



BALTA Explores Its Future

BALTA is seriously examining options to continue its research model and platform beyond the end of its current SSHRC grant. Recent evaluation feedback from a variety of sources has suggested that the BALTA CURA (community-university research alliance) partnership model has significant value and there would be benefit in keeping it in existence in some form beyond its current mandate. A recent BALTA research report from **Freya Kristensen** and **Mark Roseland**, "Exploring BALTA's Future" (<http://auspace.athabasca.ca:8080/dspace/handle/2149/2796>), provides useful input.

BALTA's steering committee and SERCs co-chairs met on September 16 to consider this question. Recent changes in SSHRC's funding policies may open up possibilities for further funding to support BALTA's development and research. The steering committee was unanimous in deciding that we should endeavour to continue BALTA in some form beyond the current

... cont'd on p. 7

Mike's Musings

Mike Lewis is the director and lead investigator of the BALTA Research Alliance. "Mike's Musings" is a regular column featuring Mike's reflections on the progress and critical issues facing BALTA.



The work of BALTA is evolving in significant ways. A number of significant publishing projects are underway, including three books and several journal articles. Our new website is finally online. BALTA research is being presented in a variety of practitioner and academic settings this fall and we will be ramping up the level of dissemination and engagement activity in 2011.

Significantly, the book **Patrick Conaty** and I are writing is already leading to invitations to intervene in a variety of networks local and international, the most recent being a request to have BALTA make a strategic intervention at a Brussels gathering of key European local development and social economy networks, including the Confederation of Local and Regional Governments.

We have learned a lot these last four years. The evidence from recent evaluations and studies relevant to BALTA's own evolution are

... cont'd on p. 6

BALTA Launches New Website

www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca

by Stuart Wulff

It's the same old URL, but a brand new look and much more information than the old BALTA website. BALTA's new website is launching for Fall 2010 with extensive information about our research program and other activities. BALTA research reports, papers, presentations, etc., are featured on the site (See 'Research Program', then go to the specific research area for further information). The new website also contains general information about the social economy, everything from a section on 'What

... cont'd on p. 7

IN THIS ISSUE ...

BALTA's future	1, 7
New BALTA website	1, 7
Mike's Musings BALTA's future	1, 6
National Summit & ANSER conference	2
BALTA education initiatives	3
BALTA research updates	4-5
Co-ops opinion survey	8

National Summit on a People-Centred Economy

“The continued expansion of a People-Centred Economy is essential to the construction of a more just, equitable and sustainable world.”

The above words begin the final declaration of the National Summit on a People-Centred Economy. The summit, which took place May 30 to June 1 in Ottawa, included around 350 participants from ten provinces and two territories in Canada and five continents internationally. Participants heard from a range of speakers and debated strategies for strengthening action towards a sustainable economy that puts people and the planet first.

BALTA was a co-sponsor of the summit along with nine other organizations. BALTA’s lead investigator, **Mike Lewis**, co-chaired the Summit. Several other BALTA members and students also attended.

The Summit focused on six themes, each of which was addressed by theme papers that had been developed and discussed in advance of the summit:

1. Finance and Investment
2. Enterprise Development
3. Local Revitalization
4. Organizing the Social Economy Marketplace
5. Strengthening the Movement
6. International

Results of the six theme workshops were incorporated into a Summit Final Declaration. Detailed recommendations from the workshops are also available. For further information, go to: <http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/summit> 🗺



(above) BALTA’s lead investigator, Mike Lewis, introduces speaker, Michael Ignatieff. Photo by: Yvon Poirier. (below) BALTA’s coordinator and other CSERP coordinators at the National Summit. Photo by: David Daughton.



