



BuildingPolicy4 the Social Economy

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



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

The Contribution of Watershed Associations to the Social Economy

O. Chouinard and G. Martin, University of Moncton and

J. Gauvin, Groupe de développement durable du Pays de Cocagne

Research

- Research since 2006 with Watershed Associations (WAs) in NB recognizes them as social enterprises.
- Working on water management and toward sustainable development.
- Activities have a social, economic and environmental impact – Lack of funding a major obstacle.
- Review of solutions to the problem of resources.
- **Photos:** sunrise; NB map with locations of Watershed Associations.

Methodology

- Literature review (NB and elsewhere).
- Seek out participatory action on a voluntary basis.
- Semi-directed interviews.
- Validation meeting.
- Thematic analysis of the results.
- **Photos:** Logos of U of M and the GDDPC; group of people – research validation.

Results

- WAs have an ongoing desire to help the community to live in a more healthy environment.
- WAs are not known well enough. They help to meet essential communal needs, but their existence is precarious.
- More secure funding is fundamental.
- WA contributions not effectively highlighted.
- Urgent to develop an awareness of the importance and the total contribution of non profit organizations (NGO) to society.
- Developing various partnerships will contribute to recognition.
- There are no policies which recognize and support either the WAs or NGOs in NB, Atlantic Canada and in Canada. Yet, they are social enterprises just like cooperatives.

Summary

- WAs and NGOs are social enterprises.
- WAs play an essential role in property management and sustainable development.
- No policy recognizes the WAs.
- Importance of developing tools ensuring the viability of this vital social sector.
- **Photos:** Group of youths; sunset.

Policy Implications/Recommendations

- The non-profit sector, which includes the WAs, is essential for the sustainable development of our society. However, this is not always obvious to the WAs themselves, their communities or the state. It is important to develop tools which will foster this recognition. The development of various partnerships and research data will reinforce the credibility and the viability of the sector.
- There are no policies recognizing the sector and its importance. Quebec and PEI have earmarked funds specifically for WAs. It is fundamental to work toward the development of policies recognizing the sector.
- **Photos:** Group walking in an orchard; individual with compact fluorescent lights; round table; saltwater monitoring; installation of floral borders at a school; 3 year old; rainbow.

Presented by Jocelyne Gauvin, Groupe de développement durable du Pays de Cocagne gddpc@nb.aibn.com

For further information go : <http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/english/indexE.asp>