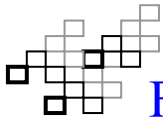


# BuildingPolicy4<sup>the</sup> Social Economy

Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2009 - Halifax, Nova Scotia



# Formuler une Politique pour l'économie sociale

Du 30 sept. au 2 oct. 2009 - Halifax, Nouvelle-Écosse

Welcome Colloquium Participants!

The 2009 Policy Colloquium, BuildingPolicy4<sup>the</sup> Social Economy has brought together government policy shapers, cutting edge researchers, community builders, and the next generation of social economy leaders – our students.

This multi partner, multi network meeting will draw on recent research findings to lay the foundation for a dialogue on bridging social economy practice and policy. The meeting is hosted by the Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network, in collaboration with the Québec and Northern nodes and the Canadian Hub of the SSHRC-funded social economy suite.

Bienvenue aux participants au colloque!

Le colloque Formuler une politique pour l'économie sociale réunira des responsables de politiques, des chercheurs de pointe, des aménageurs de communautés, ainsi que la prochaine génération de leaders en matière d'économie sociale : nos étudiants.

Cette rencontre de partenaires et de réseaux multiples se basera sur les résultats de recherches récentes pour préparer les fondements d'un dialogue sur le rapprochement de la pratique et des politiques en économie sociale.

[Atlantic Node  
Newsletter](#)

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Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network /  
Partenariat sur l'économie sociale et la durabilité  
Bridging, Bonding, and Building /  
Renforcement des liens et des capacités

This newsletter was designed by Noreen Millar, Network Coordinator and prepared by Megan Macdonald, CAP-YI Intern 2009-10. Many thanks to our contributors.



## Project 1.6 - Identifying avenues for policy dialogue between government and social economy organisations in Atlantic Canada

Dr. Jan Myers, Assistant Professor, and Chase McGrath, Grad RA - Dalhousie Univ.

As part of the SES Research Network, Sub-Node 1 (Mapping and Policy analysis) remit, a scan of legislation and policy related documents was undertaken to map and provide an inventory of policies that support bridging, bonding and building between government and the social economy in Atlantic Canada. This first phase of research aims to form a foundation looking at theory and concepts of the social economy, frameworks for regulation, and the drivers and development of relationships between government and social economy organizations (co-ops, voluntary sector and member-based organizations, and social enterprises) and was a desk-based and web search exercise. The second (field work) phase will link theory and frameworks for interaction (including co-production and co-construction opportunities in relation to inclusion of social economy organizations in public policy creation and implementation) and to look at theory in practice.

A research assistant, Chase McGrath, was employed, under the supervision of Dr Jan Myers (Dalhousie University), to undertake a systematic scan of government Acts (statutes) and bills, regulatory frameworks and policies that relate to aspects of the social economy: that provide infrastructural support or guidance; and/or provide a framework or platform for government-social economy sector relations, dialogue, discussions or jointly-planned delivery of services. Over 500 provincial and municipal documents have been collated and reviewed. In addition, federal statutes, annual plans and policy reviews and 'grey' literature (annual reports, press releases) have been reviewed. This information was collated and is stored in a basic, searchable spreadsheet that can be the basis of a more user accessible and searchable database. Other materials and information, such as web addresses of government and non-government organizations, specific reports related to policy, journal articles and publications have been collected as part of the process of the research and recorded in bibliographic software. An electronic and hard copy annotated bibliography of over 500 resources has been produced.

To provide a contemporary analysis of policies and departmental responsibilities for social economy and third sector development and relations, previous work undertaken by Infanti (2003) was used as a baseline comparison. Infanti's work focuses on community economic development (CED) only, so our scan was broader and in some respects more complex as the scope of 'social economy' is a fuzzier and more blurred concept than CED. Even so, there are a number of similarities identified from the 2003 survey that are relevant today including, for example, different understandings and working definitions of 'community economic development', 'social enterprise'; focus on volunteering and project-based funding; relationships between federal government initiatives and provincial responsibilities (re pick up and expansion of projects and initiatives, changing funding regimes); and overlapping but operationally separate departmental responsibilities for different aspects of the social economy. A review of some of the available literature and policy scan reports to-date indicates a concentration on substantive or administrative policy and relations i.e. program-focused, funding for specified groups) often, but not always, in relation to resourcing and service delivery.

relationships and accountabilities, and/or issue based concerns (e.g. employment, social exclusion and services).

Part of the analysis of a policy environment is to look for opportunities to build on these kinds of relationships and to identify good practice examples. Key changes since 2003 in the Atlantic Provinces have been the development of specific remits for non-profit and voluntary organizations at ministerial levels particularly in New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador. The rhetoric of partnerships and citizen involvement is in evidence across the provinces along with an emphasis on developing purposeful relationships to contribute to building vibrant and sustainable communities. There are a number of good practice approaches in relation to, for example, single issue concerns (e.g. child care, elder care, learning disabilities, domestic violence, housing, drugs and alcohol services); communities of interest (Native communities, migrant and immigrant workers); and in relation to transaction relationships (often bi-lateral and concerned with service delivery, contracts, funding, accountability). There is some evidence of active alliances between public, private, non-profit sectors and social economy organizations collaborations on broader, complex social concerns – for example, task forces focusing on anti-poverty initiatives. The second phase of the research will involve engaging with key respondents to identify and assess good practice examples, highlight gaps and opportunities for collaboration and document inclusive approaches to engagement and involvement linked to improved policy planning and decision-making in practice.



