



COADY
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY
Igniting Leadership

EDUCATION FOR COOPERATION: THE EVOLUTION OF THE COADY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

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Coady International Institute

Presentation for Cooperating to Build a Better Nova
Scotia conference,

Mount St.Vincent University, Halifax, November 23,
2012

The Coady Institute

Roots: The Extension Department of St. Francis Xavier University and The Antigonish Movement of the 1930s

- ❑ Promotion of formal cooperatives and credit unions
- ❑ Accompanied by adult education

Role: Education for Leadership and Action for development professionals from all over the world, especially the Global South



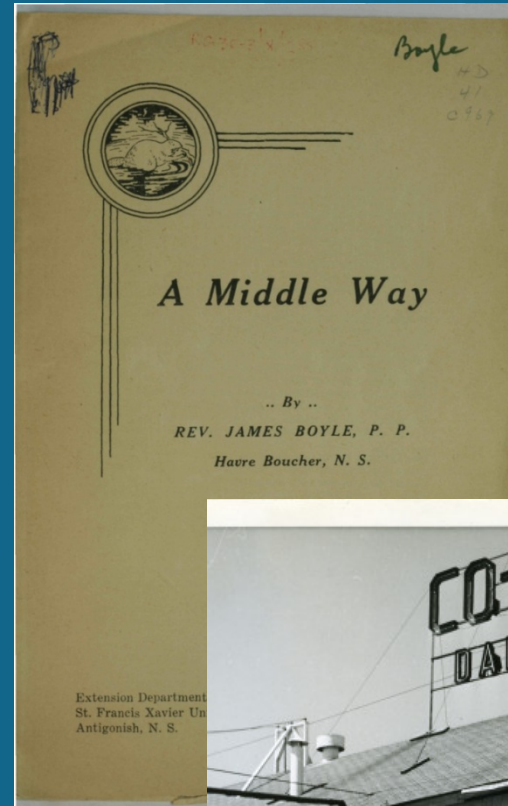
Masters of Their Own Destiny

When you stop
pioneering, you die.
~ MM Coady



Context of pre war movement

- 1920s : Great depression accentuates widespread poverty and rural outmigration in Northeastern NS
- “Crisis of capitalism” “spectre of communism”
- Emerging international movement of cooperative organizing - Rochdale
- Emerging programs in adult education – workers’ education , folk schools



THE PROGRESS

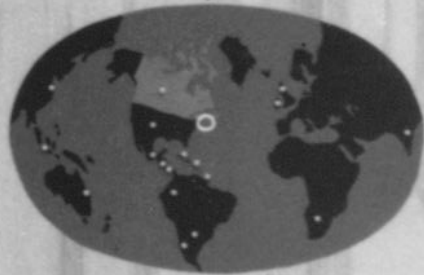
1929 - 1949

THE MARITIME



THE PROGRESS
1929 - 1949
THE MARITIME

50,000
1,250,
100,0
EXT



AREAS INFLUENCED

Post war..... Decline of coops

- With some exceptions, in Nova Scotia:
- "The movement was no longer mobilizing people made captive to economic depression and lack of opportunities" MacInnes, 1982, cited in Kearney et al. (2001)

The Coady Institute: 1959-70

- Interest in the coop movement from the Global South
- *Context:*
 - Asia and Africa:** Post independence, centralized states feeling tug of Cold War
 - Latin America:** Land reform, indigenous rights, liberation theology
- 9 month diploma program:
 - cooperatives, credit unions, community development



The People
Learn about the people who helped to spread the Antigonish Movement and its message around the globe



Coady Institute: 1970s

- Demise of cooperatives in Global South, rise of NGO sector, and international development profession
- Aid and FDI flows high (petrodollars)
- Training in “nuts and bolts” of development practice for meeting basic needs
- Graduates were “functionaries not visionaries” of a basic needs approach (MacInnes)
- Legacy of the Antigonish movement and its principles

1980s – 90s

Context:

Debt crisis, structural adjustment, roll back of the state (and state sponsored coops), rise of neoliberalism



Educational programs

- Savings and credit organizations; micro-finance
- Greater emphasis on collective action, advocacy and rights-based approaches



Current focus

- ❑ Collective action broadly: Organizing to claim economic as well as political space
- ❑ Innovative types of member-based organizations: new expressions of mutualism, new hybrids.
- ❑ Linking local to global, i.e. common trends in current “crisis of capitalism”: resurgence of interest in social and solidarity economies
- ❑ Young leaders in Canada and around the world
- ❑ Examples: <http://www.coady.stfx.ca/>

Innovation in cooperation

What we are seeing globally

Innovative hybrids:

- MBO + private sector:
 - Producer companies, India
- MBO + state:
 - Forest user groups, Nepal
- MBO (mutual interest) + NGO (public orientation)
 - Community Foundations, South Africa
 - Community Based Institutions, Ethiopia
- Informal-formal
 - SHG-Bank linkages

**New forms of common property
resource management**



Transnational linkages:

- Cross border trading associations
- Integration into fair trade regimes
- Transnational social movements

Education for Active Citizenship: Collective action

- *Citizens*
 - *organizing to produce community*
 - *co-producing services*
 - *organising to gain access to the mainstream economy*
 - *identifying ways to “take back the economy,”*
 - *mobilising to create and occupy economic and political space*



Echoes of economic crisis: Contemporary issues

1930s.....

Depression,
outmigration, failure of
“trickle down”

Questioning the economic
paradigm: cooperativism
as a “third way”

2000s

- “Limits of growth”?
Recession. Increasing
inequality
- Challenging the
economic paradigm:
Diversification,
solidarity and no
growth economies?

Solidarity Economy:

“The way we consume defines the kind of society we want”



April 2012

What they are saying....

- “We are living at a time of profound transformation. The information and communication revolution, widespread concerns about private sector greed, public sector finances and impending climate chaos present a wide range of possibilities for cooperative expansion...
- But the sector is not yet ready to take up these opportunities. It needs to be more innovative, more integrated, more internationalist, to get better infrastructure and to find ‘the idea’ that can mobilise support for co-operation. .”
 - Robin Murray: *Cooperatives in the Age of Google*

Back to North America

- www.citizenledchange.ca

Citizen-Led Sustainable Change:

Innovations in North American Community Development

June 23 - 25, 2013 Antigonish, NS | Canada



References

- Mathie, A. and Kearney, J. (2001). *Past, present and future: Educating for Social Change at the Coady International Institute*. Occasional paper series, No. 1. http://www.coady.stfx.ca/tinroom/assets/file/resources/publications/1_Past_Present_Future.pdf
- Murray, R. (2010). Co-operation in the age of google. Co-operatives UK. <http://www.uk.coop/system/files/Cooperation%20in%20the%20Age%20of%20Google.pdf>
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