard.

They:

- Represent the credit union in a variety of local events.
- Have the final authority on partnership with any new credit unions.
- Play a role in the decision-making process for any adjustments to the district governance model.
- Actively involved in the Branching network decisions of the credit union.
- Provide leadership by actively participating in joint district council annual planning and development sessions.

### Be Part of Our Success!

Affinity is looking for a Director for Saskatoon District 3  
For details, call Linda Moulin, Senior Vice President Corporate Development  
at (306) 934.4081 or by email at [linda.moulin@affinitycu.ca](mailto:linda.moulin@affinitycu.ca)



## Our Commitment to You

At Affinity Credit Union, we're about making a difference. That's the reality. Day-by-day, person-by-person, community-by-community, we're seizing the opportunity to be there and, in doing so, we're creating the way for positive change.

Affinity commits at least 3% of its annual pre-tax profits to community support each year. Here's just a small sample of what we have donated to local communities:

### Affordable Housing: \$20,000



Habitat for Humanity: staff volunteers and corporate sponsorship for projects in Regina and Saskatoon.

### Arts & Culture: \$25,000

Station Arts Theatre in Rosthern: to expand the theatre, improve the dressing and technical room and enlarge the team room.



### Community Building: \$50,000



Community gift to Shellbrook and area: 12 organizations shared the support for enhancements to health services, community clubs, regional parks, Royal Canadian Legion, Lions Hall and Fire Department.

## Debit Card Fraud

According to the Interac Association, only a small fraction of debit card transactions are fraudulent. However, if you have been a victim of this type of fraud it can be frustrating and annoying as well as upsetting, especially if you are not aware of how it actually happens.

Information is stored on the magnetic strip on your card and fraudsters can get at this information in several ways.

To minimize your risk:

1. Monitor your bank account and report unusual activity immediately.
2. Use your hand or body to shield your secret code (PIN) when you are conducting transactions at an ATM or when paying for groceries etc.

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### Youth & Education: \$25,000



Magic School Bus Exhibit: title sponsor of the Saskatchewan Science Centre Magic School Bus Exhibit in Regina.

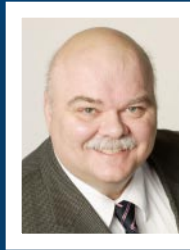
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3. Change your secret code often to protect your financial information.
4. Do not accept help from anyone when using an ATM.
5. Don't lend your cards to anyone including family and friends.

For more fraud prevention tips, click [here](#).

Did you know that Affinity is the only credit union that has a dedicated Community Resource Consultant, Sergeant Brian Trainor? Brian is a former police sergeant and fraud expert and leads our public education program on fraud detection and prevention. For assistance, contact Brian at (306) 291-3259

Fraud Expert,  
Brian Trainor



## The Importance of Education

Education is a gateway to higher earnings, according to Statistics Canada and the latest census.

- More than 60% of Canadians in the highest earning category – over \$100,000 a year – have a university degree.
- In the last three years, average undergraduate tuition fees at Canadian universities rose by 7.3%.
- By the 2009 academic year, an undergraduate at a Canadian university faced tuition fees averaging \$4,724. Fees are likely to continue to rise.

Whether you are hoping for your child to attend a post-secondary institution, or are an adult wishing to return to school yourself, you'll need a savings plan to make the dream a reality. One of the best ways to save for post-secondary education is by using a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP).

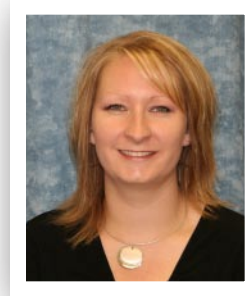
An RESP is a special savings account that grows tax-free until you or your child is ready for post-secondary education, whether that's university, college or a vocational institute.

Money put towards an RESP is not tax-deductible like an RRSP contribution. However, there are benefits:

- Money grows tax free until it is needed.
- Students pay little or no tax on the money when it's withdrawn to pay for education.
- The federal government will contribute up to \$500 per year per child, to a lifetime maximum of \$7,200 per child. That's free money!
- An RESP can be opened for one child or several children at once.
- Anyone can contribute to an RESP.

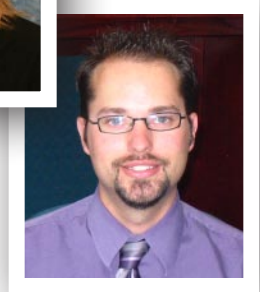
To discuss the options that work best for you, contact an Affinity Credit Union Representative by e-mail at [questions@affinitycu.ca](mailto:questions@affinitycu.ca), or call us at (306) 934-4000 or toll-free at 1-866-8MEMBER (863-6237).

To discuss your RESP options, contact:



Chrissy Shabatura  
Relationship Banking  
Officer  
Kamsack

Derek St. Onge  
Relationship Banking  
Officer  
Scarth St, Regina



Or drop in a [branch](#) near you.



## Junior Arithmetic Leads to Adult Affluence

Sending your children off to school in the morning and helping them with their homework is easy – teaching them money sense is hard. But parents who instill the basics of money management in their kids at an early age might learn a few useful tricks of their own.

Not only will the following tips help your children learn to save, invest and handle money responsibly, they'll help you feel confident that you're giving them the best possible start in a world rife with consumer temptations.

- An allowance is the best teaching tool and experts say it should not be linked to household chores, in which all family members should participate. Instead, use it to make kids responsible for purchases like toys, movies and school lunches.
- Raises in allowances should be given only if a child's expenses increase and if they can demonstrate - by documenting their spending - that they really need it.
- To master the art of saving to achieve their goals, start around the age of six by giving your child three glass jars or piggybanks - one for spending, one for short-term savings and one for long-term savings.
- Open a savings account in your child's name and explain the concept of interest and why it's important to put money away every month.
- Encourage your children to turn their interests into money-earning activities such as arts and crafts, babysitting, yard work and dog walking.



Contact your nearest [branch](#) and request a financial literacy seminar for a school in your area.

**Carol Cisecki**, our Labour Community Representative, provides basic financial literacy training for newcomers to Saskatchewan. Contact Carol at [carol.cisecki@affinitycu.ca](mailto:carol.cisecki@affinitycu.ca).

Ask about our IDA Program which teaches at risk young people how to manage their financial affairs, save money towards a goal or objective, develop employment skills, and work towards completing their education or entering the workforce.

Service and commitment  
... close to home!

Contact us today!

[www.affinitycu.ca](http://www.affinitycu.ca)

Teleservice

Saskatoon: 934.4000

Toll Free: 1.866.863.6237

Call for a **FREE** guide!

**Savings:** - Tax-Free Savings Accounts  
- Planning for the Future (RESP & Education)

**Retirement:** - Understanding All the Basics of RRSPs, RRIF, LIF, LRIF, Annuity  
- Knowing your Retirement Options

