

# Tribute to Ian MacPherson

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This special issue of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies* is dedicated to the memory of Ian MacPherson whose loss on 16 November 2013 is mourned by the global co-operative movement. One of the movement's leading lights, Ian MacPherson was co-founder of the Canadian Association for the Study of Co-operation (CASC), member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Journal of Co-operative Studies* and chair of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) committee that revised the international principles for co-operatives in 1995 and adopted a Co-operative Identity Statement for the twenty-first century at its Manchester Congress.

Ian MacPherson earned his MA and PhD in History at the University of Western Ontario after teaching in Streetsville, Ontario, where he met and married Elizabeth. After teaching at the University of Winnipeg and in London, England, in 1976, Ian moved his young family to Victoria, BC, where he would have a long and successful career at the University of Victoria. Long before the term was coined, Ian MacPherson was a model of the community-engaged academic. Ian leaves a lasting legacy on the UVIC campus where most recently he served as Director, Co-operative Initiative for Peace and Social Inclusion; one of his last published books celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of UVIC.

Ian was an academic par excellence, having achieved distinction in all areas of academic endeavour. He was one of the leading authorities on co-operative history in the world, authoring and editing some twenty books, including *A Century of Co-operation*, the 2009 commemorative book marking the 100th anniversary of Canada's organised co-operative movement and writing more than 120 academic and seventy non-academic papers. He also made significant contributions as an administrator, serving as Chair of the History Department (1981-1989) at the University of Victoria, as well as the Dean of Humanities (1992-1999), nurturing a culture of collegiality and developing administrative solutions for many a junior faculty member. In addition Ian was founding director of the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies (2000-2008) — now the Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy (CCCBE) — and served as co-director of the Social Economy Hub (2005-2012), the national voice for the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships, a six-year, \$13,000,000 research project of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

One of the founding members of CASC, Ian's greatest contributions at the university, perhaps, came as a teacher and mentor. A talented lecturer who always knew how to engage his audience, Ian was a supportive mentor and supervisor to innumerable students over the years, always generous with his time, his insights and his passion for the co-operative movement.

Winner of the ICA Rochdale Pioneers Award in 2005, Ian MacPherson was the exemplar of an engaged intellectual, having played leadership roles in the co-operative sector for over forty years and making a co-operative impact in over 70 countries. Ian not only recorded but also helped make the movement's history. He served on numerous boards including consumer and health co-operatives in Winnipeg and Victoria; a childcare co-operative in Victoria; and several credit unions in Victoria. He served on the Board of BC Central Credit Union, 1983 to 1992 (President, 1987-89) and the boards of the Canadian Co-operative Credit Society, the Co-operative College of Canada, the Co-operative Union of Canada and the Canadian Co-operative Association. He was the founding President of the latter organisation, from 1989 to 1995. He served on the board of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) 1989-1995.

Ian's name was simply synonymous with co-operatives. He became the father figure for the sector and the sector rewarded him with its highest awards. Ian will be sorely missed by all who were privileged to meet him. His vision and inspiration have left an enduring mark on co-operators everywhere.

The Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF), in partnership with the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) and the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC), has established a scholarship fund in memory of Ian MacPherson.

To make a donation, go to <http://cdfcanada.coop/news-and-resources/ian-macpherson-legacy-fund> and scroll to "Donation Designation" and specify "Ian MacPherson Legacy Fund".

