

The Social Economy Research Network for Northern Canada



Social Economy
Workshop
Inuvik, June 9. 2009



Introduction: Goals of the Workshop

1. Introduce you to our Network and what we are trying to do
2. Try to explain what we mean by “social economy”
3. To get ideas from you about what and how we should be researching
4. To get you interested in becoming involved in research partnerships



An introduction to the Social Economy

- Most studies think of economic development as being the result of businesses that develop in order to make money or governments who provide services in order to get elected
- Yet if you look at all the economic activities in a community, many are provided by groups in the community who are not in it to make money or to get elected – they are in it to help the community
- The work of these groups are often ignored as an important part of the local economy – especially in the North
- The activities of these groups and the services that they offer is what we refer to as the social economy
 - Economic activity that is neither primarily profit-oriented or directly provided by governments



The Social Economy – why should we care?

- The work of groups such as yours are often ignored as important economic activities for communities
- You provide services that are essential for communities
- As well, you often provide them in a way that gives more control to the community
- Our research will attempt to show that social economy organizations and their activities are an important part of Northern communities
- We will attempt to find ways of helping social economy organizations to ensure the well-being of Northern communities



The Social Economy in Canada's North

- Communities in Canada's North are currently facing substantial social and economic challenges.
- The social economy offers tools to help these communities face these challenges through empowerment and the formation of organizations better suited to resource dependent and Indigenous communities
- The creation of a network of university and college-based researchers and representatives of community-based organizations, operating as partners, to conduct research relevant to the social economy in Canada's North is therefore relevant and important to the region.
- Northern governments, both Indigenous and public, need research in this area in order to undertake realistic program development and especially to develop realistic economic development policies.



