



Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network
Partenariat sur l'économie sociale et la durabilité
Bridging, Bonding, and Building / Renforcement des liens et des capacités

Atlantic Node Research Projects

This document contains a brief outline of the research projects currently underway within the Atlantic Node of the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships. It will be updated as more projects are developed by our Network partners.

For more information on any of the Atlantic Node research projects, or for general information about the Network, one of six regional research centers funded from 2005-2010 by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, please contact us.



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Atlantic Node Research Goals

- Contributing to the theory and practice of social economy in the Atlantic region
- Internal bridging, bonding, mentoring & capacity building
- Encouraging use of the “social economy” as a framing concept in the region
- Linking Atlantic partners with other parts of Canada and the world

Atlantic Node Research Themes and Questions

Conceptualizing & describing the social economy in Atlantic Canada

- What does the social economy look like? What needs does it address?
- How can we best capture this sector conceptually?
- What, if anything, makes it distinctive or innovative? How interconnected are its facets, & to what effect?
- What are the characteristics of social economy organizations?
- What are the implications for government policy?

Policy inventory and analysis

- How are different understandings of “social economy” reflected in government policy?
- What needs are not being met, & what changes are needed in regulatory environment?
- What indicators can we develop to aid in policy development?

Community mobilization around issues of common concern (natural resources; food security; inclusion and empowerment)

- Do social economy organizations contribute to social inclusion, the democratization of the economy, & empowerment?
- What inputs are needed to overcome obstacles & build capacity?
- What can we learn from research on mobilization around food security, empowerment & inclusion, community management of natural resources & energy?

Measuring and Financing the Social Economy

- What can social accounting, co-operative accounting, social auditing, & other techniques contribute towards a better understanding of the work and contributions of social economy organizations?
- Where do social economy organizations obtain the financing that they need?
- What do social economy organizations contribute toward financing the social economy?

Modeling & researching innovative, traditional, & IT-based communication and dissemination processes

- How can social economy actors best communicate?
- What can our Network team members contribute by developing & modeling processes and techniques?
- What can be gained from exploring technology as an equalizer vs. technology as a barrier?

Current Research Projects Underway in the Atlantic Node

Following is a brief outline of research projects currently underway in the Network. Other projects continue to be developed by Network partners. For a current list of partners, please see the back page of this document. In addition to the academic, community and government partners involved, there are many undergraduate and graduate students involved in the research projects.

Project Title: A Survey Profiling Co-ops and Credit Unions in Atlantic Canada

Persons Responsible:

Luc Thériault, Sociology, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB

Leslie Brown, Sociology/Anthropology, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

Ron Skibbens, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Halifax, NS

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

- 1) develop comprehensive and accurate lists of all co-ops and credit unions in the 4 Atlantic Provinces, and map their geographic distribution
- 2) categorize the types of work the co-ops are doing
- 3) document their contribution to the regional economy (assets, volume of business, number of employees and volunteers, members and structures ...)
- 4) show how they are financed and the role they play in supporting other enterprises and community organizations (including loans and charitable donations)
- 5) compare the co-operative sector to the nonprofit and voluntary sector in Atlantic Canada.
- 6) compare our region to other regions in Canada where similar work is being done
- 7) contribute to the work of the co-operative sector, governments, other researchers, and students
- 8) inform public policy on regional economic and community development

Project Title: Community Accounts – PEI

Persons Responsible:

Katherine Clough, Quality of Island Life Cooperative, PEI

Rob Sharkey, Trout River Environmental Committee Ltd., PEI

Matt McGuire, Municipality of Tyne Valley, PEI

Irené Novaczek, Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Two test site pilots for the development of locally relevant statistics (accessible to all residents) to be used for community development and enhanced “quality of life”.

