

# MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF THE SOCIAL ECONOMY

A BC Alberta Social Economy Research  
Alliance Project

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# Rationale for Research

- ▣ Local governments considerably impact and influence CED and SE initiatives.
- ▣ As the level of government closest to people and communities, local governments can play a key role in the support of CED
- ▣ The role of local governments is changing

# Municipal Government Role

- Historically municipal government focused primarily on physical infrastructure, traditional economic development and core city operations (e.g. roads and sewers, waste disposal)
- Scope of municipal government service has increased as a result of labour market and social changes
- Cities as economic hubs - "quality of place" important to attract and retain labour

# Project Objectives

- ▣ This project aimed to:
  - ▣ Elevate and share knowledge
  - ▣ Increase understanding of the role municipal government plays in supporting CED and the SE
  - ▣ Increase awareness of how to further engage municipal government in supporting CED and the SE

# Research Objectives

- ▣ To explore and analyze local government support for the Social Economy in a Canadian context
- ▣ To explore and analyze key areas of involvement in specific sectors (such as affordable housing, green/sustainable cities, social enterprise development, training and employment, financing, etc.)
- ▣ To identify innovative examples of municipal support

# Research Objectives

- ▣ To explore the issue of scale by comparing role of local government in rural and urban contexts
- ▣ To make recommendations for advancing support of CED and the SE at a municipal level
- ▣ To explore coordinating and co-designing research across more than one node in the Canadian Social Economy Hub.

# Research Question

- ▣ What do municipal government supports of CED and the SE sector look like in a Canadian context, with an emphasis on BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Northern Ontario?

# Research Methodology

- ▣ Researchers included both practitioners and academics,
- ▣ Value was placed on ensuring the research was useful and beneficial to community groups



# Research Methodology

- Interviews with municipal government staff
- Secondary research
- Data Analysis

# Research

## Research Included:

- 22 municipalities with a population of 30,000 or less
- 8 municipalities with a population between 30,000 and 500,000
- 5 municipalities with a population over 500,000

# Research Findings

- ▣ Revealed six “frameworks” for understanding local government relationships with CED and SE actors
- ▣ Revealed/affirmed 7 roles local governments play in supporting CED and the SE

