



TOGETHER, LET'S DO GREAT THINGS

Coastal Community Hosts Two Credit Union Leaders for Women's Mentorship Program

Monday, June 25, 2018 – Vancouver Island & the Gulf Islands, BC: Credit union leaders Chantal Uwamariya and Nwamaka Peter have spent the last ten days learning the ins and outs of Coastal Community Credit Union. Coastal Community is hosting the women through the Women's Mentorship Program, developed by the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada.

The annual international co-operative mentoring program is a mutual learning opportunity for both Canadian credit unions and female managers of overseas financial co-operatives. "I applied because I need to improve my knowledge and skills in the financial sector," said Chantal, manager of Cooperative of Progress & Financing Ineza in Muhanga, Rwanda. Her credit union started out with a single employee in 2009 and has grown to 21 staff members and four branches in two districts.

"Personally, I wanted the opportunity to be exposed to how offices are run here and to learn more about leadership, management and how to grow a business," added Nwamaka, the manager of Vizoko Thrift and Credit Co-operative Society Ltd., based in Abuja, Nigeria. She and her fellow manager are looking forward to passing on what they've learned to help their organizations empower people and alleviate poverty.

Chantal holds a bachelor's degree in Management as well as an MBA with a focus in Project Management. Nwamaka has a Higher Diploma in Public Administration. Both women appreciate the exposure to new ideas they've had as they've been immersed in the activities of every department of the largest Vancouver Island-based financial institution. Their job-shadow included loan portfolios, reducing loan delinquency, credit union leadership, marketing, governance, and human resource management.

Chantal particularly appreciated being able to meet Coastal Community's Board of Directors and President and CEO Adrian Legin to share experience in governance. One of Nwamaka's biggest takeaways from her visit was seeing the passion about Coastal Community in everyone from the Board members to the frontline staff. "I want that passion in my own business," she said.

Coastal Community is a longstanding supporter of the mentorship program. "Sharing best practices is built into the DNA of the co-operative movement, and the learning goes both ways," said Deborah Edwards, AVP, Human Resources for Coastal Community. "We've enjoyed the chance to share experiences and perspectives with Chantal and Nwamaka while building relationships and strengthening our global community."

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About

COASTAL COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

Improving financial health, enriching lives, and building healthier communities... These are at the core of who we are and what we do at Coastal Community Credit Union (CCCU). With these as our focus areas, we continue to grow our position as the largest financial services organization based on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, while remaining among the largest credit unions in Canada.

In order to help our members and clients improve their financial health, CCCU's family of companies offers a wide range of products, services and expertise in personal, business and commercial banking, general and commercial insurance* and wealth management**. Across the Islands, we operate 24 branches, 16 insurance offices, four regional business centres, one centralized contact centre (1.888.741.1010) with extended service hours, plus a team of mobile experts and a full range of online and mobile services. CCCU was the first to bring cutting-edge Interactive Teller Machine technology to the Island and continues to add new innovations to simplify finances—and life. By really listening and understanding, and then providing meaningful solutions, Coastal Community's 600-person-strong team is able to help our members and clients achieve their financial and life goals.

As a 100% Island-based business, we're committed to making meaningful differences in the places we call home. CCCU continues to help build healthier communities in part through donations, sponsorships, scholarship and fundraising efforts totaling over half-a-million dollars each year.

Want to learn more? Visit cccu.ca or join us on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

*References to "insurance" in this article refer to the insurance services provided through Coastal Community Insurance Services (2007) Ltd., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coastal Community Credit Union

**References to "wealth management" in this article refer to the financial planning and investment services provided through Coastal Community Private Wealth Group, a division of Coastal Community Financial Management, Inc. which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coastal Community Credit Union