



# Canadian Social Economy Hub Centre canadien d'économie sociale

coordinating research to build the social economy

March 2010, Volume 5, Number 1

## E-BULLETIN



Welcome to the March 2010 edition of the Canadian Social Economy Hub (CSEHub) E-Bulletin. CSEHub was initiated in 2005 as part of the National Research Program on the Social Economy, and is funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Our goal through the E-Bulletin is to provide updates on events and projects within the CSEHub and its six regional research nodes across Canada. For additional information, please visit our website.

### What's Inside:

1. Introduction
2. Message from the Co-directors
3. What's New
4. Events and Conferences
- 4-7. Our Initiatives
8. Student Network Update
9. Upcoming Events
10. Contact Information

### What's on Our Website?

Social Economy in the news, telelearning sessions, thematic newsletters, event postings, paper series, resources, and links.

[www.socialeconomyhub.ca](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca)



Canadian Social Economy Hub  
Centre canadien d'économie sociale  
coordinating research to build the social economy



Home About us What's New Our Initiatives Opportunities and Events Resources Contact us

Social Economy in the News

Languages  
• English  
• Français

Search this site

Search

User login

Username \*

Welcome to Canadian Social Economy Hub

The Canadian Social Economy Hub (CSEHub) acts as a facilitator promoting collaboration among six regional research centres across Canada (Quebec, Atlantic, Southern Ontario, Prairie and Northern Ontario, BC and Alberta and the North), and creating opportunities and exchanges with international networks. CSEHub reaches out to practitioners, to researchers and to civil society, through the regional research centres and their community partners. It undertakes research as needed in order to understand and promote the Social Economy tradition within Canada and as a subject of academic enquiry within universities.

The CSEHub gratefully operates on a five-year grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Read More >

What's New



Social Enterprise

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

### Carrying the Work of the Hub Forward

Originally, the work of the Canadian Social Economy Hub was to end in the summer of 2010. We have; however, requested the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to allow us to continue our work through the spring of 2011. They have granted our request.

While we will have a sharply reduced staff after June 2010, we are going to use the funds we do possess, in addition to any others we can attract to carry out the following activities:

1. Provide assistance to the nodes and national partners in the publication of research results. Our hope is that in doing so we can demonstrate some of the over-all accomplishments of the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships. It is important that outsiders grasp the bigger, national picture that we have been struggling to present. The whole is bigger than the sum of the parts, even though so many people become committed to specific issues or projects – both among and without the supporters of the Social Economy project. Grasping the full significance is, as it has always been, our biggest challenge. We hope to do what we can to rise to the challenge in the time we have left.
2. Engage with stakeholders on the findings of the research, in collaboration with partners, including practitioners, governments and key sectors, to help mobilize knowledge from the research and assist in the use of research findings to strengthen the Social Economy (SE) at the national level. This will include telelearning sessions, presentations at events, contributions to the media, and meetings with stakeholders. We will pay particular attention to subjects that are relevant to the unique role of the SE in responding to social, economic and environmental challenges facing Canada, including for example: food security, poverty reduction, enterprise development, social financing, housing, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, community revitalization, and co-constructing public policy. We will use this engagement to support the development of future national research partnerships that build on the legacy of the research program.
3. Work with the nodes and the national partners to present the work of the partnerships forcefully and systematically at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (Fredericton) and the CUEXPO meetings in Waterloo in the late spring of 2011.
4. Organize the research dimensions of the CSEHub's work for electronic donation to any of our partners who wish to have it, and are able carry on the work we have all started.

We welcome suggestions for other activities and projects we might undertake before the work of the Hub is completed in the summer of 2011.

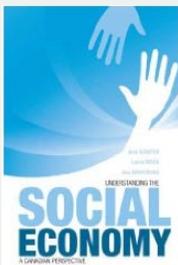


## WHAT'S NEW

### Featured Books on the Social Economy

***Understanding the Social Economy: A Canadian Perspective***

by Jack Quarter, Laurie Mook, and Ann Armstrong



In *Understanding the Social Economy*, Jack Quarter, Laurie Mook, and Ann Armstrong integrate a wide array of organisations founded upon a social mission – social enterprises, non-profits, co-operatives, credit unions, and community development associations – under the rubric of the ‘Social Economy.’ This framework facilitates a comprehensive study of

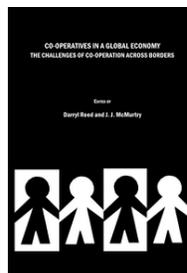
Canada’s social sector, an area often neglected in the business curricula despite the important role that these organizations play in Canada’s economy.

Invaluable for business programs that address issues such as community economic development, co-operatives, and non-profit studies and management, *Understanding the Social Economy* presents a unique set of case studies as well as chapters on organizational design and governance, finance and accounting, and accountability. The examples provide much needed context for students and allow for an original and in-depth examination of the relationships between Canada’s social infrastructure and the public and private sectors. With this work, Quarter, Mook, and Armstrong illuminate a neglected facet of business studies to further our understanding of the Canadian economy.

This book can be purchased at [amazon.ca](http://amazon.ca)

***Co-operatives in a Global Economy: The Challenges of Co-operation Across Borders***

edited by Darryl Reed and J. J. McMurtry



In their efforts to internationalize in the emerging global economy, co-operatives not only face a variety of problems that are common to all firms, but encounter specific challenges due to their particular value commitments, forms of incorporation and organizational structures. These features of co-operatives are generally seen as a major

source of competitive disadvantages and may cause significant trade-offs, forcing co-operatives to choose between living up to their principles of member ownership and control and remaining economically viable. Critics argue that such trade-offs signal the increasing irrelevance of co-operatives in a global economy. Advocates, however, counter that cooperatives may have unique competitive advantages, which can be exploited in a global economy, and that current trade-offs facing cooperatives can be overcome with the development of new international and transnational cooperative institutions and practices. Co-operatives, they claim, represent a much more sustainable and equitable form of production and may form the basis for viable, alternative approaches to development. This collection examines these debates about the roles of cooperatives in our increasingly global economy.

To find this book visit the Cambridge Publishers website: [www.c-s-p.org/Flyers/Co-operatives-in-a-Global-Economy--The-Challenges-of-Co-operation-Across-Borders1-4438-0189-5.htm](http://www.c-s-p.org/Flyers/Co-operatives-in-a-Global-Economy--The-Challenges-of-Co-operation-Across-Borders1-4438-0189-5.htm)

## EVENTS/CONFERENCES

### Nunavut Summit on the Social Economy

November 25-27, 2009, Iqaluit, Nunavut

<http://dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/sernnoca>

This summit was an opportunity to engage in discourse about the Social Economy in Northern Canada and highlight research and working projects that focus on this unique area of the country.

The Summit was hosted in partnership by: the Nunavut Economic Forum, the Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada (SERNNNoCa), the Nunavut Research Institute, and the Canadian Community Economic Development Network. Details of the Summit, including the Powerpoint and Audio presentations are now posted on the SERNNNoCa, and CSEHub websites.

Rupert Downing, Co-director of CSEHub attended this conference and presented, 'National Approaches to Social Economy Development: Public Policy and the Social Economy in Canada,' and 'Building a People-Centered Economy.'

CSEHub Manager Annie McKittrick also attended and presented, 'Resources and Tools for Social Economy Development,' and 'Examples of Social Economy Organizations.'



## OUR INITIATIVES

### Telelearning Sessions

These sessions are organized to feature Social Economy experts, and facilitate knowledge sharing through dynamic and interactive sessions. There are usually two speakers, and after their presentations, the floor is open to questions from participants. These are exciting networking opportunities, and chances for people to learn about current ideas and strategies. Please visit the CSEHub website for a complete listing of past sessions, including podcasts and background reading materials. Here is an example of the most recent session.

#### Session 18: The Role of the Social Economy in Meeting Diverse Housing Needs

February 16, 2010

1. The importance of having a national housing policy and program to produce housing units to meet diverse needs.
2. The role of the Social Economy in producing and managing those housing unit.
3. How we could be ending homelessness with a partnership between Social Economy organizations and government.

**Moderator:** Dr. Benjamin Isitt, Assistant Professor and postdoctoral fellow of history at the University of Victoria.

**Speaker:** David Hulchanski, Associate Director for Research at the University of Toronto's Cities Centre, and Professor of housing and community development in the Faculty of Social Work.

**Speaker:** George Penfold, Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development at Selkirk College.

**Upcoming Session: The Long View of the Social Economy,** March 30, 2010, 9:00 am PST

This session will offer an engaging look into the past, present and future of the Social Economy in Canada. The two featured speakers will be: CSEHub Co-director Ian MacPherson, and Jean Marc Fontan, Professor at UQÀM/Co-director of the Social Economy Community-University Research Alliance in Québec. CCEDNET Executive Director, Mike Toye will moderate. Contact [sekm@uvic.ca](mailto:sekm@uvic.ca) to register.

## OUR INITIATIVES

### Thematic Newsletters:

Since the fall, CSEHub has produced three new thematic newsletters featuring different themes within Canada's Social Economy. Please visit the CSEHub website to find the following newsletters: [www.socialeconomyhub.ca](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca).

1. **Poverty Reduction:** Social Economy traditions around the world are engaged in numerous activities that respond to people confronting poverty, illness, or community challenges. Poverty alleviation is one way to think about some of the direct and indirect impacts of the Social Economy. Though it might be argued that in many Social Economy activities, poverty alleviation is a by-product of work being done rather than a discreet objective in itself. This thematic newsletter examines some of the work being undertaken within CSERP that can be viewed as contributing to poverty alleviation across Canada.
2. **Public Policy:** Research by CSERP 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. This newsletter summarizes our research on the role of the Social Economy in public policy, and how to strengthen the outcomes of the Social Economy for societal benefit. It also features the public policy research of the regional nodes of our research program.
3. **Housing:** Social Economy organizations, like community-based groups, non-profits, and co-operatives are providing solutions and presenting ways of eliminating homelessness. Across CSERP, community and university-based researchers have identified Social Economy models of partnership that work to create and sustain affordable housing for Canadians. Community-based solutions driven by SE organizations supported by appropriate policies and investment by local, provincial and federal governments, can provide solutions to our housing crisis tailored to the unique circumstances of our diverse communities and populations.

### Knowledge Mobilization Paper Series:

Through a knowledge mobilization grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada – the Canadian Social Economy Hub has commissioned five papers from researchers across Canada. These papers should be available in April on the CSEHub website. They have been written under the supervision of leading researchers in the Social Economy and researched by students.

Telelearning sessions are being planned for April/May that will feature these papers and another set of papers that are being prepared for the National Summit on the People Centered Economy that will be held from May 30-June 1, 2010 in Ottawa.

*Darryl Reed* and *JJ McMurtry* from York University  
**“Procurement and the Social Economy”**

*Rupert Downing* and *Mike Toye* from CCEDNet  
**“Management and Governance for the Social Economy”**

*Ana Maria Peredo* and *Noel Keough* from the University of Victoria and University of Calgary  
**“Social Enterprises contribution to Social Innovation”**

*Seth Asimakos* and *George Karaphillis* from Cape Breton University  
**“Social Financing”**

*Frances Abele* from Calerton University  
**“New Business models for Sustainability”**

## OUR INITIATIVES

### Public Policy Paper Series

The Canadian Social Economy Hub has produced two key comparative papers on international trends in public policy to support the Social Economy. These are part of a three-paper series to be completed by June, 2010.

1. **“Advancing the Social Economy for Socio-economic Development: International perspectives.” Crystal Tremblay, September 2009.**
2. **“Public Policy Trends and Instruments Supporting the Social Economy: International Experiences.” Crystal Tremblay, March 2010.**

With the support of the Public Policy Facilitating Committee these papers lay the foundation for discussion on what can be done to strengthen the Social Economy (SE) in Canada to contribute to a more people-centered economy.

The research indicates a growing trend among both industrialized and “developing” countries, and supranational agencies such as the World Bank, OECD, and United Nations, to place the SE as a central policy framework to achieving socio-economic development that addresses inter-related challenges to social, economic and environment conditions.

Key public policy instruments include: horizontal government structures and policy frameworks that engage stakeholders in the SE; and government agencies that strengthen the role and outcomes of the SE, often supported by constitutional and legislative measures. Other examples include: enhanced access to capital finance for social enterprises; increased market opportunities for SE organizations, including preferential procurement arrangements by governments; support for technical assistance services to grow social enterprises; education and research that meets the needs of practitioners and policy-makers; measures that encourage the role of the SE in community and regional development; use of the SE to contribute to environmental sustainability, mitigation of

climate change and the production of renewable energy; policy and program development to utilize the SE to reduce poverty and create employment, particularly in the wake of the global economic downturn, and; increased prominence of the SE in policies on social inclusion and the self determination of indigenous peoples.

The final research paper in the national public policy series will focus on: “Building a People-Centered Economy in Canada: Next Steps for Public Policy.” This paper will roll up findings on policy-related research across the partners in CSERP and recommend areas for future policy development that build on current examples of best practice across the country.

These three papers are the subject of engagement with stakeholders leading into the Summit on a People-Centered Economy being held in Ottawa May 30-June 1, 2010. Engagement sessions have been held in Calgary, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Iqaluit (in conjunction with the Northern Node’s Summit on the Social Economy), and Halifax (at the Atlantic Node’s Policy Colloquium).

