



# Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network Partenariat sur l'économie sociale et la durabilité

Bridging, Bonding, and Building / Renforcement des liens et des capacités

## MESSAGE FROM NETWORK DIRECTOR MESSAGE DE LA DIRECTRICE DU PARTENARIAT DR. LESLIE BROWN



### The SES/ÉSD Network

is premised on active partnership – in research and dissemination activities, and in the governance of our network. Since our first team meeting in 2006, we have come a long way toward our goals of generating and mobilizing knowledge about the social economy. Approximately 100 team members have coalesced within six sub-nodes, and more than 30 students have contributed to our work. Over 20 research projects are

underway or completed, and a wide variety of learning and dissemination events have taken place. Members of the network have contributed to over a dozen conferences, addressing a wide range of audiences and generating regional, national and international contacts. Our work is confirming that the region's social economy undertakings are vital for the continued well-being of its people, and for ongoing sustainable development. It demonstrates the "value added" of using the framework and language of the social economy. Together we are creating social and intellectual capital that will contribute to the success of the SE in our region. And we are only at the half way mark of our current funding! I hope you enjoy this inaugural newsletter - we welcome your ideas and comments.

Leslie Brown is a Professor in the Sociology/Anthropology Department at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS.

### Le partenariat SES/ÉSD

a été fondé sur le principe d'un réseau de partenaires actifs qui poursuivent des activités de recherche et de diffusion et s'impliquent dans sa gouvernance. Depuis la première rencontre des membres du partenariat en 2006, nous avons déjà parcouru un long chemin vers notre objectif, qui est de générer et de mobiliser une meilleure compréhension de l'économie sociale. À ce jour, plus d'une centaine de membres du partenariat s'activent dans les six sous-centres et plus de 30 étudiants ont déjà contribué à notre travail; plus de vingt projets de recherche sont actuellement en cours ou sont déjà terminés et une grande variété d'activités d'apprentissage et de diffusion ont été organisées. Les membres du partenariat ont contribué à plus d'une douzaine de conférences, au cours desquelles ils se sont adressés à des auditoires variés et ont formé des liens aux niveaux régional, national et international. Notre travail

confirme que nos activités en matière d'économie sociale dans notre région sont vitales pour le bien-être continu de nos citoyens et pour la continuité du développement durable dans la région. Il démontre la « valeur ajoutée » que l'on obtient lorsqu'on oeuvre au sein du cadre général et du langage de l'économie sociale. Tous ensemble, nous mettons sur pied un capital social et intellectuel qui contribuera à la réussite de l'économie sociale dans la région. Et nous n'en sommes qu'à mi-parcours de notre subvention actuelle! J'espère que vous aurez plaisir à lire ce bulletin inaugural et je vous invite à me faire part de vos idées et de vos commentaires.

Leslie Brown est professeure titulaire au département de sociologie/anthropologie de l'Université Mount Saint Vincent, Halifax (N.-É.).

## RESEARCH DISSEMINATION!

With many of our research projects in their second year of implementation, we will employ this newsletter format (among other dissemination tools) to keep our members and friends up-to-date on research findings and other Network activities.

Each newsletter will feature

profiles of research projects, students, community, academic or government partners. Special Editions will focus on particular research themes or individual projects and SNs.

The newsletter is prepared by the Network Coordinator, Noreen Millar, with assistance

from Communications Assistant, Geoff Kennedy, through the Node office of the SES/ÉSD Network at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, NS.

Thanks to all who cooperated with us to develop the contents of our first edition!

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Dr. Luc Thériault

## SUB-NODE 1 - MAPPING AND POLICY ANALYSIS

SN1 is coordinated by Dr. Luc Thériault in the Department of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, NB. (<http://www.unbf.ca/arts/Soci/main.php>) SN1 is working on two separate but related tasks that will increase our understanding of the social economy in Atlantic Canada. “Mapping” is the process of describing the SE and

building a regional profile of some of its components. This descriptive objective may also involve the production of actual maps in an effort to clarify the portrait of the Atlantic social economy. “Policy” research is the process of scanning, describing, discussing, critically analyzing, and proposing policies that may affect the development of the social econ-

omy (or of some of its components) in Atlantic Canada. Check out other SN1 details: <http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/English/rc%20sn1%20mapping%20policy%20analysis%20en.asp>

Look for an upcoming Special Edition of the Network newsletter on the *Survey of Co-ops and Credit Unions*—data analysis now underway!

