



The Canadian **CED** Network

Le Réseau canadien de **DÉC**

## CCEDNet's Alberta Newsletter Month 2008

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### 1. Profile - The Birth of Pollock's Hardware Co-op

By Tom Simms

They say you can't stop progress. Like many small stores in the North End of Winnipeg, Pollock's Hardware closed its doors in December 2007 after being in business at the same location on north Main Street for the past 85 years. The owners of the store were retiring and put the business up for sale. But no one was interested in buying this North End institution.

The times had changed. Older inner-city neighbourhoods in cities all across North America have experienced the flight of businesses from their local communities. The first wave of closures came with the growth of suburban malls. The second wave of big box retail stores sealed the fate of many small shopkeepers.

As citizens, we often feel quite helpless in dealing with the negative consequences of the global economy. With the rising cost of gasoline and the outsourcing of jobs, a growing number of ordinary Canadians are questioning the price that is being paid for this so-called progress.

North End residents and long-time customers of Pollock's Hardware decided that there had to be a better way to deal with the loss of this popular store to our community. We decided to draw on the North End's traditional assets - its pride, fighting spirit and ingenuity. A number of residents believed that a community-oriented strategy might be able to succeed where the individual private ownership approach had failed.

Entrepreneurial spirit comes in many forms. Over the years, many local communities like the North End have experienced the destructive impact of the "survival of the fittest" economic system. Prairie farmers dealt with the devastation of the prevailing private market ideology to their livelihoods by forming wheat pools and marketing boards. Communities organized themselves along co-operative lines to establish credit unions to fill the void left by banking institutions. In this same spirit, North End residents began to explore the possibility of organizing a consumer co-operative as a means to keep their local neighbourhood hardware store alive.

Out of the ashes of Pollock's Hardware, a community campaign to establish the Pollock's Hardware Co-op was born. It breathed new life into the possibility of keeping the local hardware store open. The idea quickly gained popular support.

An interim board of directors was formed to provide leadership to the

initiative. Between January and April 2008, four membership meetings were held attracting a packed room of people at the local Luxton Community Centre for each meeting.

A business plan was developed that was based on raising equity capital through investment shares from interested community residents and former customers. Memberships were sold to raise additional working capital for the co-operative. The Assiniboine Credit Union agreed to provide financing, along with the Jubilee Fund -- a social justice community economic development fund sponsored by local religious groups.

As well, Pollock's Hardware Co-op worked in partnership with the provincial Community Economic Development Tax Credit program in order to provide a 30 per cent tax credit for those individuals who would like to purchase investment shares in the co-operative.

To date, the co-op has received pledges for 75 per cent of the equity share investments that will be required in order to operate the enterprise and has signed up 75 per cent of its first year target goal for memberships. Interest in investing in Pollock's Hardware Co-op is widespread. Besides North End residents, people from all over the city, province and country have captured the spirit of this campaign.

A Winnipeg resident from the other side of the city pledged to purchase an investment share as a birthday gift for their father; a manager of a rural credit union pledged support for investment shares to demonstrate their credit union's commitment to the principle of co-operation among co-operatives; and an unemployed person from Mississauga, Ont., took out an investment share because they supported the idea of preserving a neighbourhood hardware store as an alternative to the big box stores.

If you are one of the growing number of people who question the price we are paying for what we now call progress, if you believe in the power of working co-operatively to promote the local economic development of inner-city neighbourhoods, and if you like to see the underdog win one once in a while -- then consider joining "the little hardware store that could" that will re-open this June. Come on up to 1407 Main St. where we put people before profit. And by the way, we will also be proud to pay our municipal business tax because we know that it takes a community to run a city.

## 2. CED Tools

### Free Online Library of Social Change Tools & Resources

CCEDNet has compiled a vast library of resources to help you create change in communities. You'll find everything from A Guide to Neighbourhood Renewal to Young Women Work: Community Economic Development to Reduce Women's Poverty and Improve Income.

There are hundreds of tools and resources that have been developed by community development practitioners and community-based researchers. Our toolbox is growing; if you would like to share materials you have developed, send them to [ebrocklebank@ccednet-rcdec.ca](mailto:ebrocklebank@ccednet-rcdec.ca)  
[Click here to check out our toolbox!](#)

### 3. News from Alberta's CED Network Co-op

#### Public Policy Training Institute goes West!

The Calgary-based Max Bell Foundation is launching a Public Policy Training Institute, modeled on the Maytree Foundation Public Policy Training Institute.