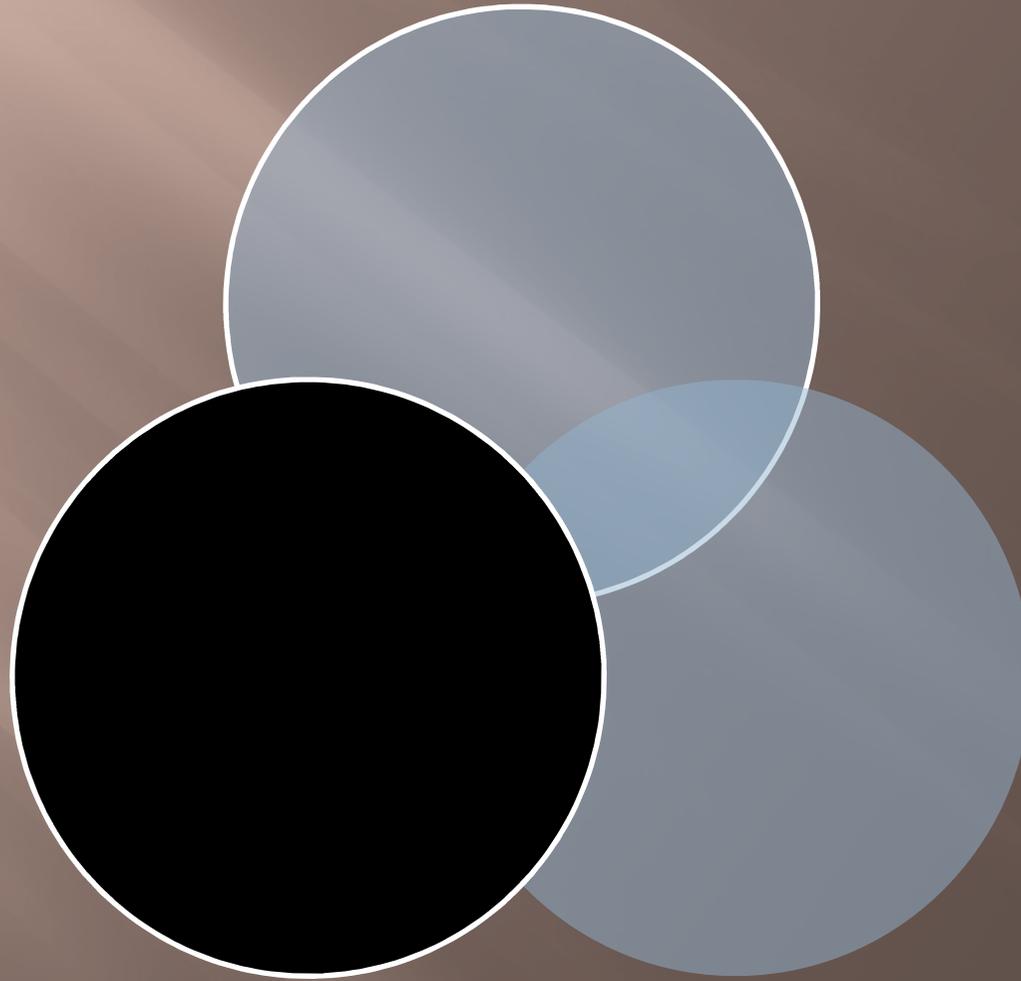
# Solitudes

SE  
Actors/Sectors

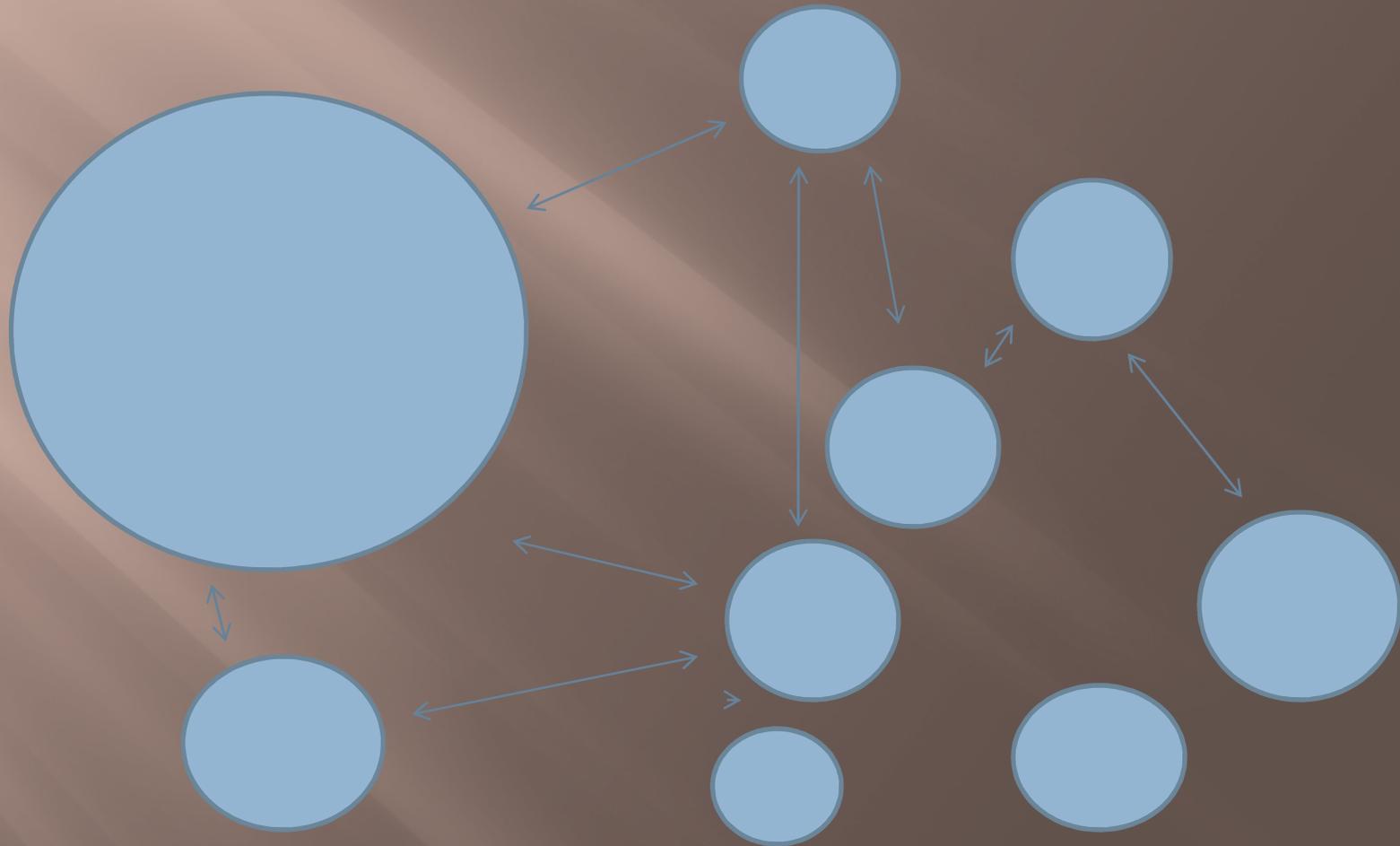
Other  
Actors/Sectors

Municipality

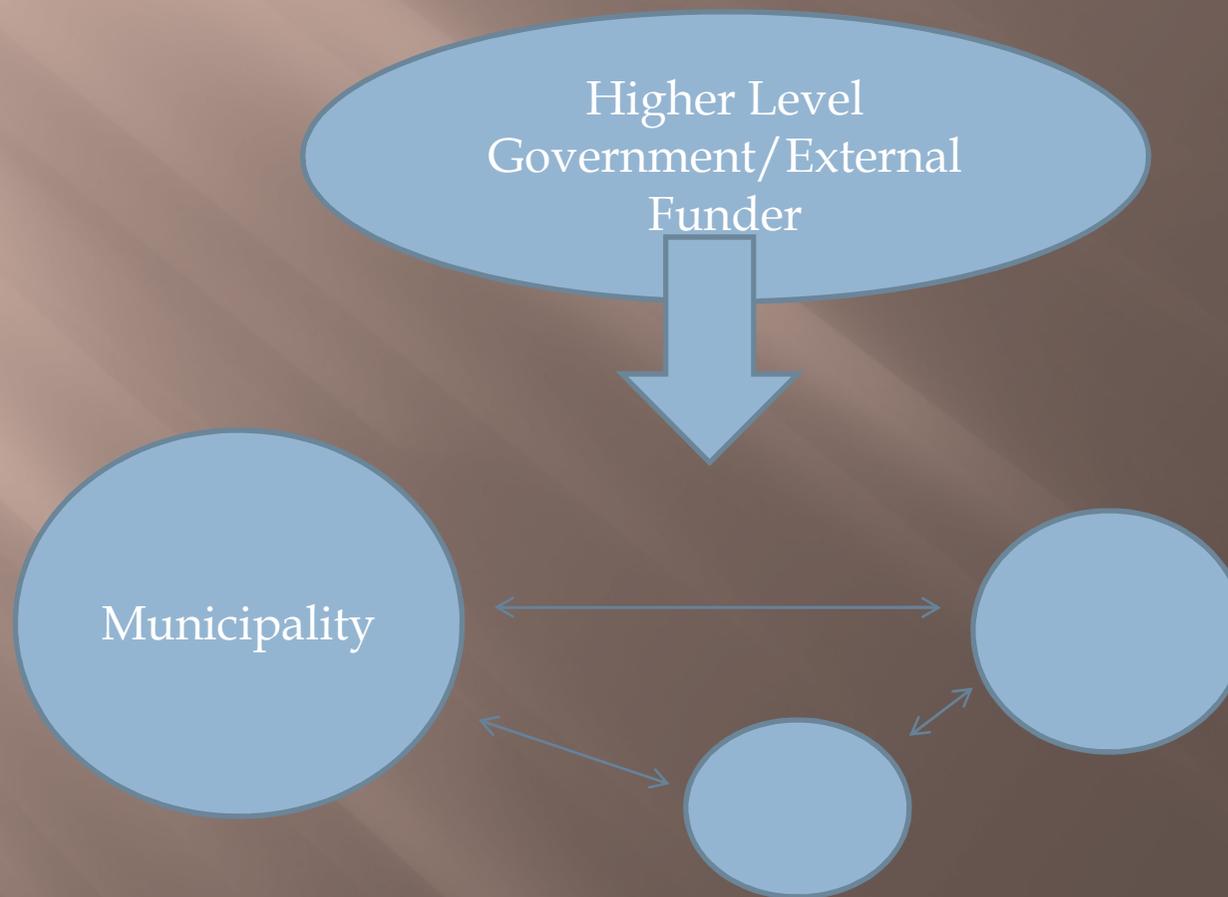
# Coffee Shop



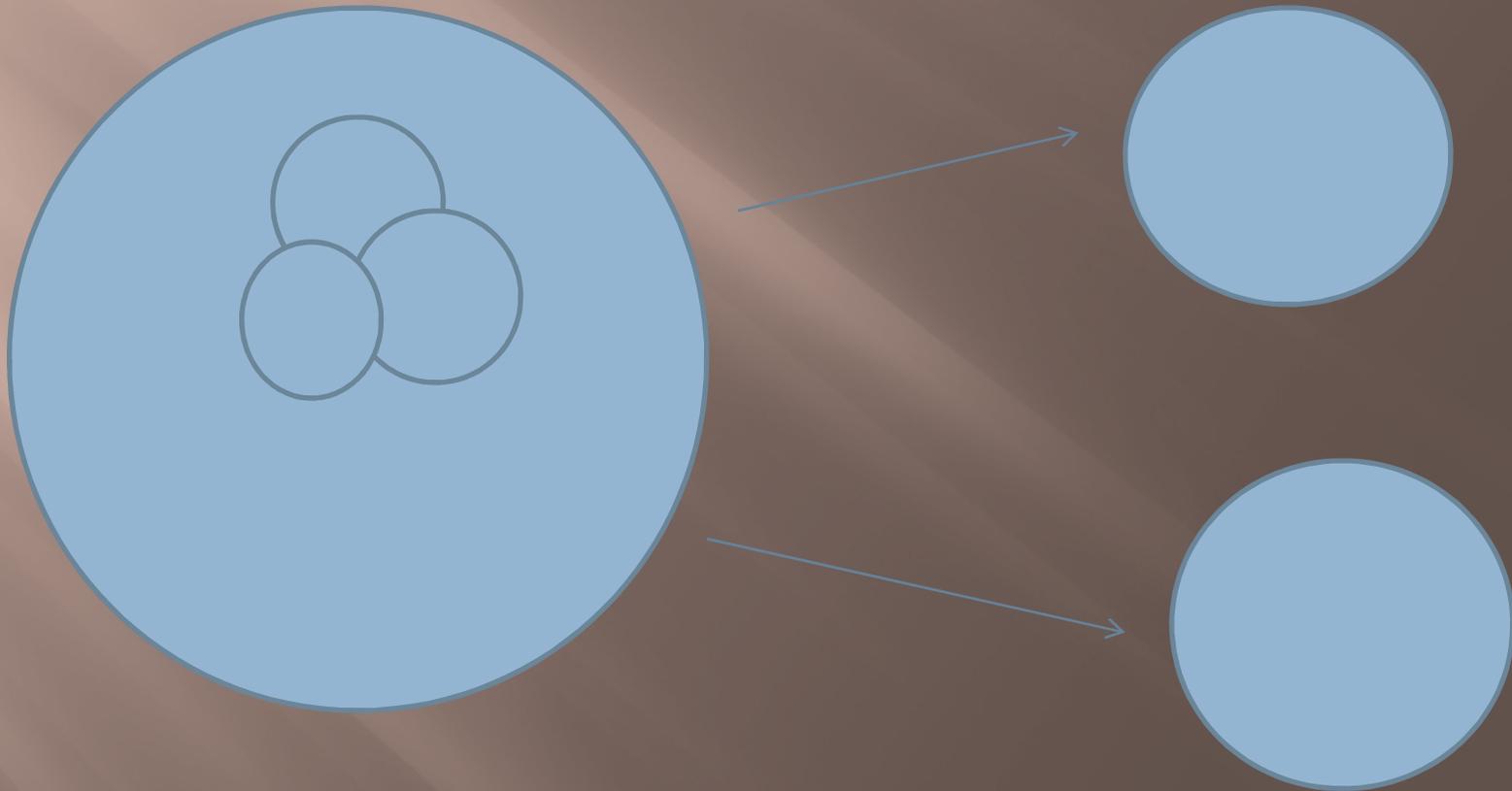
# Partnering



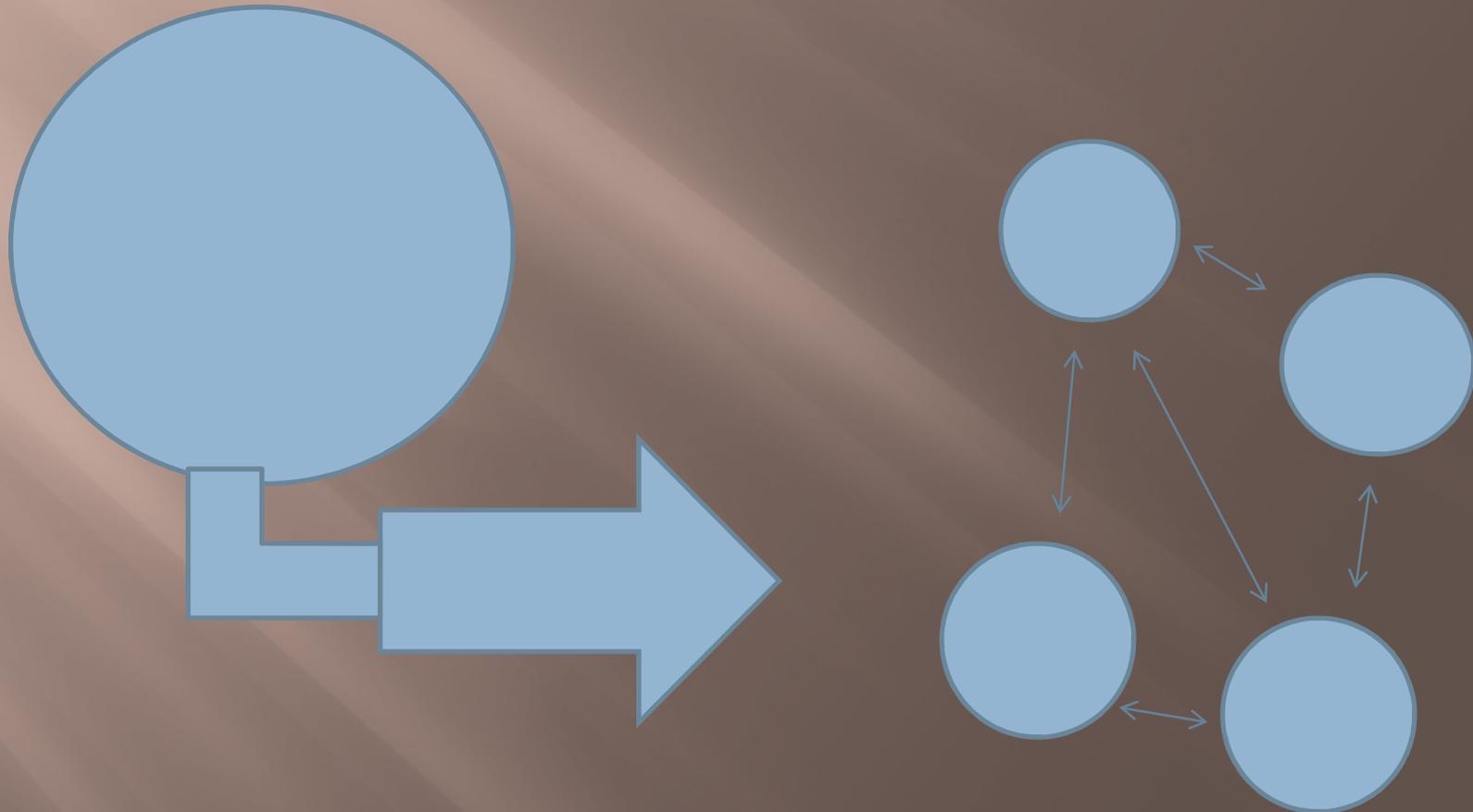