Project Title: Youth in Hillsborough Park, Charlottetown, PEI

Persons Responsible:

Jimmy Clow, Hillsborough Promoters, PEI

Jean Mitchell, Sociology/Anthropology, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

This is phase 2 of an ongoing project – focused on working toward better utilizing community and Municipal resources, to build bridges between youth and community, to respond to the expressed needs of young people living in PEI’s only “planned” suburban community designed to accommodate low income families.

Project Title: Advocating Changes to Parental Benefits Legislation

Persons Responsible:

Michelle Harris-Genge, Michelle Ridgeway, Women's Network PEI

Jane Ledwell, PEI Status of Women

Colleen MacQuarrie, Psychology, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI

Irené Novaczek, Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Will address women's economic autonomy – building on earlier research, this project will explore current parental benefits legislation and will use results to advocate policy change.

Project Title: The role of women in the PEI fishery

Persons Responsible:

Sara Roach Lewis, Women for Environmental Sustainability, PEI

Irené Novaczek, Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI

Jean Mitchell, Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Document gender roles in fisheries and fisheries management; develop case study of Women for Environmental Sustainability; recommend ways to make fisheries institutions more inclusive.

Project Title: Mapping supports for the Social Economy in PEI

Persons Responsible:

Irené Novaczek, Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI

Janice Pettit, Executive Council, Government of PEI, Charlottetown, PEI

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Document current & past supports for the social economy sector by federal and provincial agencies; determine what has been lost or changed, and the impacts of changing levels of support; recommend appropriate government policies.

Project Title: Indigenous community development

Persons Responsible:

Irené Novaczek, Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI

Randy Angus, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island, Lennox Island, PEI

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Research traditional knowledge of marine resources to support small business development in indigenous communities on PEI and in Chiloe, Chile.

Project Title: Citizen-Farmer Co-Op Development

Persons Responsible:

Pamela Courtney Hall, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI

Gary Clauseheid, C-F Co-op, PEI

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Process documentation during initial phases of unique citizen-farmer co-op development.

Project Title: Social Economy Supports for Immigrants

Persons Responsible:

Godfrey Baldacchino, Sociology, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI
Joe Zhang, Chinese Canadian Association of PEI, Charlottetown, PEI

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Document the experience of first Island born Chinese on PEI, to gain insight into supports required by immigrants.

Project Title: Food Box Program: Current and Potential Contributions to the Social Economy

Persons Responsible:

Debbie Reimer, Kids Action Program/Apple Tree Landing, Kentville, NS
Patricia Williams, Applied Human Nutrition, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

The purpose of this research will be to examine the role the Food Box Program currently plays and could potentially play in the social economy of Hants and Kings Counties in Nova Scotia.

Specifically this research will address the following questions:

- 1) What is the value of the Food Box program to families, communities?
- 2) How can the Food Box program be improved, if at all?
- 3) To what extent would this program be beneficial for other families and individuals facing barriers?
- 4) How can the role of local producers and suppliers within the program be facilitated?

Titre du projet: Détermination de la contribution des organismes de l'économie sociale à la gestion de ressources forestières des Maritimes

Personnes ressources:

Stephen Wyatt, Faculté de foresterie, Université de Moncton, Edmundston, N-B
Solange Nadeau, Service canadien des forêts, Fredericton, N-B
Donald LeBlanc, Coop. forestière de McKendrick, N-B
Peter Demarsch, Assoc. des propriétaires de lots boisés du Nouveau-Brunswick, N-B

Contexte et objectifs:

Analyser les mécanismes de participation publique à la gestion forestière qui sont en place en Nouvelle-Écosse au Nouveau-Brunswick et à l'Île du Prince Édouard tant pour la formulation de politiques que pour la rédaction de plan d'aménagement forestier.

