

B.C.-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance (BALTA)

SERC 1 WorkPlan – 2010-2011

1. Scope of this workplan:

This plan covers SERC 1's plans/intentions for the balance of the period of SSHRC funding for BALTA's program. It covers the 2010-2011 fiscal year and a few further months into 2011, concluding in summer or early Fall 2011, depending on what final date is set for wrap-up of BALTA activities. Some components of the plan are firm, while others are still in preliminary form and will require further fleshing out assuming steering committee approval of the basic plan.

2. Has the work plan been ratified by the SERC?

The elements of this workplan were discussed and agreed to during a SERC 1 tele-meeting on March 23, then subsequently developed by the SERC co-chairs with input from other members and then approved by email.

3. Are there any changes being proposed to the current SERC membership?

No changes are proposed.

4. Have there been any changes to the strategic vision and plans through to 2011 of the SERC since the 2007-2008 workplan?

The strategic vision and priorities for SERC 1 remain the same:

- Affordable housing;
- Co-op sector development, especially with reference to human services and housing; and
- Financing for the social economy.
- With a secondary research focus being the role of the faith based community in supporting the social economy.

Greater attention will be paid to dissemination and engagement with relevant social economy sectors during this next phase. Three new research projects are planned, consistent with SERC 1's earlier work and priorities though also extending into new areas of inquiry. One project will investigate factors impacting on the success and development of newly incorporated co-operatives (see Appendix A and separate detailed proposal/plan for Project A11), Another will look at factors shaping affordable housing choices for seniors in rural areas (see Appendix B re Project A12). The third project will be a cross-cutting project led by SERC 1 but integrating with research priorities of SERC 3 (Project D11 – separate project proposal/plan). This project will look at the role of social enterprise in employment services in the British Columbia context

5. Overview of SERC 1's research and other priorities for 2010-2011 and a brief rationale for these.

Our main objectives over the next year are:

- **To complete four research projects approved for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and extending into 2010-2011.**
 - **A6 – Fraser Valley Affordable Housing and Related Support Services** (nearing completion – preparation of final report in process)
 - **A7 – Co-op Housing Futures Spatial Design Research** (first phase successfully completed and moving into evaluation & documentation phase, to be completed early in 2010-2011 fiscal year)
 - **A8 – Creating a Database of Social Enterprise Capital Providers in BC and Alberta** (recently begun and will conclude early in 2010-2011 fiscal year)
 - **A10 – Role of Faith Based Organizations in the Social Economy – Phase 2** (postponed – will begin by September at latest and take place during 2010-2011)
- **To focus on dissemination of results, especially on papers and published articles, plus engagement of relevant sectors in considering how to make use of the research results. One major proposed initiative is to support the publishing of a special issue of *Making Waves* magazine on affordable housing.**
- **To implement three new research projects addressing gaps in the completed research that have been identified by SERC 1 members.** It will be valuable to complete this research in order that SERC 1 can more comprehensively address our three priority research themes: affordable housing, co-op sector development and finance. These planned projects are:
 - **A11 – Success factors for recently incorporated (past 10 years) BC and Alberta co-operatives** – Project leads (John Restakis and Michele Aasgard) are confirmed. See Appendix A for a brief description and rationale for the research. A separate detailed proposal and plan has subsequently been developed.
 - **A12 – Further research on affordable housing, specifically related to seniors in one rural region (West Kootenay)** – The research will examine the housing needs and choices of seniors living in rural areas of the West Kootenay region and the impact this is likely to have on future needs for affordable housing related to this population sector. This will be a joint initiative of BALTA, the Rural Innovation Chair at Selkirk College, Columbia Basin Trust and Interior Health. It builds upon an earlier housing research and planning collaboration between BALTA, Selkirk College RIC and CBT (Project A5). See Appendix B for further information.
 - **D11 - Role of Social Enterprise in Employment Services in the British Columbia Context** – This project will be a cross-cutting project led by SERC 1 but integrating with research priorities of

SERC 3 and previous research by SERC 3 (Project C13) looking at similar sector developments in Quebec. A separate detailed proposal and plan has been developed. The project lead is Joanna Buczkowska, with involvement from David LePage of SERC 3.

