Work Stoppages in Social Economy Organizations: Dimension, Causes and Beyond
Project #26

Kunle Akingbola
oakingbola@oise.utoronto.ca:
Date: May 1-2, 2008
The study examines the scale, duration and dimension of work stoppages in SEOs in Ontario.

Explains the contextual dimension by examining the causes and implications of work stoppages for clients, employees, and community.
Background and Rationale

- Is explanation of work stoppages in SEO consistent with the collective voice
- Are labour disputes indication of social movement unionism
Project Methodology

- Quantitative data
- Data on work stoppages between 1994 and 2005 from the Ontario Ministry of Labour
- Types: i) nonprofits and cooperatives; ii) private, municipal, provincial, federal and various; iii) Association Canada categories:
- Simple descriptive statistics and regression analysis for research questions 1 to 3
Main Findings/Deliverables

- SEOs lost 490,190 persons days to 196 work stoppages resulting from labour disputes.
- Size related to work stoppages $R^2 = .07$. adjusted $R^2 = .07$. $p < .01$.
- Small organizations more prone to labour disputes.
- Highest person days lost in 1996, 1998 and 2000
- Coincided with downsizing in public sector, downloading to nonprofits and new funding regime
Implications for the Social Economy

- Public services are affected by work stoppages
- Absence of binding arbitration as in HLDAA
- Issue of ability to pay
How Students Benefited from the Project

- Research experience
- Data collection
- Statistical analysis
Conclusions and Next Steps

- Manuscript under review
- Presentation at conferences