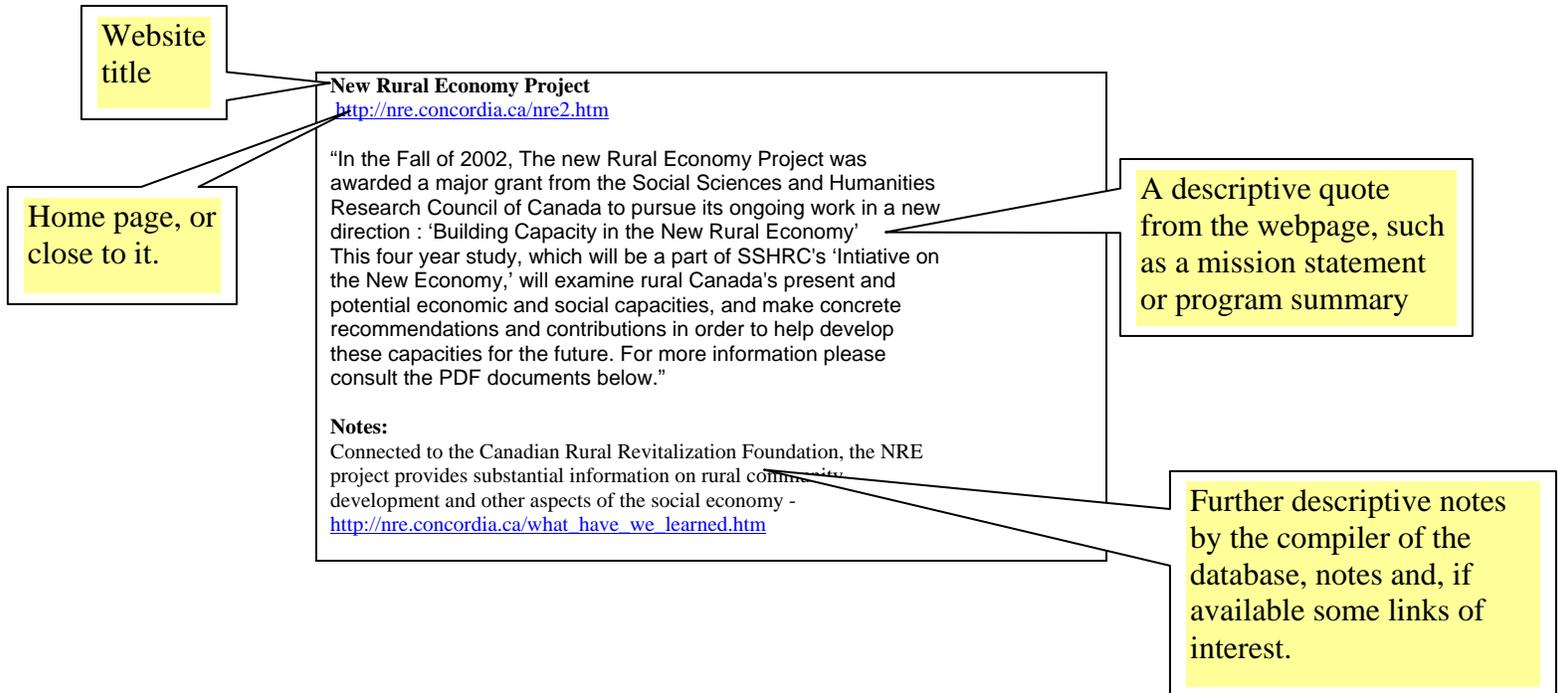


Social Economy Websites

The following document offers a number of websites of interest to people who wish to work or are working in the social economy sector, as well as to researchers, policy makers and teachers. This resource list is meant to give you the most direct access to the sites as well as a brief introduction to the content contained therein; expect the following format.



The Atlantic Canada Co-operative Archives -

<http://www.nsac.ns.ca/library/agricola/Co-op/>

"The Co-operative Archives are meant to encompass co-operatives information covering the entire region of Atlantic Canada, including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as the Magdalen Islands. Currently, the majority of the material found in the Archives relates to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, with plans to acquire more information from the rest of Atlantic Canada in the future.