1. Caractériser les processus de participation publique liés à la gestion des forêts publiques de la Nouvelle Écosse et du Nouveau-Brunswick (i.e. type de mécanisme, mode de sélection des participants, but de l'exercice, partage du pouvoir de décision, mode de fonctionnement)
2. Identifier les forces et faiblesses de ces processus du point de vue des acteurs de l'économie sociale.
3. Identifier, du point de vue des acteurs de l'économie sociale, les facteurs facilitant ou contraignant le partage d'information entre les participants aux processus de participation publique liés à la gestion forestière.

Titre du projet: Analyse descriptive du modèle des organismes communautaires de gestion par bassin versant du Nouveau-Brunswick dans une perspective d'économie sociale

Personnes ressources:

Omer Chouinard, Pierre-Marcel Desjardins et Maurice Beaudin, Université de Moncton, Moncton, N-B

Patrick Émond, Groupe de coordination du Bassin versant de Cap-Pelé, N-B

Jocelyne Gauvin, Groupe de développement durable du Pays de Cocagne, N-B

Nadine Gauvin, Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du Golfe du Saint-Laurent, N-B

Jean Lambert, Secrétariat Rural, N-B

Contexte et objectif:

En réponse aux transformations qui touchaient la qualité de l'eau et l'environnement et au manque de ressources pour adresser adéquatement la situation, des citoyens préoccupés ont choisi de se regrouper pour former des associations communautaires de défense en vue de la conservation des rivières et du littoral. Petit à petit, des associations du même genre se formèrent un peu partout au Nouveau-Brunswick profitant notamment du soutien apporté par le gouvernement fédéral et du gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick (soutien public).

1. Inventorier les organismes à but non lucratif travaillant à l'échelle de bassin versant au Nouveau-Brunswick.

2. Identifier les différences et les similitudes entre le modèle d'entreprise d'économie sociale classique et le modèle d'organisme de gestion par bassin versant en développant une grille d'analyse comparative intégrant divers paramètres (fonctionnement, structure, financement, activités, milieu urbain/rural, etc.).

3. Déterminer la contribution (sociale, environnemental et économique) des organismes de bassin versant à l'économie sociale au Nouveau-Brunswick.

4. Tisser des liens et bâtir un lien de confiance avec les gouvernements locaux et les structures régionales des gouvernements (provincial et fédéral)

Project Title: Aide à la diffusion de la coopérative agricole la 'Récolte de chez-nous'

Persons Responsible:

Léopold Bourgeois, Récolte de chez-nous, N-B

Omer Chouinard, Sociologie, Université de Moncton, Moncton, N-B

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Project proposal under development.

Project Title: GAAP and cooperative accounting

Persons Responsible:

Elizabeth Hicks, Business Administration, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

Tom Webb, Cooperative Management Education Co-op, Halifax, NS

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Will study how to change the general accounting rules to fit cooperative firms.

Project Title: Halifax Independent School – Performance Measures

Persons Responsible:

Molly Hurd, Halifax Independent School, Halifax, NS

Sonja Novkovic, Economics, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Will study how to measure performance of a social economy organization.

Project Title: Fogo Island Cooperative and Labrador

Persons Responsible:

Bernadette Dwyer, Fogo Island Cooperative, NL

Judy Haiven, Management, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Exploring labour unions and mature cooperatives in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

Project Title: Financing the Social Economy

Persons Responsible:

Roger Wehrell, Fred C. Manning School of Business Administration, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS

Susannah Cameron, Canadian Community Investment Network Co-op, NB

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Exploring who provides financing to social economy organizations and what is the demand.

Project Title: The development of an open-source web community software

Persons Responsible:

Penelope Rowe, Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's, NL

Darlene Scott, Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's, NL

Voluntary Gateway

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

The development of an open-source internet tool to create a web community.

Project Title: "Introducing a web community software to a complex social economy organization." (A project with the Community Education Network.)

Persons Responsible:

Bev Kirby, Community Education Network, NL

Ivan Emke, Social/Cultural Studies, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Corner Brook, NL

Penelope Rowe, Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's, NL

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Introduction of a web-based community software to an existing social economy organization; studying the use of the technology.

