



**Rooting Development
in Communities
2006 Annual Review**

The Canadian **CED** Network

Le Réseau canadien de **DÉC**

Strengthening Canada's Communities
Des communautés plus fortes au Canada

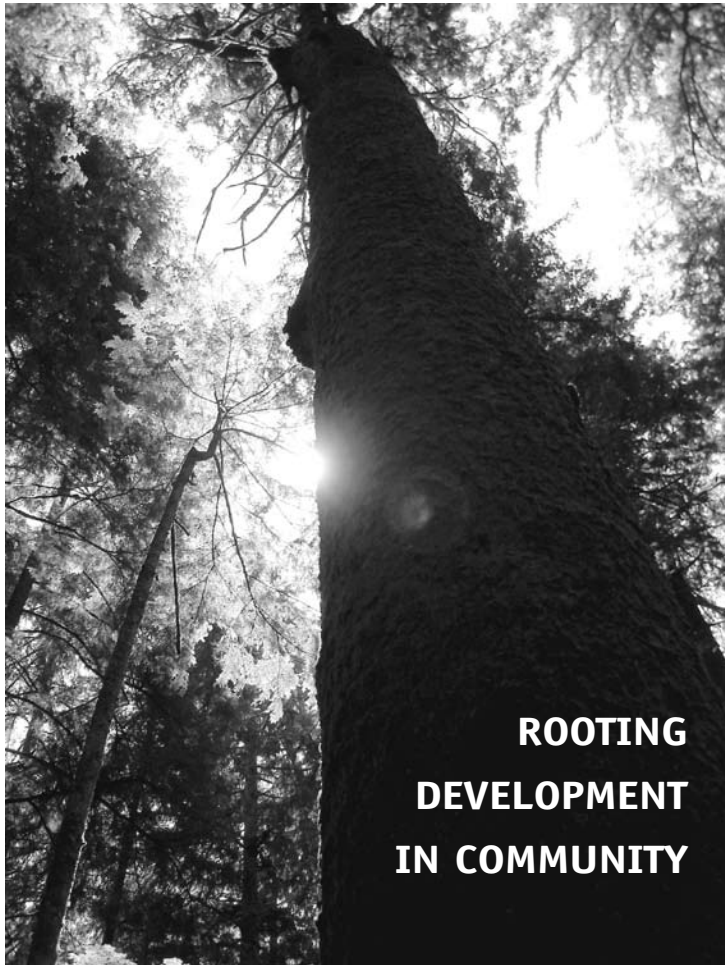


Email: info@ccednet-rcdec.ca Website: www.ccednet-rcdec.ca

National Office
211-620 View Street
Victoria, BC
Canada V8W 1J6

Tel (250) 386-9980
Fax (250) 386-9984
Toll-free 1-877-202-2268

Printed in Canada on recycled paper, March 2006 > Editor: Erin Brocklebank, Communications Coordinator, CCEDNet
Design: Jim Poole > Translation: Elizabeth Jutras



“The region where we live is built on a relationship between people, and between people and the land. People here know how to live in one place. People know how to work together, and they know how to work with the land to live.

Our most recent socioeconomic history has created the current disconnect with this knowledge and daily practice. People are fully aware they must work together for survival of this lifestyle.

Our communities are unique. People are fiercely proud of where they live. It is what unites us and separates us at the same time.

