

## Southern Ontario Node: SE, Supportive Communities and Public Policy

**Social Economy for more supportive communities: Government Action Plan for Collective Entrepreneurship – Government of Quebec**

Peter Elson

The government action plan for collective entrepreneurship aims to maximize the impact of this economic sector which includes cooperatives and non-profit organizations (NPO). The government wants to give these stakeholders concrete means, adapted to their reality, to enhance the dynamism of regions, and to meet the needs of communities within each region, in a perspective of sustainable development.

The action plan is based on a five year period. However, the application of the plan will

be spread over periods that vary in relation to each other, and will be tailored to the availability of resources of groups involved in the development of the social economy.

Visit: [http://sec.oise.utoronto.ca/english/projet\\_outputs/Project33\\_January09Report.pdf](http://sec.oise.utoronto.ca/english/projet_outputs/Project33_January09Report.pdf) for the full report.

**Encouraging the Social Economy through Public Policy: The Relationship between the Ontario Government and Social Economy Organizations**

Kathy Brock and Cheryl Bulpitt

This paper focuses on public sector policy and has three objectives. First, it will contribute to the current understanding of the the relationship between the Ontario government and social economy organizations. Second,

it will provide a basis for understanding how provincial governments and social economy organizations can work together more effectively given their redefined roles in society and the economy to produce better results for the citizens they jointly serve.

Third, it will advance the knowledge in the field of public policy by providing a basis for assessing the effects of specific policies and programs on the health of the social economy, the creation of social capital and building and sustaining a healthy democracy.

This approach entails developing criteria as to when government should serve as enablers of organizational objectives and when governments should act more coercively (Gidron et al., 1992).

Visit: [http://sec.oise.utoronto.ca/english/project\\_outputs/CPSA2007ppr.pdf](http://sec.oise.utoronto.ca/english/project_outputs/CPSA2007ppr.pdf) to find the full paper

## Northern Node: Nunavut Summit on the Social Economy

The Summit, hosted in partnership by the Nunavut Economic Forum, Social Economy Research Network for Northern Canada (SERN-NoCa), Nunavut Research Institute and the Canadian CED Network was held in Iqaluit, NU on November 25-27, 2009.

Visit: <http://dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/sernoca/news> for details of the Summit, powerpoint and audio presentations. Following are two highlights of presentations from the Summit.

Dr. Chris Southcott, Research Director from the Department of Sociology Lakehead University

and Dr. Frances Abele, Caleton Univeristy shared insights about the importance of the SE in Nunavut. Together they emphasized the unique characteristics of the SE in Nunavut in comparison to the rest of Canada.

What makes the SE in Nunavut distinct is that it includes both a formal and informal economies. For example, a formal economy is one that we, cousins to the South, are more familiar with and includes social enterprises, credit unions, not for profit organizations, mutuals and cooperatives.

The informal economy that Greg Cousins and Frances Abele spoke about in their presentations refer to traditional production that has nothing to do with 'getting paid for it.' For example, harvesting, carving, sewing, country food sharing, and care for elders and children.

To hear more examples of how the SE in the North differ from the rest of Canada, including new conditions for indigenous government that exist, listen to the full recording, visit: [www.socialeconomyhub.ca/?q=content/nunavut-summit-social-economy](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca/?q=content/nunavut-summit-social-economy)

### Regional Research Centres

Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network  
[www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic](http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic)

L'Alliance de recherche universités-communautés en économie sociale (ARUC-ÉS) et le Réseau québécois de recherche partenariale en économie sociale (RQRP-ÉS)  
[www.aruc-es.ca](http://www.aruc-es.ca)

Social Economy Centre  
[sec.oise.utoronto.ca](http://sec.oise.utoronto.ca)

Linking, Learning, Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies and Sustainable Communities  
[www.usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy](http://www.usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy)

Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada  
[dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/sernoca](http://dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/sernoca)  
BC-Alberta Research Alliance on the Social Economy  
[www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca](http://www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca)

### The Canadian Social Economy Hub [www.socialeconomyhub.ca](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca)

The Canadian Social Economy Hub (CSEHub) is located at the University of Victoria and is co-directed by Ian MacPherson and Rupert Downing. CSEHub undertakes research in order to understand and promote the Social Economy tradition within Canada and as a subject of academic enquiry within universities.

