



## Social Enterprises Knowledgeable Economies and Sustainable Communities

The Northern Ontario, Manitoba  
and Saskatchewan Regional Node  
of the Social Economy Suite

*project update from the centre for the study of co-operatives — winter 2008*

### The Social Economy Suite of Projects

The Social Economy Suite of projects is based on six regional, community-university alliances across Canada. Each is carrying out programs of research and knowledge mobilization relevant to its particular region, conducting new research, facilitating networking among stakeholders, and training students and community researchers. The governance model includes active partnerships between universities and community organizations, forming a network involving academics, students, community groups, and other interested parties. Our node covers a vast area stretching across three provinces. Partner organizations in Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan facilitate networking, research, and student training.

### Introducing Our Partner Organizations

***Community Economic and Social Development***  
Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) is a department at Algoma University College in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. With a program that combines economic and social approaches to community development in which faculty, staff, and students are expected to work with community-based organizations while conducting their research, it was a natural fit for the Linking, Learning, Leveraging project. CESD researchers use an interdisciplinary, holistic approach to community development, situating it within the global, regional, and local context and examining policy issues at every level. The development process, as they see it, includes community participation and mobilization, community organizing, and community healing.

**Entreprises sociales,  
économies intelligentes,  
et communautés durables**

CESD's first strategic planning session with community and academic partners, held in April 06, identified nearly eighty social economy projects and activities already underway, highlighting a strong basis upon which to further develop the LLL project in Northern Ontario. A critical component of the new research would include the "three solitudes" in the region — First Nations, Francophones, and marginalized groups such as women and youth. Participants also developed a vision for the project, which includes attributes such as diversity, self-sufficiency, respect and belonging, holistic, local control, and sustainability.

### ***Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance***

The Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance (WIRA), affiliated with the Institute for Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg, is a group of academic and community partners committed to fostering innovative research, training, and related activities that work towards the social, cultural, and economic development of Winnipeg's inner-city communities.

WIRA was founded with a number of interests in mind — as both a forum to exchange ideas about inner-city issues and a body to undertake initiatives in response to them. It draws on the resources and expertise of all local stakeholders,



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Of the approximately forty projects underway, nine have been completed and the knowledge resulting from this work is starting to be disseminated. Community partners, academics, and students have made more than a hundred presentations at workshops, conferences, symposia, and formal meetings to a broad variety of audiences — government, academics, and community. Other results include six research reports, three working papers, five book chapters, two journal articles, as well as a manual and a self-assessment tool.

including a range of community-based organizations, academics, researchers, and policy makers. Initiatives address issues such as housing, community development, cross-cultural approaches to education, child and youth concerns, health and economic development, and also draw people together to build partnerships, develop ideas, and strengthen community capacity.

The combination of academic and community-based partnerships and the research emphasis made WIRA the perfect partner to take on the Manitoba component of the project.

### ***Community-University Institute for Social Research***

The Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives's co-applicant in the Linking, Learning, Leveraging project, is a partnership between community-based organizations and faculty and graduate students from the University of Saskatchewan. It serves as a focal point for community-based research and integrates the social research needs and experiential knowledge of the community-based organizations with the expertise available at the university. As a corollary of this, CUISR acts as a conduit for the transfer of experientially-based knowledge from the community to the university classroom, and of research expertise from the university to the community. With many publications under its belt, CUISR also serves as a data clearinghouse for applied and community-based social research. The organization's

overall goal is to build the capacity of researchers, community-based organizations, and citizens to enhance community quality of life.

CUISR operates under three interdependent research modules — community health determinants and health policy; community economic development; and quality of life indicators. Integrated results provide a rich, multi-faceted analysis of the common social and economic issues, with all of the research focused on creating and maintaining healthy, sustainable communities.

Like CESD and WIRA, CUISR's established and well-recognized community-university partnerships and its many community-based social research projects already underway made the organization the obvious choice for the Saskatchewan connection.

### **Identifying Research Priorities**

Research priorities were identified at regional symposia; many of them cross provincial boundaries in terms of focus and/or participants. Two of the three provincial organizations (CUISR and WIRA) sponsor an annual call for research proposals. Guidelines ensure that proposals meet the research objectives of the node while remaining responsive to the needs of the community organization that responds to the call for proposals. The third organization, CESD, develops targeted research projects in consultation with Northern Ontario academics, government and community organizations, and individuals who are partners in the Linking, Learning, Leveraging project.