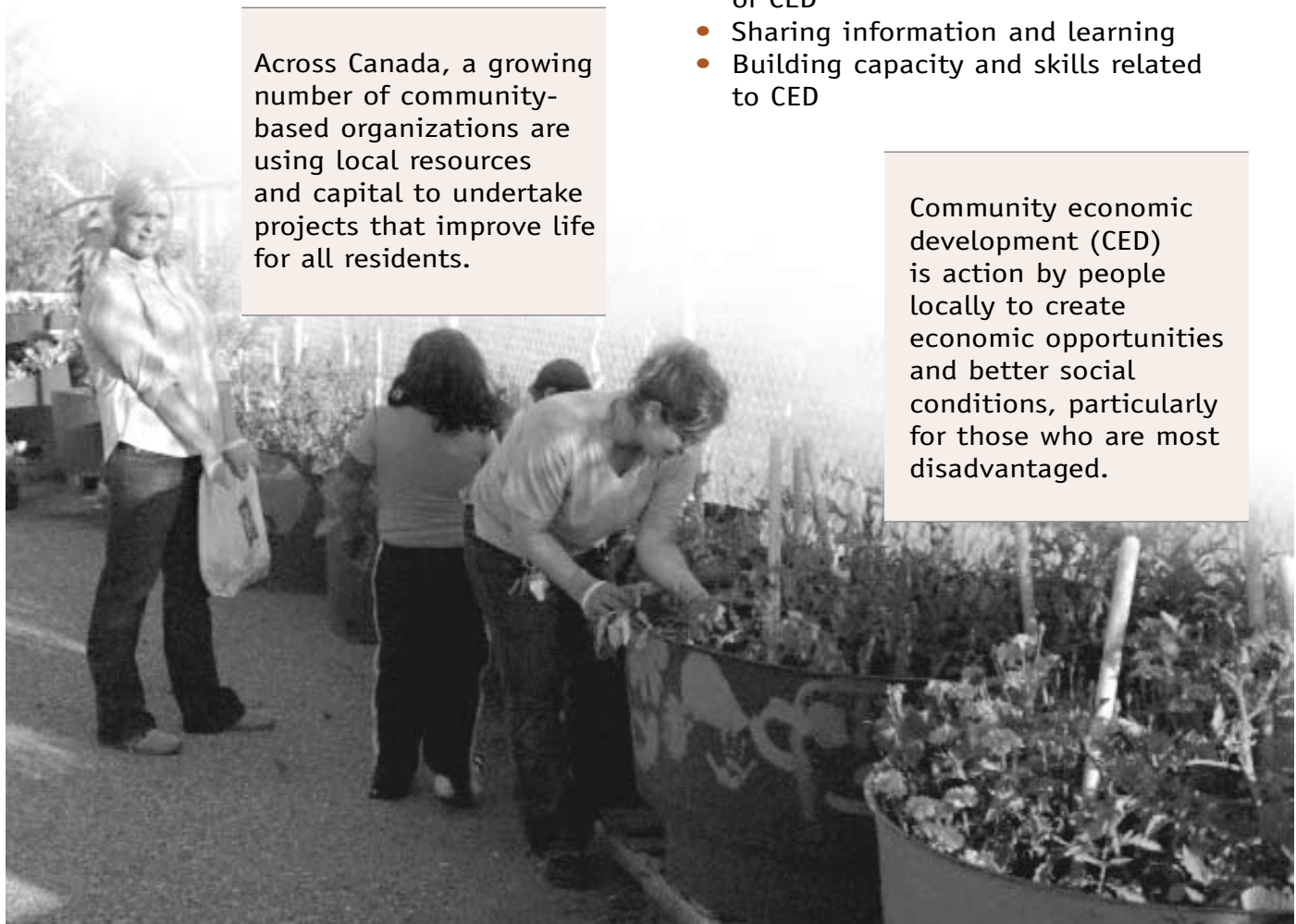
Jobs alone will not create change. We believe that long-term oppression means long-term capacity and mobilization development to change this socioeconomic reality.”

Adapted from Pan-Canadian Community Development Learning Network: Profile of Effective Practice - Storytellers' Foundation

Strengthening Canada's Communities

Community Economic Development (CED) is an approach that recognizes that economic, environmental and social challenges are interdependent, complex and ever-changing. To be effective, solutions must be rooted in local knowledge and led by community members. CED promotes holistic approaches, addressing individual, community and regional levels, recognizing that these levels are interconnected.

The Canadian CED Network is a member-driven organization that seeks to increase the scale and effectiveness of CED. Our goal is to support the organizations and individuals involved to strengthen their communities and create solutions to local needs.



Across Canada, a growing number of community-based organizations are using local resources and capital to undertake projects that improve life for all residents.

Community economic development (CED) is action by people locally to create economic opportunities and better social conditions, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged.

The membership of CCEDNet is made up of community-based organizations, co-operatives, social enterprises, practitioners, active citizens, researchers, and other organizations from every region of the country.

Our vision is that the Network will strengthen community economic development in urban, rural, northern and aboriginal communities across Canada, and contribute to better social, economic and environmental conditions at the local level.

