

Community reinvestment and the challenges of scaling up the social economy

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Outline

- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Research team: BALTA
- ▶ Social economy
- ▶ Re-investment
- ▶ Preliminary findings
- ▶ Conclusion, questions

Purpose and Methods

- ▶ Examine the issue of community re-investment from a social economy perspective
- ▶ Literature review: affordable housing, human services, natural resources, evaluation
- ▶ Ongoing research process

BALTA

1. What are the scope and characteristics of the social economy in BC and Alberta?
2. What are the scope and characteristics of social economy innovations that are achieving demonstrable social and economic results?
3. What are the key opportunities and constraints for adapting and scaling-up?

Social Economy

- ▶ *Social economy organizations are those organizations whose members are animated by the principle of reciprocity for the pursuit of mutual economic or social goals, often through the social control of capital.*

BC, Alberta Context

- ▶ Resource-based economy
- ▶ Industrial restructuring
- ▶ Political restructuring and downloading
- ▶ Fiscal and regulatory challenges associated with community re-investment

Re-Investment

- ▶ Using or applying benefits created through prior investment or exploitation for community purposes
- 1. Place-based
- 2. Net benefits (i.e. multiple “capitals”)

Findings: Rural

- ▶ Many SE examples, mechanisms
- ▶ Addressing rural market failures
- ▶ Variety of “benefits”: skills development, job creation, participation, social cohesion
- ▶ Examples: community resource management, renewable energy, ecotourism, innovative partnerships

Findings: Constraints

- ▶ Organizational and leadership capacity
- ▶ Scale
- ▶ Access to capital
- ▶ Access to resources
- ▶ Lack of systematic transformation
- ▶ Is it simply more challenging?

Challenges

- ▶ Balance individual and collective re-investment
- ▶ Social enterprise mix
- ▶ Risk and diversity (constant)
- ▶ Operationalize non-market valuation of re-investable benefits

Conclusion

- ▶ Creating scale
- ▶ Role of local government?
- ▶ Research gaps - in the field
- ▶ BALTA: research, networking, capacity building

Discussion.

Thank You.