### Project 1.7 - SES Research Network Policy Threads Inventory and Analysis

Dr. Martha MacDonald, Economics, Saint Mary's University and  
Graeme Reniers, Graduate Student, International Development Studies, Saint  
Mary's University

The general aim of the 'Policy Threads' project is to help clarify policy issues relating to the social economy in the Atlantic region, based on work already done by researchers who are members of the SES Research Network. Under the supervision of Dr. MacDonald (in consultation with Dr. Luc Thériault and Dr. Leslie Brown) Graeme Reniers, an MA student in International Development Studies at Saint Mary's University, has worked over the summer to do a documentary analysis of every official project of the SES Network, with the aim of pulling-out, summarizing and thematically organizing/analyzing the policy findings, implications or recommendations found in these projects. As part of his research, Graeme also conducted interviews with several project leaders to further clarify the policy themes. The final product of the 'Policy Threads' project will take the form of both an inventory and an overview report on themes and issues that will accompany the inventory.

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Social economy organizations are active as policy advocates, promoting policies that contribute towards community development, social and economic inclusion of marginalized groups, and environmental sustainability. They also are involved in the implementation of policy, delivering programs and services. Some programs have resulted from past advocacy efforts and fill gaps. In other cases programs and services have traditionally been delivered through the social economy or have devolved from the public sector. Both advocacy and service delivery groups face funding limitations which restrict their ability to do their work and performance measures which don't reflect their goals and values. Social enterprises are also impacted by policy. They are concerned with a level playing field with the private sector, in terms of such things as access to funding, and accountability measures.

In all cases, one of the key challenges is how to participate in the construction of policy, not just its implementation. Social economy organizations are actively working amongst themselves and with other stakeholders, including private sector groups, to impact policy. Networking and consultation are key. They want collaborative relationship with policy makers and bureaucrats. They spend considerable effort on capacity building, whether at the community or sectoral levels, in order to have a stronger voice at the table, or be invited to the table. They face many challenges in dealing with the different levels of government, and the silos within government.

Social economy organizations are also very concerned with internal policy and governance issues, with several SES projects focusing on how to develop financial relationships, and performance measures that support the distinct goals of the social economy organizations.

Working papers, Atlantic Provinces SE fact sheets, and other dissemination items are available online at:

<http://msvu.ca/socialconomyatlantic/English/documentsE.asp>

<http://www.msvu.ca/socialconomyatlantic/French/documentsF.asp>

The SES/ÉSD Network will periodically publish research papers about our research in Atlantic Canada. The papers will be written by both academics and social economy practitioners. The SES/ÉSD Network hopes these papers will contribute to the theory and practice of social economy within the Atlantic Region. Noreen Millar is the Network Coordinator and Managing Editor of the Working Paper Series, with assistance from Megan Macdonald. Papers in this series are not formally peer reviewed, but are products of Network-approved and managed research projects.

### Atlantic Node Working Paper Series

1– [Working Paper # / Document de travail no 2009-03](#)

**L'utilisation de compost comme pratique visant une plus grande viabilité des sols chez les fermiers du Sud-Est du Nouveau-Brunswick**

Authors: *Omer Chouinard, Danièle Courchesne, et Gilles Martin*, Université de Moncton

2– [Working Paper # / Document de travail no 2009-02](#)

**Project 1.6 -Policies that Support Bridging, Bonding and Building Between Government and the Social Economy in Atlantic Canada: Policy Scan Process Report 2009**

Authors: *Chase McGrath, Grad RA*, Dalhousie University and *Dr. Jan Myers* Assistant Professor, Dalhousie

3– [Working paper # /Document de travail no 2009-01](#)

**Financement des associations de gestion par bassin versant au Nouveau-Brunswick : politiques et partenariats pour une meilleure reconnaissance**

Authors: *Omer Chouinard et Gilles Martin*, Université de Moncton, et *Jocelyne Gauvin*, Groupe de Développement Durable du Pays de Cocagne

4– [Working paper # / Document de travail no 2008-02](#)

**Contribution de la coopération, de l'économie sociale et des entreprises collectives dans le développement territorial des Îles Lamèque et Miscou en Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick**

Authors : *Omer Chouinard*, Université de Moncton ; *André Leclerc*. Titulaire de la Chaire des caisses populaires acadiennes en gestion des coopératives ; *Maurice Beaudin*, Professeur d'économie et de géographie, Université de Moncton, campus de Shippagan ; *Pricette Donovan-Vinagbe*, étudiante à la maîtrise en études de l'environnement, Université de Moncton ; et *Gilles Martin*, Université de Moncton

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5- [Working Paper # / Document de travail no 2008-01](#)

**A Portrait of Co-operatives and Credit Unions in Atlantic Canada: Preliminary Analysis**

Authors: *Luc Thériault*, UNB; *Leslie Brown*, MSVU; and *Ron Skibbens*, Service NS and Mun. Relations

This paper has been translated and is available in French: **Portrait des coopératives et des caisses d'épargne et de crédit dans les provinces de l'Atlantique: Analyse préliminaire.**

An Executive Summary in the French language is also available.

6- [Working Paper # / Document de travail no 2007-01](#)

**Mapping Supports for the SE on Prince Edward Island - Bridging Public Investment and Social Value: An Examination of the supports for Social Economy on Prince Edward Island**

Author: *Barbara GroomeWynne*, UPEI

The Network has also recently developed **project fact sheets**, available online as PDF documents. These fact sheets include contact information, abstracts, and dissemination info for each project, and can be downloaded and printed at your convenience by visiting any of the Subnode pages at:

<http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/English/projectsE.asp>

<http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/French/projectsF.asp>

Both online, and in the following pages, project information is available in the language in which it was created. If you require assistance with translation, please contact us.

Les informations concernant les projets sont présentées dans la langue dans laquelle elles ont été préparées. Si vous avez besoin d'aide pour les traduire, veuillez nous le faire savoir.