The Archives contains information about many individual co-operatives and credit unions, as well as documents from larger region-wide co-operative organizations. There is also a large section of general co-operative literature that may be useful to those who would like to learn more about co-operation as a social movement, in Canada or around the world."

Notes:

This online guide to co-operative archives is maintained at the MacRae Library at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, NS:

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

<http://www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca/>

“Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) is a federal government agency. Headquartered in the Atlantic Region, ACOA's goal is to improve the economy of Atlantic Canadian communities through the successful development of business and job opportunities.

Co-operative thought and practice through the development of Co-operative Studies as an established field of inquiry. The Institute collaborates with other post-secondary institutions, the co-op sector, governments, individuals and communities interested in co-operative development.”

Notes:

ACOA does extensive policy research and provides access to it through a ‘policy’ section of its website at <http://www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca/e/library/policy.shtml>. Of particular interest are a series of studies on ‘Community Economic Development’.

Atlantic Community Economic Development Institute

<http://www.cedinstitute.ca/>

“The Atlantic Community Economic Development Institute (ACEDI) is a Cooperative based in Nova Scotia-Canada that carries out research, capacity building and asset mapping activities with the purpose of building sustainable communities. ACEDI is particularly oriented to support lower-income groups among the First Nations, African Canadians and marginalized rural communities in the Atlantic Region and overseas. Since 1996, ACEDI has played an important role in shaping CED in Nova Scotia by linking itself with key community-based and government organizations.”

Notes:

The website is undergoing (re)construction.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/>

“...an independent, non-partisan [non-profit] research institute concerned with issues of social and economic justice”

Notes:

The CCPA offers much research on a broad range of social issues, the links to which may be found here:

http://www.policyalternatives.ca/reports_studies/index.cfm. They are divided into various provincial nodes, each of which maintains its own web page with further links to research and policy as it pertains to the particular region. The Nova Scotia node may be found here:

<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/index.cfm?act=main&call=ABE139B0>,

The Canadian Community Economic Development Network

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

“The Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) is a national member-based, democratic organization. We are a registered charitable non-profit organization.

The membership of CCEDNet is made up of Community Economic Development (CED) community-based organizations and practitioners from every region of Canada. Our members bring urban, rural and northern experience and a diverse range of community economic development expertise to the work of CCEDNet.

Our mission is to promote and support community economic development for the social, economic and environmental betterment of communities within Canada.”

Notes:

This site offers extensive resources on social economy issues. Many links to other sites (including those on policy analysis and proposals) can be via this URL: <http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/pages/links.asp>

The Canadian Co-Operative Association

<http://www.coopscanada.coop/>, <http://www.coopzone.coop/>

“We are the co-operatives and credit unions of Canada, valued for fostering social and economic empowerment, and recognized for our unique response to community needs.

We are a not-for-profit co-operative owned by our members. Our

members come from many sectors of the economy, including finance, insurance, agri-food and supply, wholesale and retail, housing, health, and the service sector. The majority are "second tier" co-operatives (those that are organized at the regional or provincial level such as credit union centrals or federations, which provide services to "first tier" co-ops such as local credit unions or retail outlets). We also have primary or first tier members, as well as "third tier" members representing co-ops from specific sectors of the economy.

CCA provides leadership to promote, develop, and unite co-operatives and credit unions for the benefit of people in Canada and around the world."

Notes:

This site; provides a broad range of information on all aspects of the co-operative sector. The links section is an extensive portal to other research and policy sites.

Canadian Council on Social Development

<http://www.ccsd.ca/home.htm>

"The Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization, which was founded in 1920. Our mission is to develop and promote progressive social policies inspired by social justice, equality and the empowerment of individuals and communities. We do this through research, consultation, public education and advocacy. Our main product is information. Our sources of funding include research contracts, the sale of publications and memberships, and donations."

Notes:

Site offers much on social policy information, particularly issues facing children, immigrants, the disabled and other marginalized minorities. Included are a number of studies on community development. Its 'Links' page (<http://www.ccsd.ca/links.html>) is a portal to other sites of relevance to the social economy.

