CAPACITY BUILDING (CB) IN COMMUNITY UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ALLIANCES:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS DEVELOP THEIR OWN INDICATORS

The Watershed Project

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The Watershed Project

~ 20 Watershed groups in New Brunswick

- **common thread**: watershed = working unit

- **common themes**: water quality, sustainable development, quality of life, community
Developing and working in partnership is part of a group MAKEUP and a big part of SURVIVAL.
• Because of previous involvement with Dr. Omer Chouinard, Université de Moncton, we were invited to become partners of the Social Economy team.

• The Watershed research project was developed to more fully understand and eventually measure watershed groups’ contribution to the social economy.
• **Phase 1 Highlights:**
  
  - Variety of **financial** (14) and **non-financial** (16) contributors
  
  - **Workforce** paid (60) and volunteer (up to 200)
  
  - **Partnerships** (+10 sectors)
  
  - Variety of **products** and **services** (10) to varied clientèle (+14)
• **Phase 2**
• put a $value to project activities \( e_i \): remediation of defective wastewater systems)

- develop a ‘tool /template’ for groups to calculate their SE contribution by activity
• Because of groups’ presence CB happens in communities ex:
  – Water quality projects
  – Faulty septic remediation programs
  – Public information sessions
  – Climate change adapt.

• Community members feel part of the solution to their own wellbeing and therefore agree to take part in and take on projects.
• Some lessons learned (re CB):
  • **Importance and power**
    – of public participation
    – of volunteer involvement
  • Communities are empowered when provided with **tools**
  • Better understanding of com-uni research (types of projects and each other’s roles)
Some lessons learned (re CB) during the research partnership:

• Very demanding process
• Need to meet and discuss regularly
• Important to be open minded and listen
• Language and interpretation barriers are real
• Important to understand each other’s role
• **Capacity Building measures**

• Capacity to evaluate the learning and choose a different method if needed

• Capacity to engage in action and research with other groups

• Capacity to realize that all groups are not at the same level of understanding
• **Capacity Building measures**

• Capacity to develop new partnerships

• # projects (ongoing and new)

• # involved citizens (same and new)

• *CB is different and unique to each project and each area*
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