

The Canadian **CE**D Network

Le Réseau canadien de **DÉ**C

CCEDNet's Alberta Newsletter September 2008

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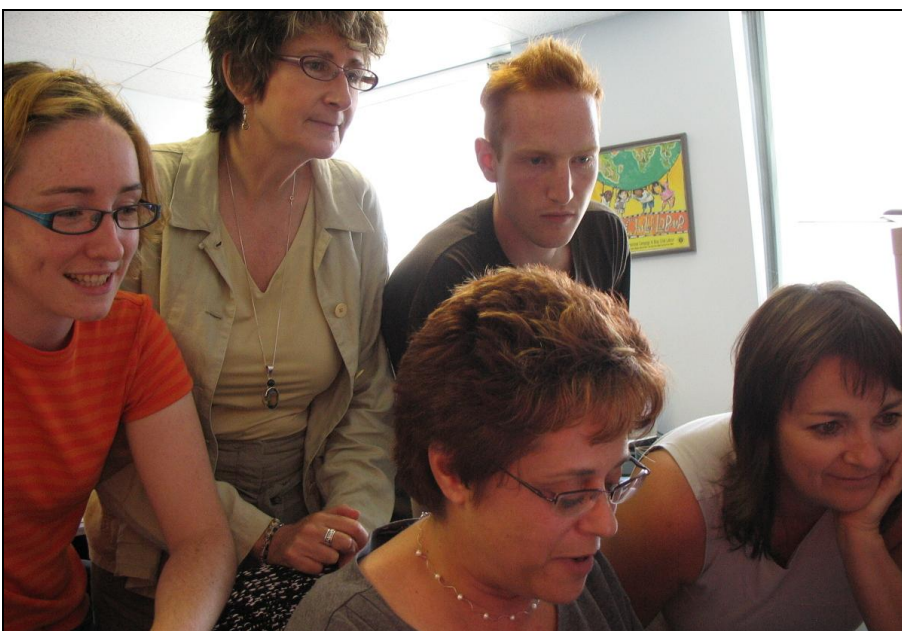
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1. Profile:

Voicing Housing Experiences in Inner City Winnipeg



Jil Brody (center) shares her work with the rest of the CCPA team

In May of this year, CCEDNet Manitoba began a new internship project called Emerging Leaders Manitoba. The project placed five emerging CED practitioners with five local community organizations for six months to work on CED projects. The internship aims to strengthen the capacity of the sector through training and leadership development, while offering new energy and ideas to the host organizations.

Each of the interns will profile their projects in our newsletter, so look for more stories in the months to come. Our first profile comes from Jil Brody who is working at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA).

Upon my graduation from the U of M's Inner City social work program in May 2008, I hoped to practice in the area of research and policy, as it is informed by social justice objectives. The CCPA offered an opportunity to advance my learning objectives. Along with two other students, we developed and began work on the Voicing Housing Experiences in Inner City Winnipeg research project in collaboration with Klinik.

For several years, the CCPA – Manitoba has conducted community-driven, participatory research projects in collaboration with Aboriginal and Inner City organizations, which come together in the annual State of the Inner

Enterprise Industry

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 - **Senate Report on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness**
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City Reports. Consistently, the theme of unsafe and inadequate housing has arisen each year, independent of the focus of each study, and to pursue this, Voicing Housing Experiences was created to explore the housing experiences of Inner City residents: What defined safe and adequate housing and what barriers prevented people from obtaining it? What were the outcomes of unsafe and inadequate housing on physical and mental health? And, lastly, what could and should be done, and by whom, to create safe and adequate housing for Inner City residents?

My student team investigated current local and academic literature on housing issues, developed the research methodology, interview guide and after a thorough ethics review, began interviewing participants. Particularly interesting was the inclusion of a relatively new research technique called 'photovoice'. In our rendition of photovoice, participants were given disposable cameras and asked to take pictures of what they liked and disliked about their housing. The results are amazing – sensitive, insightful, both sweet and bitter.