### **Project 1.1 Survey of Co-ops and Credit Unions in Atl. Canada**

As part of its large research program, the *Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network* decided in 2006 to prepare and conduct a survey of co-operatives and credit unions in all four provinces of Atlantic Canada. It was felt that coherent and up-to-date information on the co-operative sector in the region was lacking and that such a project would make a significant and timely contribution to the “mapping” or “profiling” of the social economy.

Dr. Luc Thériault from the University of New Brunswick took the lead of this project with the help of other member of the research network and the technical assistance of survey research consultants from York University in Toronto. The survey was administered between April and October 2007 and yielded 296 usable responses from co-operatives and credit unions from across the region. This preliminary research report offers a first look at the information obtained by analyzing it overall and by breaking it down by language, provincial, and type of co-operatives. Other analyses on the data are possible, of course, and may be the subject of future publications.

Overall, 80% of organizations responded to the English version of our questionnaire and 20% responded to the French version. Financial co-operatives (credit unions and *caisses populaires*) account for about 21% percent of responding organizations, housing co-operatives account for about 13%, and the remaining 66% is composed of a wide variety of “other co-operatives”.

For all the responding co-operatives the average “age-in-business” is nearly 33 years. Generally, co-operatives are members of one or two federations or associations. The Nova Scotia Co-op Council and Co-op Atlantic in particular are among the dominant umbrella organizations for the sector in the region. Co-operatives in Atlantic Canada, in turn, have cumulatively well over half a million “members” but it must be remembered that some of these members are counted more than once as an individual can be a member in several co-operatives. Financial co-operatives tend to have the largest number of individual members.

Co-operatives in Atlantic Canada generally hold one AGM per year, plus at least one other meeting. The typical Board of Directors overseeing these organizations is composed of nine or seven members. The Board of Directors typically meets 10 times a year (modal value). In about 24% of co-operatives, Board Members receive some form of compensation for their participation on the board. The use of volunteers (aside from board members) is found in about 55% of responding organizations.

The financial picture of the co-operatives in Atlantic Canada is extremely diversified and thus difficult to summarize. Using the median values, we find that a “typical” co-operative in the region has revenues of about \$437,000 and expenditures of around \$343,000. But these figures are only aggregates and the ranges found for both revenues and expenditures are astounding.

The number of paid employees (defined here as those receiving T4 slips for income tax purposes) also varies widely between co-operatives as the mode is 0, the median value is 3, and the average is 23.6! More interestingly, we can say that the cumulative number of employees (part-time and full-time) employed by the co-operatives responding to this survey is totalling over 6,800. This is not an insignificant number of jobs in the region!

Roughly between 40% and 60% of co-operatives are found to make voluntary contributions (the proportion varies with the type of contribution) to their local community. Collaborations with other co-operative (i.e., within the co-op sector) is perhaps not as extensive as we had expected (22% of co-operatives report doing “a lot” of it and 26% report none of it) and the potential barriers preventing collaborations remain to be explored. As for the organization’s internal capacity (for things like planning, administration and IT), it is among financial co-operatives that we find the greater amount of capacities.

The survey shows that the internationally acknowledged Co-operative Principles are relatively well known in the sector (two thirds of co-operatives say that they are aware or very aware of them) but the education of the public (as opposed to that of members) is probably one of the areas (with participation in public policy development) where responding organizations are the least likely to fully live by these principles.

Finally, reporting practices of organizations are now extending relatively frequently into the reporting of social impacts (39%) but still relatively rarely into the reporting of environmental impacts (18%).

The conclusion stresses the importance for governments to pay increasing attention to the activities of co-operatives and to institute policies and regulations that are adapted to and helpful for the co-operative sector in the region.

### **Project 1.4 Les politiques gouvernementales comme support aux organismes communautaires**

L'étude proposée veut examiner comment les groupes et organisations communautaires de l'économie sociale œuvrant dans les secteurs du développement durable, principalement sur la gestion de l'eau peuvent être renforcés par des politiques adéquates dans les différentes provinces atlantiques. L'étude ciblera les groupes de bassins versants, les groupes PALA (Plan d'assainissement du littoral atlantique) et la Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du golfe Saint Laurent. Plus précisément, l'étude a :

évalué les modes de financement de groupes communautaires, coopératifs et/ou d'économie sociale du sud-est du Nouveau-Brunswick;

fait l'examen des politiques (programmes, services, mécanismes de financement) provinciaux et fédéraux touchant le fonctionnement des groupes ciblés;

à la lumière de l'analyse effectuée, elle a établi des recommandations au niveau des politiques qui pourraient favoriser la viabilité des groupes cibles.

### **Project 1.5 Contribution de l'ancienne et de la nouvelle économie sociale**

Le territoire des Îles acadiennes regroupe deux îles (Lamèque et Miscou) situées dans la pointe nord-est de la péninsule acadienne. Sur le plan de la gouvernance locale, ce territoire est composé de deux municipalités et de dix districts de services locaux (DSL). Des 6948 habitants des Îles, 65% vivaient dans les DSL. Ces îles sont unies à la province du Nouveau-Brunswick depuis près de 50 ans à Lamèque et 10 ans à Miscou. C'est dans les années 30 et 40 que l'association coopérative des pêcheurs prend forme dans le but de faire la transformation et la commercialisation du poisson. Dans cette foulée se sont développées la coopérative financière et la coopérative de consommation qui actuellement forme les piliers de l'économie sociale de ce territoire d'étude du profil de l'économie sociale. Cependant à ces activités des piliers de la coopération que nous qualifions d'ancienne économie sociale viennent se greffer diverses activités sociales et économiques qui ont pour but de renforcer le lien social par des retombées dans l'ensemble de la collectivité insulaire. Ces dernières activités qui se préoccupent davantage des liens entre les personnes sont qualifiées de nouvelle économie sociale.