# Linking and Leveraging



# Strong and Integrated



# How can we Help?



# Roles Local Governments Play

- ▣ Expressions of intent
- ▣ Financial Support
- ▣ In-Kind Support
- ▣ Planning, Research, Advising
- ▣ Human and Social Capital Development
- ▣ Land Use
- ▣ Procurement

# Some Key Findings

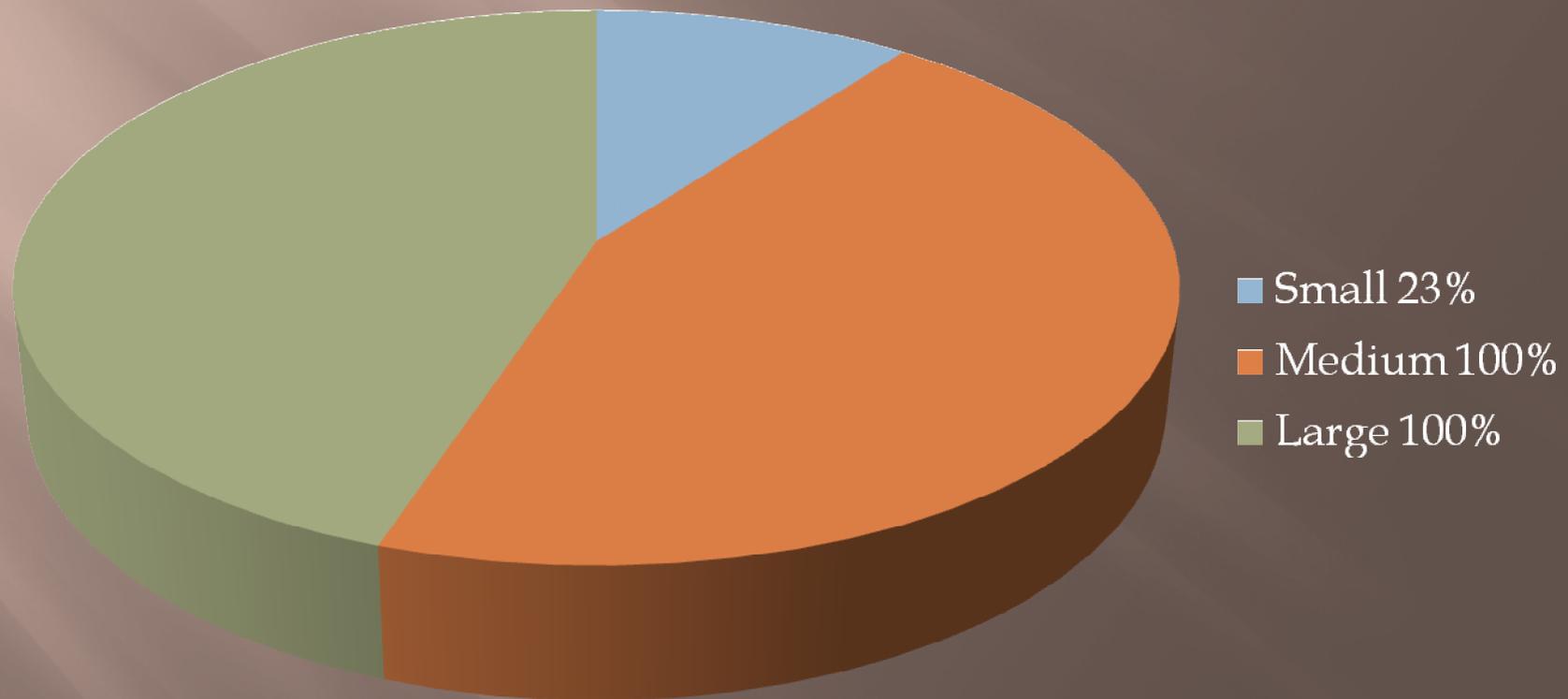
- All Large municipalities are engaged in a range of roles supporting the social economy
- Municipalities of all sizes make a significant investment in the social economy
- Close alignment between many key municipal priorities and social economy work

