

BALTA BITS & BITES

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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.



Looking Forward to the November BALTA Symposium – Vancouver, November 13 and 14, 2008.

BALTA has arrived at the half-way point of its 5 year life. Later this year we will report on results of the external review of our progress now underway. One thing is already clear from our own evaluation: the collaborators, partners and students engaged in BALTA believe the level of engagement and commitment among academics and practitioners is growing.

The initial grind of creating the BALTA platform is behind us and collectively we are moving deeper into the research. A lot of learning is going on.

This will become more apparent on November 13 and 14, 2008 at the upcoming BALTA Symposium. For the first time the partners, collaborators and several of the students that make up BALTA will have an opportunity to really engage around some of the research. Although the line up

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THE BALTA GOLDEN MUSSEL PROJECT

by Kenn Renaud and Doug Gordon

The overall vision and purpose of the Pacific Golden Mussel™ (GM) initiative will be to establish a First Nation-owned and operated, coast-wide mussel culture industry over the next 10 years. BALTA is currently undertaking a shellfish research project that is directly linked to this initiative and will provide important background information. A key project element will be to design and test an Aboriginal 'Franchiser/Franchise' ownership and oversight model as a partnership-based strategy. This will be initially done as a community-based, bottom up strategy that will evolve and be tested through separate signed Letters of Expectation between Blue Frontier Inc (BFI) and the Huu-ay-aht and Quatsino First Nations. Both are resource-reliant communities located on the west coast of Vancouver Island in BC.

The first phase of the BALTA research focused on three literature searches to: **a)** determine the BC, national, and international experience in mussel production and the use of social enterprise as a format for ownership in the shellfish culture industry; **b)** determine the extent to which social enterprise has been subject to systematic replication in any sector, and lessons learned; and **c)** identify best practices in franchising to determine key lessons learned, and analyze the relevance to a GM franchise package. This included a search to determine the use of franchising in the

social enterprise field. The research results should help to put in place key elements of a coast-wide Aboriginal shellfish culture strategy. Nadine Pinnell has conducted this research with the assistance of Mike Lewis, Kenn Renaud, and Doug Gordon.

There has been, and continues to be, a history of failure of Aboriginal shellfish culture initiatives on the BC coast. With sporadic government support, these initiatives have generally focused on 'top down, big picture' strategies through efforts to engage large Aboriginal 'umbrella' organizations that have a number of First Nation members. There have been few successes. There is no coast-wide, integrated, and cost-effective Aboriginal shellfish aquaculture strategy in place to address this history, in spite of some well-intentioned efforts.

Given this fact, the BALTA research to date has identified a number of significant key factors, which if addressed properly could strategically help turn a history of failure into a legacy of success. The research has distilled key lessons from the Canadian and international experience relevant to building an industry that can effectively deal with some of the critical socio-economic challenges that rural and remote aboriginal communities face. These lessons will be combined with the 10 years of research, development, production and marketing by Blue Frontier Inc. (BFI),

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BALTA

B.C.-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance



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By Sara-Jane Brocklehurst

Rebecca Pearson, previously a student research assistant with BALTA, is providing supervision on project A3, **The Social Purpose Capital Market in BC and Alberta**, while working as a Social Economy (SE) practitioner with VanCity Capital.

In 2007, a colleague who organizes the Community Experience Initiative, which creates internship opportunities for students in the SE, told Rebecca

about BALTA research opportunities. Rebecca had been doing an MBA in sustainability and was interested in the intersection of sustainable development with business as it manifested itself in such things as co-operative housing. Having applied to a couple of BALTA projects, she was ultimately hired onto Project A1, **Innovative Use of Housing Co-operative Assets**, lead by practitioner Carol Murray of Same Page Strategies. She also started some of the work as a student researcher on project A3.

Rebecca enjoyed working with Carol, Jenny Kain, John Restakis and Mar-

tin Garber-Conrad. "It was very rewarding to work with people that are so committed to building sustainable communities and seeing the work they do as well as their commitment to something like BALTA," she said. The projects allowed her to interview individuals who helped her better

understand the SE in Canada. She recognized that BALTA was an important project that could contribute to developing the SE in BC and Alberta and seeing the value in her work desired to try to remain involved with BALTA even though her studies were ending. With BALTA she could continue to do research relevant to her work which otherwise she would not be able to on her own.