La formation continue et l'expérience inter coopérative dans ce profil de l'impact de l'économie sociale dont bénéficient ou favorisent les membres organismes de l'ancienne économie sociale contribuent à favoriser l'émergence de leaders d'entreprises de solidarité et d'une relève sur le plan collectif pour une meilleure prise en charge du milieu. Or, la présente proposition sert à outiller ces derniers puisqu'elle prévoit offrir un retour d'image favorisant une plus grande fierté face aux accomplissements collectifs ainsi que la pleine conscience du potentiel que représente les effectifs coopératifs en place pour un développement accru utilisant la formule de l'économie sociale.

### **Project 1.6 Policies that Support Bridging, Bonding and Building between Government and the Social Economy in Atlantic Canada**

Preliminary stage of an Atlantic-wide public policy scan and policy evaluation: to conduct an inventory of federal and provincial legislation, policies, programs and initiatives which are directly relevant to community economic and social development, the social economy and building the capacity and opportunities for engagement in policy formulation and implementation in the Atlantic region. This work aims to document and analyze the impacts for non-profit organizations and co-operative enterprises of government policies in the Atlantic region and to draw on current research and dialogue both in the region and in Canada.

### **Project 1.7 SES Research Network Policy Threads Inventory and Analysis**

The general aim of the 'Policy Threads' project is to help clarify policy issues relating to the social economy in the Atlantic region, based on work already done by researchers who are members of the SES Research Network. Under the supervision of Dr. MacDonald (in consultation with Dr. Luc Thériault and Dr. Leslie Brown) Graeme will do an exhaustive documentary analysis of every official project of the SES Network, with the aim of pulling-out, summarizing and thematically organizing/analyzing the policy findings, implications or recommendations found in these projects. As part of his research, Graeme will conduct a series of short telephone, email or face-to-face conversations with a selected number of project leaders identified during the documentary analysis phase of the project. This will be ongoing over the summer of 2009.

The final product of the 'Policy Threads' project will take the form of both an inventory and an overview paper on themes and issues that will accompany the inventory. Such a paper would be subject to review by any researchers whose work is mentioned. Our project is not meant to conflict with or pre-empt the policy work done by the individual projects and nodes, rather to support a policy focus and provide a baseline as we move forward. The products of this project will be primarily internal, but plans are to present a draft of the paper at the Policy Colloquium in October 2009.

### **Project 2.1 Launching rural women's entrepreneurship**

Support an existing co-op in pursuing its research goals

Process documentation

Participatory evaluation

Case study on women in rural development

We are rural mothers of young children striving for economic self-sufficiency and development of community. The successful establishment of the LEAP co-operative will serve as a model for bottom-up growth of the social economy, by demonstrating the value of nurturing capacity for small-scale, local, community-driven economic and social development projects. We, the LEAP Co-operative, are a newly incorporated group, largely composed of mothers of young children. We are seeking to create co-operative employment for ourselves and to extend the opportunity to others once the venture has become self-sustaining. We are working on product development and business planning. Our intention is to create and market appliquéd wall hangings.

The research question concerns the challenges and resources that affect the possibility of success for economic development conceived and managed by those at whom it is directed, especially when the target group is rural, female, with dependent children, and facing multiple barriers to profitable, sustainable and meaningful employment.

### **Project 2.2 Community Accounts- PEI (phase 1)**

Define factors contributing to quality of life

Develop PEI CA pilot

Integrate community values into online CA database for local governance and research

Develop infrastructural supports for the SE and concrete recommendations for government regarding instituting community accounts

Foster learning from NL

Community Accounts are innovative user friendly information systems providing reliable statistics on social, economic and environmental matters. Community Accounts Data are organized into a system of accounts that allows users to find relationships between the data sets. The way the data is related forms a knowledge base that allows for informed decision making in the public and private sector and at all levels from small municipalities to urban centres. The researcher will be collecting primary data regarding quality of life as it is experienced by individuals living in the Lot 13 and Lennox Island area, with 10% of the population being included. The research question is: what are the components of well being and quality of life in the communities under study and how closely linked are the factors to the conventional socio-economic and environmental indicators used by governments to assess programs. The project outcome is to create community accounts that are accessible and easy to understand, providing communities with a greater understanding of what contributes to their well-being and how to manage wellbeing within the context of the current socio-political climate. Community Accounts allow communities to know exactly what is going on and encourage greater responsibility and self determination.

### **Project 2.3 Youth Engagement in Hillsborough Park**

This project is the second phase of a three-phase research project whose aim is to contextualize the lived experiences of young people in the community of Hillsborough Park, Prince Edward Island. Therefore, it builds on work that was undertaken in Phase One, entitled “Youth and Community Mobilization in Hillsborough Park, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island”. A major need that was identified by the young people of the community during this phase was positive activities for them to participate in within their own community. A second major need identified in phase one was the development of positive relationships between young people with older members of their community as well as municipal authorities. The major aims of this Phase 2 project are to address these two major needs and also, to continue to examine the way youth were and are conceptualized (by themselves and the older generations) both within the community and beyond.

The significance of this project is in allowing researchers a venue to directly target young people between 14-18 years of age and also providing an opportunity for researchers and community members alike to help organize activities that support educational, physical, expressive and emotional development at the individual and collective levels. It is hoped that these activities will build a social support network that will offset some of the significant issues youth face as a result of poverty, family stress and lack of support and services. A further intention is specifically, to organize an effective and inclusive program for youth in the community and to provide community leadership training.

