



The Canadian CED Network  
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## Building a People Centered Economy



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## World Social Forum Belem, Amazonia, Brazil

“Another World is Possible, Another  
Economy is Necessary”

Over 100 workshops on Building a  
Solidarity Economy, 100,000  
participants.

Indigenous leadership of alternative  
models of development



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## **CCEDNet led Initiative in Canada**

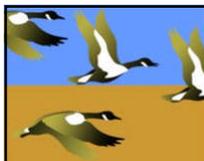
Building a People Centred  
Economy to respond to:

The economic crisis

The social crisis

Climate change

Indigenous and human justice



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## **Social Economy Research**

**National research program involving over  
300 community and university based  
researchers, funded by SSHRC.**

**National Hub co-led by CCEDNet and  
University of Victoria.**

**Six regional centres including SERNNOCa in  
North.**



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## **Social Economy Research**

**Mixed economy in Canada has always included private, state and third sector “social economy” (non profit, credit union, coop, traditional and association based production of goods and services for human and community benefit). Social economy represents over 12% of GDP and an even larger contribution to sustainable livelihoods and employment.**



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## **Social Economy Research**

**Economic downturn, social challenges and climate change have spurred interest in both reforming economic regulation generally and need for alternative models of development that integrate social, economic, environmental and human needs, using the social economy...a people-centred approach.**



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## Social Economy Research

**Environmental crisis, peak oil, climate change continuing unabated: Maldives, Bangladesh, Northern Territories, Arctic, Andes. Need for Re-localization of economies and community-based solutions (see Lewis and Conaty, The Great Transition, BC Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance)**



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## Social Economy Research

**Social and human development strategies at the international level failing e.g. Global Millennium Development Goals. New alternatives being pursued (e.g. South America). Poverty reduction strategies in Canada lack national coherence/legislated mandates outside of Quebec.**

**<http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/povertyplan>**



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## Social Economy Research

- International literature review
- Advancing the Social Economy for Socio-economic Development Crystal Tremblay
- Analysis of key policy instruments and their potential outcomes for public policy inclusive of co-construction opportunities and needs
- Draft analysis of next steps to strengthen the policy environment in Canada



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## Social Economy Research

- Engagement with stakeholders on how to strengthen the public policy environment
- Final report submitted to Summit on People Centered Economy May 2010 Ottawa to provide evidence-based input to mapping a common policy agenda for Canada



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## Findings

- Economic, social and environmental crises spurring convergence of civil society around concept of social/solidarity economy
- Growing networks (national and international) for practitioners, research and policy development
- Increasing governmental policy support BUT policy paradigms far behind socio-economic models being created



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## Findings

“There is a growing global movement to advance concepts and frameworks of the Social Economy (SE) as a way to address increasing inequality of social, health, economic and ecological conditions, to provide alternative solutions to the perceived failure of neo-liberal dominated globalisation and to address the weakening social capital of communities.” p.10



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## Findings

- “the level of development that the sector achieves is directly correlated to the nature of the supportive environment, the strength of the sector infrastructure, and government commitment toward enabling the development of this environment and infrastructure through policy, programming, and funding.” p. 35 from Adeler, 2009.



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## Findings

### Major initiatives globally

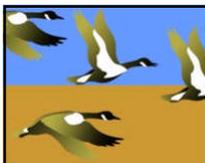
- Social Economy Europe
- US White House Office of Social Innovation, \$50 m Fund, CED financing from Stimulus.
- UK Third Sector initiative
- Latin American “Economia Solidaria” initiatives
- Asian Solidarity Economy Network
- African SE initiatives (Mali, Senegal, S. Africa)



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## Findings

- Range of policy outcomes being promoted
- “Species capacity to act for fusion of economic, social and ecological goals”
- Ending poverty and social exclusion
- Addressing climate change, peak oil and ecological sustainability “re-localizing”
- Changing economic systems of capital, trade and financing – pluralistic and people-centered economy



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## Outcomes

- Territorial (community and regional) development, urban, rural, northern
- Inclusion for disadvantaged populations
- Human, social and economic development (micro-credit, local currencies, social enterprises, social financing, procurement)
- Indigenous self determination and sustainable livelihoods
- Unique role of SE in key sectors



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## Policy Instruments

- Constitutional measures that guarantee rights in a plural economy (Ecuador, Bolivia.)
- Political responsibility and structure across government (e.g. Brazil, Venezuela, Europe)
- Legislation of state requirements and structures to support the SE (Brazil)
- Policy framework explicitly supporting SE by government (Quebec, EU, Belgium)



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## Policy Instruments

- Program funding to SE organizations (EU, Quebec, Manitoba)
- Supports for social enterprise development, and sector-wide governance
- Legislation of legal forms for SE organizations (Mexico, Brazil, UK, Italy)
- Access to capital, financial and tax benefits
- Procurement policies advantaging SE organizations (e.g. Italy, France)



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## Canada

- Lagging behind other jurisdictions since cancellation of Federal Initiative
- Stimulus/economic action plan not reaching the people and communities who need it
- No federal poverty reduction strategy
- Agricultural policies out of step with public demand for local safe food production
- Major gaps in sustainable development, climate change
- Communities = infrastructure



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## Canada

BUT

- Growth in Social Enterprise and Coop Development
- Fair trade (international and local) growth
- Food sovereignty movement
- Provincial linkages to poverty reduction
- Quebec and Manitoba strategies
- Municipal strategies (Montreal, Edmonton)
- Renewable energy initiatives (Ontario)



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## Lessons for Our Work

- Higher end governmental policy advances linked to united movement of SE actors
- Key components in building that unity:
  - **Building identity and self recognition within a wider movement/system with shared values**
  - **Credible public face related to public interest (not self interest) – “valeur adjoutee”**
  - **Purposeful inclusion of indigenous peoples, labour, social and environmental movements**
  - **Policy-relevant action research**



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## What are we part of ?

NOT ALONE: A global movement that is growing in strength, recognition and the means to influence our mutual objectives

A global movement that is united in its values and creating a respectful space for dialogue and co-organizing (defining our identity as we work to create change)

Conscious “fusion” of social, economic, and environmental goals as a platform for global local change building from the grassroots



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## What are we part of ?

IN CANADA: Agreement by key national partners to convene a Summit on Building a People-Centred Economy, Ottawa 2010

Social Economy Research to feed in key inputs

Need for:

Outreach to regions, sectors and actors.

Dialogue with governments

International and local lessons

Practitioner voice on what is needed



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## Questions

- **What key policy initiatives could further develop the social economy ?**
- **How can we build greater cooperation on influencing policy amongst actors in the social economy ?**
- **What would you propose to the summit on a people-centered economy in May 2010 ?**



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More information on our  
activities:

**[www.ccednet-rcdec.ca](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca)**  
**[www.socialeconomyhub.ca](http://www.socialeconomyhub.ca)**