

Mobilization around Food Security Within the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships (CSERP) A National Scan

Project # 3.3

Liesel Carlsson, Research Assistant, Sub Node 3(SN3) Food Security and CED; **Patty Williams**, MSVU and SN3 Coordinator; **Debbie Reimer**, Kids Action Program and SN3 Steering Committee Member; **Leslie Brown**, Principal Investigator, Atlantic Social Economy Research Network (SES); **Noreen Millar**, SES Coordinator; **Annie McKittrick**, Coordinator, Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships (CSERP); **Aleiz Kay**, Graduate Student, CSERP

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Bridging, Bonding, and Building / Renforcement des liens et des capacités



Introduction

- A Scan of food security related research projects within the CSERP was carried out collaboratively between the Atlantic Node (SES/ESD Network) and its Sub Node Three (SN3), with participation from the CSE Hub and other regional nodes.
- Results compile abstracts of short, medium and long term initiatives for building food security, and identify opportunities for collaboration and future research.



Background and Rationale

Food Security is an issue of common concern within the Atlantic SES Node, and across the CSERP

Our hope is that this scan:

- Contributes to our understanding of how social economy organizations are mobilizing in Atlantic Canada, and across other Nodes nationally, to build food security;
- Provides a resource and tool to facilitate bridging and bonding between practitioners and researchers within Atlantic Canada and nationally; and
- Contributes to the development of a framework to identify and support the contributions of the social economy to long term food security.



Community/University Collaboration (partnership)

- Contributing CSERP partners (contribution) :
 - Atlantic SES Node, Sub Node Three and the Kids Action Program (concept, data collection, dissemination), and CSERP Hub (data collection and dissemination).
- Anticipated outcomes for all partners include:
 - Strengthened knowledge through dissemination accessible to community, student and academic partners. E.g. article in Making Waves Magazine in press (Centre for Community Enterprise, www.cedworks.com); and
 - Future collaboration and networking to build food security through the social economy.



Project Methodology

- **Initial concept** and purpose development through conversation
- **Data Sources:**
 - Tele-learning session on food security
 - CSERP Hub website, regional Node sites and documents
 - Email, telephone and/or personal contact with Node coordinators and specific investigators
 - Six month update through email request
- **Results:**
 - Compilation into summary report and tables
 - Analysis using Community Food Security Framework*

*McCullum C, Desjardins E, Kraak VI, Ladipo P, Costello H. Evidence-based strategies to build community food security. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. 2005;105(2):278.



Main Findings To Date

Stage 1: Initial food systems change

Small but significant changes; immediate relief

- Educational, emergency food, and exploratory projects

Stage 2: Food systems in transition

Strengthening social infrastructure through capacity building, partnerships and networks

- Cooperatives, alternative agriculture and distribution models, food networks, partnerships and innovative collaborations
- Many projects overlapping with Stage 1 and 3

Stage 3: Food systems redesign for sustainability

Advocacy for and public policies that increase food security

- Policy analysis and development, advocacy tools, exploration of obstacles and solutions



Deliverables

- Session at Canadian Association of Food Studies, June 1st, 2008 including presentation specifically on CSERP Scan (L. Carlsson et al.)
- Session at Canadian Association of Studies in Cooperation, June 5th, 2008 including presentation specifically on CSERP Scan (L. Carlsson, P. Williams et al.)
- Article series in Making Waves Magazine, October, 2008 (In Press)
- Hub Tele-learning session (planned, 2009)



How Students Benefited from the Project

- Involvement:
 - MSVU Dietetic Intern, May - Aug, 2007
 - SN3 Graduate RA, Nov 2007- Oct 2008
 - CSERP Hub Student RA, Feb – June, 2008
- Skills gained by students
 - Communication and presentation skills
 - Food security research capacity
 - Knowledge of the social economy and CSERP
 - Writing for publication



Conclusions and Next Steps

Opportunities for Collaboration

- Collaboration within stage of continuum
- Collaboration across stages of continuum
- Strengthening networks nationally

Future Research

- The role and potential of emergent alternative food systems, networks and cooperatives
- The relationship between food system- and income- related food insecurity within the social economy approach

