

Canadian Co-operative Achievement Award



When he arrived in Canada from Belgium in 1956 as an Oblate Missionary, **Andrew Goussaert** began working and travelling extensively with the Inuit in Canada's Central Arctic. He gained an understanding of the Inuit language and culture, and their traditional values of mutual help and caring for one another. He learned the sense of community living and the need for collaboration to survive in the harsh Arctic environment. And it was here that he was able to envision how co-operatives could help the Inuit enter into a monetary economy while retaining control over the events and forces that affected their daily life.

When they began in the 1960s, co-operatives in the North had no money or assets. But Andrew had a vision of what could be and a commitment to work with the Inuit people to achieve that vision. Today, these local co-ops have combined assets of over \$126 million and conduct an annual volume of business in excess of \$146 million.

For over 50 years, Andrew Goussaert has demonstrated a fundamental commitment to work with people who want to improve the community where they live, provide for the basic needs of their family, and exercise control over the basic economic activities that impact their daily lives.

Whether this involves developing a marketing system for Inuit art, owned and controlled by the artists, a retail store where people can obtain the basic necessities of life for their families, influencing the cost of petroleum in a major urban market in Southern Canada, the promotion of basic housing and education, or the empowerment of communities to improve their earning power in third world countries — Andrew is committed to working at all levels of the process.

This commitment has involved living in the communities, working with institutions and government agencies, developing and promoting organizations owned and controlled by the people that use the services, all of which enhanced their abilities to improve and control the economic influences which impact their lives.

Nominated by: Arctic Co-operatives Limited

Global Co-operator Award

Bill Turner has built a remarkable personal history of volunteerism, leadership, and promotion of co-operatives in his hometown of Cupar, across Saskatchewan, throughout Canada and to lands far beyond our borders.



While Bill has received accolades and awards for his involvement with co-operatives in Canada, including CCA's Canadian Co-operative Achievement Award and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Award, his contributions related to international co-operative development have drawn less attention, at least here in Canada.

Bill has for years shared his co-operative knowledge and experience with communities in Africa, Asia and the Americas, where his participation is highly sought after and his contributions are deeply valued. Here at home, he has hosted and led numerous international delegations and been an avid member of the Saskatchewan International Development Education Volunteer Network. He has helped to coordinate and is a perennial fixture at the Saskatchewan Co-operative Classic golf tournament in support of the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada.

As President of CCA, Bill's enthusiasm for the work of the organization was contagious within the Canadian co-operative movement. He considered international development to be a central function of the organization -- not an add on. He used his own considerable credibility to raise the profile for the international program and for the fundraising work of the Co-operative Development Foundation. He was part of a group known as the "Friends of CDF" that bid heartily on items at CDF's early auctions.

His enthusiasm played a major role in encouraging CCA's membership to embrace the international program, and the Co-operative Development Foundation, in a new way. That sense of ownership propelled our international program to a new level.

Bill's values are obvious, his enthusiasm is contagious. Bill Turner is not driven by the pursuit of personal recognition or praise, but by a genuine desire to help people to help themselves, here in Canada and around the world.

Nominated by: Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan