

Northern Node: "The Role of Land Claim Organizations in the Northern Social Economy"

by Thierry Rodon

Land claims organizations are powerful actors in northern economies since they manage the settlement funds, own lands and negotiate benefit agreements with resource development corporations. However, their economic strategies vary, for example, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council have invested in gas corporations, and the Makivik Corporation in Nunavut owns two airline companies. These economic ventures are sometimes purely capitalistic and exclusively aimed at obtaining the best return on investments. However, some land claim organizations have a mixed approach where they invest both in a profitable venture and in community development. In this research, we assess the role of Makivik Corporation and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in the Social Economy (SE) of Nunavut and Nunavut. But before we can give an answer to this question we need to understand better what constitute the Nunavut and Nunavut SE. This presentation is based on the preliminary analysis of interviews conducted in Puvirnituq, Iqaluit and Pangnirtung.

Listen to the preliminary conclusions of the research and view ppt presentation, visit: www.socialeconomyhub.ca/?q=content/nunavut-summit-social-economy

Southern Ontario Node: "Fair and Ethical Trade, Public Policy and the Social Economy"

by J.J. McMurtry, and Darryl Reed

As the notion of "sustainable development" came to prominence in the 1980s, municipalities were conceived very early on as being potentially key contributors to the promotion of sustainability. While municipalities have generally come to embrace this role publicly, critics have argued that their practice has not always backed up their stated commitments. This paper examines one means through which municipalities can seek to promote sustainability, namely, purchasing policies. Based upon survey data, this paper investigates the extent to which Canadian municipalities have adopted sustainable purchasing policies (including ethical trade and fair trade policies), the reasons underlying their decision to do so (or not) and the experiences that they have had in trying to implement such policies. This paper concludes with policy recommendations and directions for future research.

For more information visit: http://sec.oise.utoronto.ca/english/project_pages/project_05.php

For the PPT presentation from April, 2009 Purchasing Symposium "Purchasing our Future" by Dr. Darryl Reed, Dr. J.J. McMurtry and Jacqueline Medalye, please visit: http://sec.oise.utoronto.ca/english/pdfs/2009_symposium/project05_2009symposium.pdf

National CSE Hub: "Governance and Movement Building for the SE in Canada" by Rupert Downing and Alexandre Charron provide international examples of local government engagement in supporting the SE to strengthen community socio-economic conditions, here are a few small examples.

The Solidarity Economy Forum of Brazil has established "incubation" centers for the Social Economy with local and state governments and SE organizations throughout that country. In France, "Regional Chambers of the Social Economy" have been established together with a "Manifesto for the Social and Solidarity Economy" of the Association of Regions of France, bringing together cooperatives, mutuals, and other SE organizations with local and regional governments to concert action on territorial revitalization (Laurent FRAISSE, Institute Polanyi, 7 April 2009, http://aloe.socioeco.org/page51-documents_en.html).

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has published a review of international best practices on social enterprise contributions to sustainable local development with policy recommendations (The Changing Boundaries of Social Enterprises, OECD, February 2009).

To read the full paper visit: www.socialeconomyhub.ca/sites/default/files/DRAFTGovernancePaper.pdf

Regional Research Centres

Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network
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

Social Economy Centre
sec.oise.utoronto.ca

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

Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada
dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/sernnoqa

BC-Alberta Research Alliance on the Social Economy
www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca

The Canadian Social Economy Hub 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).

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Local Government Support for the Social Economy

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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 on the Social Economy in Canada by the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships (CSERP) indicates an important emerging trend by local governments and community organizations of using community economic development and the Social Economy as purposeful strategies in improving local socio-economic and environmental conditions. Research in Western Canada by the B.C./Alberta and Prairies and Northern Ontario nodes reveal policies and partnerships by municipalities with Social Economy organizations to revitalize neighbourhoods, create and sustain social enterprises and social housing, and contribute to sustainable development. In Canada's Arctic, the Northern node of the research program has highlighted the important role of land claims organizations in sustaining livelihoods for Indigenous communities. In Québec, there is an increasing focus on partnerships by local governments with Social Economy organizations for regional development, perhaps best exemplified by Montréal's collaborative policy on the Social Economy. This newsletter highlights some of these developments and points to resources that will be useful to both local government and community organization partners in furthering this work.

Rupert Downing and Ian Macpherson, Co-directors, Canadian Social Economy Hub

CSE Hub Telelearning 17: Municipal Government Supports for the Social Economy. January 2010

In this dynamic one-hour telelearning session, participants heard examples of municipal government support for the Social Economy (SE) in B.C., Alberta, the Prairies, Northern Ontario and Québec. The session featured three speakers from CSERP.

Speaker **Marguerite Mendell**, Associate Professor in the School of Community and Public Affairs and Director of the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy at Concordia University, Montréal, spoke about the Montréal experience. Speaker **Jenny Kain**, Senior Strategic Planner in the Policy and Research section, of the Community Services Department of the City of Edmonton highlighted research from the BALTA and Prairie nodes. Speaker **Martin Garber-Conrad**, CEO of the Edmonton Community Foundation and Chair of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund shared his experience. **Peter Hall**, Assistant Professor in the Urban Studies Program at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Chair of Canadian CED Network Research Advisory Committee and member of the CSERP BALTA node, moderated the session.

Examples shared by the speakers help to confirm that municipal governments across Canada support the Social Economy. At the same time, the research indicates that initiatives and activities undertaken by municipal governments are not explicitly linked to, or fit under the umbrella of the SE.

Key points from each speaker are provided in the next pages of this newsletter. To listen to the full recording, visit: www.socialeconomyhub.ca/?q=content/telelearning-session-17-municipal-government-supports-social-economy

Newsletter by Rachelle McElroy



Key Points - CSE Hub Telelearning Session 17: Municipal Government Supports for the Social Economy. January 2010

Speaker, Margie Mendell on the importance of a partnership approach, from the Montréal experience:

Mendell started off the session by turning everyone's attention to what makes the Montréal example unique and groundbreaking. In the City of Montréal, the impetus behind supporting the Social Economy (SE) sector is not solely community driven, the motivation also comes from a partnership where community collaboration meets municipal policies on the SE. This more strategic, inclusive and collaborative approach provides the framework or "new architecture" for forwarding SE at the municipal level.

Mendell provided the following as a useful resource "*Social Economy: Partnership for Community Based Sustainable Development*." It is available from the City of Montréal website. Reflecting the "new architecture" of the SE landscape in Montréal, this report is the result of a dialogue between the city and players in the SE. Outlined in this document is an agreement on a framework for municipal policy that contributes to the mission of the city; and suggests to players in the Montréal SE that they work with the municipal administration in a partnership based on the acknowledgement of shared responsibilities in implementing a long-term action plan.

Mendell summarised the Montréal landscape as unique for many reasons:

1. The adoption of a collaborative partnership approach instead of a traditional, "one way street" way of lobbying for government
2. A presence of actors imbedded in community to address issues at the municipal level
3. Someone responsible for tending to Social Economy policy, in this instance, Johanne Lavoie
4. The partnership is backed by a steering committee consisting of the Executive Committee members responsible for economic development, senior representatives of the different municipal departments, and members of the Partnership Advisory Committee
5. It institutionalizes the relationship between actors and policy makers
6. It acknowledges the role of research in decision making (the removal of barriers (inside research) to understanding the SE)
7. The strategic directives that engage both the City and SE actors
8. The recognition of SE as part of a plural economy
9. The historic engagement of SE in Montréal beginning in 2005 with the signing of a charter on human rights
10. Strategic development plan, new policy architecture for government decision-making and partnerships

"What is next for Montréal now that this important ground work has been laid," Mendell asks? "Whatever it will be, will be decided collectively," she concludes.

Speaker, Jenny Kain offered a showcase of findings from recent BALTA and Prairie Node research and emphasized that municipalities do not refer to SE activities as contributing to the SE, but that they have substantial engagement within community.

Local government plays a significant role in Social Economy (SE) activities. The research being conducted by BALTA and the Prairie node looks at municipal governments in B.C., Alberta, Manitoba and Northern Ontario. A total of 35 municipalities of various sizes were looked at: 22 with a population of 30,000 or less, 8 with 30,000 to half a million and 5 with half a million or more.

Historically, municipal government focused primarily on physical infrastructure, traditional economic development and core city operations (e.g. roads, sewers, waste disposal). Social issues were the responsibility of the Federal and Provincial governments. Now responsibility has been pushed down to the local government level. The scope of municipal government service has increased as a result of labour market and social changes. Preliminary research results revealed:

- Seven common roles that local governments frequently play in support of SE activities: expressions of intent; financial support; planning, research and advising; human and social capital development; land use; and procurement.
- Six frameworks that describe common patterns of engagement between local governments and SE actors: solitudes, coffee shop, partnering, linking and leveraging, strong and integrated, and 'how can we help?'
- 18/35 municipalities interviewed are involved in policies or bylaws supporting CED/SE, 17/35 are involved in alternative energy generation, 28/35 in neighbourhood revitalization, and 28/35 in affordable housing.

The challenge that municipalities face in advancing SE is language. The research emphasizes that it is not familiar terminology to most. However, there is good understanding at the municipal level of the activities that support SE.

Many opportunities are identified for the Provincial and Federal governments to support municipalities in forwarding SE. A good example is the urgency for sustainability and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund.

Key points in moving forward include: promoting activities of SE, the language of SE, and the importance of vertical linkages, e.g. government funding that assists municipalities to advance SE.



Photo: Integrated Community Sustainability Planning, e.g. from Williams Lake, B.C.: www.thenaturalstep.org/canada/williams-lake-imagines-future

Key Points - CSE Hub Telelearning Session 17: Municipal Government Supports for the Social Economy. January 2010

Speaker, Martin Garber-Conrad on "where there's a will there's a way": a taste of social enterprise development from the Edmonton Social Enterprise Fund, launched in February 2008.

Martin started his presentation by providing a bit of background on how the Edmonton Social Enterprise Fund (SEF) was launched. "In the beginning they advocated for tax credits to encourage investment in CED but that didn't work. In 2005/2006 they turned it around and created the Social Enterprise Fund which provides capital to expanding or emerging social enterprises and financing for affordable housing."

Martin referred to a key element of the business case that resulted in three million dollars in capital funding from the Edmonton City Council as an alternative to operational funding. The City Council was impressed by how quickly the fund could be self sustaining. Their 5-year goal is to secure \$11 million in capital to be invested into social enterprises and housing projects. Repayments will be reinvested in other loans significantly leveraging the lending power of the Fund.

Two years in, the Fund has generated \$10 million: \$5 million from capital funds, \$3 million from the City and \$2 million from the community.

Looking forward, Martin is clear that more policy work still needs to be done to better promote and understand the SE. He suggested that "the language of the SE is not familiar language; even CED is not a strong feature in Edmonton."

Martin acknowledged that the lack of a local SE policy, like the one that exists in Montréal, presented an obstacle during the development of the Fund. The community was not familiar with the term and he argues that building on an existing policy could have dramatically sped up the process. Martin closed by offering four tips for those developing funds in their own community:

1. Collaborate with municipality, with community, etc...
2. Connect the fund with other city initiatives
3. Get real money on the table and "just do it"
4. Build off of a policy framework and strong research

A Snapshot of Local Government Research from Across the Relevant Regional Nodes

Québec Node: Strengthening regional capacity of the Social Economy

This section provides two resources: "The government action plan for collective entrepreneurship" which aims to maximize the impact of the Quebec economic sector which includes co-operatives and non-profit organizations (NPO); and an outline of a presentation by Pierre Morrisette from the World conference on the development of cities, Porto Alegre/RS, Brésil. Morrisette speaks about the contribution of the SE and of community economic development to Montréal's development. Please visit the links provided for further reading.

"Social Economy for More Supportive Communities: Government Action Plan for Collective Entrepreneurship – Government of

Québec – November, 2008" by Peter R. Elson

For the full paper, visit: www.chantier.qc.ca/user/mgs/documents/CLevesque/sitechantierdocuments/socialeconomyformoresupportivecommunities.pdf

"Social Economy and Local Development in Montréal - A Contribution for a More Inclusive and Sustainable City" by Pierre Morrisette

For the full paper, visit: www.chantier.qc.ca/user/mgs/documents/CLevesque/sitechantierdocuments/CMDVXXIIsiecleFevrier2008.pdf

Resources

Across Canada local governments have participated in movements, often as a result of local citizens lobbying government, to support the SE and thereby contribute to meeting social and environmental goals. Examples of such movements include:

Transition towns:
www.transitionnetwork.org

Fair trade towns Wolfville – Canada's first Fair Trade Town: www.cbc.ca/consumer/story/2007/04/17/trade-wolfville.html

Green Municipal Fund (Established by Federation of Canadian Municipalities for the Government of Canada): <http://fmv.fcm.ca/GMF>

The Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) designed to offset the carbon tax paid by local governments who have committed to the goal of becoming carbon neutral in their corporate operations by 2012 under the BC Climate Action Charter. www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/greencommunities/carip.htm

Toolkit for developing a purchasing policy:
www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca/se-purchasing-toolkit

CUPE leader calls for community-based investment revolution:
www.cupe.bc.ca/news/commentary/316

Resources from Local Government Support for the SE Telelearning, January 2010:

A Social Economy: Partnership for Community-Based Sustainable Development document
http://ville.Montreal.qc.ca/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/LES_AFFAIRES_FR/MEDIA/DOCUMENTS/ECONOMIES-OICIAL2009_ANG.PDF

City of Montreal's SE activities:
<http://ville.Montreal.qc.ca/economiesociale>

Interview with Johanne Lavoie:
www.socialeconomyhub.ca

PPT presentation by Jenny Kain:
www.socialeconomyhub.ca

Edmonton Social Enterprise Fund:
<http://socialenterprisefund.ca/>