## SUB-NODE 2 - MOBILIZATION - INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT



Dr. Irené Novaczek

SN2 is coordinated by Dr. Irené Novaczek at the Institute of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, PEI. (<http://www.upei.ca/islandstudies/>) SN 2 is focused on community mobilization around issues of inclusion and empowerment. Partners in SN2 work on the *inclusion*

*of immigrants* into PEI society and the economy, *gender equity, aboriginal rights*, access to information for *local governance*, educational opportunities for people with *learning disabilities*, poverty alleviation, empowerment of small-scale *organic farmers* through partnerships, co-ops as a vehicle for *ru-*

*ral women’s economic development*, inclusion of women in *fisheries management*, services for *victims of family violence* and *youth at risk*. Check out other SN2 details: <http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/English/rc%20sn2%20mobilization%20inclusion%20empowerment%20en.asp>

## SUB-NODE 3—MOBILIZATION – FOOD SECURITY AND CED



Dr. Patricia Williams

SN3 is coordinated by Dr. Patty Williams in the Department of Applied Human Nutrition at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, NS. (<http://www.msvu.ca/nutrition/index.asp>) SN 3 has, as its overall objective, a commitment to mobilization around a common concern for food security and community economic development.

According to the Dietitians of Canada (2000) “community food security exists when all community residents obtain a safe, personally acceptable, nutritious diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes healthy choices, community self-reliance, and equal access for everyone.” SN3 has been working on two main projects in Hants, Kings

and Annapolis counties: *Kids Action Program (KAP) Food Box Evaluation* and *Forum on Community Food Security and the Social Economy* (Nov. 2007). Check out other SN3 details: <http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/English/rc%20sn3%20mobilization%20food%20security%20CED%20en.asp>



Dr. Omer Chouinard

## SUB-NODE 4 - MOBILIZATION FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND LIVELIHOOD

SN4 is coordinated by Dr. Omer Chouinard in the Department of Sociology at the Université de Moncton, NB. (<http://www3.umoncton.ca/>)

SN 4 is focused on mobilization around control over natural resources and livelihood, centering environmental issues and sustainability of communities through the generation of

employment. In Year 2, a number of events and activities were organized around three main research projects involving *watershed groups*, *forestry* and an *agricultural co-operative*. Other projects are under development. Discussion forums were held to validate research results and in response to community groups' need

to understand the term "social economy", and its importance to them. SN4 will increase capacity of community groups to manage forestry, agricultural land, coastal water and watershed resources. Check out other SN4 details: <http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/English/rc%20sn4%20mobilization%20natural%20resources%20en.asp>



Dr. Sonja Novkovic

## SUB-NODE 5 - FINANCING AND MEASURING PERFORMANCE

SN5 is co-coordinated by Dr. Sonja Novkovic in the Department of Economics, and Dr. Judy Haiven in the Management Department, at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, NS. (<http://www.smu.ca/academic/sobey/faculty/faculty-economics.html>)

and <http://www.smu.ca/academic/sobey/faculty/faculty-management.html>)

SN5 projects focus on co-operatives (management/labour relations), measurement, and finance. The "performance measurement" project has resulted in changes for the research partner in the strategic plan and other aspects of their organization. Another project on *co-operative accounting* has attracted

funding to Saint Mary's University to set up a *Centre of Excellence in Co-op Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives*. Check out other SN5 details: <http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/English/rc%20sn5%20financing%20measuring%20performance%20en.asp>



Dr. Judith Haiven

## SUB-NODE 6 - COMMUNICATION PRACTICES AND TOOLS

SN6 is co-coordinated by Mrs. Penelope Rowe, CEO of the Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador, and Dr. Ivan Emke, of Social/Cultural Studies at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, the Corner Brook campus of the Memorial University of Newfoundland.