More sessions are planned at the Prairies - Northern Ontario node conference in Sault Ste. Marie, and the Southern Ontario node meeting in Toronto in April. A tele-learning session on the policy research to-date was held in December, 2009 that engaged representatives of SE stakeholders, government, and other interests. A thematic newsletter is now available on the CSEHub website that summarizes the discussion and identifies resources. Through the public policy facilitating committee’s Co-chair, Jorge Sousa they are organizing a special edition of the Canadian Journal for Public Policy for the Spring of 2011, and a roundtable of researchers will present policy-related research findings from across CSERP at the ANSER conference at this year’s Congress of the Humanities in June.

Rupert Downing, Co-director of CSEHub

## OUR INITIATIVES

### Education Research Paper

This paper examines where and how the Social Economy is portrayed in secondary schools across Canada, based upon the findings of a collection of case studies that assess Social Economy content in senior secondary (grades 10-12) school curricula in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia. The paper considers similarities and differences in teaching about the Social Economy across provincial curricula and calls attention to current “gaps” regarding representation of the Social Economy in the Canadian secondary school system. Importantly, the paper indicates potential areas where the curriculum can be linked to the Social Economy. In doing so, this paper seeks to answer the questions: what is the state of education about the Social Economy that Canadian high school students receive and how can Social Economy actors, governments and educators encourage better education about the Social Economy in Canadian high schools?

The paper also delves into explanatory variables, such as cultural and historical factors that might account for the presence of the Social Economy in some curricula, and not others. It draws attention to the importance of education policy in creating a strong environment for the Social Economy. The study has important implications for the kinds of Social Economy research that is conducted in the future as well as the types of tools that are developed to measure and assess the presence of the Social Economy in schools.

In this paper, we contend that the state of education about Social Economy in Canadian high schools is piecemeal and varies across the country. In spite of this, there are many innovative examples of education about the Social Economy in Canada, oftentimes at the local level, that provide insight into what a more comprehensive system of education about the Social Economy might look like. What is needed is a higher degree of collaboration and intentionality both within and outside of government.

The full paper will be available in April at:  
[www.socialeconomyhub.ca](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca)

Sarah Amyot and Annie McKittrick

### Researcher/Practitioner of The Month

In an effort to provide insight into current Social Economy research, CSEHub regularly interviews Social Economy researchers and practitioners to find out about their work. These interviews are posted on our website, along with a short biography and links to the projects or institutions with which they are associated.



**Yvon Poirier** is the Chair of the International Committee of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET). He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Groupe d'économie solidaire du Québec (GESQ) from 2004 to 2008. He is also a member of the coordination committee of RIPESS North America. He has been actively involved in the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS) since 2004. This involvement has brought him to attend RIPESS meetings in Dakar (2005) and Luxemburg (2009), as well the first two Asian Solidarity Economy Forums in Manila (2007) and Tokyo (2009). He has also participated in meetings of US SEN (Solidarity Economy Network) since the foundation of the network in 2007. Furthermore, he participated in the World Social Forum in 2005 (Porto Alegre) and in 2009 (Belém).



**Yvonne Chiu** is Co-Executive Director of the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative in Edmonton, Alberta. It is a workers' co-op made up of immigrant community workers that support immigrants and refugees through health education, community development, and advocacy. The co-op offers various services to newcomers – in many languages and at no cost.

Yvonne Chiu has been working with newcomers in Edmonton since the early 1990's when she began working for a settlement agency in the city's Chinatown. Through this experience, and then later while working for the city's public health department, she began to realize that newcomers often had trouble accessing the healthcare and social services that they required.

## STUDENT NETWORK UPDATES

### Alternative Knowledge and the Social Economy: Student Symposium and Exhibition

January 29-30, 2010

This two day symposium and learning opportunity was organized by the Social Economy Student Network, and was designed to share ways of creating and diffusing knowledge relating to the Social Economy. The symposium included:

- Interactive workshops • Keynote speakers
- Film & art exhibitions

It was an innovative opportunity for students specifically, but also practitioners and artists in the Social Economy field to network and learn from each other. The event featured the use of poetry, video, radio, photography, theatre, hip hop lyrics, and various forms of artistic mediums (paint, stencil, collage, drawing) to express political, personal and social messages. Participants recognized how powerful and important alternative tools of communication are for offering a different voice for academics, students and those too often unheard within traditional academic spaces.

For more information, visit:

<http://socialeconomy.info/en/english>



### March Student Researcher of the Month



Melissa Fong is currently completing her M.A. at The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Within the Department of Adult Education and Community development, her research focuses on social movements, counterhegemonic organizing and Marxist theory. Melissa's thesis is a qualitative study of community development practitioners in the settlement house movement in Canada. Her research brings together Adult Education and Sociology to explore social movement learning and spatial scale in movement organizing.