**The Canadian Institute for Research on Regional Development,
University of Moncton**

http://www.umoncton.ca/icrpap/index_icrdr.html

"It is an independent, non-profit organization, governed by a board of directors. Its mandate is to promote informed public debate on regional development and disseminate objective analyses and information on

the subject. It pursues this mandate by delivering research, publishing, conference and scholarship programs.”

Notes:

Site offers several reports of significance to the social economy in Atlantic Canada, the links section is a portal to specifically Canadian sites of interest.

Canadian Rural Partnership

<http://www.rural.gc.ca>

“The Canadian Rural Partnership is the key policy framework supporting federal rural policy efforts to date. It is funded by \$20 million over four years (1998 - 2002), and built around the Federal Framework for Action priorities. The Partnership is about operating within the federal government to ensure that federal programs, policies and activities provide support to rural communities.”

Notes:

This Government of Canada site includes a broad range of policy and discussion papers related to rural communities in Canada, many of which may be found here: http://www.rural.gc.ca/publications/pubintro_e.phtml . Includes a guide to existing services, *The Rural Canadians Guide to Programs and Services in Canada*

British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies –

<http://web.uvic.ca/bcics>

“The British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies is a catalyst for research, learning, and teaching about co-operative thought and practice through the development of Co-operative Studies as an established field of inquiry. The Institute collaborates with other post-secondary institutions, the co-op sector, governments, individuals and communities interested in co-operative development.”

Notes:

A comprehensive website covering co-ops, which includes links to extensive research, including numerous case studies (<http://web.uvic.ca/bcics/casestudiesindex.htm>) and information on co-operatives arranged by sector, i.e. energy, health, education, housing, etc. <http://web.uvic.ca/bcics/research/index.html> . The ‘Co-op Links’ provides a portal to other Co-operative research centers.

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

<http://www.crrf.ca>

“The mission is to revitalize rural Canada. Strong rural economies across Canada are needed by the rest of Canadians for the 2000s. CRRF achieves its mission through education and research for rural leaders in the community, the private sector and in government.”

Notes:

Based out of Concordia University, the CRRF provides a good collection of rural based studies, economic and community development. In particular, there are several studies related to the voluntary sector in rural development.

Canadian Social Economy Hub

<http://www.socialeconomynetwork.ca/>

“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](#)), 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.”

Notes:

Project centre; though some of the site is still under construction, links to all project nodes are provided, as well as links to documents on the social economy and links to external domestic and international sites.

Canadian Worker Co-op Federation

<http://www.canadianworker.coop/>

“Our Mission is to...

1. “Secure and coordinate national development resources, in order to support the development of worker co-ops;
2. Develop awareness of and support for the worker co-op option within the co-op sector, government, and elsewhere throughout Canada; and
3. Provide value-added business services to our member worker co-ops.”

Notes:

This site is dedicated to the co-operative sector and includes links to grants and other government programs designed to help the formation and operation of co-operatives.

Centre for Community Enterprise

<http://www.cedworks.com/>

"To undertake and promote approaches to training, technical assistance, publishing, research, networking, investment, and public policy that foster creative, inclusive, and sustainable community economies, particularly among Canada's marginalized populations."

Notes:

Excellent website with sections devoted to CED tools, including community-minded businesses. Publishes *Tools & Techniques for Community Recovery and Renewal*, a guide to practical action.

The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan

<http://coop-studies.usask.ca/>

"The objectives of the Centre are: to develop and offer university courses that provide an understanding of co-operative theory, principles, development, structures, and legislation; to undertake original research into co-operatives; to publish co-operative research, both that of Centre staff and that of other researchers; and to maintain a resource centre of co-operative materials that supports the Centre's teaching and research functions."

Notes:

Site offers a plethora of co-op resources, including bibliographies and coursework. USask also offers undergraduate and graduate programs in co-operative studies.

The Co-operatives Secretariat (Government of Canada)

http://coop.gc.ca/index_e.php

"The Secretariat advises the government on policies affecting co-operatives, co-ordinates the implementation of such policies, and encourages use of the co-operative model for the social and economic development of Canada's communities. The Secretariat also provides a link between the co-op sector and the many federal

departments and agencies with which they interact.”