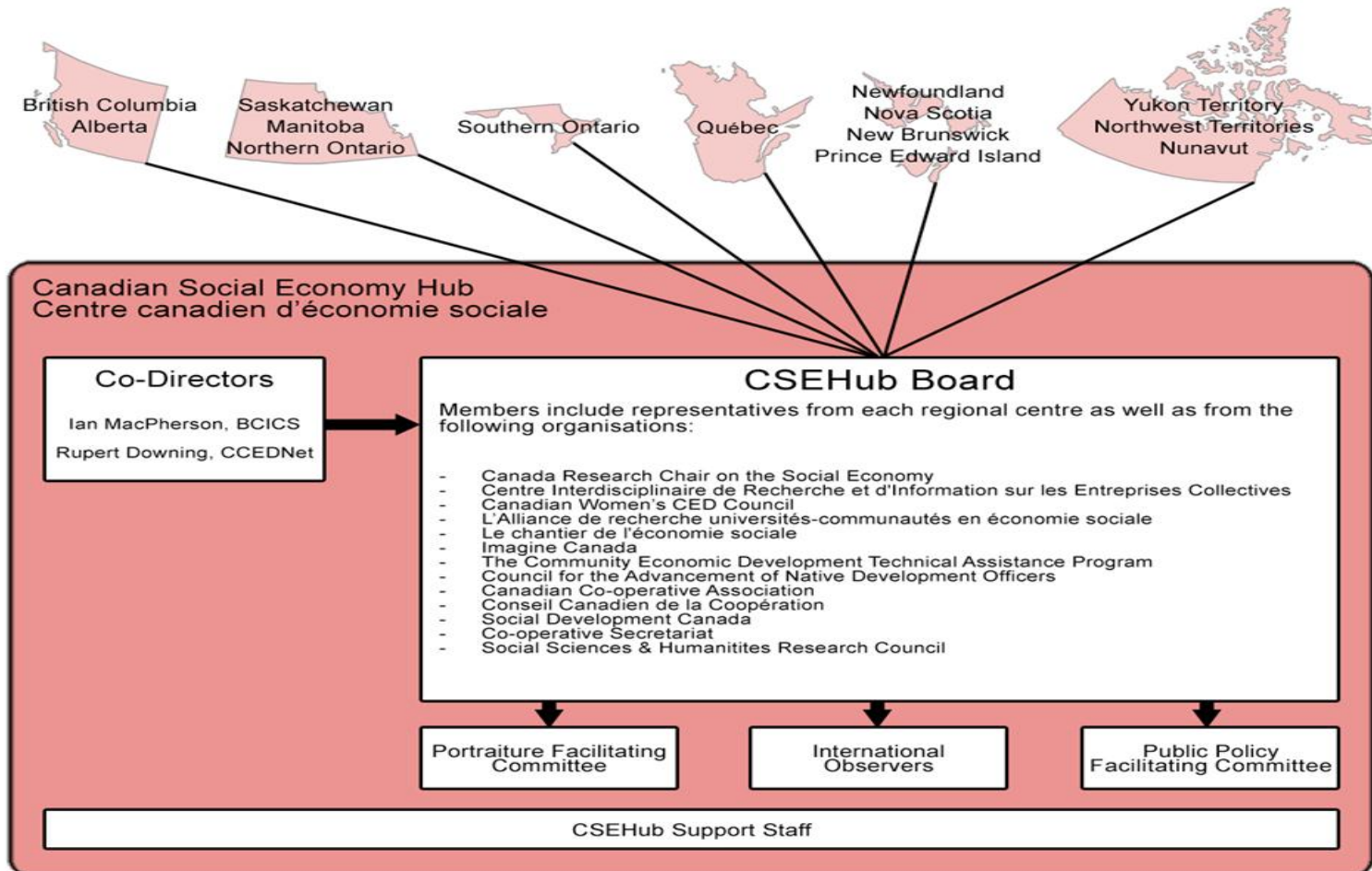
What is SERNNNoCa

- A network of researchers and community organizations, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, that aims to study the role that the social economy can play in the sustainable development of Northern Canada
- It is built around the three Northern Territorial Colleges and their respective research institutions and links researchers working in the North with Northern students, community organizations, and educational institutions
- Funding is from 2006 to 2011
- Network covers Yukon, NWT, Nunavut, Nunavik, and Labrador



The National Networks

- We are part of a group of regional networks looking at the social economy



Research Themes

- The network is organized around four research themes, each with a theme coordinator
 - Theme 1: A Profile of the Social Economy in Northern Canada - conceptualizing, inventorying, and evaluating the Northern social economy (Chris Southcott, Lakehead University)
 - Theme 2: Resource regimes and social economy in the North - look at the past, present and potential impact of varying resource extraction regimes on the development of the social economy and the evolution of government programs (Brenda Parlee, University of Alberta)
 - Theme 3: The State and the social economy in the North –research look at the past, present and potential impact of the state and public policy on the social economic development in the North (Frances Abele, Carleton University)
 - Theme 4: Indigenous communities and the social economy – a better understanding of the relationship between sharing, a subsistence economy, traditional indigenous cultures and values, and social cohesion in Northern communities. (David Natcher, University of Saskatchewan)



Research

In addition to the core research we are funding:

Project 5 - Contributions of volunteering in outdoor recreation to the social economy in Whitehorse. Coordinated by Dr. Margaret Johnston, Lakehead University

Project 6 – Mining and the Social Economy in the Canadian North Coordinated by Dr. Arn Keeling, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Project 7 – The Relationship of the Social Economy to Community Development and Park Creation: A Case Study in Lutsel K'e, Northwest Territories Coordinated by Dr. Raynald Harvey Lemelin, Lakehead University

Project 9 - Co-operative Development in the Yukon Coordinated by Dr. Doug Lionais, Cape Breton University

Project 10 - The Role of Inuit Land Claim Organizations in the Northern Social Economy
Coordinated by Dr. Thierry Rodon, Université Laval

Project 11 - A gallery of co-operatives in the Canadian North (Dr. Ian MacPherson, University of Victoria)

Project 12 - Co-operatives and economic development in Pond Inlet, Nunavut (Dr. Lou Hammond-Ketilson, University of Saskatchewan)



Organization: Network Steering Committee

- Clint Sawicki, Northern Research Institute
- Alana Mero, Aurora Research Institute
- Mary Ellen Thomas, Nunavut Research Institute
- Ron Sparkes, Labrador Institute
- Charles Dorais, Makivik Corporation
- Mary Nirlungayuk, Arctic Cooperatives
- Frances Abele, Carleton University
- David Natcher, University of Saskatchewan
- Chris Southcott, Lakehead University
- Brenda Parlee, University of Alberta
- Julia Christensen-Kereliuk, student representative
- Valoree Walker, Yukon College, (Network Coordinator)



Organization: Coordination

- Network Coordinator – Valoree Walker, Northern Research Institute, Whitehorse
- NWT Coordinator – Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, Arctic Health Research Network - NWT, Yellowknife
- Nunavut Coordinator –Karen Mackenzie, Nunavut Research Institute, Iqaluit



Theme 1: A Profile of the Social Economy in Northern Canada

Conceptualizing, inventorying, and evaluating the Northern social economy

Chris Southcott, Lakehead University



Objectives

- To show in concrete terms how important social economy organizations are to communities in the North
- To find out what are the unique aspects of social economy organizations in the North
- To determine what are the biggest problems facing social economy organizations in the North



How are we going to do this?