# Research Results

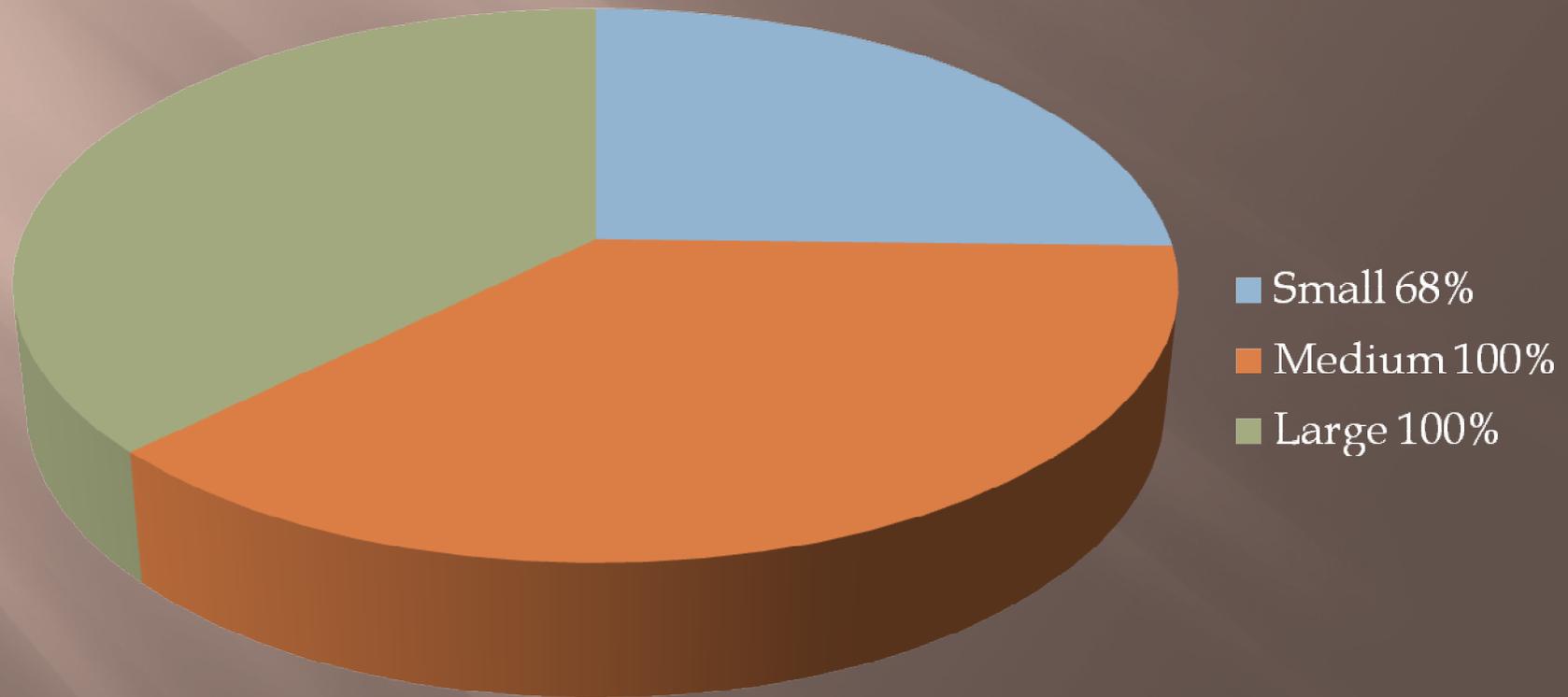
- 18 of 35 municipalities have policies or bylaws supporting CED/SE
- 28 of 35 municipalities are involved in neighbourhood revitalization
- 28 of 35 municipalities are involved in affordable housing
- 17 of 35 municipalities are involved in alternative energy generation.