Finally, after hours of coding the interviews and even more time analyzing the discussions, the individual narratives have become intense and rich 'data'. I am now completing the written report of Voicing Housing Experiences of Inner City Winnipeg, taking special care to honour the voices and lives of the participants. The results of the project will be discussed with participants at Klinik in the early fall, and then distributed. It will also be part of the State of Inner City 2008, to be released this December. We hope that the report will provide impetus for supportive policy changes, as well as empower the individuals who took part in the study.

2. Alberta CED News

Alberta Community Economic Development Co-op Symposium CED – A Tool to Deepen the Roots of our Community

Thursday, November 6 and Friday, November 7, 2008
Nisku, Alberta

A symposium for community members from around Alberta who are actively involved in, or interested in becoming involved in, community based and community building economic initiatives.

Building on experiences and successes that exist around the province, this symposium offers an opportunity to better understand how to start an initiative as well as further strengthen existing initiatives. This will occur by learning from the experiences "out there" in Alberta while developing a support network to be part of beyond the symposium itself. In addition, the symposium offers a unique opportunity to introduce a new CED Toolkit recently developed in Alberta.

Topics to be included in the symposium:
Learning about CED – a new toolkit for community use
Funders' forum – connecting funders with communities
Building the support network

For more information and registration at abced.ca

Rise & Shine Breakfast Forum

Field to Table: Value-added Co-ops and Food Security in Alberta

Oct 15, 7:30 – 12:00

Leduc, AB. Executive Royal Inn, 8450 Sparrow Dr.

Join in to examine and identify:

- Role of co-ops in addressing food security issues
- Co-op opportunities throughout the value chain
- Connecting the rural and urban aspects of food security.

Table discussions will follow the presentations with the objective of developing ideas and strategies for co-op projects that address the issues and opportunities.

Registration and info at www.acca.coop

3. CCEDNet Publications

Government Policies towards CED and the Social Economy in Quebec and Manitoba

This paper, prepared for the Canadian CED Network (CCEDNet), explores the state of CED/social economy activities in both Quebec and Manitoba and recent government policies in support of them. It seeks to separate out the similarities and differences between the two provinces and their underlying causes. It also suggests what might be unique about the two situations and, where this is thought not to be the case, what lessons others might usefully learn from them. [To read the full document, please click here.](#)

This publication is part of the Linking, Learning, Leveraging SSHRC-funded research project investigating the Social Economy. This project is comprised of multiple community partner organizations, academic researchers, and university students. See the [Project Overview](#) for more information.

[Visit the Linking, Learning, Leveraging SSHRC-funded research project website.](#)

4. CED Tools

How Local Government can engage in food secure communities

[A Seat at The Table: Resource guide for local governments to promote food secure communities.](#) Including chapters on community gardens, neighborhood planning, farmers markets and much more.

Toolkit to Help Community Foundations Tackle Poverty

Community Foundations of Canada has launched an online resource for community foundations and other organizations interested in tackling the root causes of complex social issues like poverty. From Good Causes to Root Causes is a practical resource designed to help funders better understand and address poverty in Canadian communities. [Learn more here.](#)

[Source: CFC via Tamarack]

5. National News and Events

Co-ops that Work!

2008 Canadian Worker Co-op Federation AGM/Conference

November 13-15 in Winnipeg, MB.

The focus at the 2008 CWCF Conference will be on practical training and sharing which will be highly relevant for worker co-ops when they get back home. An additional focus this year will be on the dynamic worker co-op scene in Winnipeg.

Full Conference program: www.coopzone.coop/en/CWCF_Conf08

The Final Report of the World Health Organization Commission on the Social Determinants of Health.

This report is very much inline with CCEDNet's policy agenda, and explicitly focuses on social justice issues, making explicit the health impacts of inequities in income, social conditions, physical environments and opportunities for human and social development.

The Commission's overarching recommendations:

1. Improve daily living conditions
2. Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources
3. Measure and understand the problem, and assess the impact of action

Inspiring to skim through, and worth noting, circulating and promoting.

[Read the complete report here](#)

[CBC article on the report here](#)

Although the Commission's focus is global, the issues are just as relevant for Canada. The first annual report of Canada's new Chief Public Health Officer, David Butler Jones, which came out this June, also focused on health inequities and their social roots. Finally, the Senate Subcommittee on Population Health will likely make one of its key recommendation the strengthening of integrated approaches to support community-based action on the determinants of health. Their report was due out this coming December, but will likely be postponed with the election.