An opportunity arose for Rebecca to move into the supervisor role. "As a BALTA supervisor you get to be more conceptual, you get to see the application of this research in the real world, what it takes to create change in the social economy and how research can inform that agenda," she said. She suggests that it could be good for students to participate in job shadowing to ex-



perience the reality on the ground.

Rebecca notes that being involved in BALTA is rewarding because she gets to work with community practitioners and speak with leaders of SE in Canada. "I have been able to learn about Canada, how SE evolved, challenges faced, what the future looks like, who are the leaders, where things are moving ahead and where things are declining."

But as with anything, there are challenges. As a student there were feelings of isolation especially as Rebecca came in with little or no context, she is not Canadian and had not previously worked in the SE in Canada. Having supervisors in other cities was challenging and she struggled to figure out how her piece fit into the bigger picture.

Regardless, the experience was

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COMMUNITY-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION ON POLICY

The Caledon Institute, a private, non-profit organization who's work covers a broad range of social policy areas, is pleased to lead a 13-month project (March 2008—March 2009) focused upon the creation of a pan-Canadian community of practice with a primary interest in community-government collaboration on policy.

A partnership has been set up among five partners - the Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador, Santropol Roulant (Montréal), the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction, the Community-University Institute for Social Research (Saskatoon) and the City of Red Deer - and, the Caledon Institute of Social Policy and representa-

tives from Carleton University and the University of Ottawa in order to document selected policy measures related to economic and social well-being. The project provides an opportunity to combine community knowledge and experience with policy development processes in order to improve, over the longer term, policy and program outcomes.

Participants are taking part in learning sessions, focussing on effective methods of collaborating with government around policy work, engaging in online conversations about various examples of collaborative work and are contributing to the ongoing policy monitoring process. The project will generate two major prod-

ucts: a web-based policy tracking document and a bilingual manual on community-government collaboration.

This portion of the Caledon site (www.caledoninst.org) will become a resource area. Visitors are encouraged to contact **Anne Makhoul at the Caledon Institute** (makhoul@caledoninst.org) with suggestions for publications, which extend and enrich this material.

The project is being supported through the Social Development Partnerships Program of Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

EVALUATING THE BALTA EXPERIENCE

By Sara-Jane Brocklehurst

Karen Heisler is the assistant for BALTA's program monitoring and evaluation administration. She works directly with Stuart Wulff, Project Coordinator, to design and implement BALTA's ongoing data collection activities and in receiving feedback from BALTA members about the progress of the program. Additionally she is starting work on Project D3 - **Land Tenure and the Social Economy** - being led by Drs Mark Roseland and Mike Gismondi.

Over the past year Karen has had the opportunity to speak with most BALTA members through surveys and focus groups. The objective has been to measure the progress toward reaching the overall goals and objectives for the



BALTA program. This has given Karen great insight into the larger project, its challenges and its successes, which feeds into reports required by SSHRC.

As always with students, a key interest for BALTA is the relevance of the project to their studies. In Karen's case her BALTA position is more related to her Master's of Science work she conducted at the University of Guelph, as

opposed to her current PhD work. She did her Master's project on program evaluation of youth programs in community economic development in rural communities, so she had the training and skills needed by BALTA to help organise the monitoring and evaluation activities.

Ultimately, Karen is interested in sustainable land use planning and is doing her PhD research in this area, which is more aligned with Project D3. She is in the process of designing her research but her focus will likely be on land reform and how private property rights impact sustainable regional planning processes for the protection of ecological infrastructure. "I am considering doing my research in developing countries and am interested in eventu-

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SMALL RURAL MUNICIPALITIES DOING MORE THAN ANTICIPATED

By Emma Sharkey

BALTA project C-10, **Municipal Government Support for the Social Economy Sector in Alberta and BC**, has been carried out over the last 8 months in collaboration with the Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Northern Ontario node. Student researchers and project advisors have come together across 5 academic and practitioner institutions in order to review and compile the literature on municipal policy and community economic development (CED) and the social economy (SE), design the research process, create research tools, and carry out the research itself.