# Selected Results of Interview Questions

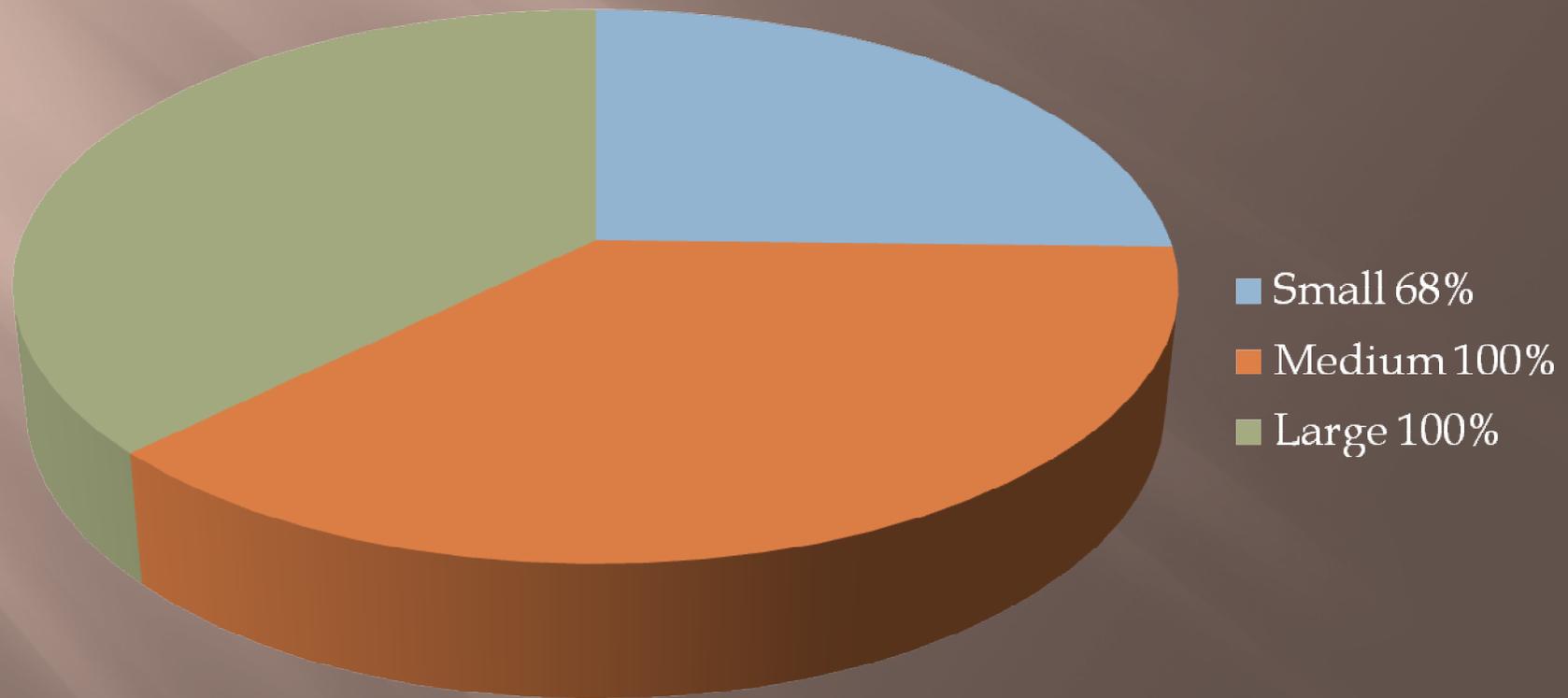
## Bylaws or policies Supporting CED or SE



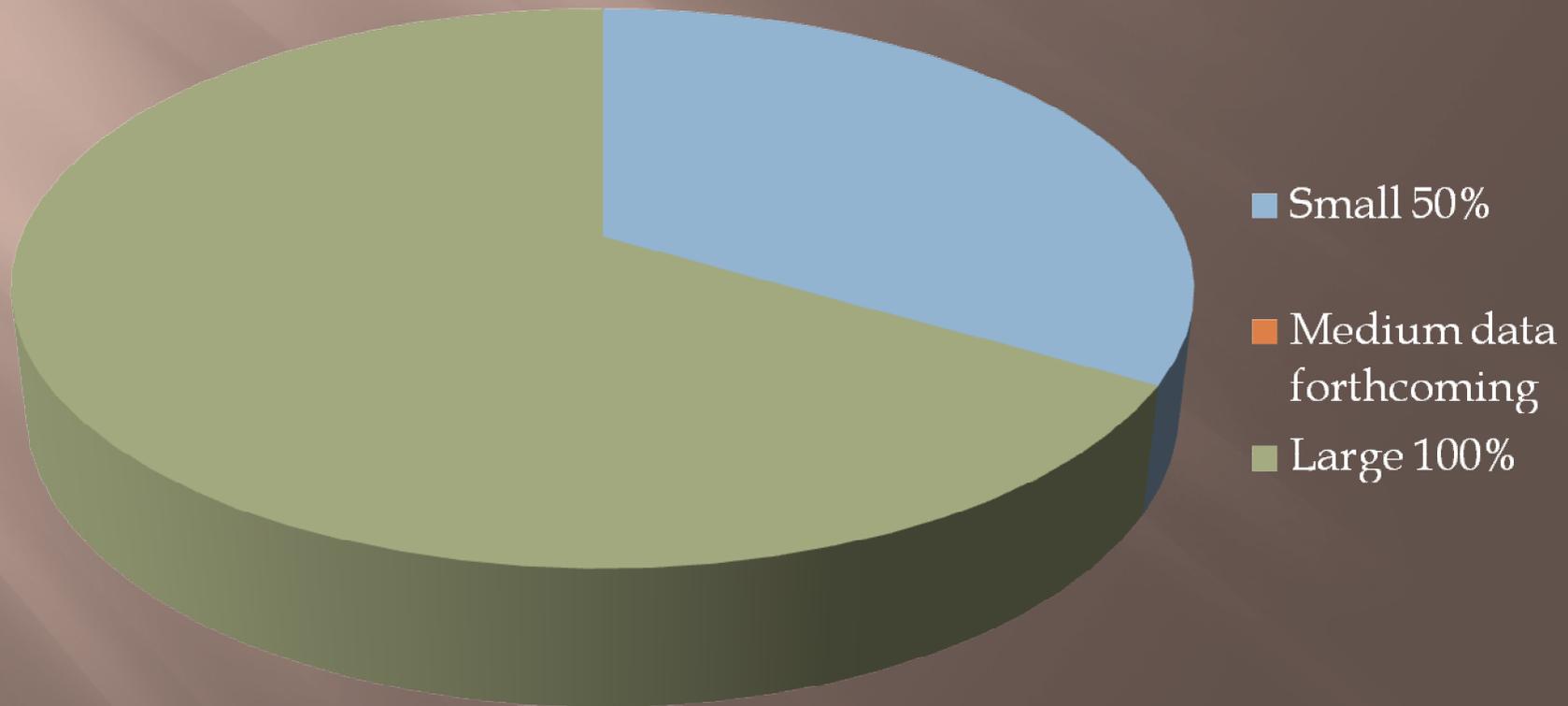
## Involvement in Neighbourhood Revitalization



