



The Canadian **CED** Network

Le Réseau canadien de **DÉC**

CCEDNet's Alberta Newsletter

March 2008

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1. Profile: EthniCity Catering



EthniCity
Catering
Food from Around the World

Mariam came to Canada from Lebanon three years ago. Though Mariam felt safe here in Canada, having had to leave her children behind in Lebanon left Mariam emotionally exhausted.

Being in this state and not knowing a word of English left Mariam with virtually no chance of finding a job. Thankfully Mariam's sister told her about the Centre of Newcomers where she learned about EthniCity Catering.

EthniCity Catering is a social enterprise that sells authentic multi-ethnic catering and provides employment experience and training for immigrant and refugee women. EthniCity Catering brings together immigrant women to learn about nutrition, food safety, food preparation, shopping and budgeting in first-language peer groups. It creates a safe space for them to share experiences, develop their potential and build confidence in dealing with the challenges of settling and adapting to life in Canada.

While employed at EthniCity Catering, Mariam was able to use her excellent cooking skills. At the same time she was able to gain her first Canadian work experience. In addition to being paid, Mariam was able to learn English on the job. Most important though was EthniCity Catering's accepting and warm atmosphere. Soon co-workers became like family, providing much needed emotional support at time she needed it most.

For a little over a year, Mariam created delicious main dishes and appetizers at EthniCity Catering. Since then, Mariam has been working at a Lebanese restaurant. In the kitchen there many speak Arabic. Thankfully Mariam learned how to speak English at EthniCity Catering, otherwise she may never have learned it.

Despite working elsewhere, Mariam always comes back and visits her friends at EthniCity Catering. Having stable employment over the last couple of years has allowed Mariam to recently purchase her own house. With this and having two of her daughters immigrate to Canada, Mariam's spirits are high.

In the future Mariam would like to own her own restaurant and also visit her daughter, whom she has not seen since leaving Lebanon, and her grand-

- **New Web Site for the Toronto Enterprise Fund**
- **Call for Applications**
- **UNESCO's World Heritage Youth Forum**
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daughter, whom she has never seen. The skills and friendships developed at EthniCity Catering will last a lifetime.

For more information on EthniCity, visit their website and check the Menu! www.ethnicitycatering.ca

This story appears courtesy of [Alberta's CED Co-op](#)

2. CED Tools

Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Community Development Corporation (CDC) Manual *Now available on-line*

The purpose of this manual is to provide community members, community leadership, development service providers and other stakeholders that have an interest in a tool for organizing for economic development. This is a comprehensive, yet easy to use manual and is specifically applicable to Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) communities.

This manual provides practical information on how to start and operate a CDC in Manitoba. The information in this manual can serve as a starting point for discussion, for action and for developing a solid understanding of CDCs.

Check out the manual at www.gov.mb.ca/ana/publications/cdc_manual.pdf

Co-op Toolkit Launched

A comprehensive set of resources to aid in the development, growth and creation of co-ops has just been released by *On Co-op*. The Co-op Toolkit includes a plain language guide to the Ontario Co-operative Corporations Act; a series of guides on starting and managing co-operatives; and Fact Sheets on co-op best practices, sector specific information, plus a dozen general Fact Sheets on topics such as 'what is a co-op', the differences between the co-op model and other business models, government relations and directors' liability. The Co-op Toolkit is available for purchase in print or electronic formats.

Contact Jen Heneberry jheneberry@ontario.coop, 1.888.745.5521 x 23, or visit www.ontario.coop/Toolkit

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

Edmonton's Social Enterprise Fund

Learn more about Financing and Technical Assistance grants available at www.abcged.ca/SEF1pager.pdf

Alderman wants province to put people before profit

Joe Ceci, Calgary Herald - Wednesday, February 27, 2008

I am disappointed that almost all of the provincial candidates in Calgary spend more time talking about our province's economic situation than our social infrastructure. A government commitment to reinvest in social programs and to close a major crack in our social infrastructure is desperately needed.

Research shows the income gains made during Alberta's boom have been made almost entirely by the top 40 per cent of income earners. This means the remaining 60 per cent have either maintained or lost financial ground. Alberta's prosperity has increased the gap between the haves and the have-nots. The inequitable distribution of resources has magnified the impact.

Research and my experiences as a social worker and Alderman make it clear our boom has not helped most income earners and disadvantaged populations. It has pushed them deeper into debt and poverty. There is now more homelessness, more working poor, an affordable housing crisis, an employment crisis in non-profit agencies and many other social problems.