6. **Brief summary of each proposed research project and area of SERC 1 activity.**

Projects A6, A7, A8 and A10 were approved last year and project proposals are on file. A brief description of the new project on success factors for recently incorporated BC co-operatives is in Appendix A and a separate proposal/plan for this project A11 is also on file. A brief description of the new project on seniors housing (Project A12) is in Appendix B and a full proposal/plan will be developed prior to implementation. Project D11 on raining businesses has a separate project proposal.

A brief proposal for the special edition of ***Making Waves*** magazine is in Appendix C.

A summary of the budget implications for each SERC 1 project and initiative can be found on the next page.

Project / Activity Description	Budget, Resources and Other Support Requested from BALTA	In-Kind and Cash Support Provided from Other Sources (where known)
A6 – Fraser Valley Affordable Housing and Related Support Services	Approved in 2009 and mostly spent. Budget remaining: Travel - \$1,750 Support costs - \$750 Dissemination - \$1,350 Total = \$3,850	In-kind time & support costs contributed (Some co-funding of student costs was contributed in 2009)
A7 – Co-op Housing Futures Spatial Design Research	Approved in 2009, but not yet spent. Budget remaining: Students - \$2,210 Support costs - \$500 Total = \$2,710	In-kind time & support costs contributed Travel & fees to present research at Helsinki conference
A8 – Creating a Database of Social Enterprise Capital Providers in BC and Alberta	Approved in 2009, but not yet all spent. Budget remaining: Students - \$1,200 Dissemination - \$1,500 Total = \$2,700	In-kind time & support costs Students - \$1,200 co-funding from CSSI/UBC in 2010-2011 (also co-funding in 2009-2010) ENP will host online database
A10 – Role of Faith Based Organizations in the Social Economy – Phase 2	Approved in 2009, but not yet spent. Budget remaining: Students - \$5,967 Travel - \$400 Support costs - \$400 Total = \$6,767	\$5,967 sought from other funders for increased student capacity. If not secured, scope of the research will be reduced. In-kind time & support costs Travel - \$400
A11 - New Research Project - Success Factors for recently incorporated BC and Alberta Co-operatives	Students - \$13,500 Support costs - \$700 Travel - \$800 Total = \$15,000	In-kind time & support costs contributed
A12 - New Research Project – Rural Seniors Housing Needs in the West Kootenay Boundary Region	Students - \$6,200 Travel – \$500 Support costs – \$125 Dissemination - \$75 Total = \$6,900 Dependent on co-funding	To be confirmed: Students - \$6,200 Travel – \$500 Support costs – \$125 Dissemination - \$75 Total = \$6,900
D11 – Role of Social Enterprise in Employment Services in the BC Context	Students - \$6,000 Travel – \$2,000 Total = \$8,000	Students - \$3,000 (ISIS) Travel – \$1,000 (ISIS) Support costs – \$1,000 (ISIS) \$1,000 (ENP) Total = \$6,000
Special Issue of <i>Making Waves</i> Magazine focusing on Affordable Housing	Dissemination - \$15,000 Total = \$15,000	\$7,500+ additional cash to be sought by CCCR from co-sponsors and advertisers In kind re people’s time as co-editors, writers
Other dissemination initiatives	Travel and/or knowledge dissemination - \$2,500	In-kind time contributed
Total Budget Requested from BALTA for 2010-2011	<u>Previously Approved in 2009</u> Students – \$9,377 Support Costs - \$1,650 Travel - \$2,150 Dissemination - \$2,850 Total = \$16,027	<u>New BALTA Funds Requested</u> Students - \$25,700 Support Costs - \$825 Travel/Dissemination - \$5,800 Dissemination - \$15,075 Total = \$47,400

7. Research and activity roles for those SERC members involved in the research, including projects and activities identified under #7.