CSEHub is a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) between the University of Victoria, represented by its principal investigator, and the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet), represented by the designated co-director. CSEHub is directed by the two organizations and their representatives, with the advice and input of a board of representatives of regional nodes and national partners of the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships (CSERP).

### Questions? Please Contact Us!

Annie McKittrick, Manager  
(250) 472-4976  
secoord@uvic.ca  
[www.socialeconomyhub.ca](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca)

Canadian Social Economy Hub  
University of Victoria, TEF 214  
2300 McKenzie Avenue  
Victoria, BC V8P 5C2



# Building a People Centered Economy: Public Policy and the Social Economy

[WWW.SOCIALECONOMYHUB.CA](http://WWW.SOCIALECONOMYHUB.CA)

### What is the Social Economy?

There are many definitions used by practitioners and others interested in the Social Economy. The Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) National Policy Council has the following definition:

"The Social Economy consists of association-based economic initiatives founded on values of:

- Service to members of community rather than generating profits
- Autonomous management (not government or market controlled)
- Democratic decision making
- Primacy of persons and work over capital
- Based on principles of participation, empowerment.

The Social Economy includes: social assets (housing, childcare, etc), social enterprises including co-operatives, credit unions, equity and debt capital for community investment, social purpose businesses, community training and skills development, integrated social and economic planning, and capacity building and community empowerment. The Social Economy is a continuum that goes from one end of totally voluntary organizations to the other end, where the economic activity (social enterprise) blurs the line with the private sector."

To provide a context for studying the Social Economy, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada introduces the Social Economy as follows:

"In recent years, in both North America and Europe, there has been increasing interest in what is known as the 'Social Economy,' for which some authorities use the term 'community economic development.'"

The social economy refers to those enterprises and organizations which use the tools and some of the methods of business, on a not-for-profit basis, to provide social, cultural, economic and health services to communities that need them. The social economy is characterized by cooperative enterprises, based on principles of community solidarity that respond to new needs in social and health services, typically at the community or regional level.

Social economy enterprises exhibit distinctive forms of organization and governance such as worker co-operatives and non-profit organizations. Such organizations produce goods for and deliver services to the public."

Research by the Canadian Social Economy Hub has featured analysis of the unique role and relevance of Social Economy organizations to public policy issues around the world. The discourse has grown as researchers, civil society organizations and governments seek to respond to inter-related socio-economic and environmental challenges. The economic downturn has fuelled this interest in seeking a more people-centered economic model, a role that the research suggests is unique to the social economy.

In this Newsletter we summarize our research on the role of the Social Economy in public policy, and how strengthen the outcomes of the Social Economy for societal benefit. We also feature the public policy research of the regional nodes of our research program.

In 2010, opportunities for engagement and knowledge mobilization on these important research findings will be a priority as we contribute to the **Summit on Building a People Centered Economy in Canada in Ottawa at Carleton University, May 30 - June 1st, 2010.**



The Summit will be designed by the Summit Steering Group, to create a process that will build consensus for action on key priorities. It is a converging point for preparatory engagement processes designed to actively involve constituencies and government policy makers and will be centred on six themes:

1. Finance and Investment; 2. Enterprise Development; 3. Territorial Revitalization; 4. Organizing the Social Economy Marketplace; 5. Partnerships; and 6. International.

To participate in these important discussions, please contact Rachele McElroy or Rupert Downing at the Canadian CED Network: [www.ccednet-rcdec.ca](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca)

Ian MacPherson and Rupert Downing, CSEHub Co-directors

### The Canadian SE Hub Public Policy Facilitation Committee

The committee works with researchers and practitioners to highlight and clarify the unique role of the Social Economy (SE), both nationally and internationally, in contributing to progressive public policy outcomes. Dr. Jorge Sousa of the University of Alberta and Rupert Downing of CCEDNet are the committee's co-chairs. In 2008, the committee embarked on an initiative to synthesize the vast literature and policies associated with the Social Economy. The initiative is intended to contribute to work by academics, practitioners and policy makers to strengthen the policy environment for Canada's Social Economy and to provide key actors with examples of successful initiatives, working policies and policy development processes. Within the Canadian context, the committee has identified public policies at the federal, provincial/territorial, municipal and First Nations levels. The three papers that are part of this initiative are profiled in the following pages.