(<http://www.envision.ca/templates/aboutcsc.asp?ID=61> and [http://www.swgc.mun.ca/soc\\_cultural/](http://www.swgc.mun.ca/soc_cultural/)) While sharing the objectives of the Network, SN6's specific objectives are understanding and facilitating innovative use of technology (old and new) in SE organizations. In Year 2, SN6 introduced a *web community tech-*

*nology* for the Network and a SN6 partner organization, and is studying its adoption and impact of these technologies on the user groups. Check out other SN6 details: <http://www.msvu.ca/socialeconomyatlantic/English/rc%20sn6%20communication%20practice%20tools%20en.asp>



Mrs. Penelope Rowe



Dr. Ivan Emke

## SOME CONFERENCE PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS: REGIONAL, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL

### CCEDNet



**Canadian Community Economic Development Network National Conference.** Bring It Home: Building Communities on a Rock Foundation, April 18-21, 2007, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. Team members had a strong presence at this conference, organizing "what is the social economy" and "capacity-building" sessions, along with presentations from SN research projects. Conference presentations are available at: <http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/?q=en/conference/past/2007>

**Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences - Bridging Communities: Making Public Knowledge, Making Knowledge Public**, May 26-June 2, 2007, Saskatoon, SK. A number of our team mem-

bers, including two students, attended the various association meetings at Congress this past summer. In particular, Co-operatives and Innovation: Influencing the Social Economy (the joint meeting of the *Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC)*, the *Association of Co-operative Educators (ACE)*, and the *International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Research Forum*) drew wide participation from our members. For that program, check out this link: <http://www.usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy/Congress2007/program>

**First International CIRIEC Conference on the Social Economy** - Oct. 22-25, 2007, Victoria, BC. The Network funded a number of partners to attend this conference. Conference papers are

available at: [http://conference.se-es.ca/?page\\_id=83](http://conference.se-es.ca/?page_id=83)

**International Assoc. for Feminist Economics** - 16th Annual conference - June 2007, Bangkok, Thailand. SN2 partner, Michelle Harris Genge (Women's Network PEI, Inc.) presented a paper prepared with Kirstin Lund (*Looking Beyond the Surface: An In-Depth Review of Parental Benefits*). The full conference program is available at: <http://www.iaffe.org/conferences/annual/index.php> with individual presentations to be posted at a later date.

There have been many other presentations to date, and the Network's public website will soon host a variety of conference papers and other research dissemination items!



Group of development durable du Pays de Cocagne - kids discovering habitat and the environment while on a field trip to learn about sedimentation and how this affects fish and other aquatic life

**Profil du projet de recherche** - Analyse descriptive du modèle des organismes communautaires de gestion par bassin versant du Nouveau-Brunswick dans une perspective d'économie sociale (SC4)

Partenaires: Patrick Émond, Groupe du coordination du Bassin versant de Cap-Pelé; Jocelyne Gauvin, Groupe de développement durable du Pays de Cocagne; Nadine Gauvin, Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du Golfe du Saint-Laurent; Jean Lambert, Secrétariat Rural; Omer Chouinard, Pierre-Marcel Desjardins et Maurice Beaudin - U de Moncton; Étudian-

tes : Monique Langis et Monique Brideau, U de Moncton. Première partie (terminée): inventaire des organismes à but non lucratif travaillant à l'échelle de bassin versant au N-B; identification des différences et des similitudes entre le modèle d'entreprise d'économie sociale classique et le modèle d'organisme de gestion par bassin versant; identification de la contribution des

organismes de bassin versant à l'économie sociale au N-B. Résultats présentés à la conférence CIRIEC (Vancouver, BC 2007). Deuxième partie : analyse et synthèse de l'information (en cours). Projet subventionné par le Partenaire et d'autres sources de financement. À venir : autres détails sur les projets du SC 4; recherches menées dans d'autres sou-centres.