Project / Activity	SERC Members Involved	Role Played
A6 – Fraser Valley Affordable Housing and Related Support Services	Ron Van Wyk	Lead Researcher
A7 – Co-op Housing Futures Spatial Design Research	Noel Keough	Lead Researcher
A8 – Creating a Database of Social Enterprise Capital Providers in BC and Alberta	Rebecca Pearson Joanna Buczkowska	Lead Researcher Co-Lead Researcher
A10 – Role of Faith Based Organizations in the Social Economy – Phase 2	Bob McKeon	Lead Researcher
A11 - New Project - Success Factors for recently incorporated BC and Alberta Co-operatives	John Restakis Michele Aasgard (SERC 2 member)	Co-Lead Researcher Co-Lead Researcher
A12 - New Research Project – Rural Seniors Housing Needs in the West Kootenay Boundary Region	George Penfold	Lead Researcher
D11 – Role of Social Enterprise in Employment Services in the BC Context	Joanna Buczkowska David LePage (SERC 2 member) Norma Strachan	Lead Researcher Co-researcher Advisor
Special Issue of <i>Making Waves</i> Magazine focusing on Affordable Housing	Carol Murray George Penfold Martin Garber-Conrad	Editorial committee
Other dissemination initiatives		Roles to be determined once activities are confirmed

8. Communication, dissemination and learning/animation plans/needs during the year and support needed from BALTA to assist with this

SERC 1 is fully supportive of cross-cutting, BALTA-wide opportunities for dissemination of research and ‘legacy’ projects, including final report(s), online dissemination (BALTA website, etc.), tele-learning seminars, events, joint publication opportunities and course development. We are keen to contribute to this endeavour where possible. While some SERC 1 dissemination and engagement strategies/activities will be project and SERC 1 specific, our dissemination strategies will depend to some degree on the outcome of broader decisions about BALTA plans in this area and how we might fit into those.

There are several areas of centralized BALTA initiatives/support that we would like to highlight as important to supporting SERC 1’s dissemination needs:

- BALTA website development and support for featuring SERC 1 research there
- Logistical and financial support for tele-learning events
- Editorial support for reports and documents, including popularizing of research findings for other publications

SERC 1 focused opportunities and plans include the following:

- Promoting BALTA research at the launch of John Restatki's book, ***Humanizing the Economy: Co-operatives in the Age of Capital*** (which is partially based on research done as part of BALTA Project A2).
- Development of a special edition of ***Making Waves*** on housing – See Appendix B for details - \$15,000 in BALTA funding is requested to support this initiative.
- A potential tele-seminar or webinar (with potential sponsorship/support from BC Non-Profit Housing Association, BC Real Estate Federation, CHF-BC, etc.) on housing related research (A1, A5, A6, A7, A9).
- Launching, in collaboration with Enterprising Nonprofits, of the database of SE funders in BC & Alberta once Project A8 research is completed and the database has been developed.
- Other targeted tele-seminars linked to areas of SERC 1 research. E.g. a tele-seminar could be done linked to launch of the Restakis book noted above. SERC 1 research on financing the social economy and the role of the faith based community in supporting the social economy are other potential themes.
- Continued engagement of co-op association members and other stakeholders in strategic planning processes, following up on the BALTA C7 project related to co-op development systems in Alberta and BC.
- Continuation of presentations on BALTA research at conferences.
- There is also potential for videoconferencing through Community Futures.

9. General plan for monitoring and evaluation of the research activities of the SERC.

- Periodic SERC 1 tele-conferences and updates from project leads
- Contact with lead researchers by SERC co-chairs

Appendix A **Proposed Project Investigating Success Factors** **for Recently Incorporated BC Co-operatives**

Over the last decade there has been a constant interest in the development and incorporation of co-operatives in BC and Alberta, often spurred on by the co-op development work of sector associations like BCCA and ACCA, or the availability of government funded policies and programs, at both provincial and federal levels, specifically aiming at the support of co-op development. However, there has never been a concerted study of the relation of these factors to new co-op development and incorporation, nor any study done on the survival rate of newly incorporated co-ops or the reasons for their failure. This is an area of research that is sorely lacking in the co-op sectors of BC and Alberta. The findings from such a study would provide valuable information on the efficacy of co-op development practice in both provinces and the means by which such practice might be improved; and the environmental factors which either contribute to, or detract from, the development and survival of co-ops in both provinces.