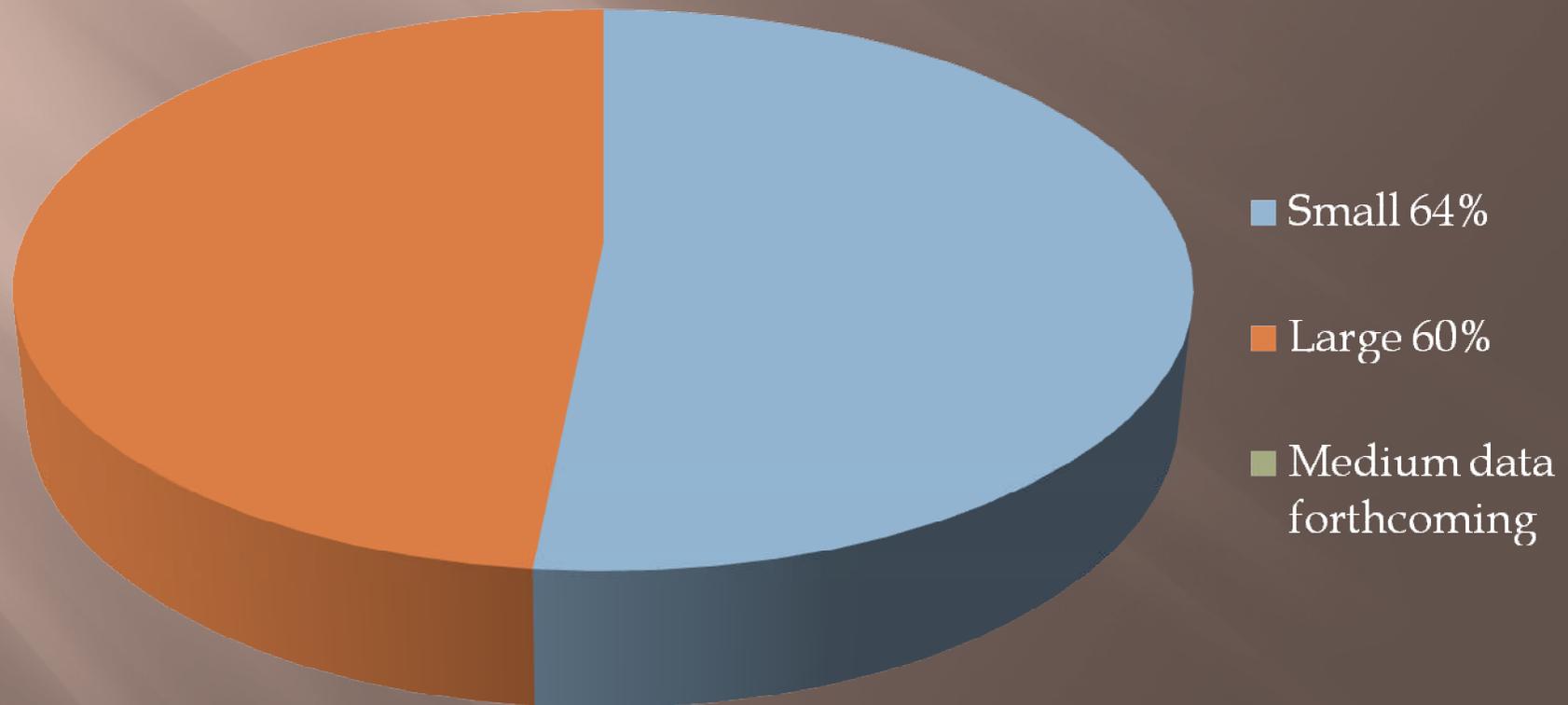
## Involvement in Affordable Housing



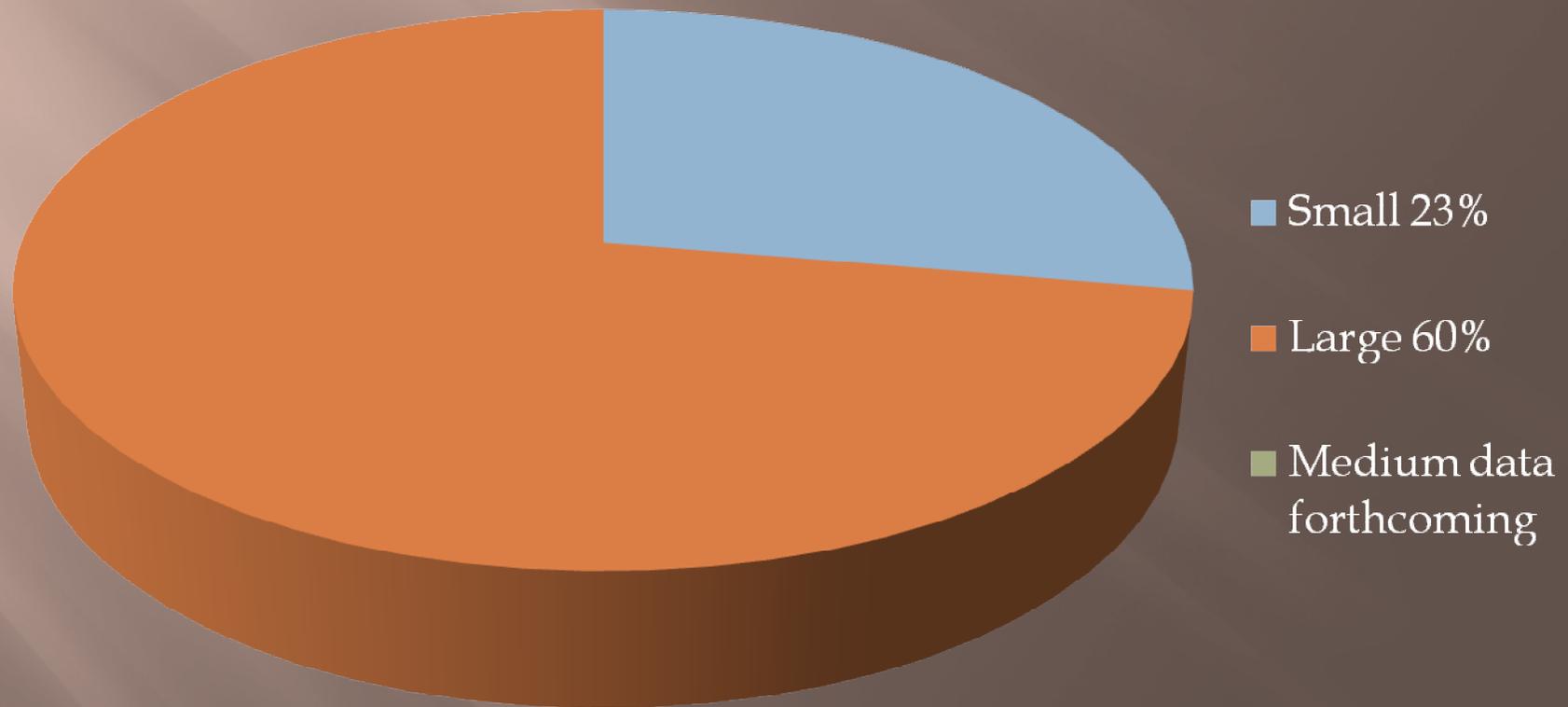
## Assistance to Social Enterprise and/or community business