Melissa has also earned a B.A. (Sociology and Geography) and a B.Ed. at the University of British Columbia. Melissa served as a public school educator in Vancouver and is a member of the B.C. College of Teachers. She is also the winner of an Emerging Leaders scholarship from CSEHub.

### February Student Researcher of the Month



Sarah Amyot began her studies at the University of Victoria in the Studies in Policy and Practice program in the fall of 2008. Prior to this, Sarah completed her undergraduate work at the University of Winnipeg in 2004 with a major in Women's Studies. As an undergraduate student Sarah had the opportunity to work as a research assistant on several projects with the Manitoba Research Alliance on Community Economic Development in the New Economy. It was through this involvement that she came to be interested the potential of the Social Economy as a tool to substantively improve the lives of women.

Since arriving in Victoria, Sarah has been working as a research assistant and the research coordinator for CSEHub. Her research here has focussed on: the Social Economy and secondary school curricula, building effective community-university research partnerships, and public policy to support the Social Economy.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences

May 28 – June 4th, 2010 Concordia University, Montreal

Organized under the supervision of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, this will be an opportunity for the more than 9 000 delegates from more than 70 universities and 70 scholarly associations to come and experience everything Concordia and Montreal has to offer.

The theme of 2010 Congress is Connected Understanding/le savoir branché and so a variety of activities are being planned to deal with such issues as the impact of connections with digital technology on research in the humanities and social sciences; the connections that researchers make across disciplinary boundaries and with audiences of various types; and the connections that can be created between researchers and the larger community.

### Student Conference on the Social Economy: Innovation in a Changing World – Critically Exploring Social Economy Alternatives

June 1st, 2010 Concordia University, Montreal

In Association with The Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC), The Association for Non-Profit and Social Economy Research (ANSER) and Congress of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences 2009.

This interdisciplinary student conference is an initiative of the Social Economy Student Network (SESN), and aims to network students, academics and practitioners, and offer participants a better understanding of issues and research about the Social Economy.

### The Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC)

June 1-4, 2010, Concordia University, Montreal

[www.coopresearch.coop](http://www.coopresearch.coop)

Its theme will be Community Building through Co-operative Research: Challenges and Opportunities at Home and Abroad.

### The Association for Non-Profit and Social Economy Research (ANSER)

June 2-4, 2010, Concordia University, Montreal

[www.anser-ares.ca/index.html](http://www.anser-ares.ca/index.html)

### 2010 National Summit on a People-Centred Economy

May 30 - June 1, 2010, Carleton University, Ottawa

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

From cooperatives that have existed for more than a century to the latest innovative social enterprises, citizen-led efforts to build a people-centred economy are rich in their history and diversity.

In the face of recent economic turmoil and growing ecological crises, these approaches are more relevant than ever.

The 2010 National Summit on a People-Centred Economy will bring together leaders and representatives of the community economic development, cooperative and social economy sectors to build a common agenda and mobilize action for a secure, sustainable economy that puts people and the planet first.

The Summit will be centred on six themes:

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

## RESEARCH NODES

The Canadian Social Economy Hub (CSEHub) acts as a facilitator promoting collaboration among six regional research centres across Canada (Québec, Atlantic, Southern Ontario, Prairies and Northern Ontario, BC and Alberta and the North). It also helps to create opportunities and exchanges with international networks. CSEHub reaches out to practitioners, to researchers and to civil society through the regional research centres and their community partners. It undertakes research as needed in order to understand and promote the Social Economy tradition within Canada and as a subject of academic enquiry within universities.

### Atlantic

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

### Québec

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

### Southern Ontario

Social Economy Centre, University of Toronto  
<http://sec.oise.utoronto.ca/english/index.php>

### Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northern Ontario

Linking, Learning, Leveraging: Social Enterprises Knowledgeable Economies and Sustainable Communities  
<http://usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy>

### Northern

Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada  
<http://dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/sernnoca>

### British Columbia and Alberta

BC-Alberta Research Alliance on the Social Economy  
<http://www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships

c/o Canadian Social Economy Research Hub  
 University of Victoria  
 2300 McKenzie Avenue  
 Technology Enterprise Facility (TEF) - Rm 214  
 Victoria, BC V8P 5C2  
 Canada

Tel: 250.472.4976  
 Fax: 250.853.3930

[secoord@uvic.ca](mailto:secoord@uvic.ca)

[www.socialeconomyhub.ca](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca)



**University of Victoria**



Social Sciences and Humanities  
 Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
 sciences humaines du Canada

**Canada**