Evolution of the Social Enterprise Industry

The social enterprise industry is rapidly evolving and The Institute for Social Entrepreneurs, a long-time member of SEA, has just released the 2008 revised version of the industry's history entitled "Evolution of the social enterprise industry: A chronology of key events." The chronology is an attempt to collect in one place the key events from the past 30 years that have helped shape the industry thus far. This is a fun and informative document, read it [here](#).

Community Profits Social Enterprise in Newfoundland and Labrador

A publication about social enterprise activity in Newfoundland which contains discussion on a social enterprise model. [Read it here](#)

Senate Report on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness: Issues and Options

Many of the recommendations proposed in this report are in keeping with CCEDNet's Communities Agenda, including renewal of CDI, the Social Economy initiative, a federal Coop Housing strategy, support for local food production, alternative energy. The report also includes recommendations on Income Support Systems, Facilitating a Transition from Social Assistance to Self-Sufficiency, Making Work Pay, Poverty Beyond Money, Housing and more. [Read the report here.](#)

Co-op Housing Federation Calls on Conservatives to Pave the Way for Permanent Affordable Housing Options

July's announcement of funds from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) for two homelessness shelters in Vancouver—while welcome—only puts a band-aid on the housing and homelessness crisis that is facing the city, the [Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada](#) (CHF Canada) says.

"While the funding for the shelter program at Covenant House Vancouver will expand two separate shelters, funds from the HPS—a federal program that is expiring in March 2009—should also be provided for long-term, permanent affordable housing," says Executive Director Nicholas Gazzard.

CHF Canada has been pressing the federal government to provide real leadership by developing a long-term national affordable housing action plan in consultation with the provincial and territorial ministers responsible for housing, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and major stakeholder groups including the non-profit co-op housing sector.

Source: Co-operative News Briefs - August 14, 2008

4th International Forum "Globalisation of Solidarity"

April 22 to 25, 2009 in Esch/Alzette, Luxemburg

Contribute to the elaboration of the Lux'09 program by participating in the workshops interactive forums on their website. It's open to all!
www.lux09.lu

To get an outline of the ambitions of Lux'09, its organisation and the current programme, [download the special Lux'09 Newsletter](#).

Funeral Co-ops Part of a Changing Industry

The purpose of funeral co-ops is to provide funerals at cost and in a compassionate way. People join funeral co-ops now in anticipation of their own deaths at some point in the future as well as that the deaths of those they love. However there is another element and that is that members want to see the funeral co-op alternative available in their communities. They join in solidarity with their fellow citizens.

The funeral business has been changing. In the past funeral homes were often family-owned businesses with strong ties to their local community. Increasingly, funeral homes are owned by large corporations. Often when these companies buy a family-owned funeral home they keep the family name on the door so people are not even aware that the business is now owned by a large corporation.

However, there is a well established co-op alternative. Funeral co-ops in Quebec have created a very successful funeral co-op movement that is sophisticated and growing. The network of over 30 funeral co-ops provides about 17% of all the funerals in Quebec. This model functions very well in

smaller communities. In PEI there are seven small funeral co-ops. However the model can also be successful in larger cities. The largest funeral co-operative is in the City of Quebec and they have over 25,000 members and a 50% market share.

There are almost no funeral co-ops west of the Quebec border except for Sudbury, Ontario and Steinbach, Manitoba and one is being launched in Regina. The funeral co-op movement in Quebec has created their own federation to provide the local co-ops with various services. Working with the Canadian Co-operative Association, the Quebec Federation of Funeral Co-operatives has offered to share their expertise for free to any interested groups across Canada. The first step is to set up public meetings to discuss the funeral co-op concept. Anyone is invited to contact Mark Goldblatt at Mark.Goldblatt@coopscanada.coop if they would like to host a presentation in their community.

Source: On Co-op E-newsletter for August 29, 2008

6. Job Postings

**For the latest CED postings visit the
National and Regional job pages on CCEDNet's website**

[National](#) | [AB](#) | [SK](#) | [MB](#) | [North](#)

*If you have positions to post, please send them to
breimer@ccednet-rcdec.ca*

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

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