

Audrey M. Aczel

Audrey is the Public Affairs Manager with On Co-op where she oversees both the Co-operative Internship and Experience Program and the Government Relations strategic area of the association.

As Project Manager of the co-operative internship program, Audrey administers all aspects of the agreement, funded by Service Canada, which places 40 interns each year with a host organization for a 26-week work experience. Her key role in government relations is to develop and implement initiatives to promote the strength and diversity of the Ontario co-operative sector to the Government, while raising awareness for the need and benefits of a co-op/public partnership, enjoyed by many of the other provinces.

Since she joined On Co-op in January '07, Audrey has co-ordinated and participated in many meetings with MPPs and Ministers, organized several Queen's Park receptions - uniting key government officials with representatives from the co-op sector - drafted executive proposals for a provincial Co-operative Secretariat, conducted research projects and developed briefs and toolkits for advocating with government, and implemented a "Co-op Champions" campaign prior to the October 2007 provincial elections, among many other interesting projects. Under the fee-for-service program, she works with GROWMARK, Inc., by helping them to plan and execute a government relations strategy that is unique to their sector's needs. Audrey is a member of the On Co-op Government Relations and Event Planning committees, as well as the GROWMARK/FS Co-operatives Government Relations committee.

Audrey studied Communications and Spanish at Carleton University and obtained her Masters in Communications from McGill University in 1997. Her love of languages led her to Madrid, Spain for 6 months in her early twenties, where she studied Spanish at the local university. She has also taken courses in Events Planning and Management – one of her passions - at George Brown College. Audrey started her communications career in the publishing industry. She has also gone the self-employment route, having been a restaurant owner as well as run a home-based daycare business.

About On Co-op ...

With a mission to lead, cultivate and connect the co-operative sector, On Co-op is a resource and common voice for Ontario credit unions and co-operatives in the areas of co-operative development, government relations, membership and communications, and lifelong co-operative learning. Visit www.ontario.coop to learn more.

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