Project Title: "Bridges, Pathways, Detours: Evaluating a Collaborative Web Community." (Studying the development of a web community technology within the Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network.)

Persons Responsible:

Ivan Emke, Social/Cultural Studies, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Corner Brook, NL

Penelope Rowe, Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's, NL

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

The project will introduce a web community technology (mentioned above) to the Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network, and will study its adoption. This is one of the Network's primary research goals identified in the original submission to SSHRC. By studying our own Network, we hope to learn more about how complex networks and organizations use (or do not use) internet technology in setting up virtual working spaces.

Project Title: “The Uses and Gratifications of Communications Technologies for Social Economy Actors.” (A survey of Atlantic social economy organizations’ use of communication tools.)

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

A study which evaluates the uses of various communication tools in social economy organizations. The tools would include internet, local newspapers, radio, TV, newsletters, bulletin boards, interpersonal communications, etc. We are interested in access to communications technologies as well as the mix of uses. It is hoped that suggestions can be made for more efficient use of such tools.

Persons Responsible:

Ivan Emke, Social/Cultural Studies, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Corner Brook, NL

Project Title: Communications and Social Economy Literature: An Annotated Bibliography

Persons Responsible:

Ivan Emke, Social/Cultural Studies, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Corner Brook, NL

Penelope Rowe, Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John’s, NL

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

An annotated bibliography was developed of literature on communication and the social economy, with some focus on the “grey” literature, or literature outside standard academic materials.

Project Title: Disabled persons integration into educational institutions

Persons Responsible:

Carla Di Giorgio, Education, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI
Prince Edward Island Council of the Disabled, Charlottetown, PEI

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Project proposal under development

Project Title: LEAP – Launching Rural Women’s Entrepreneurship

Persons Responsible:

Wendy Pobjoy, Launching Entrepreneurial Advantage for Parents Co-op, Belle River, PEI
Marie Burge, Cooper Institute, Charlottetown, PEI
Godfrey Baldacchino, Sociology, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI

Brief Project Description and Other Information:

Proposal writing, evaluative practice capacity development, case study for dissemination to co-ops and community development organizations. Proposal development completed September 2006 – no suitable funder found. Case study of this organization developed for presentation at a national conference.



Contact Us

There are ongoing opportunities for graduate students, academics, community organizations and others to become involved with our Network. Please contact the Director, the Network Coordinator, or one of the Sub-node Coordinators, or check our website for more information:

<http://www.msvu.ca/socialconomyatlantic/>

For more information on the other regional nodes, all part of the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships, please visit the Canadian Social Economy Hub's website:

www.socialconomynetwork.ca/hub/

Director:

Dr. Leslie Brown, Professor, Sociology/Anthropology, Mount Saint Vincent University

Co-Directors:

- Mr. Seth Asimakos, Manager, Saint John Community Loan Fund
- Ms. Penelope Rowe, Chief Executive Officer, Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador
- Dr. Luc Thériault, Associate Professor, Sociology, University of New Brunswick

Sub-node Coordinators:

- SN1: Mapping and Policy Analysis
Dr. Luc Thériault, Associate Professor, Sociology, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB
- SN2: Mobilization : Inclusion and Empowerment in the Social Economy
Dr. Irené Novaczek, Director, Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI
- SN3: Mobilization : Food Security and Community Economic Development
Dr. Patricia Williams, Assistant Professor, Applied Human Nutrition, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS
- SN4: Mobilization : Natural Resources and Livelihood
Dr. Omer Chouinard, Professeur, Sociologie, Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB
- SN5: Financing and Measuring the Social Economy
Dr. Sonja Novkovic, Associate Professor, Economics; and Dr. Judith Haiven, Associate Professor, Management, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS
- SN6: Communication Practices and Tools
Ms. Penelope Rowe, Chief Executive Officer, Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's, NL; and
Dr. Ivan Emke, Associate Professor, Social/Cultural Studies, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Corner Brook, NL

Network Coordinator:

- Noreen Millar, M.A.

