

2014 Global Citizen Award Winner



Bev (fourth from left)

BEV MAXIM has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the international development work of the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) and the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF). Over the years, Bev has never missed an opportunity to inspire and persuade others to participate in and support the cooperative movement in Canada and abroad. She has completed assignments in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda and the Bahamas as a volunteer, and has led classroom learning for the CCA's Women's Mentorship Program for nine years, providing leadership and professional development opportunities to 125 women from 13 countries.

Ms. Maxim began working with Saskatchewan credit unions in 1972. Currently, she is enjoying contract work opportunities and is delivering retirement planning seminars across the prairies. But her international work isn't done yet. She recently returned from Northern Ghana, where she continued sharing her expertise in credit union and co-operative development. This winter, she will travel through Southeast Asia, and will work in Mongolia in May.

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What advice would you give to today's high-school graduates?

Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage. If you're not a little bit uncomfortable every day, you're not growing. The good stuff is often just outside your comfort zone so don't be afraid to try. To succeed in life, you need three things:

- A 'wishbone' to visualize the future and see how things could be;
- A 'backbone' to ensure that you make the wish a reality;
- A 'funny bone' to enable you to laugh at yourself when things don't go as expected.

Tell us about a teacher, mentor, or other role-model who really made a difference in your life.

Early in my career I had a mentor that encouraged me to step outside of my comfort zone to take on roles, responsibilities and projects that I did not feel capable of succeeding at.

Each success along the way built my confidence so that I became more and more able to walk through doors that were opening for me. I owe a debt of gratitude to that mentor for setting me on a path that I may not have chosen for myself.