### **Project 2.4 Advocating Changes to Maternity & Parental Benefits Legislation**

This initiative will address the issue of women’s economic autonomy. It will build on our original research of the current parental benefits legislation and our extensive consultation process. In this initiative, we will use our final recommendations to advocate for public policy change. Phase I of the initiative examined the broad implications and the equitability of the new parental benefits legislation. Phase II took the research findings and analysis and used them as the basis of developing policy options and recommendations towards a more equitable system and conducted extensive consultations. In the first two phases, we did gender analysis and looked beyond the surface to understand the inequities of the legislation. As we continue our work, the focus will shift to influencing the content of public policy. Through this initiative, the short term objective of the Women’s Program that will be addressed directly is, “organization members and women affected by the issue understand the issue and are mobilized to engage in the public policy process.” The Intermediate Outcomes will be, “governments and publicly elected bodies understand and are engaged in addressing the issues” and “women participate in public policy decision-making processes.” The projected long-term outcome will be, “government and publicly elected bodies have integrated the diversity of women’s perspectives in public policies.”

### **Project 2.5 The Role of Women in Fisheries Management**

The purpose of this research project is to investigate the role women play in the PEI fishery and its management. There is an identified need to understand the role of women in the fishing enterprise as an important aspect of policy development. The research will look at these questions: what is the role of women in fishing enterprises and the social economy organizations linked to the fishery (including fishermen’s associations) on PEI? What are the opportunities and hurdles for the inclusion of women in fisheries management decision making processes and structures? This research project will provide a greater awareness of women’s contribution to the fishery. It will identify the barriers women face in becoming involved in fisheries management through their participation in social economy organizations, and will provide recommendations for changes in fisheries management processes so they are more gender inclusive. The research project will strengthen the social capital of women in fishing communities and will strengthen the social economy organizations working in the fisheries economic sector by encouraging them to be more inclusive. Interviews, transcription, analysis and report writing were completed in February 2009. Dissemination began in March 2009 with two community workshops in rural fishing communities on PEI to validate the research.

### **Project 2.6 Bridging Public Investment and Social Value**

The intent of the project is to measure the extent and impacts of changes to federal and provincial government supports for social economy organizations on Prince Edward Island. The research project will provide a greater awareness of these supports by

identifying changes in available of funding as well as changes in policy at the federal and provincial levels that have an impact on local social economy organizations and their work.

The research questions this project will ask are: what federal and provincial funding programs exist to support social economy organizations on PEI, and especially for those involved in empowerment and inclusion of marginalized members of society? What changes have occurred in the level of federal and provincial supports and what have been the effects of these changes on PEI's social economy?

### **Project 2.11 Internationally Educated Health Professionals on Prince Edward Island**

The purpose of this study is to better understand the concerns and challenges that internationally educated health professionals have about coming and staying on Prince Edward Island. In so doing, the province will have at its disposal relevant, specific and timely information about the movement of non-Canadian educated health professionals into this province. This data should, in turn, guide and strengthen the province's attempts and initiatives to attract suitable health professionals as settlers.

### **Project 3.1 Food Box Program**

The Kid's Action Program's (KAP) Food Box program assists pre and post-natal women facing barriers such as low income who are eligible for the Great Beginnings Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) in Hants and Kings Counties. Over the past 12 years a subsidized Food Box has been available for purchase by CPNP participants each month serving aiming to supplement their existing food budgets, model healthy, local food choices and distribute nutrition, child development, pre-natal and parenting information, as well as to support local producers and suppliers as much as possible. While evaluations of the Great Beginnings CPNP program have taken place, the food box program and its contributions and potential contributions to the social economy has not, and published research examining the benefits and challenges of similar models is quite limited. This project is evaluating the KAP Food Box program's contributions and potential contributions to the social economy including benefits and challenges from the perspective of other vulnerable groups that might benefit from access to the program, and suppliers and producers who might support the program.

### **Project 3.2 Community Forum on Food Security and the Social Economy**

Background: The Forum on community food security (CFS) and the social economy was hosted by Sub Node Three (SN3): Community Mobilization around Food Security and Community Economic Development, on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Greenwich, NS. Sub Node Three aims to facilitate participatory action research on mobilization projects around food security and community economic development that: are driven, guided and approved by SN3 community partners; involve an element of university - community collaboration; contribute to building food security at multiple levels and with diverse groups; benefit the social economy in Hants, Kings and Annapolis Counties; and have relevance to/impacts on the wider social economy.

Purpose: The purpose of the forum was to bring together local politicians, farmers, representatives from local organizations, researchers, students, public health staff and community members already involved or with an interest in becoming involved in community food security and food systems in the Annapolis, Kings and Hants Counties to: clarify the relationship between community food security (CFS) and the social economy; gain an in depth understanding of CFS and how different groups are involved in our local area; obtain a shared understanding of the barriers to creating a food secure community; identify the resources and facilitate dialogue around opportunities to building CFS; discuss and create action to help support a food security in our local community; explore how the Social Economy and Sustainability Network can support community mobilization on food security and the social economy in Kings, Hants, & Annapolis Counties.