BALTA at ANSER Conference

The Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research (ANSER) held its third annual conference in Montreal at the beginning of June. BALTA members and student researchers were prominently visible. **Jorge Sousa**, SERC 3 co-chair, gave several presentations and chaired several sessions. His presentations included BALTA research on public policy, CURAs and a range of other topics. Other BALTA members and students (with their presentation topics) were:

- **Mary Beckie** - BALTA’s partnership model
 - **Mary Beckie** and **Emily Huddart Kennedy** - farmers markets, local food systems and the social economy
 - **Sean Connelly** - local food, sustainability and the social economy
 - **Peter Elson** - nonprofit and social economy policy structures in BC and Alberta
 - **Freya Kristensen** - credit unions and the social economy
 - **Celia Lee** - alternative social spaces and growing the social economy
 - **David LePage** - procurement and social purchasing
- Peter Elson’s** contribution to ANSER’s development as a Board member was acknowledged. **Jorge Sousa** will be joining Peter on the ANSER Board starting in 2011.
- BALTA’s coordinator, **Stuart Wulff**, attended the ANSER conference and also briefly presented at the parallel conference of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation. 🗺

Education For & About the Social Economy

by Stuart Wulff

In addition to its research mandate, BALTA has a strong interest in promoting education both for social economy practitioners and about the social economy. Several initiatives to date have been targeted towards enhancing university level education related to the social economy, including:

- BALTA and several of its members (**Mike Lewis, John Restakis, Carol Murray, Stewart Perry**) have worked closely with the University of Victoria to develop and launch a new Master of Arts in Community Development (MACD) Program. The first intake of students occurred in early 2010 and the next deadline for applica-

tions is December 1. The program has a strong practice and policy focus and includes three streams:

1) Community Economic Development; 2) Co-operative Management; and 3) Non-Profit Management.

As part of this initiative, BALTA supported a research project to gather information about the educational needs of social economy practitioners (Project C14 - Leadership in the Community Sector: Understanding the Challenges, Competencies and Needs of Practitioners in the Social Economy; see the report: <http://auspace.athabascau.ca:8080/dspace/handle/2149/2828>).

For further information about the MACD Program, go to:

<http://publicadmin.uvic.ca/programs/graduate/mainCommunityDevelopment/mainCommunityDevelopment.php>

- Two BALTA members and their universities – **Mike Gismondi** of Athabasca University and **Mary Beckie** of the University of Alberta – are collaborating to develop a new introductory course on the social economy, suitable for senior undergraduate and graduate students. BALTA research will form part of the course content and BALTA student researcher, **Lena Soots**, is assisting with development of the course and course content. The course is being designed as modules that will also be made available to others who might be interested in using them to teach about the social economy.
- A BALTA online North American Reader in Community Economic Development (CED) and the Social Economy has been developed as a resource for those studying the social economy. <http://library.athabascau.ca/drr/view.php?course=sshrc&id=641>
- Over 50 students have worked and learned as student research assistants on various BALTA research projects.

BALTA has also sponsored a range of symposia, workshops and public events with an educational focus. In addition to these initiatives, individual BALTA members are integrating the results of BALTA's research into their university teaching and other educational activities. 🌱

BALTA has a strong interest in promoting education both for social economy practitioners and about the social economy. Several initiatives to date have been targeted towards enhancing university level education related to the social economy.

New Newsletter on Yukon Social Economy

The Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada (SERNNOCa) has created a newsletter to feature social economy issues in the Yukon. In the Summer 2010 inaugural issue you will find information on what the 'social economy' means in the North, information on SERNNOCa and feature articles on aspects of the Yukon social economy, including:

- Youth involvement in the Yukon social economy;
- Activities of the Yukon government working with social economy organizations to address social exclusion and poverty; and
- A research project in Old Crow that is examining how the US/Canada border has affected food security and food sharing amongst the Vuntut Gwitchin.

