



# Check It Out!

Volume 7, Issue 1

CUCBC Information Centre newsletter

January 2008

## May we help?

This quarterly newsletter is designed to help familiarize you with some of the services offered by the Corporate Information Centre -- services which are available to all staff and directors of BC credit unions, Central and related organizations.

In this issue, we review the **online information** available through the Information Centre's website, InfoCentre Online - a wide-ranging resource on the Canadian CU system.

The "**spotlight**" on page 2 focuses on the changes that have occurred at Central over the last two years - as we look forward to more to come in 2008.

The **Hot Topics** feature is on Statistics. Though not generally considered a "hot" topic, statistics can be an invaluable aspect of research pieces or presentations. Some of our favourite online resources may come in handy.

And last but definitely not least, page 4 provides some heart-healthy resources as we note that February is **Heart Month** in Canada.

## Online abundance

The impending demise of paper in the workplace has been overstated, but the exponential growth in the availability of information online is undeniable. As with other forms of information, keeping track of it all becomes the hardest part.

Here's an overview of electronic resources which the Information Centre organizes and makes available for you.

**Infocentre Online** – the Corporate Information Centre's website, at <http://Infocentre.cucbc.com> provides:

- ✓ In the **Statistics** section, there is an array of the latest credit union system statistics. See page 3 for further details.
- ✓ In the **Periodicals** section, three new electronic articles are featured each month, on a range of topics relating to the financial services industry.
- ✓ The **Publications** section provides links to three Information Centre online publications: *Central Notes*, the biweekly BC credit union system newsletter; *Fact Finder*, a biweekly listing of 12 new articles which you can request, with an electronic request function; and this quarterly Information Centre newsletter. Details on two other Centre services, available on request – the *Daily News Service* and *Electronic Info* – are also provided.
- ✓ The **Special Reports** section features links to an extensive set of current full-text materials on the financial services industry. Currently featured are reports from Cap Gemini, Deloitte, Price WaterhouseCoopers, and a number of government departments.
- ✓ The **electronic catalogue** provides a way to search through our collection of books, studies and reports, and audiovisual materials, and place an electronic request for them. But we don't have any electronic books – yet!
- ✓ The Information Centre's *Weekly Ad Service* is provided to subscribers online through our website. For information on this service or any other Centre services, just e-mail [Infocentre@cucbc.com](mailto:Infocentre@cucbc.com).

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## Spotlight on... Changes at Central

2008 promises to be a year of change at Credit Union Central of British Columbia, starting with the arrival of our new CEO in mid-February. Though it may not seem like it, there have actually been lots of changes at Central over the past two years. Here's a quick overview starting in 2006.

**April 2006** – Wayne Nygren, Central's CEO since 1985, retires.

**May 2006** -- Rowland Kelly, Central's VP Finance, is appointed Interim President and CEO of Central.

**July 2006** – The Kudos youth-branded website, at [www.getkudos.ca](http://www.getkudos.ca), is launched.

**August 2006** – Central's Lending Services Department is restructured to better reflect the evolving services it provides to meet the current and future needs of credit unions. The new *Funding Services Department* has two units – Lending Services for the provision of traditional lending services to credit unions, and the newly formed Securitization Services unit to oversee the day-to-day activities of system securitization vehicles while identifying new opportunities in this area.

**September 2006** – New access control measures are instituted at the Credit Union Centre, with pass cards being required to enter all business areas of the building.

**October 2006** – The Credit Union Centrals of British Columbia and Ontario announce that they are entering into formal discussions to create a new national business entity to serve credit unions across the country.

**November 2006** – Doug Enns is engaged as the management consultant for the B.C.-Ontario initiative.

**January 2007** – Central's bulletins in print format are discontinued, with the electronic format bulletins continuing to be available on Central Online. The bi-weekly system newsletter continues to be available in print and electronic format.

**May 2007** – A new name for the proposed merged entity is chosen – *Central 1 Credit Union*. The proposed closing date for the transaction is October 2007.

**June 2007** – Credit unions in British Columbia and Ontario approve the Central's merger proposal by more than 98% at special meetings held on June 22. The transaction is expected to close at the end of September.

**September 2007** – The closing date for the proposed merger is extended to December 31 in response to recent problems in the financial markets.

**October 2007** – Central's Credit Union Development department is renamed *Strategic Solutions*, to better reflect its work. *Stabilization Central Credit Union* moves to its new location on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Credit Union Centre.

**December 2007** – Don Rolfe is appointed as President and Chief Executive Officer of Credit Union Central of British Columbia, effective February 15, 2008. A further extension of the closing date for the proposed merger of B.C. and Ontario Centrals is announced, with the completion expected to occur by July 1, 2008.