Outcomes: Introductory presentations on "What is Food Security?" The Social Economy?; Food Security and the Social Economy in Nova Scotia; and Introduction to A Continuum of Food Security Strategies, opened the day. These presentations were followed by a series of 10 minute, powerful presentations that provided examples of capacity building strategies being used in the target area. These included presentations on the Kids Action Program, Food Box Research, School and Youth Gardening, A Day in the Life of FEED NOVA SCOTIA (Video), SunRoot Farm Community Shared Agriculture, Wolfville as a Fair Trade Town, Nova Scotia Food Security Network and the Ecology Action Center's Food Miles Project. In small groups participants were ask to discuss what opportunities they saw, and barriers they could foresee to addressing food security in Hants, Kings and Annapolis Counties. Four priority themes for future research projects identified at Community Forum to be undertaken by SN3 were: Education: Children; Public Awareness; Food Box Program: Expansion; Schools Groups: Building Partnerships; and Agricultural Community and Non-Profit Organizations:

Increasing Opportunities for Dialogue. Participants then undertook action planning in small groups to discuss: What actions need to happen to move this opportunity forward? Who will make sure that each action happens? Who should participate in the action? What is the first next step that needs to happen after today and who will take responsibility for making it happen? Actions plans were shared with the whole group, and proceedings of the days were sent to all forum participants and several people who had indicated interested but were not available to attend the forum. Call for proposals sent to all forum attendees and food security and SE networks in April 2008. Funding awarded for 3 projects in May- July, 2008.

### [Project 3.3 Mobilization around Food Security within the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships: A National Scan](#)

**Purpose:** The purpose of the national scan of food security research within the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships (CSERP) was to fuel discussions within the SES/ÉSD Network and SN3 around potential collaborations and future research, identify gaps in the food security research fabric on a national level, and to initiate cooperation among CSERP regional nodes to synthesize food security-related results.

**Methods:** The scan was conducted from July 2007 to May 2008 and included a review of the CSERP tele-learning session on food security and the social economy, CSERP regional Node and Hub websites, and interviews with Node/Hub coordinators and those responsible for food security projects.

**Results:** Results were analyzed using McCullum's three stage continuum of Community Food Security (CFS) strategies as a framework, and to demonstrate how projects across the country are working on short, medium and long term initiatives to build food security. Many projects are working across the continuum, bridging stages. Opportunities for collaboration and future research are identified in the report.

### [Project 4.1 Contribution des associations de bassin versant du littoral acadien](#)

Abstract for phase 1 et 2:

Ce projet de recherche veut identifier la contribution des associations de bassin versant à l'économie sociale et exige la mise en proximité des chercheurs et des milieux communautaires de façon à combiner leurs savoirs, leurs méthodes et leurs ressources. Ceci permet l'amélioration de la recherche et rend légitime le rôle des chercheurs dans les interventions auprès des organismes et des entreprises d'économie sociale. Ce renforcement du lien entre les divers groupes, agences, gouvernements et entreprises privées ou collectives contribue au succès des projets entrepris par les associations de bassin versant. Ainsi, ces organismes de bassin versant qui œuvrent dans les différentes communautés du littoral acadien du Nouveau-Brunswick mettent en œuvre la notion de réciprocité dans la mesure où ils instaurent des projets qui sont au service de leurs communautés et ce, en lien avec d'autres groupes de développement durable et des représentants régionaux d'agences gouvernementales. La reconnaissance de la contribution à l'économie sociale de ces groupes sera déterminante dans l'appui et le soutien que ces groupes tentent d'obtenir auprès des différents paliers de gouvernements. En d'autres termes, c'est dans la mesure où l'on reconnaît toutes les contributions du travail de ces regroupements au développement des capacités, du leadership et des connaissances locales que ceux-ci pourront faire valoir leur légitimité. L'implication des associations de bassin versant dans la gestion des systèmes de fosses septiques au Nouveau-Brunswick a pour but de montrer le potentiel de ces associations au développement durable et ce tant dans ses aspects environnementaux, économiques que sociaux.

Abstract for phase 3:

Depuis la fin des années 1990, des associations de bassin versant travaillent à la gestion durable dans les différentes régions biogéographiques de la province du Nouveau-Brunswick. D'abord créées pour la gestion de programmes de classification des eaux du Ministère de l'Environnement, ces associations ont entrepris des mandats beaucoup plus larges englobant d'autres secteurs d'activités en lien avec le développement durable. Ces groupes, comme bien d'autres du secteur à buts non-lucratifs, sont confrontés à des difficultés liées à la viabilité financière. Cette recherche examine les différents programmes et initiatives de financement en place au N.-B. et examine des mécanismes existants ailleurs permettant une meilleure viabilité de ces associations. Pour ce faire, des entrevues ont été réalisées auprès de différents acteurs du secteur de même qu'une revue de la littérature sur le sujet. Les résultats montrent qu'effectivement les mécanismes de financement sont peu efficaces surtout parce qu'ils offrent peu de stabilité à moyen et long terme. Le rôle des associations de bassin versants n'est pas enchâssé dans une politique provinciale et il semble qu'une meilleure reconnaissance de leurs retombées pour les communautés soit encore à faire. Également, les entrevues ont permis de constater que

les partenariats créés par les ABV varient beaucoup d'un groupe à l'autre et une exploration dans de nouveaux partenaires pourrait générer des pistes pour une meilleure reconnaissance et un financement plus stable.

#### **Project 4.2 Participation publique en gestion forestière**

Ce projet porte sur la participation publique à la gestion forestière au Nouveau-Brunswick. Il vise à explorer les opportunités qui sont offertes aux citoyens pour s'impliquer dans la prise de décision (processus participatifs) et à analyser plus en profondeur la contribution des organismes de l'économie sociale à ces processus. L'implication de groupes d'intérêts dans un processus participatif devrait leur permettre de faire valoir leurs idées et leurs besoins, et de façonner le système dans lequel ils coexistent avec les autres groupes d'intérêts.

Une première analyse de la situation a mis en relief une faible participation de certains organismes de l'économie sociale qui utilisent le territoire forestier (ex. : coopératives et offices de commercialisation) aux processus participatifs existant dans la province. Cependant, ces organismes sont souvent directement affectés par les décisions prises en matière de politique et d'aménagement forestier. Notre projet tentera de comprendre comment les organismes de l'économie sociale du Nouveau-Brunswick font valoir leurs intérêts et quel moyen ils suggèrent afin d'améliorer les mécanismes de participation publique en foresterie.