For more information about the Calgary-based program, and an on-line application form please visit: [www.maxbell.org/mbppti](http://www.maxbell.org/mbppti).

### 4. National News and Events

#### CCEDNet is Looking for a New Executive Director



CCEDNet's Board of Directors regrets to announce the resignation of Rupert Downing, Executive Director. After more than six years in the position, Mr. Downing will be leaving us to move on to other areas of interest in the CED field while setting aside time to work on personal projects. Under Mr. Downing's leadership, the Network has grown to involve over 10,000 communities, organizations and institutions across Canada. Today the Network is the major national voice for CED. We would like to thank Mr. Downing for his

vision, commitment and passion and wish him the very best on his plans for the future.

CCEDNet has opened to the public a call for applications for Executive Director (ED). The successful applicant for the position will inspire action and champion initiatives to achieve the goals outlined in CCEDNet's strategic plan. He/she will be accountable for all operations and business planning, ensuring that programs, communications and resources are continually enhanced to deliver member value and organizational performance. The new leader will continue to create a culture of possibility, action and outcomes and will ensure effective work by all staff while providing them the liberty to lead and be innovative and responsive to member priorities. The external role of building relations with members, stakeholders, partners, the media, governments, funders, and the public will be very important. As the key spokesperson and advocate, the ED will further strengthen CCEDNet's policy impact by leveraging its credibility and the many partnerships it has forged to achieve its mission. He/she will help to connect the Network's national and regional committees and work with the board in advancing a "communities agenda" that responds to emerging opportunities and challenges. The new leadership will guide efforts to grow sustainable and innovative sources of revenue for the Network and the CED sector.

The ideal candidate will be an inclusive, empowering, and decisive leader who fosters a culture of learning, excellence, and accountability in the CCEDNet team. He/she will bring existing funder relationships, proven revenue generating experience, and experience in management of senior staff. The new ED will be an energizing professional with exceptional relationship abilities and business management skills. As a strong communicator, he/she can build and sustain relations with a range of interests, including staff, Board, members, governments, funders, partners and the media. Proficiency in both official languages, previous experience working with a nonprofit board and knowledge of the CED sector in Canada is necessary. A strong vision and practical leadership skills will help in

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building a diverse and sustainable business plan for the Network. Location of the position is negotiable. A competitive salary and benefits package is offered to the right candidate.

Please submit a letter of application, CV and three current references by April 30th, 2008 to [president@ccednet-rcdec.ca](mailto:president@ccednet-rcdec.ca). Short listed candidates are expected to be available for an interview between May 21st and 24th.

#### REQUIREMENTS

- Proven experience in managing large and complex non-governmental organizations, with multiple stakeholders and funding sources.
- Knowledge of community economic development and the social economy.
- A background in business planning, managing fund development and funder relations.
- Experience of public policy development and public relations to advance social, economic and ecological sustainability.
- Experience managing senior staff in a collaborative team environment.
- A track record of supporting non-profit boards of directors and member-based organizational structures
- Strong communication skills
- Proficient in both official languages
- Ability to travel

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#### **National Community Economic Development Organization Calls on Saskatchewan Government to Support Station 20 West**

Victoria, BRITISH COLUMBIA - The Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) is calling on the government of Saskatchewan to re-instate their \$8-million investment in Station 20 West. The \$11.5-million dollar multi-use facility, located in the low-income inner-city core of Saskatoon, is being developed to revitalize local communities. Providing essential community-led services like outreach medical treatment, a co-operative grocery store and affordable housing, the facility is being hailed as a national demonstration project for what is effective in reducing poverty. CCEDNet - representing the interests of thousands of community economic development organizations - believes that government investment in projects like Station 20 West are integral in helping to transform inner-city neighbourhoods into attractive places to live and work.

Rupert Downing, Executive Director of CCEDNet, added that "our national work across Canada points to a history of success in revitalizing communities by creating community-owned and driven strategies to tackle poverty, homelessness and neighbourhood decline. Saskatoon's Station 20 West is a national model which demonstrates all the right approaches to creating social and economic opportunities. It is very disappointing that the Government of Saskatchewan has cancelled its investment without doing due diligence on the cost-benefit of this kind of community partnership."

