



The Canadian **CED** Network

Le Réseau canadien de **DÉC**

CCEDNet's Northern Network Newsletter Month 2008

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CCEDNet's National Conference a Great Success!



This year's National CED Conference - *Waves of Change: Building People-Centred Economies* welcomed 400 CED practitioners, civil society representatives, community leaders, government representatives, business and co-operative developers, and academics at the University of Saskatchewan for dozens of learning and information sharing sessions and regional, national, and international plenary speakers.

Conference highlights included a policy action planning session; networking lunches; site visits to prairie CED initiatives; and vibrant social events that included an aboriginal theatre, dance, and music evening.

Over four inspirational days conference delegates worked together to advance a pan-Canadian CED policy agenda, built skills and organizational capacity, and created new connections and networks. Participation in this conference demonstrated that CED is an effective approach to revitalize local economies, tackle poverty and homelessness, and create sustainable communities.

Thanks to all participants and volunteers at this year's National CED Conference.

[Join CCEDNet's Facebook page to start networking and view photos from this year's conference](#)

Coming soon to our website:

National Conference presentations available for download!

Collaborating Institute and Develop the Skills Required to Effect Change

- Over a Barrel: Exiting NAFTA's Proportionality Clause
- Collaboration with the Business Sector Provides Opportunities to Address Social Issues
- National Co-op Associations Joint Congress
- 7th Annual World Wind Energy Conference

1. Profile: Elton Energy Cooperative



The Rural Municipality of Elton is a small predominantly agriculturally-based community located just north of Brandon. From within this modestly sized R.M. is emerging an energy cooperative that, if successful, will be the first of its kind in North America.

The [Elton Energy Cooperative](#) (EEC) seeks to create a community-owned renewable energy resource in the form of a \$5 million wind turbine. The turbine would be capable of generating two megawatts of power, enough to supply around 1,500 homes. Wind projects are currently becoming more popular as more and more attention is focused on sustainable energy; the difference with EEC is that most current wind projects are large scale, with upwards of dozens of turbines, and control and profits lie largely with multinational corporations, not the communities in which they are located.

However, using a community ownership model is no easy task. There are numerous angles that need to be covered, and studies must be conducted regarding everything from design and engineering to environmental impact and economic feasibility. EEC has received help from the [Co-op Development Initiative](#) (CDI) in the form of \$50,000 for a feasibility study, while the R.M. contributed \$3,500.

While EEC formed in 2006 to work on a wind power model that would enable Elton residents to own their own wind farm, their concept has expanded to encompass the entire province. EEC seeks to partner with Manitoba Hydro as well as the governments of the province and the City of Brandon. As the concept has grown, so too has the scope. [The Community Power Investment Model](#) means community residents own at least 50 per cent of a five to ten turbine wind farm with surrounding communities, excluding large corporations, being allowed to invest in the project in a similar fashion to Hydro Bonds. In an April 30th Brandon Sun article by Matt Goerzen, EEC chairman Dan Mazier indicated that the current large-scale wind farms are good for large wealthy companies, but fail to really provide returns to the community.

"It ends up pitting community against community," says Mazier, "We're talking about stabilizing that whole industry for Manitobans instead of outside developers."

Written by Dale Harik - Red River College CED Program

Sources Used

Bill Redekop, [RM of Elton banks on windpower](#), Winnipeg Free Press, 30/03/08

Matt Goerzen, [Wind projects draw interest in Brandon](#), Brandon Sun, 30/04/08

Elton Energy Cooperative, <http://www.eltonenergy.org/cpa.html>

2. CED Tools

Building Evaluation Capacity: Helping Evaluators Achieve Greater Effectiveness

[Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement](#) highlights this capacity building tool in the April edition of their newsletter, [Eunoia](#). This two-guide set created by authors Beatriz Chu Clewell and Patricia B. Campbell is the result of a [National Science Foundation](#) funded endeavor to improve cross project evaluations. The tool focuses on evaluation design and various issues involved in data collection. To read the abstract and introduction, or to download both guides in PDF format, visit the [Urban Institute](#).

Canadian Sustainability Indicators Network Provides Tools Towards Sustainable Development

Visit [CSIN](#) to learn more about the tools, ideas, data and methods exchanged between Canadian practitioners of sustainability indicators and reporting.

3. News from CCEDNet's Northern Network

PN2008 Winnipeg is Coming Soon

Act fast, as time is running out to [register](#) for the [Planners Network's Planning in Challenging Climates](#) conference. The July 17-20 topics being considered include a wide range of Community Development issues. Visit the Planners Network Manitoba's [Events](#) page for more information.

Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement Funds RRC Mobile Training Labs

Thanks to the [EPA](#), an economic growth and diversification plan that sees the federal and provincial governments partnering with community stakeholders to strengthen communities, Red River College will be able to deliver trades training to rural communities in Manitoba. The \$3.12 million in funding will enable the expansion of our college system, apprenticeship spaces and employment readiness training programs into rural, northern and Aboriginal communities through the use of two mobile training labs. Read the Government of Manitoba's [News Release](#) for more details.