Our members are dedicated to:

- Bringing a national focus to the CED agenda
- Expanding the scale and effectiveness of CED
- Sharing information and learning
- Building capacity and skills related to CED

From the President

At our 2006 National Conference on CED and the Social Economy, I was struck by the diverse backgrounds of our participants. Last year's conference saw more youth, immigrant and refugee, and international attendees than ever before. As I shared experiences and knowledge with new colleagues in workshops, forums, and discussions, I found my own inspiration renewed. I was reminded of how large and far-reaching our movement has become. Although our membership is more diverse than ever before, we must continue to plan ahead, and build the capacity of new practitioners to ensure the succession and sustainability of our Network.

Successfully building a diverse and inclusive movement is one of many achievements I am pleased to share with you in our 2006 Annual Review. At a time when uncertain funding conditions and limited policy directions could be perceived as dampening energy and commitment, we have worked hard to make major advancements in promoting a CED policy agenda, advancing CED research and ensuring effective internal operations. The goal of this report is to share our collective experiences over the last year, and celebrate our many successes in spite of the current political and economic environment in Canada.

In communities across Canada, our members are continuing to join forces to bring hope and promise to disadvantaged citizens. The

commitment and passion of our membership and the communities that they represent has not faltered, and, in fact, resolve seems to have strengthened. As we move ahead, we need to hold tight to our vision, our hope and our promise to work diligently, so that we continue to consolidate our position as Canada's premier community economic development resource.



It is recognized that maintaining this energy, commitment and passion is not without its challenges and sacrifices. On behalf of the board, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the dedication, commitment and tireless efforts of our Executive Director, Rupert Downing, our staff, committees, fellow board members, partner organizations, funders and most importantly our members. Working together we have consistently shown that community economic development incites change and offers transformative solutions for communities across Canada.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Cathy Harrington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy Harrington
Board President

From the Executive Director

The past year has proven that now is the time to create a strong, collective vision of a better future for Canada's communities. Scenes on our televisions from aboriginal communities showing housing and health conditions difficult to believe gave us a sense of how bad things can get when government neglect is allowed to go unchallenged. An ever-growing stream of homeless people looking for shelter and support provides emphatic evidence of the need for action across governments to support innovative community-based housing and poverty-reduction solutions. The experience of rural towns and villages with a cycle of agricultural neglect, rural poverty, and out-migration cry out for a community economic development solution to agricultural policy that at the same time addresses opportunities for improving food sustainability and reducing climate change.

For all of these and many other reasons, CCEDNet has a vital role to play in growing a movement for grass roots community-led solutions. Community economic development activities of our members are creating major solutions for Canadians and their communities. Scaled up and supported systematically by a sympathetic policy environment, CED could offer viable, holistic responses to inter-related social, economic and environmental challenges. These challenges include issues ranging from housing to childcare, employment training to immigrant settlement,

and from climate change to food sustainability. Bringing together activities and solutions is what the Network is all about. We are focused on building a common space and voice for those doing the work in communities, a space where we can learn from one another, develop common tools and resources, advocate for policy changes that respond to the real needs of the people in our communities, and produce evidence-based research on what's working and why.



Our Network's growth to nearly 700 members, with some 10,000 users of our resources, shows the continuing need for a movement like ours, even as it becomes more difficult to obtain funding for core functions. We hope you will continue to join us and participate in building our vision of a better Canada from the ground up, community-by-community!

A handwritten signature in orange ink, which appears to read "Rupert Downing". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Rupert Downing
Executive Director

The Change I Seek: CCEDNet members share their vision



David Daughton

Coordinator

Mobilizing Youth for the Delivery of Advisory Service (MYDAS) PEI

I work in the field of CED because I have a vision of community empowerment and community health that is rooted in local action and global awareness.

As a young man, I found that the needs of my community were best addressed by cooperative approaches, so I naturally gravitated towards working with co-operatives. Most of the great success stories I've seen have grown from grass-roots initiatives that have been led by passionate and committed people within a community.

My ultimate vision is an economy where prosperity isn't confined to urban communities or to resource extraction activities. I hope for a country where people can live sustainable lifestyles wherever they choose, while engaging in activities that don't harm the environment and strengthen local cultures.



Anne Kettenbeil

Executive Director

ACEM –
Fonds Communautaire
Québec

I come to my work in CED from a social and economic justice perspective, this is my context.