**January 2008** – The Operations Manual, produced by Central's *Operations Manual Department* (formerly called Operations, Policies and Procedures) is now available in electronic format only. Central Notes, the biweekly system newsletter produced by Central's *Corporate Information Centre*, discontinues its print edition also.

# Hot topics: Statistics

“There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics” – this famous saying has been attributed to Benjamin Disraeli and was popularized by Mark Twain. Though there can be problems in gathering and using statistics correctly, their addition – in an appropriate way -- to a talk or presentation can be invaluable. Here are some websites, providing dependable statistical information that may be of interest.

## WEBSITES PROVIDING STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- The Statistics section of InfoCentre Online, Central’s Corporate Information Centre website, provides up-to-date listings of the assets and membership of B.C. credit unions, and a listing of the mergers and B.C. system totals since 1990. Credit Union Central of Canada’s quarterly national system review and biannual listing of the largest Canadian credit unions are in this section also.  
<http://infocentre.cucbc.com/html/statistics.html>
- 2006 Community Profiles from the 2006 Canadian Census provide data for close to 5,400 communities, as well as for large and smaller metropolitan areas. These profiles contain free information for all Canadian communities, including cities, towns, villages, Indian reserves and settlements, as well as for metropolitan areas. Subjects contained include those relating to labour, education and training, population and demography, families and households, ethnic diversity and immigration, and languages.  
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/profiles/community/Index.cfm?Lang=E>
- BC Regional Socio-Economic Profiles and Indices. The socio-economic indices summarize social and economic conditions over a wide variety of indicators into a single composite index for each region within the province. <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp#what2>
- Economics Department. Central’s Economics Department provides a range of specialized services including economic, financial, and market data, analysis and forecasts. For information about their reports, publications and services, visit the department website at <http://economics.cucbc.com>.
- Business Council of British Columbia. The Business Council of British Columbia is an association representing approximately 210 large and medium-sized enterprises engaged in business in British Columbia. BCBC publishes a series of economic reports on B.C. free for the public to view on their home page at <http://www.bcbc.com/Default.asp>
- British Columbia Real Estate Association. BCREA Economics provides timely research, analysis and information on economic factors affecting BC and its housing markets. The Economics page has statistics on the housing market throughout B.C., including trends for various regions and an overall look at mortgages. <http://www.bcrea.bc.ca/economics/economics.htm>
- Industry Canada. Business information and statistics from Industry Canada on markets, industries, company sourcing, business partners and alliances, products and international trade. Under Resources for Businesses, there are sections on Economic Research, Industry and Trade Statistics and Market Research. [http://www.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/ic1.nsf/en/h\\_00140e.html](http://www.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/ic1.nsf/en/h_00140e.html)
- Canadian Social Trends. This online publication from Statistics Canada takes a look at key trends influencing Canadian society. The articles review factors affecting the lives of Canadians today and in the future, from a statistical perspective. The full-text articles and searchable subject index are available through the publication website at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/ads/11-008-XIE/index.htm>.

# February is Heart Month in Canada



More statistics... cardiovascular diseases, including heart disease, are Canada's leading cause of death. The good news is that most heart disease can be prevented, but eight out of ten Canadians have at least one of the following risk factors: tobacco use, physical inactivity, overweight, high blood pressure, and diabetes. If you aren't already doing so, now's the perfect time to start a heart healthy regime. Here are links to some websites that can help you learn about and develop your "healthy heart"...

The **Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada** provides a reliable source of information on cardiovascular diseases and how to combat them.

<http://www.heartandstroke.ca>

The **Healthy Heart Kit** from the Public Health Agency of Canada is an in-depth resource on heart diseases and the impact of various risk factors can have.

[http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ccdpc-cpcmc/hhk-tcs/english/index\\_e.htm](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ccdpc-cpcmc/hhk-tcs/english/index_e.htm)

The **BC Health Guide** is a source of health and wellness information on a wide range of topics.

[www.bchealthguide.org](http://www.bchealthguide.org)

**Act Now BC** aims to lead the way in healthy living and physical fitness with a comprehensive program for adults and families.

[www.actnowbc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.actnowbc.gov.bc.ca)

And for those who are part of the BC Credit Union Employee Benefits Trust, a wealth of information is available to registered users on the **Plan-It Health** section of the trust website.

[www.cutrust.com](http://www.cutrust.com)

Enjoy getting your heart "in shape"!

## Contact us – please!

**The Corporate Information Centre is here to assist you in working for your credit union's success.**

**Here's how you can reach us...**

Credit Union Central of British Columbia

### **CORPORATE INFORMATION CENTRE**

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2<sup>nd</sup> floor, near the stairs

Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

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### **INFOCENTRE ONLINE**

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A two-page Information Centre services overview is available, in print or on the Centre website. Check it out!

To request a copy of the services overview or information about any Centre service, just e-mail [infocentre@cucbc.com](mailto:infocentre@cucbc.com).