Cette étude exploratoire permettra d'identifier les facteurs qui facilitent et contraignent la participation des organismes d'économie sociale à la gestion des forêts du Nouveau-Brunswick. Elle dégagera également des constats propres à améliorer les processus de participation publique afin de les rendre efficaces et constructifs pour une plus grande gamme d'acteurs du milieu forestier.

#### **Project 4.3 L'utilisation plus grande de compost comme intrant organique**

La Récolte de Chez Nous est une coopérative agricole située dans le Sud-est du Nouveau-Brunswick. Certains producteurs de cette coopérative voudraient utiliser davantage de compost comme amendement organique pour la durabilité des sols. En collaboration avec l'université de Moncton, une étude a donc été menée dans le but d'estimer la demande en compost au sein de la coopérative ainsi que d'évaluer la possibilité de mettre en place un site de compostage pour les agriculteurs de la région. Cette étude a pris la forme d'une enquête auprès des membres de la coopérative, des producteurs de compost et des entreprises agroalimentaires et forestières de la région. D'après les informations que nous avons recueillies, il est peu réaliste d'établir un nouveau site de compostage dans cette région. La complexité d'une telle entreprise, l'expertise requise et les coûts d'installation et de fonctionnement sont importants. Les entreprises de compostage du Sud-est sont déjà en compétition pour les matières premières, dont la source de carbone. De plus, nous pensons qu'il serait peu probable de réussir à produire du compost à meilleur coût que ce qui est présentement offert sur le marché puisque les déchets organiques disponibles dans la région sont limités et rarement gratuits. Les entrevues réalisées ont aussi permis de démontrer que la demande en compost de la part des agriculteurs de la coopérative est encore limitée quoique plusieurs ont manifesté l'intention d'en faire davantage usage à l'avenir. Les principaux obstacles à l'utilisation du compost par les agriculteurs demeurent le manque de connaissance quant à l'utilisation du compost et le coût élevé du produit, notamment associé aux coûts du transport. De plus, les producteurs ne sont pas convaincus qu'ils pourront vendre leurs fruits et légumes plus chers même s'ils adoptent des pratiques plus saines pour l'environnement. La mise en place de partenariats entre les différents intervenants (producteurs agricoles, producteurs de compost, agences gouvernementales et consommateurs) sera donc cruciale pour effectuer un virage vers des pratiques agricoles durables.

#### **Project 4.5 Renforcement des capacités des collectivités côtières**

Résumé : Les communautés de Le Goulet et de Pointe-du-Chêne sont deux communautés côtières du nord-est et du sud-est du Nouveau-Brunswick aux prises avec des problèmes liés aux inondations et à l'érosion côtière. Depuis 2003, les chercheurs ont entrepris une recherche-action en collaboration avec certains résidents, décideurs locaux et fonctionnaires pour favoriser l'engagement de ces communautés envers la prise de décision pour des mesures d'adaptation. Le processus d'engagement comprend l'identification des perceptions, préoccupations et des connaissances locales sur le sujet, l'identification des mesures en adaptation déjà utilisées, des activités de sensibilisation et d'information et un accompagnement dans la prise de décision lors de groupes de discussion. Les données ont été recueillies à l'aide d'entrevues semi dirigées réalisées en début de processus et en fin de processus. Les résultats montrent que les participants sont déjà à l'œuvre en matière d'adaptation mais manquent de ressources humaines et matérielles et de direction sur comment procéder. Le processus entrepris a produit un changement de direction important dans les mesures en adaptation envisagées à Le Goulet et a permis d'ajouter certains éléments nouveaux dans les deux communautés. Selon les

répondants, le processus a permis d'apporter des solutions plus durables ou d'aider à confirmer et à donner de la crédibilité auprès des gouvernements aux efforts déjà entrepris. Il importerait pour les chercheurs de mieux spécifier la démarche et les résultats escomptés pour encourager une participation citoyenne plus large.

Abstract : Le Goulet and Pointe-du-Chêne are two coastal communities facing serious problems resulting from flooding. Since 2003, researchers have been involved in an action research to involve the community in a decision making process focussing on adaptation measures to these problems. The community *engagement process* involves inventory of local perceptions, knowledge and preoccupations, awareness and information building and decision making through focus group discussions. Semi directed interviews were held prior and at the end of the process to gather the data. Results show that participants have been using some adaptation techniques although they lack resources and direction. The engagement process has resulted in an important change in adaptation approaches envisioned for the future in one community and has brought forward some new solutions in both areas. Participants view the process as having lead to more sustainable solutions or as a means to provide more credibility to solutions envisioned with which to approach governments for resources. Researchers need to better identify objectives and possible outcomes from the start of the process in order to encourage a broader participation.

### [Project 5.1 Financing the Social Economy](#)

In 2006, the Scan of Financing Providers was conducted as a preliminary study to a more comprehensive survey of the financing needs and challenges facing organizations in the Social Economy. The purpose of the scan was to identify and describe the providers and types of financing instruments available to social economy enterprises in Atlantic Canada. The study interviewed 4 key informants from a bank, credit union and development funds. A report was provided by John Maddocks from Saint Mary's University summarizing the interviews and identifying common themes to be pursued in the next phase.

In 2008 the project proceeded to probe the demand for financing: to identify the financing needs and challenges facing social economy organizations. Samples of organizations representative of the wide range of types of SEOs in Cape Breton and Saint John NB were surveyed; probing for the different financing strategies and financial management strategies pursued by the various organizations and the differing measures of success associated with the different strategies. In 2009 the research continued with surveying the SEOs in Halifax, PEI, and Newfoundland and with surveying financiers also. Future research will estimate the size of unmet financing demand in the SE of Atlantic Canada and will explore the key factors success for successful financing.