Notes:

This site contains links to information on policy affecting Canadian co-operatives. Federal information is contained directly on the site with links to relevant provincial and territorial information.

Human Resources and Social Development Canada (formerly Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and Social Development Canada

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml>

“The Department of Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSD) is responsible for providing all Canadians with the tools they need to thrive and prosper in the workplace and community. We support human capital development, labour market development and are dedicated to establishing a culture of lifelong learning for Canadians.”

Notes:

The site offers information on policy and programs relating to Canadian social and economic issues.

Imagine Canada

<http://www.imaginecanada.ca/>, <http://www.nonprofitscan.ca/>

“Imagine Canada focuses on three key areas:

1. We help charities and nonprofit organizations fulfill their missions
2. We champion corporate citizenship and help businesses partner in the community
3. We help Canadians and their governments understand how the work of charities, nonprofit organizations and community-minded businesses is important to our country and its future”

“NonprofitsCan is the public information portal of Imagine Canada (formerly the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy). The site includes information from Imagine Canada's research program and the Imagine Canada — John Hodgson Library.”

Notes:

Sites offer much information on co-operatives, NGOs, non-profits and the volunteer sector.

New Rural Economy Project

<http://nre.concordia.ca/nre2.htm>

“In the Fall of 2002, The new Rural Economy Project was awarded a major grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to pursue its ongoing work in a new direction : ‘Building Capacity in the New Rural Economy’

This four year study, which will be a part of SSHRC's ‘Initiative on the New Economy,’ will examine rural Canada's present and potential economic and social capacities, and make concrete recommendations and contributions in order to help develop these capacities for the future. For more information please consult the PDF documents below.”

Notes:

Connected to the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, the NRE project provides substantial information on rural community development and other aspects of the social economy -

http://nre.concordia.ca/what_have_we_learned.htm

The Nova Scotia Co-operative Council

<http://www.nasco-opcouncil.ca>

“The missions of the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council are to
a) Bring all types of co-operatives together to form a strong co-operative movement in Nova Scotia

b) Play an active role in promoting, supporting, and developing co-operatives in Nova Scotia

c) Represent the co-operative movement's interest with respect to government policy and legislation

d) Have an organizational structure that will provide for participation, communication, and understanding within the co-operative movement

e) Encourage the development of a 'co-operative identity' among the public in Nova Scotia”

Notes:

Similar to other co-operative sites, but Nova Scotian in focus; it contains information on the operation of co-operatives and credit unions in the province. It also includes legal information and guidelines for establishing co-ops.

Policy Link N.B.

<http://www.policylink.nb.ca/>

“This partnership network is a multi-sector group of government, academia, voluntary sector, business, and citizens — which provides a supportive, trusting environment for horizontal, collaboration on concerns, common objectives and approaches whose representation is linguistically, culturally and geographically balanced.”

The Rural and Small-Town Programme, Mount Allison University

<http://www.mta.ca/rstp/rstpmain.html>

“The Rural and Small Town Programme prepares people and organizations to adapt to change and to act on opportunities for developing sustainable rural communities and small towns. The Programme links research and action by generating and sharing new knowledge, developing self-help tools, and providing information and educational services which lead to innovative approaches and solutions.”

Notes:

From Mount Allison University, this is connected to the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation and New Rural Economy project (see above). It publishes the *Quality of Life* series, several titles of which have relevance to the social economy. The website also contains links to research and reports through this URL: <http://www.mta.ca/rstp/pubmain.html>

School of Community and Public Affairs at Concordia

<http://scp-aeapc.concordia.ca/>

Notes:

Offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Community Economic development; a resource to issues in social capital.

Voluntary Sector Initiative

<http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/index.cfm>

“The Voluntary Sector Initiative (VSI) was a unique undertaking between the Government of Canada and the voluntary sector to enhance their relationship and strengthen the sector's capacity. This site contains documents and links to documents that were created during the Initiative.”

Notes:

This site offers extensive information within it, and also offers many portals to others sites. The VSI has conducted much research on the voluntary dimension of the social economy and some of that can be found here: <http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/knowledge/index.cfm>. For international comparisons, VSI and Johns Hopkins completed a study of the voluntary sectors in countries around the world.