



BuildingPolicy4 the Social Economy

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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

Cafe Session - Bridging Public Investment and Social Value

An examination of the supports for the Social Economy on Prince Edward Island

Research conducted by Barbara Groome Wynne, Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network
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Purpose

- To map the level of federal and provincial government funding and policy supports.
- To raise awareness about the importance of informed social policy and adequate public investment.
- To empower and strengthen the knowledge base of community organizations.
- To provide an opportunity to work together toward social policy that will benefit us all.

Study Design:

Interviews with thirty social organizations on PEI to inquire into...

- The nature of funding and policy supports.
- The impacts of any changes or deficiencies.
- The organizations' responses.
- The level of involvement in policy making decisions.
- How funding and policy supports could be improved.

Recommendations made in the research report were workshopped at an event attended by study participants, community partners, researchers, and government staff and officials.

Findings:

Inadequate public investment, characterized by:

- A cost-cutting culture.
- Unstable and insufficient funding.
- Changing government priorities.
- Inefficient communication processes.
- Jurisdictional issues between the provincial and federal governments.

The impacts of insufficient public investment for social organizations include:

- Reduced ability to provide services.
- An inability to plan for the long-term.
- Unrealistic expectations on staff and volunteers.
- A lack of organizational sustainability.

Policy Implications:

The recommendations of the study were that action be taken in eight main areas:

- Funding for sustainability
- Developing the infrastructure for continuity
- Setting priorities based on social needs
- Restructuring the Government's role
- Improving accountability
- Making our Islanders work
- Acting Collectively
- Valuing the social economy

Further Research

Inquiring further into these findings, the study ***Examining the risk of lost knowledge with personnel changes in small nonprofit organizations on Prince Edward Island***, looks at how inadequate policy and funding supports affect the ability to retain and transfer organizational memory.

Policy Discussion

The discussion will focus on the impact of project funding policies on sector sustainability in terms of knowledge retention and transfer. Discussion will inquire into opportunities for co-construction of policy that satisfy funder requirements and organization knowledge management needs, and the potential impacts on the nature of funding structures.

For additional information, please contact:

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