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.

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,
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 Cooperatives'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.

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.
### 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
- Cristine de Clercy, University of Western Ontario
- Brett Fairbairn, University of Saskatchewan
- Peter Ferguson, University of Western Ontario
- Isobel Findlay, University of Saskatchewan
- Murray Fulton, University of Saskatchewan
- Michael Gertler, University of Saskatchewan
- Ellen Goddard, University of Alberta
- Lou Hammond Ketilson, University of Saskatchewan
- Ian MacPherson, University of Victoria
- Greg Marchildon, University of Regina
- Jessica Gordon Nembhard, University of Maryland College Park, US
- Brian Oleson, University of Manitoba
- Rose Olfert, University of Saskatchewan
- Mark Partridge, Ohio State University, US
- Evelyn Peters, University of Saskatchewan
- Jack Quarter, University of Toronto
- Robert Stirling, University of Regina
- Wanda Wuttunee, University of Manitoba

---

http://usaskstudies.coop/wordpress

Principal Investigator: Lou Hammond Ketilson

306–966–5844

hammondk@edwards.usask.ca

and Anita Friesen (WIRA), Isobel Findlay and Maria Basualdo (CUISR).
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. Robyn 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. Chip’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.