Alberta's prosperity should benefit everyone. The only way this can happen is if we have effective social policies and programs. Creating a social infrastructure plan needs to be a priority if every Albertan is to live with dignity. One suggestion is to raise the Family and Community Support Services fund for preventive social services from \$67 million per year to \$100 million yearly by 2010. Progressive social policies require support from candidates of all stripes.

Alberta deserves political leaders who will not sacrifice quality of life for economic gain.

A Living Wage City

The City of Calgary may soon require employers who deal with the City to pay a wage that meets its booming living costs.

In April, the City of Calgary votes whether to include a living wage policy in its procurement policy and code of conduct for suppliers. Vibrant Communities Calgary calculates that would be a minimum of \$12 an hour for workers.

"We're thrilled by the amount of attention this initiative is getting. So many groups have come out in support of it," says Jordan Hamilton of Vibrant Communities Calgary.

"The Calgary Foundation's Vital Signs report highlighted a living wage as the area most in need of attention."

The most persuasive argument, says Jordan, is that tax dollars should not subsidize employers. When employers pay wages that leave workers and their families in poverty, government and community agencies end up paying for resulting costs, such as subsidies, income support, and increased health and crime prevention. Source tamarackcommunity.ca/g2.php

Social Entrepreneurship Self-financing Our Community Destiny

April 16 in Red Deer

Imagine Red Deer as a city in which its citizens are able to finance the social infrastructure they want, without total reliance on grants or initiatives from the provincial and federal governments.

Come and hear a free presentation by LaVerne Erickson on how we as citizens can use our RRSPs and other financial vehicles to fund needed social infrastructure such as affordable housing, student residences, arts and culture facilities, social enterprise etc.

More info www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/?q=en/node/4861

4. National News and Events



May 21-24 in Saskatoon

[Register online before April 18th and get the early bird rate!](#)

[For more information visit the Conference Website](#)

Or call 1-877-202-2268

Or email emorrison@cednet-rcdec.ca

CED Poverty Reduction Report Soon to be Released

CCEDNet is currently completing a national project, Place-Based Poverty Reduction (PBPR), sponsored by HRSDC's Social Development Partnerships Program, which involves four CED partner organizations from across the country.

PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise (Thunder Bay, ON), ÉCOF CED Corporation of Trois-Rivières (Trois-Rivières, QC), Trail Community Skills Centre (Trail, BC), Learning Enrichment Foundation (Toronto, ON) have been involved in developing and promoting innovative ways of assessing the impact of locally-based CED work on the lives of individuals in their communities.

Joining these four principal partner organizations were 20 other organizations involved in CED and the social economy who, along with representatives from CCEDNet's standing committees, participated in the project's 'learning network'. The learning network was a huge success, participants from across the country shared successful poverty reduction initiatives, policy priorities and techniques for effective advocacy, measurement, collaboration and scaling-up.

Research and discussion concluded that a more integrative strategy to poverty reduction which focuses on community wellbeing is essential and there must be clear poverty reduction targets with appropriate indicators of success. The complete PBPR report will be released in the next couple of months.

Grant Deadline Extension

The deadline for the Canadian Women's Foundation Economic Development Collaborative Fund "Special Grant to Manitoba and the Atlantic Regions" has been extended to Monday May 5th, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

For more info contact Nila Gupta - Manager, Economic Development Collaborative Fund, Canadian Women's Foundation 1-866-293-4483

World Social Finance Summit 2008 Making Sense with Money

The World Social Finance Summit 2008 is organized by INAISE (International Association of Social finance organizations) and will take place in Quebec on 5 & 6 June.

www.inaise.org

inaise@inaise.org

CCPA - 2008 Alternative Federal Budget (written in collaboration with CCEDNet)

The 2008 Alternative Federal Budget (AFB) is coordinated by the CCPA and is the result of collaborative deliberations by representatives of a wide spectrum of civil society organizations. Among the innovations in this year's AFB: a gender budget analysis; a poverty reduction plan; a national infrastructure plan; a sectoral development strategy to address the manufacturing crisis; and a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan. The news release is pasted below. All Alternative Budget materials are available on the CCPA web site in both English and French:

<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/Reports/2008/02/ReportsStudies1828/>

Tamarack Tele-Learning on Low Income Leadership *Learn to Include, Include to Learn Series*

March 26 2008 to April 23

How can community collaborations facilitate the meaningful participation of low-income individuals in leadership structures and activities – both in grassroots groups and at more formal roundtables? How can we utilize the skills that low-income residents bring to leadership roles, and assist them in building their capacity?