Our Partners

To date, these are many of the partners currently involved in the Network. This list will continue to grow as new collaborations are formed and new research projects develop.

<p>Community</p> <p>Saint John Community Loan Fund, Saint John, NB Canadian Community Economic Development Network La coopérative agricole de la Récolte de Chez-Nous- The Really Local agricultural cooperative, Cocagne, NB Cooper Institute, PEI Canadian Community Investment Network Co-op Pecten Union des pêcheurs de Maritimes / Maritime Fishermen's Union Quality of Island Life Cooperative, PEI Mobilizing Youth for the Delivery of Advisory Services Coop de Développement Régional Acadie, N-B Fogo Island Co-op, NL Groupe bassin versant de la région de Cap-Pelé, N-B Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Cooperatives Groupe de développement durable du pays de Cocagne, N-B Coalition pour la Viabilité du Sud du Golfe du St-Laurent Imagine Canada PEI Council of the Disabled, PEI Citizen-Farmer Co-op, PEI Coop. forestière de McKendrick, N-B La coopérative travailleurs forestiers, N-B Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation Hillsborough Promoters, PEI Halifax Independent School, Halifax, NS Assoc. des propriétaires de lots boisés du N-B PolicyLink NB Prince Edward Island Association for Newcomers to Canada Community Education Network of Southwestern Nfld. Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador CO-OP Lamèque, N-B Launching Entrepreneurial Advantage for Parents Co-op, PEI Paq'tnkek Fish and Wildlife Society, NS Kids Action Program, Kentville, NS Cooperative Management Education Co-op Women's Network PEI Chinese Canadian Association of PEI Women for Environmental Sustainability, PEI Trout River Environmental Committee Ltd., PEI Elders Council, Elsipogtog First Nation, Big Cove, NB Municipality of Tyne Valley, PEI FEED NOVA SCOTIA Learning Disabilities Association of Prince Edward Island</p> <p>University</p> <p>Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS – Sociology/ Anthropology, Applied Human Nutrition, Business Admin & Tourism & Hospitality Management, Family Studies/Gerontology, Child and Youth Study, Women's Studies, Modern Languages</p> <p>University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB – Sociology, Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre</p>	<p>University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI – Institute of Island Studies, Sociology/Anthropology, Philosophy, Psychology, History, Economics, Nursing, PEI Centre on Health and Aging</p> <p>Université de Moncton, Moncton, N-B – Sociologie, Economie; campus de Shippagan - Arts et Sciences Sociales; campus d'Edmundston – Foresterie</p> <p>Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS – Economics, Management, Psychology, Masters of Management (Co-operatives & Credit Unions)</p> <p>Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL – Geography; Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook - Social/Cultural Studies</p> <p>Acadia University, Wolfville, NS - Fred C. Manning School of Business Administration Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS - Anthropology Stirling University, Scotland – Applied Social Science University of Saskatchewan – History, Center for the Study of Cooperatives Université du Québec à Montréal - Sociologie Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland Holland College, PEI - Research and Innovation University of Tromsø - The Norwegian College of Fishery Science, Norway University of Southern Maine - Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service University of Toronto/ The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University Toronto (OISE) Co-operatives Research Unit - Open University, UK Södertörns högskola (Södertörn University College), Stockholm, Sweden</p> <p>Government</p> <p>Department of Justice, Credit Unions, Co-operatives and Trust Companies Branch, NB Department of Environment, NB Executive Council PEI PEI Advisory Council on the Status Of Women Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Co-operatives Branch Nova Scotia Community Counts Pêches et Océans Secrétariat rural Secrétariat aux Coopératives/Co-operative Secretariat Agriculture and Agri-Food Human Resources & Social Development, Community Development & Partnerships Directorate Service canadien des Forêts</p>
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