Currently in its data collection and analysis stage, the student researchers are interviewing staff from municipalities across Western Canada in order to greater understand the variety and ex-

tent of CED and SE initiatives in which municipalities are involved. Municipalities are categorized into large (population over 1,000,000), medium (population between 50,000 and 1,000,000), and small/rural (population under 50,000).

The researcher interviewing the small/rural areas has found the data to be quite revealing: "There is definitely a lot happening out there in smaller and rural municipalities. I was often really surprised and impressed when these small municipalities would say, 'well, yes, we use solar heating in a lot of our municipal buildings,' or 'we're involved extensively in senior's housing initiatives,' or 'actually, we do have a community forest.' It's just been incredible."

The project has not been without its challenges. Coordinating the schedules of individuals working out of 5 different institutions across 3 time zones, aligning research goals and details so as to satisfy the ethics approval process of 3 academic institutions, and grappling with ways to harmonize interview questions so as to satisfy the ranging interests of various theses and project requirements were but a few of the challenges the research team faced.

Beyond those encountered internally by the research team, challenges also included how to locate appropriate potential interviewees, and coordinating interviewee and researcher schedules -especially when summer holidays came into play or when several interviewees at one municipality necessitated group interviews and the coordination of multiple people's schedules.

The results of this research will be shared directly with the municipalities participating in this research, as well as being used in a master's thesis and project reports. It is hoped that this research will facilitate idea sharing between municipalities, sparking ideas and inspiration for new initiatives. This research will also provide fresh information to both academics and practitioners working with municipal governments in order to facilitate increased understanding of where municipalities are coming from, what they are doing, and where they would like to go in relation to Community Economic Development and the Social Economy.

This project has been lead by Jenny Kain from the City of Edmonton and Mike Gismondi with Athabasca University.

The Mayor of London, UK is honouring his pre-election pledge to support London's social enterprises in their continued

have on supporting London's most disadvantaged citizens. The Mayor's support is crucial in enabling social enterprises to get that message out and achieve their outstanding social, environmental and economic goals."

Service Council and others - to ensure that they are able to access the Business Link in London service. In this way, LDA we can encourage the growth and development of social enterprise in the capital.

growth and development.

The LDA commented on how social enterprise is a combination of conven-

The correspondence is particularly welcome at a time when London's social enterprises are vying to compete for major public contracts, including those for the 2012 Olympics.

An article published on August 6, 2008 on the www.

egovmonitor.com site noted that Social Enterprise London (SEL), London's leading social enterprise body received correspondence from the Greater London Assembly (GLA) emphasising that "the Mayor has committed the GLA group, including the London Development Agency (LDA), to work across a range of fronts to support London's social enterprises".

tional entrepreneurial drive with the culture of public service and in so doing representing the best of the public and private sectors. It is committed to supporting the London Social Enterprise Network (LSEN), stressing that "the LSEN will be a key route to reach social enterprises and ensure they are able to access [London's] wide range of business support services".

It highlighted the Mayor's commitment to support social enterprises in winning GLA Group and

SEL Chief Executive Allison Ogden-Newton welcomed the response, "There is still a lot of work to do to ensure everyone understands what social enterprises can contribute and the impact their participation will

The LDA is working closely with the key regional strategic networks in London - SEL, the School for Social Entrepreneurs, London Voluntary

London 2012 contracts, particularly through the LDA run Supply London business support programme, which "has social enterprises as a key target group."