## STUDENT PROFILE - JESSICA PENNER (SN3 GRAD RA 2007-08 )

Jessica Penner is passionate about food security, poverty and international development! She developed a special interest in these topics when she completed her BA in International Development Studies at Univ. of Guelph.

“One course picqued my interest,” Penner says, “and it helped me to understand the politics surrounding food security—both accessing and producing food. This became a focus for my graduate stud-

ies as it was the first topic that I felt passionate about.”

Penner is now in her second year of graduate studies at Saint Mary’s university and has been employed as a Research Assistant with Subnode 3 since January 2007.

She has been working on the SN3 Food Box Project, which is evaluating a community organization-delivered food box program in Kings and Hants counties in rural Nova Scotia. Jessica has enjoyed

this work immensely and found her experiences to be very beneficial, personally and academically.

“I’ve really enjoyed working with the research team and being involved in participatory action research. I’ve been able to gain skills that I will be able to apply to future jobs”.

Penner is looking forward to finishing her degree and continuing to work with the Network on the SN3 project.



Jessica Penner—2nd year Master of Arts Student, International Development Studies, SMU; SN3 Grad RA.

## COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE - WOMEN’S NETWORK PEI, INC. (SN2)

Women's Network PEI is a grass-roots, not-for-profit organization that works to strengthen and support the efforts of PEI women to improve the status of women in our society. Women's Network PEI was founded in 1981 and incorporated on May 31, 1984. The organization grew up around *Common Ground*, a magazine telling the stories of PEI women. The

organization operates largely on donations and project-based funding from a variety of government and other sources, and membership fees. WNPEI became a member of SN2 in relation to their analysis of **parental benefits legislation** and its impacts on local women. Volunteer efforts have also developed **BORN** (Birth Options Research Network), which is

dedicated to promoting women’s choices in birthing services, and past projects have included **Creating Safer Communities for Women with Disabilities** and **Youth-Led Sexual Health Policy on PEI**, among others. For more information on this dynamic organization, visit their website at: <http://www.wnpei.org/>



Michelle MacCallum, Co-Executive Director, WNPEI



## ACADEMIC PARTNER PROFILE - DR. LUC THÉRIAULT (SN1 COORDINATOR )

Dr. Thériault settled in New Brunswick in 2005 after leaving Regina where he held an academic appointment in Social Work. He joined the SE Network shortly after arriving at UNB. He is Coordinator of SN1 and a Network Co-Director.

“It was a perfect opportunity for me to make new contacts here in the Atlantic prov-

inces,” says Thériault. “I was already studying non-profits and co-operatives in Saskatchewan, so it made sense to join the Social Economy Network.”

To date, he has been actively involved in a major SN1 project, a survey of 296 of Atlantic Canada’s co-ops and credit unions. This project is significant for this region, he says,

“because nobody has quality information in Atlantic Canada about the state of the co-op sector. Our survey should contribute to resolve this in part, at least for a while.”

Luc is one of three PI’s on this project, along with Leslie Brown, and Ron Skibbens (Inspector of Co-ops, Service NS and Municipal Relations). Look for survey results soon!



Dr. Luc Thériault, Assoc. Professor, Sociology, UNB; SN1 Coordinator and Network Co-Director.

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**The Atlantic Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network** is a multiple partner, Atlantic-wide research network. It is the Atlantic Node of the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships (CSERP), and is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), 2005-2010.