Including the Poverty Experience - March 26
Engaging Low-income Residents - April 2
Building the Capacity of Low-income Leaders - April 23

tamarackcommunity.ca/events

New Web Site for the Toronto Enterprise Fund

Check out the newly-redesigned www.torontoenterprisefund.ca!

More user-friendly and packed it full of news, tools and information about social enterprise.

- Up-to-date news, events and stories from the sector
- Tools and resources for non-profit organizations thinking about, launching, or running a social purpose enterprise
- A list of products and services offered by social enterprises in Toronto
- Information about TEF, including how and when to apply

Call for Applications UNESCO's World Heritage Youth Forum

Open to young Canadians (18-25), the World Heritage Youth Forum of the 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee to be held in Québec City from July 2 to 10, 2008 www.canada2008.ca
Deadline to apply is April 18, 2008.

To apply contact Cynthia Lacasse, Programme Officer, Youth, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, at cynthia.lacasse@unesco.ca

How to Create High-Impact Nonprofits

Conventional wisdom says that scaling social innovation starts with strengthening internal management capabilities. This study of 12 high-impact nonprofits, however, shows that real social change happens when organizations go outside their own walls and find creative ways to enlist the help of others. Read more at

www.ssireview.org/articles/entry/creating_high_impact_nonprofits/

Collaborative Leadership Retreat

Kitchener, Ontario, May 6-8, 2008

Registration closes April 18

tamarackcommunity.ca/CL_index.html



Canadian Social Economy Hub

March Researcher of the Month is Brendan Reimer is CCEDNet's Regional Coordinator for the prairies and northern territories.

Listen to the interview at

www.socialeconomyhub.ca/hub/?p=653

Relocalization

A growing number of places in the world are creating a strategy to build societies based on the local production of [food](#), [energy](#) and [goods](#), and the local development of [currency](#), [governance](#) and [culture](#).

Read more at relocalize.net

Imagine Canada Survey on CRA Requirements

Imagine Canada is working to help make it easier for registered charities to comply with the requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) related to charities' books and records, fundraising activities, and issuance of tax receipts. If you are a registered charity, [click here to take the survey](#)

Social Economy Telelearning Sessions

The Canadian Social Economy Hub is dedicated to making information on the Social Economy accessible to everyone. Register and participate in upcoming telelearning sessions, or check out their archive of telelearning podcasts at www.socialeconomyhub.ca

- [Telelearning Sessions 8 & 9: Lessons in Sustainable Economics from the United Kingdom \(April 9th & 10th, 2008; English\)](#)
- [Telelearning Session 7: The Social Economy in Australia \(March 3rd, 2008; English\)](#)
- [Telelearning Session 6: Students and the Social Economy \(February 14th, 2008; English\)](#)
- [Telelearning Session 5: Policies in Québec and Manitoba \(September 27th, 2007; French\)](#)
- [Telelearning Session 4: Policies in Québec and Manitoba \(April 26th, 2007; English\)](#)
- [Telelearning Session 3: Food Security and the Social Economy \(February](#)

[22nd, 2007; English\)](#)

- [Telelearning Session 2: L'économie sociale et solidaire au Canada \(November 30th, 2006; French\)](#)
- [Telelearning Session 1: Social Economy 101 Defining the Social Economy in Canada \(October 26th, 2006; English\)](#)

Register by e-mailing telelearning@socialeconomyhub.ca with your name, location, and work or volunteer position. We will provide instructions on how to access the telelearning forum. Unfortunately, the session is only open to those residing in Canada. To register by phone call 1-250-472-4976.

Limited number of phone lines for session – register soon!

CPRN Citizen Engagement Handbook

Beyond Consultation by **Amanda Sheedy** is intended to help individuals and organizations, especially in government, in developing strategies to engage citizens in setting priorities and in making decisions. It builds on experience to provide an overview of engagement practices and resources to help plan citizen engagement projects.

The handbook is not a prescriptive how-to manual on citizen engagement. It calls for planning and preparation including institutional capacity building to carry out citizen engagement. It provides perspectives on citizen engagement, its value and rationale, long-term goals for engagement, and advice on engaging specific populations including Aboriginal communities. Five different cases of citizen engagement are also presented offering a cross-section of various degrees of citizen engagement at regional, provincial and federal levels, as well as two examples of institutionalized citizen engagement.

To read or download the Handbook on Citizen Engagement, go to www.cprn.org/doc.cfm?doc=1857&l=en

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

www.ccednet-rcdec.ca

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