The original posting can be accessed at www.egovmonitor.com/node/20323

LONDON, UK MAYOR SUPPORTS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

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such that Rebecca, having finished her MBA, sought work as a SE practitioner. She now works for VanCity Capital managing the social enterprise portfolio and structuring innovative financing packages for sustainable businesses, SE, etc. She describes her work as "investing in the building blocks of the SE" by providing flexible risk capital to good projects. The experience from both of the BALTA projects Rebecca worked on feed into her position with VanCity. The co-op housing project was about innovative financing where there is a social benefit and was a project that VanCity has interest in investing. It is important to understand the risks and opportunities in that sector. Project A3 is connected as well since VanCity is a significant member of the non-profit community "The Social Economy plays an important role providing social and environ-

mental goods where they would otherwise not be provided by the traditional market. It shows what a sustainable market can be. SE organizations are often market leaders in terms of what can be done." Rebecca notes. She

"As a BALTA supervisor you get to be more conceptual, you get to see the application of this research in the real world, what it takes to create change in the social economy and how research can inform that agenda."

would like to see it become more mainstream.

Traditionally there has been the trend that SE like non-profit generally means frugality or just making ends meet. But Rebecca does not believe that a SE is

creating less wealth than a for-profit business—it is in fact creating a combination of social, environmental, and financial wealth. The problem is that the traditional market only recognizes pure financial returns. However she does not believe a person should have to take a vow of poverty to do good things. It is still important to value people, treat them right and keep talent there.

Rebecca remains excited by BALTA's work. Having been a student researcher and now a supervisor she ponders on some suggestions. "BALTA needs to ensure the quality of research is high and useful and relevant to a wide audience. From a people perspective, the work is expanding the SE network, bringing research into new forums and attracting students from different disciplines. It is important to build new alliances, rather than keep this among friends."

CCEDNET WELCOMES THEIR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet), Canada's leading voice for community economic development (CED), announced the appointment of Michael Toye as Executive Director, effective July 22, 2008. Mr. Toye succeeds Rupert Downing, who has left the Network to move on to other areas of interest in the CED field.

Mr. Toye has been involved with CCEDNet and the broader CED movement for many years. Starting while studying social work with Eric Shragge at McGill University, Mr. Toye's CED experience has since grown through being a CED consultant, social entrepreneur, author, lecturer, researcher and most recently, a Policy Analyst for the Library of Parliament. In his six year tenure with CCEDNet, he played a key role in administration, policy development and management which afforded him valuable insight into the strategic planning of the Network from its inception.

As Program Director, he coordinated the Pan-Canadian Community Development Learning Network research project on social inclusion and community economic development. Under Mr. Toye's leadership, CCEDNet's National Conference became the premier CED learning event in Canada.

CCEDNet Board of Directors' President Natasha Jackson said: "[Mr Toye's] proven record of excellence with our organization, coupled with his extensive experience in the broader CED movement will ensure a perfect fit. We are confident that Mr. Toye will continue to build on the legacy which resulted from Mr. Downing's leadership."

More than eight months of comprehensive transition planning by CCEDNet's succession planning committee, composed of representatives from CCEDNet's Board of Directors, senior staff and partners, and after an extensive national recruitment campaign, Mr. Toye's was chosen as the successful candidate. The Board of Directors unanimously approved the recommendation provided by the succession planning committee.

On accepting the appointment, Mr. Toye said: "I believe in the Network because I believe in its members. I am convinced that an approach which strengthens the ability of communities to take charge of their own social, economic and environmental destiny is an essential component of sustainable social and economic policy." Mr. Toye will be working from his office in Québec.

The CCEDNet is a national non-governmental charitable organization established to support the work of community organizations creating economic opportunities and enhancing social conditions in Canada. The membership of CCEDNet is made up of hundreds of community groups, municipalities, foundations, and practitioners from every region of the country. CCEDNet brings these groups together to share expertise, mobilize communities, and build a national focus on CED. *Community Economic Development* (CED) is local action to create economic opportunities and better social conditions, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged. CCEDNet's national office is located in Victoria, BC.



Any questions or comments can be directed to CCEDNet's Board President at president@ccednet-rcdec.ca or by phone at 1-877-202-2268

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ally working with an international NGO," she said.

Regarding BALTA's work, Karen said "I think the Social Economy research taking place has already been very successful in bringing together so many people focused on strengthening this sector. The research has a great opportunity to be used both academically and in community practice which is unique and will be of great service across the country."