The newsletter is available on the SERNNOCa website at:

<http://ycdl4.yukoncollege.yk.ca/frontier/files/sernnoca/YukonSESummer2010kseditsAug1.pdf>. For further information, contact: **Valoree Walker** at sernnoca@yukoncollege.yk.ca 🌱

BALTA Social Enterprise Research to be Presented in Vancouver and Calgary

The results of two recent BALTA research projects on social enterprise will be presented at the BC Social Enterprise MeetUp on November 4-5 in Vancouver (For further information or to register, go to: <http://www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca/meetUP>). The MeetUp is hosted by Enterprising Non-Profits, which was a collaborator on the BALTA research. The two projects being presented are:

- C16 – Survey of Social Enterprises in Alberta and BC
 - D11 – The Role of Social Enterprise in Employment Services in BC
- The Project C16 research will also be presented at an Alberta seminar, hosted by Mount Royal University's Institute for Nonprofit Studies, on November 26. For further information contact Peter Elson at MRU: pelson@mtroyal.ca.

Project C16 has been led by **Peter Hall** of Simon Fraser University and **Peter Elson** of Mount Royal University. Several students have worked on the project, among them, **Tom Nelson** (right). Tom worked on the project's Alberta portion surveying social enterprises.

Tom has graduated from Mount Royal University with an Applied Degree in Small Business & Entrepreneurship as well as a Bachelor of Business Administration. Tom has taught entrepreneurship to aspiring business women, implemented a replace-a-ream project with local businesses and is taking over a company that produces specialized suit bags for bicycle commuters. (See BALTA's Spring 2010 newsletter for profiles of other student researchers who have worked on the Project C16 -<http://auspace.athabascau.ca:8080/dspace/handle/2149/2476>.)



Project D11 was led by **Joanna Buczkowska** of the ISIS Centre at the Sauder School of Business, University of British Columbia.

The student research assistant on that project was **Samantha Shamash**, an MBA student at UBC (photo, left). Samantha brought a background in marketing and project management to her work on Project D11. Upon completion of her MBA, Samantha plans a career in sustainable strategic management and corporate social responsibility. 🌱



BALTA Goes to Helsinki

BALTA's **Noel Keough** was recently in Helsinki to give a presentation entitled "Participatory Action-Oriented Design as a Catalyst for a Canadian Co-operative Housing Renaissance." His presentation drew on the results of BALTA's research project A7 "Co-op Housing Futures: A Spatial Design Research Approach." The presentation was part of a session on participatory action research jointly held as part of the Nordic Conference on Activity Theory and the Fourth Finnish conference on Cultural and Activity Research.

To see Noel's presentation, go to: <http://auspace.athabascau.ca:8080/dspace/handle/2149/2637>



(photo) Noel Keough of the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental design has led several BALTA research projects.

New Researcher Joins Mapping Team

Juanita Marois is working on the BALTA mapping program, increasing the number and scope of organizations surveyed.

Juanita holds a MA degree from the University of Alberta



Juanita and two of her best fans. Photo: Jamie Giberson.


where her research focus was Sustainable Ethnic Tourism in Northern Thailand. She has also completed fieldwork exploring non-timber resource values of the forest for Aboriginal people in northern Saskatchewan. Juanita's professional experience has focused on tourism development where she has overseen the initial planning and development of Metis Crossing, Alberta's first major Metis interpretive centre, and consulted for a number of other projects.

BALTA Research on Green Energy in Alberta

BALTA's project B6, "Prospects for Socializing the Green Economy: The Case of Renewable Energy," has created significant interest and organizing work in Alberta around how to advance community and co-operative ownership of renewable energy installations. Three reports have been produced by **Julie MacArthur**, the student researcher working on the project (photo, right), which was co-led by **Noel Keough** of the University of Calgary and **Paul Cabaj** of the Canadian Centre for Community Renewal. The BALTA project culminated in an April 28 workshop in Red Deer, but discussions and organizing have continued since the workshop.