From very young, my first observations included wondering why people didn't want to share things. I've since realized that cooperation is what creates a strong social fabric. In fact, it has been fundamental to my decision to work in the field of community economic development.

The notion that cooperation can solve some of our biggest problems is what keeps me motivated. I'm really inspired by ordinary people who don't lose hope and continue to come together and share ideas. It's not that I believe change can happen, it's that I know the potential people have to create change.



Gulalai Habib

Community Economic Developer
(Coordinator of Malalay Co-op)
Immigrant Services of BC
BC

My vision is that all people in Canada will be treated as equal citizens.

When I was working with the United Nations Development Program, I witnessed the dependence of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. They became passive receivers of a system. When I came to Canada, I saw the same situation here – immigrants and refugees on income assistance for years. These people have amazing survival skills that are not appreciated by our current political system. We must realize it is not the inability of the people coming to Canada, it is the inability of our systems to appreciate their skills. This is what drives me to work in the field of CED.

For me, community participation, ownership of programs and self-advocacy are key for creating a positive settlement experience for our newcomers. We need to focus on the importance of a bottom-up approach. CCEDNet has taken an inspiring role within our co-op and at the national level. It has been a spark for creating hope around immigrant and refugee initiatives and programs. I hope that the partnership between CCEDNet and other sectors serving immigrants will continue to grow, as immigrant work needs to involve all sectors. Only when we realize that all sectors must be involved, will Canada's socioeconomic system truly engage newcomers to Canada.



Jaddah Loder

Member, CCEDNet's Emerging Leaders

For me, becoming a part of the CED movement was unavoidable. I strive to be involved because I feel that as a Canadian, I have the means and opportunity to improve our country. My lifetime of experiences showed me that CED is vital for community growth and prosperity. Being a part of CCEDNet's Emerging Leaders (EL) committee will hopefully help me to achieve my future goal of a Canada that is economically and socially viable for all people. Sustainable economic development is the key to prospering in the future and achieving the Canada that we all dream of.

Building An Inclusive Movement

CCEDNet is a unique national organization, receiving strength directly from local initiatives, while drawing on expertise and building relationships deep into the organizations we serve. Over the last year, CCEDNet has worked hard to ensure that our membership is diverse and inclusive.

Immigrant and Refugee CED

In 2006, we made great progress in the field of Immigrant and Refugee CED. One of CCEDNet's crowning achievements was the development of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Action Network (ICAN). ICAN is a CCEDNet national working group of immigrant and refugee CED practitioners and their allies across Canada. Comprised of both CCEDNet members and non-members, these people are working together to build bridges between immigrant communities and the mainstream CED community.

"I cannot explain to the Harvard School professor about poverty. But I can explain to you.

We took a little bit of effort to explain this to social justice people. And also a little bit of effort to talk with our community and let them know that first, [we must] accept that we are living in poverty, and second to say that yes, there is a solution... That's why I think if we can find some friends that can understand the issue, then we can do something."

*Interview with Mohammed Maie,
Edmonton Mennonite Centre for
Newcomers & founding member of ICAN*



Since convening ICAN, we have learned several things, including:

- **Our well structured networks do not reach into immigrant and refugee communities.** We had to work very hard to find and build relationships with immigrant and refugee practitioners. We now have relationships with co-operatives and social enterprises in many regions in Canada. This is an amazing outcome in and of itself.
- **The words, 'immigrant, refugee, newcomer, New Canadian, and racialised person' do not work for us.** That said, we have chosen to stick with 'immigrant and refugee.' Currently, we are working on figuring out ways to make it known that for the most part, people who experience social and economic exclusion, and were born in another country, have an experience of race that needs to be better understood and accepted.
- **Immigrant and refugee practitioners invite you to partner with them to do CED.**
- **Social enterprises, including co-operatives, have the potential to provide culturally responsive social services and transform Canada into a multicultural society.** Meeting basic needs, community organizing and adult education are part of the first phase of co-op and social enterprise development in newcomer communities.

