



University  
of Victoria

BC Institute for  
Co-operative Studies

October 2009

BCICS Newsletter

## Community Research Fellowships

Ashley Akins



**Ashley Akins** has been awarded a **Community Research Fellowship**. With this fellowship, Ashley plans to research how community-based enterprises and networks can assist in the preservation and revitalization of both traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and the social economy in impoverished indigenous communities. Ashley is a 2009 graduate of UVic, majoring in environmental studies and Latin American studies. She was remarkably active as an undergraduate, becoming the founder and president of the *Q'ente* Textile Revitalization Society as well as

the co-founder and director of *Mosqoy*: Sacred Valley Youth Fund, two sustainability projects based in the Andes region of Peru that have earned Ashley a number of awards and scholarships. *Q'ente* is a community network that provides a fair outlet through which to sell textiles while promoting traditional art and culture. *Mosqoy* provides post-secondary educational opportunities to impoverished youth of the Sacred Valley.