To see the reports, go to:

- "Best Practices in Social Economy and Community Wind" (<http://auspace.athabascau.ca:8080/dspace/handle/2149/2633>)
- "Status of Social Economy Provision of Wind Electric Energy in Alberta" (<http://auspace.athabascau.ca:8080/dspace/handle/2149/2632>)
- "Alberta Social Economy Wind Projects Next Steps Strategy" (<http://auspace.athabascau.ca:8080/dspace/handle/2149/2634>) 

Municipal Government Support of the Social Economy



Report Now Available

The final report on BALTA project C10 is now available. This project was a collaboration between two nodes of the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships, BALTA and the Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northern Ontario node.

The report was produced by the research team of **Jenny Kain**, from the City of Edmonton, **Emma Sharkey** and **Robyn Webb**, with advice and input from **Brendan Reimer** of the Canadian CED Network and **Peter Hall** of Simon Fraser University. The researchers surveyed municipalities in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northern Ontario.

To access the report, go to: <http://auspace.athabascau.ca:8080/dspace/handle/2149/2813>

Mike's Musings

continued from p. 1

demonstrating that our collective effort to build a practitioner-university platform is highly valued by BALTA partners and collaborators. Practitioners are leveraging the results of our research and in the process are coming to better appreciate the benefits of a strategic alliance with universities. Academics are valuing the dialogue and learning that have come out of the engagement, one that all will say was a tough go the first 18 months. Interestingly, the 'BALTA model', which in truth we modeled after the 'Quebec model', is drawing a lot of interest both within Alberta and BC and further afield. Apparently we have some reputational assets out there.

The question now is whether there is a future for BALTA beyond the current SSHRC grant. The funding runs out in less than a year. The November 2009 symposium in Calgary raised the question. Subsequent research undertaken by **Freya Kristensen**, with supervision from Dr. **Mark Roseland**, reviewed a number of possible options and the results of interviews with several BALTA members.

The Steering Committee and co-chairs have reviewed and discussed the 'futures question' in a recent 2-hour meeting. The answer was unanimous. We are going for it and, fortunately, SSHRC has announced a new architecture for CURAs funding that represents important opportunities to do so.

While there was strong support for continuing BALTA in some form beyond the current SSHRC grant, the intent would also be to learn from our experience, identify revised priorities and foci going forward and to structure the network for longer term viability (including housing the network at one of the participating universities). Two main content themes emerged from this early discussion. First, the linkage between sustainability and the social economy, a theme that is reflected in a broad cross section of our research. There is a sense of urgency that we leverage the work in this area. The research we have undertaken in food, renewable energy, land tenure reform, finance, affordable housing and how community and co-operative ownership models can play an important role in the transition to more localized and sustainable economies is timely and drawing a good deal of interest. For example, the energy research and the relationships fostered through it are leading to significant organizing work in Alberta around how to advance community and co-operative ownership of renewable energy installations.

The second theme is the work in social and co-operative enterprise. This is linked to the social economy and sustainability issue but is also to the more specific issues relevant to expanding this aspect of the social economy – procurement policy, finance, mapping, some evaluation of impacts, and approaches to advancing policy.

Stay tuned for a memo in late September asking if in principle you are interested in continuing to partner with BALTA and inviting your input to a SSHRC proposal. In early November, a small group will firm up the basis for a Partnership Development Grant proposal (due in late November) and a Letter of Intent for the much larger Partnership Grant. It could fund 4-7 year programs at more substantial levels. We will be sending these out for review and comment before deadlines.

We may be a work in progress, but clearly we have progressed. Thanks to all of you for your contribution, including all the wonderful students who have contributed so much. It continues to be a privilege to work with you. 🙏

COMMUNITY INFORMATION DATABASE www.cid-bdc.ca

The Community Information Database (CID) is a free internet-based tool that provides access to socio-economic and demographic data for all communities and regions across Canada. The CID was developed by the Government of Canada's Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat in collaboration with the provinces and territories, other government departments and community groups.

The tool provides more than 900 social, demographic, and economic indicators, including population, income, employment, health, housing and many others. The data are presented in the form of interactive maps, tables, and charts.

