

CAREERS IN THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

The social economy may, most simply, be thought of as “a method of transforming the world.” Greg MacLeod, Tompkins Institute, Cape Breton University

What is the social economy?

The social economy includes organizations with a social mission: they create jobs and purchase goods and services, but emphasize social goals. Among social economy organizations are **nonprofits, co-operatives, credit unions, social enterprises, foundations, and mutual associations that serve a membership.** Their primary focus is people rather than money as in a typical business.



Careers in the Social Economy...for people like YOU!

Some examples of social economy organizations are Amnesty International, United Way, Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, World Wide Fund for Nature, Doctors Without Borders, YMCA/YWCA, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Alterna Credit Union, Gay Lea Foods, The Big Carrot and Goodwill.



“The social economy is working with all facets of the community to make it a better place.”

Rachel Parks, Bringing Youth Towards Equality

Check out these job sites!

Centre for Co-operative and Community Based Economy

<http://www.socialeconomynetwork.ca/content/cooperative-careers>

Charity Village

http://www.charityvillage.com/cvnet/career_centre.aspx

Idealist

<http://www.idealists.org/en/career/morejobs.html>

Ontario Co-operative Association

http://www.ontario.coop/pages/index.php?main_id=59

Work in Nonprofits

<http://www.workinnonprofits.ca>

“‘Social Economy’ is another way of conducting business which places human values around relationships, trust and reciprocity at the forefront.” Pascal Lavoie-Scott, Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique

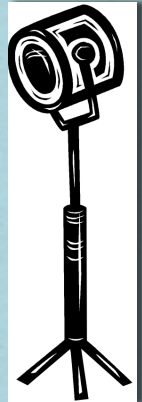
ON-LINE COMMUNITY ANIMATOR



My social economy career path began with Katimavik, a volunteer program which demonstrated for me the value in having a job which is aligned with my personal values. Now I work as the on-line community animator for Taking IT Global—a network which aims to inspire, inform and involve the next generation of leaders via information technology. My position involves managing support teams all over the world, as well as project management, partnership development and content creation.

✱ *I would recommend a career in the social economy to anyone wanting more from their job than just a paycheck. Knowing that I am helping people all over the world makes my work feel like more than a job; it feels like a mission.*

Liam O'Doherty, Taking IT Global



LEADERSHIP FACILITATOR

Several years ago, I went to Sri Lanka to see the rebuilding process after the tsunami, and that trip forever changed my life! I saw poverty first-hand, but I also saw what I could do to make a difference through spreading awareness and fundraising. I became so passionate that I joined the Me To We team several months after graduating from high school. I love

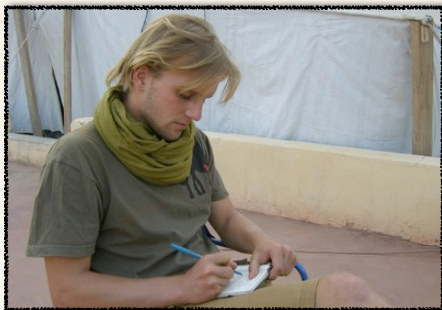
my job: working with thousands of youth every year and helping them to discover their leadership potential, both domestically, in Toronto, and internationally in countries like India and Kenya.

Working with Me To We has been everything I hoped for—personally and professionally. I feel so lucky to have a job that allows me to make a difference in our world! ✱



Sally Hakim, Me To We

CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



In many ways, my current career as Campaigns Coordinator for the Polaris Institute, an Ottawa-based social justice and environmental organization, is no surprise

given my childhood interest in social and environmental issues. The life of a professional working for environmental and social justice organizations can be extremely exciting and fulfilling. The problems facing the planet are immense, but the social economy sector is relentless—people believe in and care deeply about what they do.

✱ *My advice? Choose an organization you believe in...and you'll make a difference!*

Joe Cressy, Polaris Institute

Learn more about the social economy:

<http://socialeconomy.utoronto.ca>

<http://ontario.coop>

<http://imaginecanada.ca>

<http://www.ccednet-rdec.ca/>

<http://socialeconomyhub.ca>

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