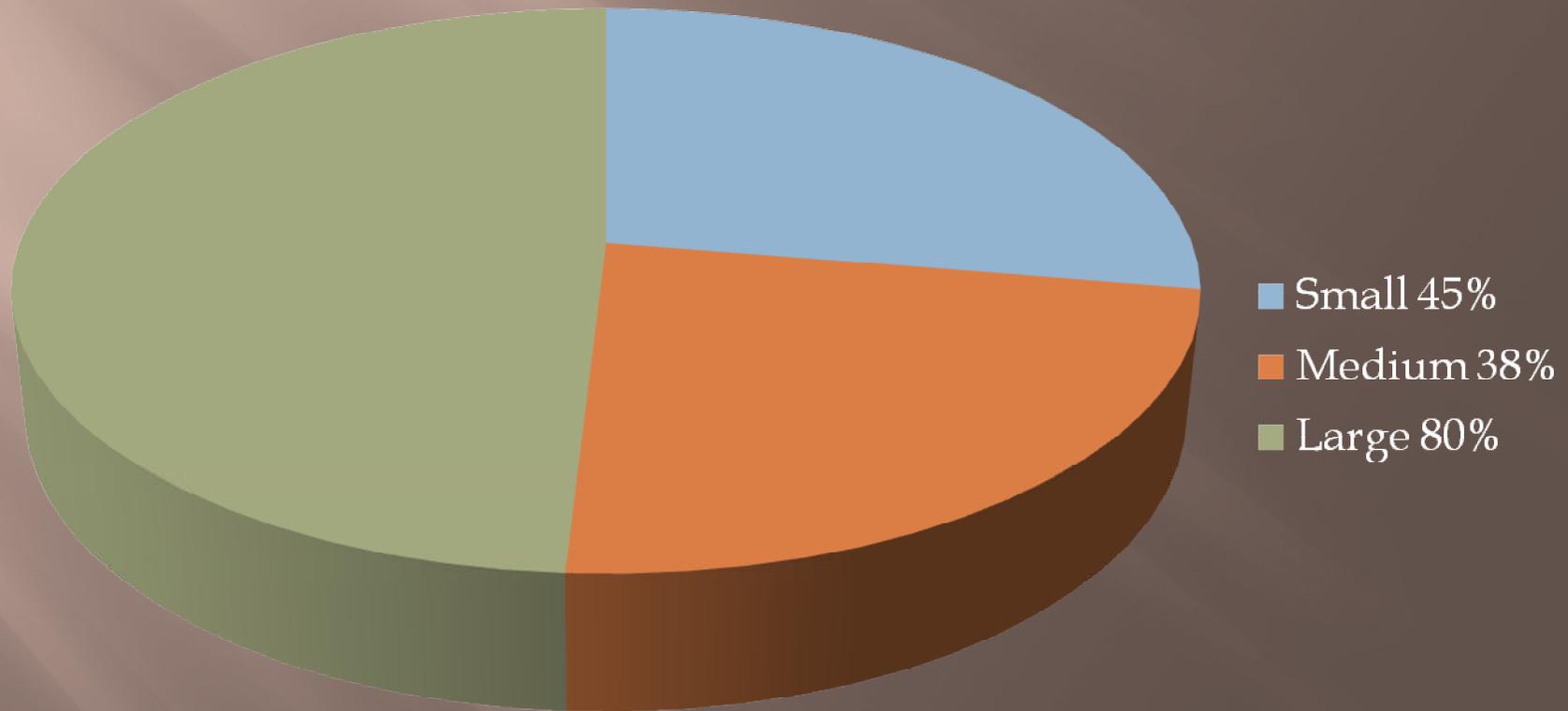
## Social/Ethical/Green Purchasing Policy or Practice



## Community Sustainability Planning



## Alternative Energy Generation



# Framework Case Examples

- Strong and Integrated: Mission B.C.
- Linking and Leveraging: Winnipeg Manitoba
- Coffee Shop: Nipigon, ON

# Role Case Examples

- Policy: Edmonton AB. - non profit leasing guidelines
- In-kind Support: Medicine Hat AB. -directory of local food producers
- Research and Planning: Vancouver BC - Cultural planning

# Role Case Examples

- Human and Social Capital Development: Port Alberni BC - make training available to community
- Procurement: Calgary AB. - Sustainable Environmental and Ethical procurement policy

# Challenges

- Language barriers
- Limited municipal engagement
- Structural barriers

# Further Research Opportunities

- ▣ SE and CED practitioner perspectives on Local Government supports
- ▣ First Nation community support of SE and CED

# Opportunities –Moving Forward

- ▣ Alignment with other municipal organizations
- ▣ Urgency around Sustainability
- ▣ Emerging federal and provincial funding programs and priorities