As is typical for academics involved in research, time is precious. For Karen and her work with BALTA, she has found that her greatest challenge has simply been time, trying to balance the pressures of many responsibilities for both herself and the people she works with.

"The research has a great opportunity to be used both academically and in community practice which is unique and will be of great service across the country."

Given her involvement with the majority of BALTA members and her monitoring and evaluation role, Karen provides valuable input. "I have a whole report, there are many suggestions that have come out of the first year of the monitoring activities. The most significant I think has been a renewed commitment by our teams to get the research off the ground and working more closely with the students to ensure we learn from the research."

When asked about how her BALTA experience will feed into her future, Karen said that it has been a tremendous networking opportunity. She has met many people working in the Social Economy across both provinces and believes these connections will stay with her throughout her career.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING, KOOTENAY REGION

By George Penfold

The Affordable Housing Assessment Project carried out this summer created a housing inventory for the Columbia Basin and Kootenay Boundary based on BCAA assessment data. Using specialized excel formulas we were able to identify the number of each property type (Acreage, Single Family Dwellings, etc.) and property values within the region for the roll years 2001 and 2008. We identified the changes in the number of the different types of properties and changes property values by type. We were also able to identify non resident ownership based on the mailing address of the owner and identify associated property types and values.

This report covers the overall changes in the Regional Districts of the Central Kootenay, East Kootenay, and Kootenay Boundary and those portions of Columbia Shuswap and Fraser-Fort George Regional Districts that are within the Columbia Basin for the Basin, and each of 13 sub regions within the study area. The key information in the report is the type of property, the average value of residential property titles, along with the changes in these average values, the changes in property types and non-resident ownership over the 7 year period.

Some of the findings include:

- Increases in average assessed value of 147% for Single Family Dwellings, 109% for Multi Family Dwellings and 130% for Acreages with a Dwelling in the study area.
- An increase from 7.7% to 11% of all SFD's owned by residents of the Lower Mainland, the rest of BC, and Alberta.
- An increase from 19.2% to 24.5% of all vacant residential parcels owned by residents of the Lower Mainland, the rest of BC and Alberta.

NOVA SCOTIA CASE STUDY PHASE 2

By Carol Murray

In March 2007, a case study on the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council completed by Lena Soots of BALTA identified some key elements that appear to hold some important lessons for strengthening co-op development systems in other provinces. Key findings include robust and successful development finance tools and a strong relationship with the provincial government, as well as a vibrant Co-op Council that has a membership of 84% of all co-operatives and 89% of all credit unions in Nova Scotia. This translates into representation of over 300 provincially incorporated co-operatives and 35 provincially incorporated credit unions.

The second phase of the Nova Scotia Case Study will provide the regional co-operative associations, practitioners and key stakeholders in B.C. and Alberta with tools and strategies, based on the model provided by Nova Scotia, that can translate into action plans for improvement in the co-op development system in the two provinces. The project will be managed by a Working Group, a collaborative team consisting of representation from the BC Co-operative Association, the Alberta Community & Co-operative Association, and the Centre for Community Enterprise.

Critical to the study is an assessment of the particular context for co-op development in each of the provinces. Despite progress in social economy and social enterprise activities, the co-op development systems in each province have not yet achieved the impacts demonstrated in the Nova Scotia case study. There is as yet no common vision or strategy to deal with key issues that are fundamental to strengthening the social economy in the two provinces. This second phase of the project could be a significant catalyst toward the design and development of a common strategy based on a clearer understanding of and

commitment to the systems and supports required to advance the co-op development system in each province to this higher level.

Two primary research questions will be addressed: To what extent are the success factors in the 6 main areas of Nova Scotia's cooperative development system either present, easily replicated or desired in BC & Alberta? And, where do gaps & opportunities exist for co-op development in each of the two provinces?