Putting Co-operatives on the Map

The CID now includes 83 indicators on co-operatives. CID users can see the distribution of the co-operative sector across Canada by type and activity for the years 1996, 2001 and 2006. Data comes from the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat's Annual Survey of Co-operatives in Canada.


The demonstrates the economic and social importance of the co-operative model in Canada. It shows there are a great number of co-operatives in rural and remote communities providing a wide variety of goods and services. The presence of co-operatives in urban communities is also clearly demonstrated. 🙏

BALTA Explores Its Future

continued from p. 1

SSHRC grant and that we should seek further SSHRC funding as one means of doing this.

See “Mike’s Musings” in this newsletter for further information.

A small working group has been formed to work on a longer term BALTA plan and to prepare funding proposals for SSHRC. For further information or to provide your thoughts to the working group, contact: balta@xplornet.com. 

BALTA’s New Website


continued from p. 1

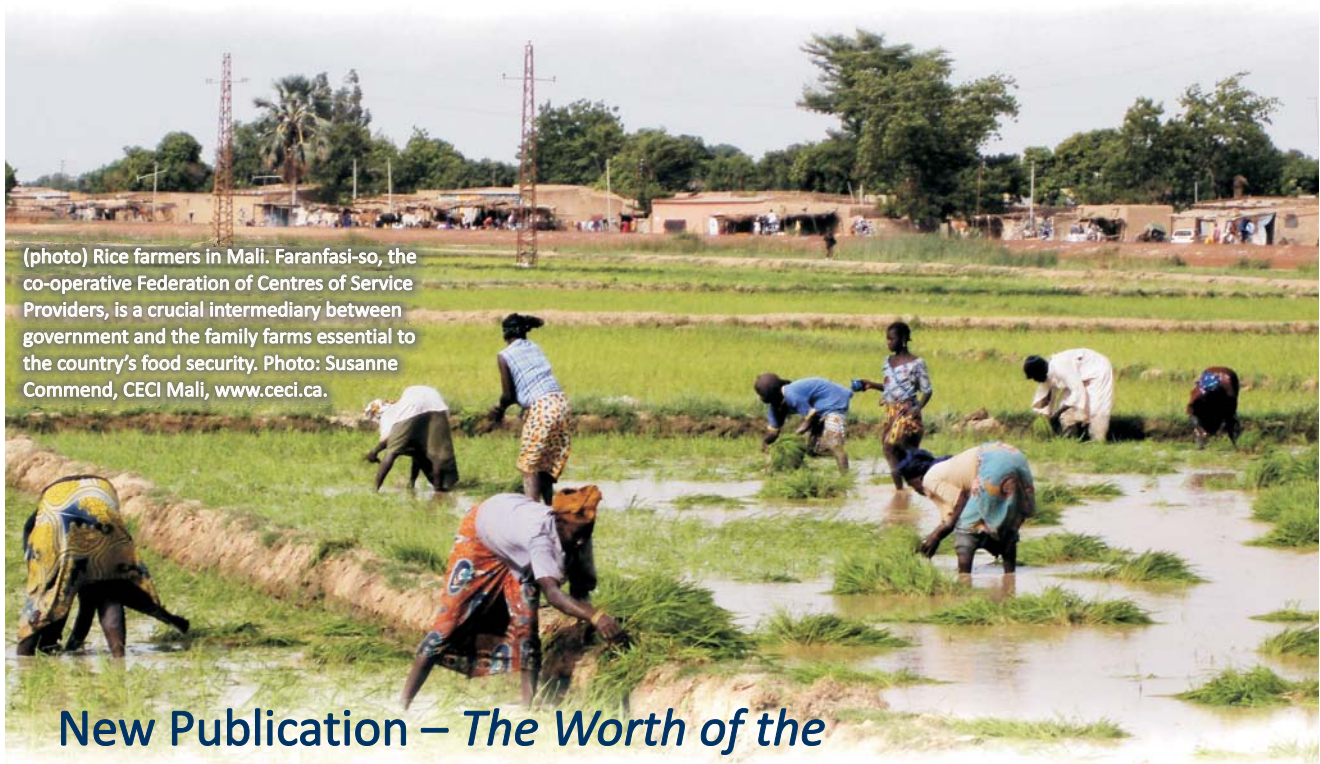
is the Social Economy?’ to BALTA’s online [North American Reader in Community Economic Development \(CED\) and the Social Economy](#), links to social economy organizations and resources, etc.