Newsletter by Rachele McElroy





## Resources

### CCEDNET

**Building a Global Movement for the Social Economy** Presentation by Rupert Downing, October 2nd 2009

[www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/files/ccedne/building\\_a\\_global\\_movement\\_rdowning0909.pdf](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/files/ccedne/building_a_global_movement_rdowning0909.pdf)

### Building a People Centered Economy Telelearning Session

[www.socialeconomyhub.ca/?q=content/telelearning-session-16-building-people-centered-economy](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca/?q=content/telelearning-session-16-building-people-centered-economy)

### Public Paper Series presentations and recommended research findings

[www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/our\\_work/socialeconomy/research#natresearchpaper](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/our_work/socialeconomy/research#natresearchpaper)

### SE and CED in Canada: Next Steps for Public Policy

[www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/node/885](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/node/885)

### ALOE

[http://aloe.socioeco.org/index\\_en.html](http://aloe.socioeco.org/index_en.html)

### Asian Forum for the Solidarity Economy 2009 (RIPESS)

[www.ripestlac.net/en/laces\\_latino.php](http://www.ripestlac.net/en/laces_latino.php)

### International Newsletter on Sustainable Local Development

<http://local-development.blogspot.com/>

### Social Economy Origins by Yvon Poirier 2009

[www.socialeconomyhub.ca/sites/default/files/SE-Origins%5B1%5D.doc](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca/sites/default/files/SE-Origins%5B1%5D.doc)

### Caledon Institute of Social Policy. What is Policy?

[www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/544ENG.pdf](http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/544ENG.pdf)

### Resource list for developing an understanding of the SE in a Canadian context

[www.socialeconomyhub.ca/sites/default/files/SEresource.doc](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca/sites/default/files/SEresource.doc)



World Social Forum  
Belem Amazonia, Brazil 2009

## National Research: Public Policy Paper Series

### “Advancing the Social Economy for socio-economic development: International Perspectives”

*Crystal Tremblay*

This first paper suggests that: “Concepts and frameworks for the SE have been the subject of increasing attention for academic analysis, public policy by governments, and collaborative action by civil society movements, both in Canada and internationally. The growing attention to the concept of the SE is indicative of efforts to address inter-related social, economic and environmental issues affecting the sustainable development of people, communities, and nations, and the inter-dependent nature of global human development. Despite the increasing application of this concept and initiatives related to it there are limited syntheses that provide a comparative picture of the evolving state of public policy internationally.”

For the full paper visit: [www.socialeconomyhub.ca/sites/default/files/Public\\_Policy\\_Paper\\_1.pdf](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca/sites/default/files/Public_Policy_Paper_1.pdf)

### “Public Policy Trends and Instruments Supporting the Social Economy: International Experiences”

*Crystal Tremblay*

The second paper builds on this literature review by focusing on the public policy instruments used to support the Social Economy in different jurisdictions. Specific policy instruments are identified that are being applied by governments to support the Social Economy in producing public policy outcomes that respond to the social, economic and environmental challenges they and their citizens’ face. The paper reveals an important trend of governments’ greater recognition of how organizations of the SE have applied core ideas in order to achieve socio-economic development goals that are equitable and just. Analysis is also provided of the ways in which social economy actors are working together to “co-construct” public policy. One conclusion of the paper is that where governments have fragmented or non-explicit approaches to the Social Economy and there is a lack of cohesion and collaboration amongst its across, there has been greater difficulty to maximize outcomes. There are also some important examples of public policy development within Canada and in other countries that suggest material for discussion on the future of public policy on the social economy.

Check back at [www.socialeconomyhub.ca](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca) in March for the full paper

### “Building a People-Centered Economy in Canada: Next Steps for Public Policy”

*Rupert Downing, Sarah Amyot and Crystal Tremblay*

The third paper in the series proposes action on next steps in strengthening the public policy environment for the Social Economy (SE), as a key agenda to building a more people centered economy in Canada. It highlights the public policy findings of research by the Canadian SE Hub and Research Partnerships and suggests the policy rationale for governments at all levels to invest in the SE as a means to address pressing social, economic and environmental issues. Specific analysis is provided on the lessons for Canada from global public policy trends and on the potential for adapting and scaling up initiatives showing results.

Finally the paper suggests some key lessons for actors in the SE (cooperatives, social movements, community non profit organizations, credit unions and others) on how they can work to co-construct a common policy agenda based on their shared values and objectives for improving the condition of their members, communities, and country.