The following objectives are proposed for the project: **1)** To describe the current co-op development system and development environment in each province; **2)** To examine the co-op and social economy development and financial systems currently in place in Quebec; **3)** To engage a cross-section of the co-operative development and social enterprise development stakeholders in each province in a strategic discussion of the Nova Scotia development system lessons and tools; **4)** To identify gaps, opportunities and constraints in each province's co-op development system and to map differences in scale, scope or nature from the 6 main areas of the Nova Scotia system for each province; **5)** To determine whether gaps are due to deviation from Nova Scotia model or due to other factors; and, **6)** To analyze the current context and engage stakeholders in identifying the extent to which lessons and tools emanating from Nova Scotia and Quebec are relevant in BC and Alberta.

Among other things, the Working Group anticipates that a report that documents the strategies that can be advanced by the players in each province, to be a resource for co-op development practitioners and developing co-operative enterprises will be produced.

For more information, contact Carol Murray, Executive Director (Acting) of the BC Co-operative Association at **604 662 3906** or **murray@bccacoop**.

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which has created a unique trademarked food product that is highly preferred in the market. Since the BFI intent is to transfer ownership of the trademark and intellectual property to a Trust that will ensure exclusive benefit to coastal First Nations, the GM initiative represents a unique and unprecedented opportunity.

Key objectives of the two initial GM Start-Up projects will be to: confirm ownership structure(s); establish the mechanisms that will allow BFI to transfer the GM trademark; establish the conditions that will allow BFI to transfer Intellectual Properties, and how fabrication and leasing of equipment will be dealt with; and, establish how to move from the current BFI ownership to a form of Trust.

Currently the range of strategic partnerships required to ensure the economic viability and growth of First Nation shellfish aquaculture projects in general, and the GM initiative in particular are not in place. Many B.C. communities and scores of Aboriginal people would benefit in areas where fishing and forestry have crashed and

especially on North Vancouver Island and the central and north coasts. Motivating the work done to date through the BALTA/GM project is the realization that the current production of mussels by BFI could realistically be increased to 10,000 tons/yr over the next decade, given the right conditions.

A social enterprise based 'Franchise Model' will be central to the GM Business Plan. The control of the Golden Mussel trademark and access to the high prices commanded by GM will enable 'businesslike' conditions to be placed on the franchisees. This in turn will allow for marketing, technical assistance and support, and quality control to be included in the franchiser role, and provides the right to select appropriate grower franchisees. Given the history of failure of community-owned Aboriginal shellfish operations, a preference will be to select entrepreneurial persons who will be responsible for their own operations. These franchisees could 'be tied together' through a form of producers' co-operative.

The range of knowledge and skills required for GM franchise operational success were identified in a SWOT analysis based on the BALTA research

and work done by the BFI team. From a 'big picture' social enterprise perspective, careful assessment suggests that the two proposed GM Start-Up initiatives will: **a)** enhance competitiveness of First Nations located in rural and remote regions; **b)** foster innovative development and use of demonstrated untapped potential associated with mussel culture; and **c)** derive new value from rural amenities, which are the prime waters for mussel culture adjacent to existing First Nation settlements that have road access.

Further work regarding Aboriginal ownership is required. This includes designing a Trust that will own the trademark and intellectual property, designing the franchiser/franchisee structure, and identifying the potential roles of producer-cooperatives. The BALTA Steering Committee has approved funding support and an associated work plan for fiscal year 2008/09, and Nadine will be continuing her excellent work. She has made initial and well received visits to the Huu-ay-aht and Quatsino First Nations, met with some key leaders, and will be following up with project related activities such as interviews and workshops. We will keep you posted.

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is not completely finalized, the first day intends to examine 4 projects in some detail. There will also be a "crackerbarrel" session that will profile 10 other research projects over the two days of the symposium.

One project on the docket for the first day is Project C9 – CED and Social Economy Policy Inventory in BC and Alberta, being led by Dr. Jorge Sousa, from the University of Alberta, with advice from myself and the research assistance of two students, Zane Hamm and Heather Lynch. It has built a policy framework based on key functions relevant to strengthening the social economy at the territorial, enterprise and sector levels. The framework builds on research over the last 15 years focused on discerning the characteristics of exemplary practice in the field of CED and the Social Economy.