A section ‘About BALTA’ explains how BALTA is structured and how it operates. A section on ‘Communications and Education’ has presentations and other information from our symposia and public events, BALTA and social economy news, previous

issues of our newsletter, tele-seminars, etc.

For social economy organizations that have not yet completed our online survey as part of our program to ‘map’ the social economy, there is a link to the survey. Reports on survey results to date are on the site as well.

We will be continuing to add to the website, so please take a look and give us your feedback. Send to: balta@xplornet.com 




(photo) Rice farmers in Mali. Faranfasi-so, the co-operative Federation of Centres of Service Providers, is a crucial intermediary between government and the family farms essential to the country’s food security. Photo: Susanne Commend, CECI Mali, www.ceci.ca.

New Publication – *The Worth of the Social Economy: An International Perspective*

This book from CIRIEC International is edited by **Marie Bouchard**, director of the Canada Research Chair on the Social Economy at Université du Québec à Montréal.

Social economy organizations share common values that colour the way they perform and how they manage to do so. This book includes a range of theoretical perspectives on evaluating the social economy and seven national analyses

(including Canada) of how the social economy is being evaluated. The book concludes with recommendations for policy designers, evaluation specialists and social economy actors.

For further information and an order form, go to: <http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca/?q=content/new-publication-%E2%80%93-worth-social-economy-international-perspective-pie-peter-lang> 

National Survey: Canadians Have Positive Perception of Co-operatives

A new national public opinion survey shows that the majority of Canadians view co-operatives as trustworthy, well-run businesses that provide good customer service and create jobs that help support local communities.

The survey, conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), sampled public opinion across Canada on a variety of issues related to co-operatives.

Some of the survey's key findings: One in five respondents identified themselves as a member of a co-operative.

Seven in 10 respondents agree that co-operatives keep money in the local economy, are an important part of

their communities and create jobs that help support local communities.

More than two-thirds of respondents agree that co-operatives are a trusted place to do business and save members money.

The words most commonly associated with co-operatives are "local," "for all ages" and "about community."

Two in five respondents consider themselves to be "very familiar" or "somewhat familiar" with co-operatives, while 18 per cent say they are "not at all familiar" with co-ops.

The full survey results are available on the CCA website at:

http://www.coopscanada.coop/en/about_co-operative/Coop_survey 



(photo) Kootenay Bakery Café Co-operative, Nelson, B.C. Courtesy of Mike Stolte, Centre for Innovative & Entrepreneurial Leadership (CIEL).

BALTA

The BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance



BALTA Steering Committee Members

- Mike Lewis, Lead Investigator, Canadian Centre for Community Renewal
- Dr. Mary Beckie, Co-Investigator, University of Alberta
- Dr. Martin Garber-Conrad, Co-Investigator, Edmonton Community Foundation
- Dr. Michael Gismondi, Co-Investigator, Athabasca University
- George Penfold, Co-investigator, Rural Innovation Chair, Selkirk College
- Dr. Mark Roseland, Co-Investigator, Simon Fraser University
- Lena Soots, Students' Representative, Simon Fraser University
- Stuart Wulff, Staff, Canadian Centre for Community Renewal



Stuart Wulff, Coordinator,
PH: 250.723.2296 or Email: balta@explornet.com
9777B Somers Road, Port Alberni BC V9Y 8N9



Lena Soots, Student Program
Coordinator, PH: 778.782.3972 or
Email: lsoots@sfu.ca



Don McNair, Communications
PH: 250.542.7057 or
Email: mcnair@cedworks.com