

# The Affinity Connection

Winter 2011

## 2012 Elections

Affinity Credit Union will be holding elections for your District Council Delegates in 2012.

District Council Delegates play a significant role in the governance of the credit union and represent your voice in your community. Enjoy the privileges of membership and exercise your right to:

- nominate a candidate
- run for election and
- vote!

The nomination period runs from January 20th to February 3rd and the voting period runs from February 18th to March 2nd.

Look out for the posters in branches and information on our website.

Election results will be declared at our Annual General Meeting on April 4th, 2012 in Canwood and at information meetings hosted in some districts.

Thank you for your participation in the democratic process of our credit union!

The logo features the words "be the" in a light green, lowercase sans-serif font, positioned above the word "Voice" in a larger, bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font.

We are currently recruiting energetic, new faces!  
Run for Affinity Credit Union District Council between  
January 20 to February 3.

- Provide leadership and make a difference in your community.
- Participate in the democratic process. Nominate yourself or another member.
- Join a diverse and dynamic group and help lead your Credit Union.

For more information contact your branch, visit [www.affinitycu.ca](http://www.affinitycu.ca) or call 1-866-863-6237

Your money  
just got smarter.

The logo features the word "Affinity" in a large, blue, serif font, with "Credit Union" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font directly below it.

## Be Part of Our Success!

For more information about our District Council Delegates, call Linda Moulin, Senior VP of Corporate Development at 934.4081 or email [linda.moulin@affinitycu.ca](mailto:linda.moulin@affinitycu.ca)

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## Supporting Our Communities

Affinity Credit Union 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:

### Healthy Communities: \$28,500

Our staff are involved with various organizations that are helping people in our communities who face difficult health issues.

- We presented \$25,000 to Shellbrook and District Health Services to help fund the building of a new health complex in the area.
- Kamsack employees raised \$3,500 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation by taking part in the Big Bike event.

### Learning and Education: \$20,000

Investing in learning and education is the best way to ensure a strong future for our community. That's why we provide \$20,000 in scholarships and bursaries annually.



Delegate Jim Craik presents a bursary to Sammie Ahmed in Rosthern

## #1 for Community Involvement

Affinity Credit Union is the winner of this year's Business Excellence Award for Community Involvement (SABEX) presented by the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce.

Linda Moulin, Affinity Credit Union's Senior Vice President Corporate Development, who received the award on behalf of the credit union said: "This is a prestigious award and a huge honour for our Credit Union. It recognizes our community partnerships and the marvelous work we are doing to help our members and communities thrive and prosper."

Affinity Credit Union invested \$1.3 million in contributions to community development over the past year and our 610 employees spent 24,920 hours volunteering: an economic value of \$604,310.

"As a locally-owned financial cooperative, we take pride in making a difference in people's lives. We are socially responsible and support our community financially through sponsorships, donations, and non-traditional loans, and through employee voluntary work in a variety of ways to create positive change," added Moulin.



**Linda Moulin**  
Senior Vice President  
Corporate Development

## Invest in Your Future With an RRSP

You may be considering investing in a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) to mark the beginning of the New Year. Or perhaps saving for your retirement is an ongoing financial goal.

No matter what the reason, investing in your future could mean the difference between enjoying your well-deserved retirement or eking out a living.

Feb 29 2012, is the deadline for contributing to an RRSP for the 2011 tax year, so start examining your options now.

### Can I afford an RRSP?

Karen Huber an Affinity Credit Union Financial Planner in Saskatoon, says: "Even though most of us can't afford to contribute large amounts to their RRSP at the end of the tax year, almost everyone can set up a savings plan that deducts a monthly amount from their pay-cheque or bank account. Even by starting with a small monthly contribution, investing in an RRSP now will help ensure you'll have a more comfortable retirement later."

### Why invest in an RRSP?

- Your contributions are tax deductible and could provide you with a tax refund.
- Investments in an RRSP grow tax-free. Consider making your RRSP contribution earlier in the year or even on a monthly basis. By contributing sooner than later, your money will have more time to grow tax-free.
- Earnings on RRSP investments aren't taxed until withdrawn.

### Following the rules

- You can invest 18 percent of your earned income, up to a maximum of \$22,450.00 to an RRSP for the 2011 tax year.
- Unused contributions can be carried forward for an unlimited period. If you come into an unexpected windfall, you might consider using some of it to maximize your RRSP contribution or make up for missed contributions from previous years.
- Wise investors use their tax refund to top up their RRSP or pay down their RRSP loan if they borrowed to make their RRSP contribution.
- Arrange a savings plan as soon as possible. By withholding source deductions and transferring amounts to a group plan, you get the benefit of the RRSP tax deferral right away instead of having to wait until tax time for a refund. If you don't have a group plan at work, you can still make contributions before income tax is levied on your earnings. Talk to your financial advisor.

"Taking care of yourself in retirement is something only you can do and it's never too late to start," added Karen.

### To discuss your RRSP options, contact:



**Karen Huber**  
Financial Planner,  
Saskatoon  
306.934.4000

Or drop into any branch of Affinity Credit Union near you.

**Two things are  
certain in life.  
We'll help you defer one.**

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Credit Union

## Last Minute RRSP Tips

The deadline for making contributions to your RRSP is February 29, 2012. As long as you make your contribution by that date, you can deduct your investment from last year's earned income and possibly get a hefty tax refund.

If you've waited until the last minute to get this sorted out and now feel a bit panicky, Affinity Credit Union, Investment Specialists, offer the following key RRSP tips to get you back on track.

1. Dig out your Notice of Assessment from Revenue Canada. It tells you how much you can contribute to an RRSP. If you can't find the Assessment, call Revenue Canada (1-800-959-8281).
2. If the amount you are allowed to contribute is more than you have on hand, consider a loan. The interest you pay on RRSP loans is usually less than the amount you can earn on your investment.
3. Most people consider January and February to be RRSP season but RRSPs can be purchased anytime of the year. Consider investing your tax refund, bonuses, or monthly deposits into an RRSP to make it easier to manage cash flow. Ask your investment specialist to set you up on a monthly contribution plan.

Remember, the sooner you put a retirement / savings plan in motion, the faster you'll reach your goal. The best time to start is today.

# Need financial advice?

## Call TeleService

In Saskatoon: 934.4000

Toll Free: 1.866.863.6237

# Looking for a certified financial planner?

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Produced by Affinity Corporate Communications  
Contact Tina Merrifield  
Phone: 306.934.4083  
Email: [tina.merrifield@affinitycu.ca](mailto:tina.merrifield@affinitycu.ca)