Scores of policies and programs have been classified. In November the first stage results will be highlighted and critical comment sought from symposium participants.

Meanwhile, the National Hub's Policy Committee will be starting to look at BALTA's work and how it can feed into the design of a national policy classification network.

We also hope to hear about research from Project A5 – Affordable Housing Assessment and Strategic Planning, Kootenay Region. This project, being led by George Penfold from Selkirk University, assisted by student Andy Dhillon, is researching the potential of co-op housing assets to be leveraged for affordable housing. Additionally it is updating the fascinating research taking place to really understand the housing affordability "crisis" in the

Kooteney region of BC. Expect to hear as well about leveraging co-op housing Assets (or not) and research underway on Farmers' Markets in Alberta and B. C.

The second morning will feature Pat Conaty, a senior fellow with the New Economics Foundation in Britain. Emerging BALTA research in the area of local food and land trusts will be picked up on by Pat and placed into the context of key trends and challenges we face as a society. No doubt he will link the cross-cutting challenge practitioners face daily – the issues of sourcing and mobilizing development and social economy financing that is focused on growing healthy communities and a strong social economy.

There will be plenty more in play at the symposium. Keep an eye peeled for a more detailed breakdown in mid-October

FREYA KRISTENSEN

Freya Kristensen is a PhD student in Geography at Simon Fraser University's Centre for Sustainable Community Development. Prior to joining the Geography department, Freya spent almost two years with the Columbia Institute's Centre for Civic Governance, a non-profit organization that works to engage locally-elected officials around social and environmental issues. As a

result of her work there, Freya became interested in local sustainability planning, now the focus of her research at SFU.

Before the Columbia Institute, Freya completed a 6-month internship with Pax Christi International in Brussels, Belgium. She obtained her BA from the Uni-



versity of Western Ontario in International Comparative Studies and French in 2003 and a Master's degree from the University of Northern British Columbia in 2005 in International Development Studies. Her Master's thesis focused on the roles of North American NGOs in the Columbian indigenous movement. With BALTA, Freya is working on a project that investigates the roles of credit unions in building the social economy in BC and Alberta.

JONATHAN LAWRENCE

Jonathan Lawrence is currently working towards his MBA from the Sauder School of Business. He also holds a Biological Sciences undergraduate degree from the University of Alberta.



Prior to entering the MBA program, Jonathan ran a contracting business in Vancouver with his two brothers. An increasing customer demand for "green renovations" convinced Jonathan to go back to school to learn more about sustainable business practices in general.

Jonathan's BALTA experience as a

student researcher has been focused on the nonprofit sector capital market. The main purpose of the research is to first identify how the capital market currently supports the social economy and then explore opportunities for increasing both the efficiency and effectiveness of this market. Jonathan had little previous exposure to social finance but has since become interested in this rapidly evolving sector.

CELIA LEE

Celia Lee is a Master's student at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design. Her work with BALTA maps the social economy in the Sunnyside-Hillhurst neighbourhood of Calgary with a critical focus on sustain-

able economic development. Her broader research interests focus on the contemporary relationships between material culture, economics, and systems of production, as well as on the social innovations that might engender more sustainable and healthful attitudes therein. She recently presented a paper spanning several of these top-

ics, "Let's talk: dialogue, design and sustainability", at the 2007 Sustainable Innovations Conference in Farnham, England. Celia also has her B.Sc. in Environmental Biology from the University of Guelph.



BALTA Mapping Project

The BALTA Mapping Team is looking for more people to participate in the BALTA Social Economy Survey. Fill in the BALTA survey before 15 October 2008 and your group will be included in our survey prize draw. Go to <https://secure.athabasca.ca/phpsurveyor/index.php?sid=50> to fill in the survey or visit the BALTA mapping website <http://www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca/mapping.html> to learn more about the project or to read our preliminary mapping survey results.

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<http://www.socialeconomy-bcalberta.ca>

To contact BALTA:
Stuart Wulff, BALTA Coordinator
balta@explornet.com
Tel: 250-723-2296

Newsletter design and layout:
Sara-Jane Brocklehurst,
Academic Coordinator



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