Check back in March for the full paper at [www.socialeconomyhub.ca](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca)

## Snapshot of the Public Policy Research from the Regional Nodes

### Atlantic Node: Building Policy 4 the Social Economy

The Atlantic Node, in collaboration with the Québec and Northern nodes, and the Canadian Social Economy Hub, hosted this colloquium (Sept 30-Oct 2nd, 2009 at Mt. Saint Vincent University Halifax Nova Scotia). The colloquium brought together over 100 people with an interest in the social economy in this region - including government policy shapers, cutting edge researchers, community builders, and the next generation of Social Economy leaders - students.

The Nova Scotia Minister of Economic and Rural Development, the Honorable Percy Paris, spoke on the importance of the Social Economy to the future of that province, and Ross Reid, the Deputy Minister, Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat for the government of Newfoundland and Labrador, gave an overview of his province’s efforts to enhance relationships with the Social Economy sector.

Director of the Atlantic Node, Dr. Leslie Brown, together with the national co-director Rupert Downing, and researchers from Atlantic Canada and Quebec (Pamela Fancey and Yves Vaillancourt), discussed important research findings on how to strengthen public policy for the Social Economy. Following are two highlights of presentations from the colloquium.

Visit: [www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/english/colleqE.asp](http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/english/colleqE.asp) for podcasts of the plenary sessions, research posters, and background materials.

#### “Deliberation, Design, Development, Delivery: identifying avenues for policy dialogue between government and social economy organizations: initial findings from Atlantic Canada”

*Jan Myers*

For the first time in the literature, Jan Myers presents some of her initial observations from her research that endeavours to map public

### Prairies and Northern Ontario Node: The Importance of Policy for Community Economic Development: A Case Study of the Manitoba Context

*Brendan Reimer, Dan Simpson, Jesse Hajer and John Loxley*

Advancing CED policy is a difficult task. Part of this difficulty lies in understanding the channels through which policy decisions are made and the distinctions among different levels of policy. Another challenge is devising a strategy for convincing those who have power to implement policy that supports CED to actually do so. Even if good policy is adopted, there remains the additional task of seeing that it is adequately implemented. This paper sheds some light on these difficult undertakings in the Manitoba context.

While this paper took the Manitoba context as a case study of how policy works and how to advance it, the lessons here may well be useful for promoting policy in different regions across Canada. The review of what policy actually consists of should also be helpful for understanding policy in any jurisdiction, and it is hoped that the review of policy proposals for Manitoba provides a useful set of examples for policy objectives that could be pursued elsewhere.

Visit: [www.usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy/?p=560](http://www.usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy/?p=560) to find the full paper

policy relating to the Social Economy in Atlantic Canada.

The complexity of the relationships between government and social economy organizations in the region are discussed. Highlighted are the conditions for changing the policy environment for a more coordinated presence from the sectors and the demand for “a Voice” to nurture and support the coordination of the Social Economy “raising across development issues.” To illustrate, she uses the example of Le Chantier de l’économie sociale and the role it plays in coordinating the Social Economy activities in Québec.

For this and other Atlantic Node working papers, visit: [www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/English/documentsE.asp#Working](http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/English/documentsE.asp#Working)

#### “The public Policy Environment for the Social Economy in Quebec and in Atlantic Canada, An Overview of the Social Economy: Policy and Practice in Quebec”

*Margie Mendell and Nancy Neamtam*

This engaging presentation brings to light a synthesis of policy and practice and lessons learned from the Québec experience. Key historical moments in the building of Québec’s movement on the Social Economy (SE) are highlighted and the shift of the development of SE from a sectoral responsibility to a territorial responsibility is discussed. Margie Mendell wraps up the presentation by sharing Montreal’s vision for the Social Economy, where SE enterprises are recognized as a tool in the development of community.

For further information on Atlantic Node policy-related projects, please visit: [www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/English/projectsE.asp](http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/English/projectsE.asp)

### BC Alberta Node: The Great Transition Navigating Social Economic Ecological Change in Turbulent Times

*Mike Lewis*

The “Tools for Conviviality” (integrated land reform, regional capital mobilization, and co-operative institution-building) outlined and developed over the last 30 years provide strategic pathways for the Great Transition we must not fail to accomplish: from a globalised growth economy driven by escalating levels of debt to a federation of decentralized, social, and ecological economies.

Visit: [www.scribd.com/doc/21656220/The-Great-Transition-Navigating-Social-Economic-Ecological-Change-in-Turbulent-Times](http://www.scribd.com/doc/21656220/The-Great-Transition-Navigating-Social-Economic-Ecological-Change-in-Turbulent-Times) to find the full paper