This research would also complement earlier BALTA research conducted under the auspices of SERC 3 (C2 – Nova Scotia Co-operative Development System Case Study; and C7 – Analysis of the Applicability of the Nova Scotia Co-op Development System and other Options to the BC and Alberta co-op development systems).

This proposal aims to research the patterns of co-op formation and dissolution in BC and Alberta over the last ten years. The focus of the research will be to examine the co-operatives that have been incorporated over the last ten years, using a combination of the records of the provincial Registrars of Companies; interviews with representatives of incorporated co-ops, interviews with co-op developers, and survey tools.

The research aims are to establish:

- a) the number and variety of co-ops incorporated in BC and Alberta over the last ten years;
- b) the conditions that gave rise to the incorporation of these co-ops;
- c) the survival rate of incorporated co-ops;
- d) the reasons for a co-op's discontinuance;
- e) the ways in which a co-op's early development and incorporation might be assisted;
- f) the ways by which a co-op's demise might have been averted.

This research would be coordinated with the mapping program team to facilitate results from this project being incorporated into the mapping database.

This project would be undertaken under the joint supervision and direction of the Executive Directors of the BC Co-operative Association (SERC 1 member, John Restakis) and the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association (SERC 2 member, Michele Aasgard). It would require the hiring of two student research assistants (cost = \$20,000). Both associations are willing to contribute \$2,500 towards the student employment (from CDI funds available to both association), leaving \$15,000 to come from BALTA SSHRC funds.

Assuming approval of this research initiative, a detailed project plan would be developed soon with the intent of implementing the research over the next several months. The ISIS Centre (An Incubator for Social Innovation and Sustainability, formerly Centre for Sustainability and Social Innovation) in the Sauder School of Business at UBC has offered to assist with recruitment and support to a student researcher for the BC component of the research.

Appendix B

Proposed Project Investigating Rural Seniors Housing Needs in the West Kootenay Boundary Region

The population of BC's rural areas is older and is ageing faster than in urban areas. In the West Kootenay Boundary, almost 47% of the approximately 87,000 residents live in rural areas or smaller communities that do not have municipal services. Those areas

have limited ability to support seniors housing. This is a common situation throughout much of rural BC.

In this region, there were 1,765 primary household maintainers over the age of 75 in 2006, but the group of maintainers aged 65 to 74 that will potentially “move up” to the 75 and older category (those that survive) had a population of 3,120 in 2006. Over the next 10 years, the total population aged over 65 is projected to increase by 2,700, or proportionally by approximately 1,270 in rural areas. If 5% of this group will need support and housing, an additional 85 units will be needed. In the context of the Kootenay Boundary, that is a significant number of units, and in the housing needs planning that is happening in the larger, serviced municipalities, little attention is being paid to these rural seniors who have few health care or housing options in the rural setting.

The objective of this research is to better understand the housing needs and choices for rural seniors. The key research questions are:

- 1) What is the current situation of rural seniors (age, income, health status, current housing, current challenges, perceived future challenges and what they think they would like to do in terms of future housing needs? and,
- 2) What has the choice pattern been in the past for seniors who have had to move from the rural setting?

The methodology will be survey based, using a sample of a minimum of 30 rural seniors/couples to get a response to question 1) and an additional sample of 30 seniors/couples (identified through networking) who have moved in the last 5 years from the same rural areas and find out what they actually chose, the prior comparable circumstances along with what the influences were that affected their choice (family proximity, cost, availability, etc.) and satisfaction with their choice.

By using both approaches, we could modify the responses from 1) with the results of 2) to get a better approximation of "need." That information would be then made available to the organizations that are planning and constructing seniors housing and care facilities. The research outcomes will inform not only local planning efforts, but will also be generally applicable to other similar rural areas throughout BC and Alberta.

Project Lead:

This project is in the planning stage and will involve a partnership between Selkirk College Regional Innovation Chair, the Columbia Basin Trust, and Interior Health. The project will be led by George Penfold, Regional Innovation Chair, Selkirk College. It is anticipated to take the equivalent of 2 semesters (9 months) for a graduate student to complete on a part time basis, or 4 months full time. Funding is anticipated to be shared on a 50% basis between BALTA, and CBT.