4. National News and Events

The Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC) Releases Latest Report on CEIP

The Community Employment Innovation Project (CEIP) is a demonstration project conceived by [Human Resources and Social Development Canada](#) in order to explore an alternative form of income support that promotes work while fostering community development. This latest report from the [SRDC](#), examines the project's effects on communities. Learn more by reading the [Executive Summary](#), or the full report, entitled [Engaging Communities in Support of Local Development: Measuring the Effects of the CEIP on Communities](#).

University of Manitoba Professor of Sociology Examines Sweden's Progressive Social System

Gregg M. Olsen compares the Swedish Welfare State and its socio-economic indicators with those of other capitalist nations in this publication from the [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives](#). See why tax cuts are not synonymous with economic prosperity in [Lessons From Sweden](#).

Social Enterprise Over Seas

[The Social Enterprise Coalition](#) is the United Kingdom's national body for social enterprise. The Coalition seeks to promote the benefits of social enterprises, share the best practices amongst social enterprises through networks and publications, foster support for social enterprise within government and conduct research to expand the social enterprise evidence base. Watch [this animation](#) commissioned by the Coalition and created by [Inside Job Productions](#), who work with convicts on day release to create professional multi-media products.

La Siembra Worker Co-operative Wins Award for Democracy in the Workplace

[La Siembra](#), a worker co-op located in Ottawa-Gatineau, is one of four Canadian companies to receive the "Worldwide Award for the Most Democratic Workplaces" from Atlanta based [WorldBlu](#). WorldBlu employs a rigorous survey process developed over ten years of research in order to determine which organizations are most democratically run. Learn more about La Siembra and the prestigious award in their [press release](#).

Canada's Top Minds Weigh In on Inequality in Canada

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives presents *Why Inequality Matters in 1,000 Words or Less*, an essay series comprised of varying opinions from numerous Canadian academics, including economists, a political scientist, a sociologist and a philosopher. Find out how income inequality and persistent poverty pose a threat to Canada by reading [the report](#).

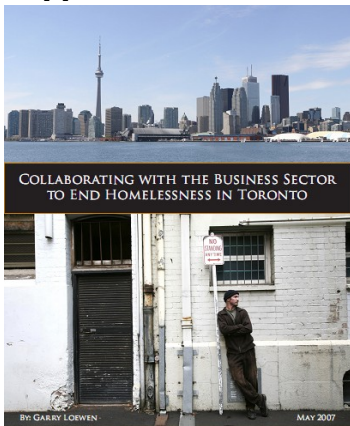
Join The Communities Collaborating Institute and Develop the Skills Required to Effect Change

Tamarack and its partners have created a five day institute, from September 15th to the 19th, designed to share knowledge on collaborative approaches to community transformation. Combined with an optional ten month online learning module, the program helps to hone the skills of collaborators and practitioners, facilitating their efforts towards the renewal of communities. Through workshops with [renowned authorities on collaboration](#), the Institute deals with issues from practicing community engagement, to evaluating progress, growing local movements, effective governance, engaging the private and government sectors, and much more. Visit Tamarack's [Learning Centre](#) for more information, or read their [brochure](#).

Over a Barrel: Exiting NAFTA's Proportionality Clause

The CCPA and the Parkland Institute have released a study about oil and gas exports to the United States. Despite the fact that we are running out of natural gas, and that we import nearly half the oil we consume, NAFTA dictates Canada's government cannot reduce the percentage of oil and gas we now export to the United States, even in times of domestic shortages. The report argues the only solution to this and other potential scenarios is for Canada to pull out of NAFTA's "proportionality" clause. [Read the complete story](#)

Collaboration with the Business Sector Provides Opportunities to Address Social Issues



[Garry Loewen](#), a successful business person turned community crusader, explains how the business sector is often overlooked as a resource for community action. Loewen's latest publication, *Collaborating with the Business Sector to End Homelessness in Toronto*, offers exciting accounts of the effects of business involvement in social change initiatives as well as effective tools for engaging the private sector in social change. The publication was developed by Tamarack and the City of Toronto, and can be accessed on Tamarack's [Home Page](#).

National Co-op Associations Team up for Joint Congress Winnipeg, June 25 to 28

The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) and Conseil Canadien de la Coopération (CCC) are co-hosting a national co-operative congress. A day-long forum will provide the first opportunity for many members of both of the national associations as well as stakeholders and partners to share experiences and views on how to grow and strengthen the movement

Info and registration at www.CoopsCanada.coop/congress2008

7th Annual World Wind Energy Conference "Community Power: Energy Autonomy for Local Economies"

St Lawrence College in Kingston, Ontario June 24 - 26 2008

Keynote Speakers include Dr. David Suzuki and Dr. Hermann Scheer, author of "Energy Autonomy" and German MP.

Info and registration at www.wvec2008.com

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

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