The research lead is George Karaphilis from Cape Breton University, with oversight from Seth Asimakos of the Saint John Community Loan Fund and Peter Hough representing the Canadian Community Investment Network. The results of the survey will enhance the capacity of organizations in the Social Economy to access financing and to influence policy regarding the availability of financing to them.

### [Project S.2 Masters in Island Studies, UPEI: Services for Immigrants in PEI](#)

It is important for Prince Edward Islanders to be aware that if they are not Mi'kmaq, then they descend from immigrants. All immigrants go through similar processes in integrating. According to this research, this process can be more intense and more difficult on an Island.

Fifteen participants (the children of the original Chinese settlers) completed a semi-structured interview process that focused on the participants' experiences of growing up on Prince Edward Island. The interviews were transcribed and analyzed using an iterative process grounded in the data, and informed by themes of "island-ness" including boundedness, particularism, and migration. A model emerged which became titled "Circle of Community Storytelling and Island Connectivity". It suggests how these themes of "island-ness" interplay with the concepts of liminality, resilience and integration to inform and encourage locally grown sub-national island jurisdiction immigration policy.

The first Chinese person to arrive on Prince Edward Island came in 1851. Over one hundred and fifty years later, this community remained hidden in the shadows. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, through the process of storytelling, this community transitioned from liminality to their rightful place in the Island story. Listening to the voices and stories of the first-born Chinese Islanders provides an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of those who are not of the majority ancestry group. The research also provides information that may assist government and SE organizations supporting immigrants to formulate programs and

policy that works well both for those who choose to come to the Island, and for Prince Edward Islanders.

### **[Project S.3 Masters in Island Studies, UPEI: Family Violence Services](#)**

Primary data collection with eight justice service front line delivery workers (4 NS/4 PEI) to review services provided for female victims of domestic violence in small island/rural communities between NS and PEI - what is working/not working from the perspective of these workers; what are the challenges faced by these front line workers; what are their recommendations for change to assist them to do their jobs more effectively and efficiently. Interviews will be conducted with RCMP, and provincial government departments of victim's services, community and correctional services. The data analysis and findings will be verified by the interviewees, and later shared in two focus groups with NS and PEI (SN2 partners), to review the recommendations from the point of view of social economy community organizations working to support victims of domestic violence. Following verification of focus group analysis and findings, the final report (thesis) will be shared on the SN2 social economy project website.

### **[Project S.4 Masters in Philosophy, UNB: Growing New Brunswick from the Ground Up The Policy Context, New Brunswick Co-operatives](#)**

This research explores the relationship between co-operatives in New Brunswick, as community-owned, local enterprises and government policies and programs. Through a review including academic, government and co-operative sector literature, a policy scan, and interviews with both representatives from the co-operative sector (n=12) as well as government (n=2), this thesis reveals opportunities to better support New Brunswick co-operatives. These recommendations include opening programs for business development to be accessible to co-operatives (educating staff as well as creating program guidelines conducive to co-operatives) as well as updating legislation that is more than 30 years old in order to reflect the current economic climate in the province. Through developing a more favourable policy environment in New Brunswick, citizens can become involved in developing their own communities through jointly-owned enterprises. The social as well as economic activities of co-operatives can help serve policy goals as well, such as employment creation, self-sufficiency, service delivery and economic development. Although governments may benefit from co-operatives, the outdated legislation and lack of supportive programs do not reflect this potential. Both government (through policy making) and the co-operative sector (through advocacy and public education), however, are necessary to help increase the public profile of co-operatives and work together to create stronger policies. As autonomous organizations, co-ops have a responsibility to help themselves and each other, however, just as government supports other enterprises (through policies and development programs), so too would it be valuable to support co-ops, as social enterprises, in a similar manner. Moreover, co-operatives warrant the attention of government as well as more favourable policies because of their contributions to communities, the economy, and the labour force in addition to their potential to help address current policy goals within the Province of New Brunswick.

### **[Project S.5 Masters in Applied Human Nutrition, MSVU: Cultivating Food Security in Nova Scotia Public Schools: A Case Study of an Elementary School Garden Project](#)**

Given the potential of school gardens in building CFS, and the calls for further evaluation, this research will use case study methods to explore the value of school gardens in advancing CFS at the school level. More specifically, it will seek to explore, from the perspective of the school community and public health practitioners: 1) any health, social and ecological effects of school food gardens; and 2) what factors contribute to producing these effects.

### **[Project S.12 Master of Arts, UNB: At the intersection of a crisis? Examining the ability of New Brunswick's non-profit organizations to meet the need for home care in the twenty-first century](#)**

The focus of the MA research will center on identifying how broad social changes are unfolding in New Brunswick to discover how these changing social trends may present challenges to non-profit agencies in their capacity to provide home care services in the province. The purpose of this case study will be to explore both the social factors and the institutional processes that structure the provision of home care and the delivery of home care services and programs by non-profit organizations. This analysis can be articulated by the following question: How do

New Brunswick's non-profit organizations assess their ability to provide home care services to the province's most vulnerable groups?

For this qualitative study to capture the perspective of non-profit agencies in the province I intend to interview organization directors and managers who were identified from the Family and Community home support list in my honours study. This would entail conducting up to twenty interviews throughout the province in the seven regional areas that provide publicly funded services. In addition to the interview process I will

undertake a document and content analysis of the various processes that structure the provision of home care such as the composition of staff and volunteers in organizations, the education and training requirements for staff and volunteers, home support standards, and government policies and contracts.

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