- “Census” of all social economy organizations in the North
- Questionnaire survey
- Community workshops



What we have learned so far

- Social economy in the North heavily influenced by several main characteristics:
 - The importance of the mixed economy
 - The dominance of the state
 - Resource dependence
 - New conditions of Indigenous governance



How does the social economy in the North differ from the rest of Canada?

2003 National Survey of Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations

- the highest percentage of social economy organization per population in Canada
- fewer are Registered Charities
- the highest percentage of non-profit or voluntary organizations serving Aboriginal communities
- higher average revenues per capita
- highest percentage of organizations involved in Law, Advocacy, and Politics
- most likely to report problems related to organizational capacity
- Least likely to report problems attracting participants



Percentage of Social Economy Groups by Main Activity

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Census of Social Economy Groups</i>	<i>Questionnaire Respondents</i>
Manufacturing, Processing and/or construction	0.2	0.0
Trade, Finance and/or Insurance	3.5	3.9
Development and Housing	6.8	7.2
Sports & Recreation, Tourism	16.6	14.4
Arts & Culture	13.0	13.7
Education and Research	2.7	4.6
Health	3.8	2.6
Social Services	14.5	16.3
Environment	4.6	7.2
Law, Advocacy and Politics	11.0	11.1
Grant-making, Fundraising and Voluntarism Promotion	1.8	2.0
Religion	10.0	4.6
Business Association, a Professional Association or a Union	10.3	12.4
Unknown	1.2	0.0

SERNNoCa Census of SE Organizations-NWT

- NWT has a larger relative number of groups dealing with law, advocacy, and politics (importance of community justice groups)
- Another difference from the other territories is the fact that the Northwest Territories have fewer organizations dealing with sports and recreation and tourism
- Nunavut has a higher percentage of social economy organizations engaged in trade, finance and/or insurance
- Yukon has few social economy organizations involved in trade, finance and/or insurance



What about Inuvik?

- What is unique about the SE organizations in Inuvik?
 - fewer sports and recreation based SE organizations
 - more education and research-based SE organizations
 - more law, advocacy, and politics-based organizations



Organization	Activity	Organization	Activity
Inuvik Community Corporation	3	L'Association des Francophones du Delta du Mackenzie	10
Community Garden Society of Inuvik	4	Beaufort Delta Legal Services Clinic	10
Inuvik Parks and Recreation Board	4	Inuvik Aboriginal Women's Society	10
Great Northern Arts Festival	5	Association des Francophones du Delta du Mackenzie	10
Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre	5	Inuvik Métis Local #62	10
Inuvialuit Communications Society	5	Community Justice Committee	10
Inuvik Museum & Fine Arts Advisory Board	5	Inuvik Interagency Committee	10
Muskra Jamboree Committee	5	Catholic Women's League	12
Inuvik Literacy Committee	6	Anglican Church of the Ascension	12
Inuvik Elders Committee	6	Lighthouse Community Church	12
NWT Training Centre	6	First Bible Baptist Church	12
Healthy Smiles Society	7	Roman Catholic Mission-Our Lady of Victory	12
Children First Centre	8	NWT Fire Chiefs Association	13
Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre	8	Inuvik Hunters and Trappers Committee	13
Inuvik Homeless Shelter	8	SEDNA Association for Family Violence Workers	13
Inuvik Transition House Society	8	NWT Physical Therapy Association	13
Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA)	8	Billy Moore Home & Charlotte Vehus Home	?
Inuvik Youth Centre	8	Family Counselling Centre	?
Inuvik Food Bank	8	Healthy Babies	?
Inuvik Victims Services	8	Nihtat Gwich'in Council	fn
Beaufort Delta Regional SPCA	9	Gwich'in Land Administration	ua
Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council	9	Inuvialuit Community Development Division	ua
Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board	9	Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board	ua

Other findings

- Project 2: Resource regimes and social economy in the North (Parlee, Alberta)
 - Project 2a: Impact of Participation in the Wage Economy on Traditional Harvesting, Dietary Patterns and Social Networks in the Inuvialuit Settlement region (Todd)
- Project 3: Survey of government policies impacting the social economy in Northern Canada (Abele, Carleton)
 - Project 3a: History of the mixed economy and policy initiatives (Delic)
- Project 4: The social economy, harvesting, processing, and sharing of resources in Northern Indigenous communities (Natcher, Saskatchewan)
 - Project 4a: Inventory of harvest support programs across the Canadian North (Castro)
 - Project 4b: Inventory of resource co-management arrangements across the North (Tytelman)



Discussion Questions

- What should we be researching in the NWT?
- How can we develop meaningful partnerships with your organizations?
 - What can we do to help you?
 - How can we keep you informed about what we are doing?
 - How can we keep up to date on what your research needs are?
- What are the major issues groups are facing?