***Regional academic and community co-leads (from left): Gayle Broad and Monique Beaudoin (CESD), Tom Carter***

## Community Partners

Arctic Co-operatives Ltd.  
ASOPRICOR, Colombia  
Assiniboine Credit Union  
British Columbia Co-operative Association  
Caisse Provencher Ltée.  
Canada Rural Economy Research Lab, U of S  
Canadian CED Network / Réseau canadien de DÉC (Ontario)  
Canadian CED Network / Réseau canadien de DÉC (Prairies and Northern Territories)  
Canadian Community Investment Network Co-operative  
Canadian Co-operative Association  
Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation  
Child Hunger and Education Program  
Common Works Development Institute Inc.  
Community Action Co-op Regina Ltd.  
Community Development Society of Saskatchewan  
Community Economic and Social Development Unit, Algoma University College  
Community Futures Partners of Saskatchewan  
Community Health Services (Saskatoon) Association  
Community-University Institute for Social Research  
Cooperation Works, USA  
Co-operatives Secretariat, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Co-op Ventures Worker Co-operative  
Credit Union Central of Manitoba  
Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan  
First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan, Inc.  
FirstSask Credit Union  
CICOPA, Belgium  
Kin Canada  
Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives  
Manitoba Cooperative Association Inc.  
Ontario Co-operative Association  
Ontario Native Women's Association  
PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise  
QUINT Development Corporation  
Saskatchewan Abilities Council  
Saskatchewan Association for Community Living  
Saskatchewan Co-operative Association  
Saskatchewan Council for Community Development  
Saskatchewan Economic Development Association

Saskatchewan First Nations Wholesale Co-operative  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation  
Saskatoon Tribal Council  
Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy  
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg  
Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc.  
Spruce River Research  
SEED Winnipeg Inc.  
TRIBE Inc.  
United Way of Saskatoon  
University of Winnipeg  
University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives  
Vancity Community Foundation  
Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance

## Academic Partners

Rachid Bagaoui, Laurentian University  
Will Bartlett, University of Bristol, UK  
Lynne Bell, University of Saskatchewan  
Marie Bouchard, Université du Québec à Montréal  
Gayle Broad, Algoma University College  
Leslie Brown, Mount Saint Vincent University  
Thomas S. Carter, University of Winnipeg  
Chris Clamp, Southern New Hampshire University  
Louise Clarke, University of Saskatchewan  
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Mark Partridge, Ohio State University, US  
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<http://usaskstudies.coop/wordpress>

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## Graduate Students Engaged in Research on the Social Economy



**Colin Anderson** is a PhD student in the Environmental Conservation Lab at the University of Manitoba. He has an internship with the Harvest Moon Society for a project titled “Harvest Moon Society Marketing Co-operative: Building Social Capital through

Food Systems.” He’s working with a group of producers in southwestern Manitoba who are in the early stages of developing a marketing co-operative. The project will identify how collective farmer organizations increase social cohesion and social capital within the immediate marketing group, the larger communities in which they are nested, and among the diverse stakeholders in the food system. The participatory action research methods used in the study will give voice to producers, benefit the community, and contribute to the literature on the linkages between the social economy and risk and adaptation in rural communities.

Supported by a Social Economy scholarship, **Robyn Webb** is working on a master’s degree in city planning at the University of Manitoba. Her thesis will examine the role that municipal community economic development policy plays in promoting inner-city revitalization and curbing urban decay. Robin is also involved in a project co-ordinated by the Prairies/Northern Territories branch of the Canadian CED Network and the BALTA node of the Social Economy Suite. The research will look at the current state of municipal government involvement in and support of CED and the social economy sector in western Canada and northern Ontario.



**Monica Juarez Adeler** is a PhD student at the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan, but is currently working on a Social Economy internship at SEED Winnipeg titled “Building a Tax Policy Framework to Enable Co-operative Development: A Comparative Experience.” The project will

draw on a comparative analysis of tax models from Mondragon, Spain, and the Emilia Romagna Region of Italy, and will include a scan of tax policy and legislation regarding co-operatives in Manitoba. The research will compare tax legislation and other policies to find what has had the greatest impact on the co-op sector’s ability to develop, grow, and sustain organizations, assessing, in the process, what may be transferable to the Manitoba context.



**Jude Ortiz** is a PhD student at the University of the West of England in Bristol, currently engaged in research at Algoma University College in Sault Ste. Marie. She has worked on two

Social Economy projects: “Culture, Creativity, and the Arts: Achieving Community Resilience and Sustainability through the Arts in Sault Ste. Marie” and “Community Resilience Sault Ste. Marie.” The Culture study, now complete, identifies ways in which the arts facilitate the development of an urban economy. The Community Resilience study is focused on assisting Sault Ste. Marie to become more resilient by working cross-sectorally to achieve more durable and effective results from its investment of time, talent, and resources.

**Chipo Kangayi** recently finished her MSc at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research was supported in part by an LLL internship for a project titled “Measuring and Mapping the Impact of Social Economy Enterprises: A Case of Co-operatives in Canada.” The Canada-wide study involved a comprehensive mapping and measuring of the geographic spillovers of co-ops in and beyond their local communities. Chipo’s work combined data on the spatial attributes, type, and size of co-operatives with an extensive geographically coded data set containing socio-economic and amenity variables. Her results suggest that co-op activity in some regions has a positive impact on population growth, and hence that there may be scope for co-ops to enhance their role in their communities by developing mechanisms that respond to evolving community needs.