Proposed Budget

Student employment: 37.5 weeks @ 15 hours per week, or 16 weeks full time @ \$20/hour + benefits	\$ 12,400
Travel	1,000

Research support costs (supplies, communication, etc.)	250
Knowledge Dissemination	<u>150</u>
Total	\$ 13,800

Assuming approval of this research initiative, a detailed project plan would be developed jointly with the other research partners. In addition to the above identified partners, the ISIS Centre (An Incubator for Social Innovation and Sustainability, formerly Centre for Sustainability and Social Innovation) in the Sauder School of Business at UBC has offered to assist with recruitment and support to a student researcher for the research. Other options for recruitment include Thompson Rivers University and UBC Okanagan.

Appendix C **Special Issue of *Making Waves* Magazine on Housing**

While ***Making Waves*** is ceasing publication as a regular print periodical, the Canadian Centre for Community Renewal intends to continue publishing occasional special issues of a ***Making Waves(MW)*** journal. This new ***MW*** will be primarily an online publication, with more limited print runs. SERC 1 would like to take advantage of this opportunity to reach a wide audience of people with an interest in the social economy and CED.

SERC 1 has accumulated a significant body of research on various aspects of affordable and co-operative housing. The SERC members believe that this work, along with housing research and other content from other CSERP nodes and various other sources, is worthy of disseminating to a wide audience and would form a strong basis for a special issue of ***MW*** on various aspects of affordable and co-operative housing. ***MW*** has never produced a housing focused issue, though there has long been interest in doing so.

Assuming a 60 page journal, with about 50 pages of that as articles, this would allow for 10-12 substantive articles. We envision approximately half or slightly more of those articles being sourced from BALTA and the other half being solicited from other sources. As the ***MW*** audience is national in scope, it will be important to draw content from other parts of Canada. Some of the BALTA research is also applicable to other contexts and articles can be framed more broadly than just Alberta-BC in scope. There are seven BALTA projects that are solely or partially focused on housing, providing a significant base from which to draw articles (several other projects touch on housing in some places). These are:

- ❖ A1 – Innovative Use of Housing Co-operative Assets
- ❖ A5 – Affordable Housing Assessment and Strategic Planning, Kootenay Region
- ❖ A6 – The Fraser Valley Social Economy with Reference to Affordable Housing Provision and Related Support Services
- ❖ A7 – Co-op Housing Futures: A Spatial Design Research Approach
- ❖ A9 – Sustainable Management of Affordable Housing by Not-for-Profits and Co-ops
- ❖ A4/A10 – Role of Faith Based Organizations in the Social economy – partial focus on housing
- ❖ A12 – Affordable Housing Needs and Choices for Seniors in West Kootenay Region
- ❖ D3 – Land Tenure and the Social Economy – partial focus on housing

- ❖ D6 – Foundations for the Social Economy – The ‘SEE Change’ research and book being produced by Mike Lewis and Pat Conaty includes significant content on housing, both re affordability questions and re implications for housing related to climate change and peak oil implications.

If BALTA sponsored this special issue of *MW* on housing, the implications would include significant BALTA commitments and focus re financing, work on the special issue and content. We would envision a co-editor or small editorial team working with the editor of *MW*, Don McNair, to plan and co-edit the special issue. SERC 1 co-chair, Carol Murray has volunteered to play a lead role. Potentially other SERC 1 members and others with an interest in the housing theme could be recruited as relevant.

Ideally, *MW* publishes in both English and French. An English only or primarily English issue would likely cost approximately \$22,000-25,000. Adding a French version would add approximately \$10,000 to that. Don McNair says that a BALTA commitment of \$15,000 as the lead sponsor of the special issue would give CCCR the confidence to commit to the special issue and working closely with BALTA, while seeking other co-sponsors to make up the balance of the budget. A \$10,000 commitment would be enough to explore the special issue but would be less definite re ensuring it happens. SERC 1 is requesting a \$15,000 BALTA funding commitment for this initiative.

It takes up to a year to develop a special issue of *MW*, so the target date for publication would be mid-2011, i.e. near the end of the SSHRC funded BALTA program.