## OUR PARTNERS

### Community Partners from:

Saint John Community Loan Fund, Saint John, NB  
Canadian Community Economic Development Network  
Consumers Community Cooperative, NS  
La coopérative agricole de la Récolte de Chez-Nous-The Really Local agricultural cooperative, Cocagne, NB  
Cooper Institute, PEI  
Canadian Community Investment Network Co-op  
Pecten Union des pêcheurs de Maritimes / Maritime Fishermen's Union  
Quality of Island Life Cooperative, PEI  
Mobilizing Youth for the Delivery of Advisory Services  
Coop de Développement Régional Acadie, N-B  
Fogo Island Co-op, NL  
Groupe du bassin versant de la région de Cap-Pelé, N-B  
Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Cooperatives  
Groupe de développement durable du pays de Cocagne, N-B  
Coalition pour la Viabilité du Sud du Golfe du St-Laurent  
Imagine Canada  
PEI Council of the Disabled, PEI  
Citizen-Farmer Co-op, PEI  
Coop. forestière de McKendrick, N-B  
La coopérative travailleurs forestiers, N-B  
Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation  
Hillsborough Promoters, PEI  
Halifax Independent School, Halifax, NS  
Assoc. des propriétaires de lots boisés du N-B  
PolicyLink NB  
Prince Edward Island Association for Newcomers to Canada  
Community Education Network of Southwestern Nfld.  
Community Services Council Newfoundland and

Labrador  
CO-OP Lamèque, N-B  
Launching Entrepreneurial Advantage for Parents Co-op, PEI  
Paq'tnkek Fish and Wildlife Society, NS  
Kids Action Program, Kentville, NS  
SAGE, Inc., PEI  
Cooperative Management Education Co-op  
Women's Network PEI, Inc.  
Chinese Canadian Association of PEI  
Women for Environmental Sustainability, PEI  
Trout River Environmental Committee Ltd., PEI  
Elders Council, Elsipogtog First Nation, Big Cove, NB  
Municipality of Tyne Valley, PEI  
FEED NOVA SCOTIA  
Learning Disabilities Association of Prince Edward Island  
Nova Scotia Association of Community Business Development Corporations

### University Partners from:

**Mount Saint Vincent University**, Halifax, NS – Sociology/ Anthropology, Applied Human Nutrition, Business Admin & Tourism & Hospitality Management, Family Studies/Gerontology, Child and Youth Study, Women's Studies, Modern Languages  
Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS - School of Business Administration  
**University of New Brunswick**, Fredericton, NB – Sociology, Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre  
**University of Prince Edward Island**, Charlottetown, PEI – Institute of Island Studies, Sociology/ Anthropology, Philosophy, Psychology, History, Economics, Nursing, PEI Centre on Health and Aging  
**Université de Moncton**, Moncton, N-B – Sociologie, Économie; campus de Shippagan - Arts et Sciences Sociales; campus d'Edmundston – Foresterie  
**Saint Mary's University**, Halifax, NS – Economics, Management, Psychology, Masters of Management (Co-operatives & Credit Unions)  
**Memorial University of Newfoundland**, St. John's, NL – Geography, Women's Studies; Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook - Social/Cultural

### Studies

**Acadia University**, Wolfville, NS - Fred C. Manning School of Business Administration  
**Saint Francis Xavier University**, Antigonish, NS - Anthropology  
**Stirling University**, Scotland – Applied Social Science  
**University of Saskatchewan** – History, Center for the Study of Cooperatives  
**Université du Québec à Montréal** - Sociologie  
**Queen's University**, Belfast, Northern Ireland  
**Holland College**, PEI - Research and Innovation  
**University of Tromsø** - The Norwegian College of Fishery Science, Norway  
**University of Southern Maine** - Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service  
**University of Toronto** / The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University Toronto (OISE)  
**Open University** - Co-operatives Research Unit, UK  
**Södertörns högskola** (Södertörn University College), Stockholm, Sweden

### Government Partners from:

Department of Justice, Credit Unions, Co-operatives and Trust Companies Branch, NB  
Executive Council PEI  
PEI Advisory Council on the Status Of Women  
Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI  
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Co-operatives Branch  
Nova Scotia Community Counts  
Secrétariat aux Coopératives Canada/Co-operatives Secretariat Canada  
Secrétariat rural/Rural Secretariat, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada/Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada  
Human Resources & Social Development, Community Development and Partnerships Directorate

**Membership in the Network continues to grow!**