

**Linking, Learning, Leveraging:  
Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities  
Saskatchewan Region of the Social Economy Suite**

**Call for Letters of Intent**

CUISR/Social Economy Module recognizes the need for community partners to explore questions relevant to them and to their needs in Social Economy (SE) development. We welcome your letters of intent to guide the next stage in Saskatchewan region research.

The Saskatchewan Region Social Economy Workshop on December 5<sup>th</sup> reviewed research findings and project goals and identified the main areas of interest for future research initiatives.

The intent for the next steps is to encourage competition among ideas and cooperation among organizations. Understanding the multiple demands on community-based organizations, we invite letters of intent rather than fully developed proposals. CUISR/Social Economy Module will work with partner organizations to develop collaboration among organizations and to identify research questions.

The letters of intent/research questions should be guided by the areas identified by partners at the workshop, and can expand to two or more of these areas:

- **Community Economic Development Impact Measurement**
  - Challenges of funding formulae and “charity perspective,” of quantitative versus qualitative methods, and of a “deficit model” that views communities as the problem rather than problem solvers.
  - How can we work with communities to unlock and measure local knowledge and impact?
  - How is the legacy of colonialism limiting the potential of the SE?
  - What are the indicators of SE success and how they can be translated into concrete economic benefits?
  - How can we create a climate of change for SE? Review successful initiatives local, regional, national, and international (e.g., Chantier in QC)
- **Capacity Building: Education and Training, Linkages, and Leadership**
  - How do we develop effective linkages, partnerships, collaborations for capacity building (education, labor market, etc.)?
  - How do we facilitate funding for capacity building?
  - How do you deliver an effective and efficient level of training?
  - Narrow range of templates: need to explore other models and templates of SE (e.g., Chantier in Quebec)
  - How can we facilitate worker buyouts to become worker cooperatives?
  - What types of organizational models and leaderships have worked or not worked for the aboriginal communities and for the SE communities in general?
  - Co-operative model versus development corporation model in Aboriginal communities
- **Policy Environment and Change**
  - What sort of policy environment do we need for community based organizations to grow?

- How do you create a climate of change and capacity to work together to influence the policy environment?
- How do policy makers measure the economic and social impact of SE organizations?
- What kinds of cultural and other shifts would be necessary for SE organizations to present a common front to government?
- What are the dynamics of the Chantier in QC?
- How do you disseminate findings to produce policy changes?

- **Justice**

- How does growing up in an inner city at-risk environment impact childhood development?
- What is the role of SE organizations in an effective strategy against gangs?
- What is the impact of community programs currently in place (e.g., Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company, Core Neighborhood Youth Coop)?
- How can we engage and empower youth within the SE?
- How to reintegrate offenders into their communities? What programs are making impact at the rural or urban levels?

**Assessment of the letters of intent will be based on the following criteria:**

- How does this project contribute to building the SE in Saskatchewan?
- How does this project contribute to Community Economic Development/Social Economy theory development and/or knowledge creation?
- How does this project support the ecological, economic, social, political and/or cultural sustainability of Saskatchewan?
- Does this project reflect the diversity of Saskatchewan communities?
- How does the project contribute to building the community's capacity?
- How will the project support the community in building networks and relationships with others engaged in the social economy, both within the region and externally?
- How does the project contribute to building students' capacity?

**Funding provided by the SSHRC grant covers primarily student internships.**

**Due Date: January 31<sup>st</sup> 2007**

**Format:** one to two pages including project title and outline, type of internship requested (4 months or 12 months of a PhD, MA or undergraduate student), contact name for the organization and contact information (e-mail, telephone, fax, and postal address).

**Send to:**

Maria Basualdo at [cuisr.liaison@usask.ca](mailto:cuisr.liaison@usask.ca)  
 Community University Institute for Social Research, University of Saskatchewan  
 Rm. 432, 221 Cumberland Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3  
 Phone: 306.966.2136 Fax: 306.966.2122  
 Website: <http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/>

**For further information, please contact Maria Basualdo at [cuisr.liaison@usask.ca](mailto:cuisr.liaison@usask.ca) or call at 966-2136.**