Community economic development has a long history of success in revitalizing communities across Canada through locally-led action. The combined values of inclusiveness, sustainability and reciprocity ensure that economic change is long-lasting for struggling communities.

Saskatchewan board member, Victoria Morris, states that "Station 20 West represents a much needed and very positive direction for Saskatoon's

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core neighbourhoods. There is a vast amount of community support." In response to the provincial government's reallocation of the funding, the community has shown support for Station 20 West by organizing the largest rally in recent Saskatoon history, starting a capital campaign, begun government letter writing campaigns, community art projects and a Facebook group with almost 5,000 members. "As a resident of the core neighbourhoods, I greatly anticipate being able to access the much needed services that Station 20 West will provide."

### **Social Enterprise and Affordable Housing: Invitation to National Teleforum**

Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

Please click the link below, view the invitation, and respond by clicking either the Yes or No button at the bottom of the invitation.

<http://quest.cvent.com/i.aspx?1Q,P1,705703AD-F938-44BE-8221-FA58990A3309>

### **Building a Learning Community**

The Tamarack presents: Communities Collaboration Institute "Transformation". September 15th to 19th in 2008, Kitchener, Ontario  
For more information, go to:

[http://tamarackcommunity.ca/CCI/CCI08\\_emails/040308.htm](http://tamarackcommunity.ca/CCI/CCI08_emails/040308.htm)

### **CCA Announces 2008 Internships**

The Canadian Co-operative Association has been (conditionally) approved for nine Youth Experience International (YEI) Internships for 2008-09.

CCA's Youth Experience International Program offers young graduates the work experience they need to secure good jobs - in Canada or abroad. It also provides them with an opportunity to discover the world and themselves. For more information on go to

[www.coopscanada.coop/coopdevelopment/internationaldev/youthexperience](http://www.coopscanada.coop/coopdevelopment/internationaldev/youthexperience)

### **Co-operatives Secretariat: Co-operative Development Initiative New RFP for 2008-09**

Call for Proposals for the Cooperative Development Initiative (CDI) – Innovation and Research is now open. More information on the CDI RFP process for 2008-09 at

[http://www.agr.gc.ca/rcs-src/coop/index\\_e.php?s1=init&page=intro08](http://www.agr.gc.ca/rcs-src/coop/index_e.php?s1=init&page=intro08).

Or for more information, please contact Mark Goldblatt at

[mark.goldblatt@coopscanada.coop](mailto:mark.goldblatt@coopscanada.coop)

### **CHRA Hosts the 2008 Tri-country Housing Conference**

Two complimentary places for young people/students interested in housing are available. The conference provides a great opportunity for housing professionals from the UK, the US and Canada to come together to discuss issues of common interest and concern.

The conference will be held in Toronto from October 14-17 and the complimentary places include travel to/from the event, accommodation, meals and the conference registration fee.

Please contact [info@chra-achrua.ca](mailto:info@chra-achrua.ca) to apply for one of the free places at the conference or if you would like more information about the event. You will need to provide a short letter (no more than a page) explaining your interest and experience. The application deadline is May 9, 2008.

## 5. Job Postings

### CIDA YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

CCEDNet has received tentative confirmation from **CIDA's Youth International Program** for a project to send 3 interns to Peru to work with COPEME, a CCEDNet partner organization there.

Tentative Canadian start date: June 16th

Tentative Overseas start date: August 1st

Please send CV and cover letter which outlines applicant's international experience, training and linguistic capacities, in addition to their knowledge of CED and of international development to Alexandre Charron at [acharron@ccednet-rcdec.ca](mailto:acharron@ccednet-rcdec.ca).

The closing date to submit applications is Friday May 2nd Applicants will be contacted for interviews in early May and will be required to be available for in-person or telephone interviews at CCEDNet's expense immediately following this.

For more information, please go to <http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/?q=en/node/4899>.

**We want to hear from you.  
Get in touch with us if you have comments or questions  
about our network and our newsletter.**

**[breimer@ccednet-rcdec.ca](mailto:breimer@ccednet-rcdec.ca)**

**[www.ccednet-rcdec.ca](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca)**

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Des communautés plus fortes au Canada*

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