Manitoba - CCEDNet Manitoba and SEED Winnipeg have created a partnership that will see up to four social enterprises developed within immigrant and refugee communities. Part of this project is the creation of a Provincial Immigrant and Refugee Steering Committee. This group is working together to organize events which offer creative effective learning and networking opportunities for immigrant and refugee CED leaders in Manitoba

In 2007 we will be working on:

- Making the case for increased investment in CED in immigrant communities.
- Creating opportunities for immigrant and refugee CED practitioners and their allies to build relationships and meet in-person.
- Creating tools, resources and learning opportunities for immigrant and refugee CED practitioners to become self-advocates.

For more information on ICAN visit:
www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/pages/coopdev.asp

International CED

At the 2006 CCEDNet National Conference, a decision was made to create the CCEDNet International Committee (IC). The goal of the Committee is to strengthen CCEDNet's international engagement in community economic development and to help influence Canadian policy on international development. Committee members include representatives from the Centre for Community Enterprise, Économie solidaire de l'Ontario, Uniterra, CUSO, and Canadian Crossroads International (CCI).

The IC conducted a survey of CCEDNet members to more fully understand the current international engagement within the membership, and the level of interest for becoming further involved in the international sector. Results from this survey will be available at the 2007 National Conference.



Emerging Leaders

The Emerging Leaders Committee is a group of young people established within the Canadian CED Network with *'the purpose of increasing the number and quality of young practitioners entering into the CED field & ensuring an active and meaningful voice in CCEDNet.'*

Over the last year, Emerging Leaders has made significant achievements around the goals of effective outreach to youth in CED, building an evidence base for engaging youth in CED, and increasing capacity for youth CED practitioners.

Québec – Our co-chair for the Emerging Leaders Committee, Christian Clément, is based in Quebec, and internships under our Create Action program with member organizations in the region have helped create stronger linkages, including sponsorship of a youth-led event in collaboration with Concordia University on CED and the social economy.

Outreach

- Positively influenced the level of youth participation and leadership within CCEDNet. We helped organize and participated in the Youth Stream at the 2006 National CED Conference; succeeded in securing a higher number of youth attendees than ever before; and we organized an evening facilitated by youth.
- Engaged in outreach to other youth organizations and young people in communities; several youth organizations have learned of the CreateAction Internship program through EL work and have since become CCEDNet members and applied to host a young person.
- Funding for longer-term youth activity and engagement continues to be a challenge for our partners and member organizations.

Capacity

- We conducted several well-attended dialogue calls with guest speakers from a variety of regions of Canada.
- Produced a newsletter on Youth and CED and an EL-NL Blog (www.el-nl.blogspot.com)
- Newer members are learning about CED and are becoming part of a wider CED network.

Evidence-Based Research

- Completed and distributed Youth and CED Profiles and Final Report. The goal of this research was not only to continue building the information and knowledge base about young people and CED in Canada, but to inspire people of all ages with the amazing diversity and creativity of the stories shared.
- In the future we will be working to Create a Youth CED Action Plan based on feedback from young people to help direct and focus EL's work.



The CreateAction Internship Experience

The Community Economic Development (CED) Work Experience Program is a Canadian CED Network program funded by Service Canada. From February 2006 to March 2008, sixty youth from across Canada will participate in a six-month job placement in CED.



Frederick Khonje,
Research and Proposal Coordinator
Quint Development Corporation

For me, The CreateAction Work Experience Program has been an exceptional personal learning experience and career opportunity. I had been searching for an occupation that fit with my professional, academic and personal sense of social justice, and CreateAction has given me just that. Through the program, I've been able to expand my knowledge and experience within a socially conscious organization.

The host organization for my internship was Quint Development Corporation. Quint is a nonprofit, community-based corporation that aims to strengthen the economic and social well-being of Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods using a community-based economic development approach. As a Research and Proposal Coordinator, I researched policies and possible funding opportunities, and developed funding proposals. My stay with Quint was an amazing experience, and well worth the time and effort. This job allowed me to explore my interests to better understand CED on a local level, as well as helped me learn how a non-profit organization effectively operates and functions within their community.

I am thankful to CCEDNet for the opportunity and grateful to Quint for providing me with the chance to witness CED practitioners in the field. This experience has strengthened my interest in CED and has encouraged me to continue with my education. I'm excited for the new challenges that lie ahead, as I just started the Masters in Business Administration program at Cape Breton University - specializing in CED.

CCEDNet's Work Experience Program

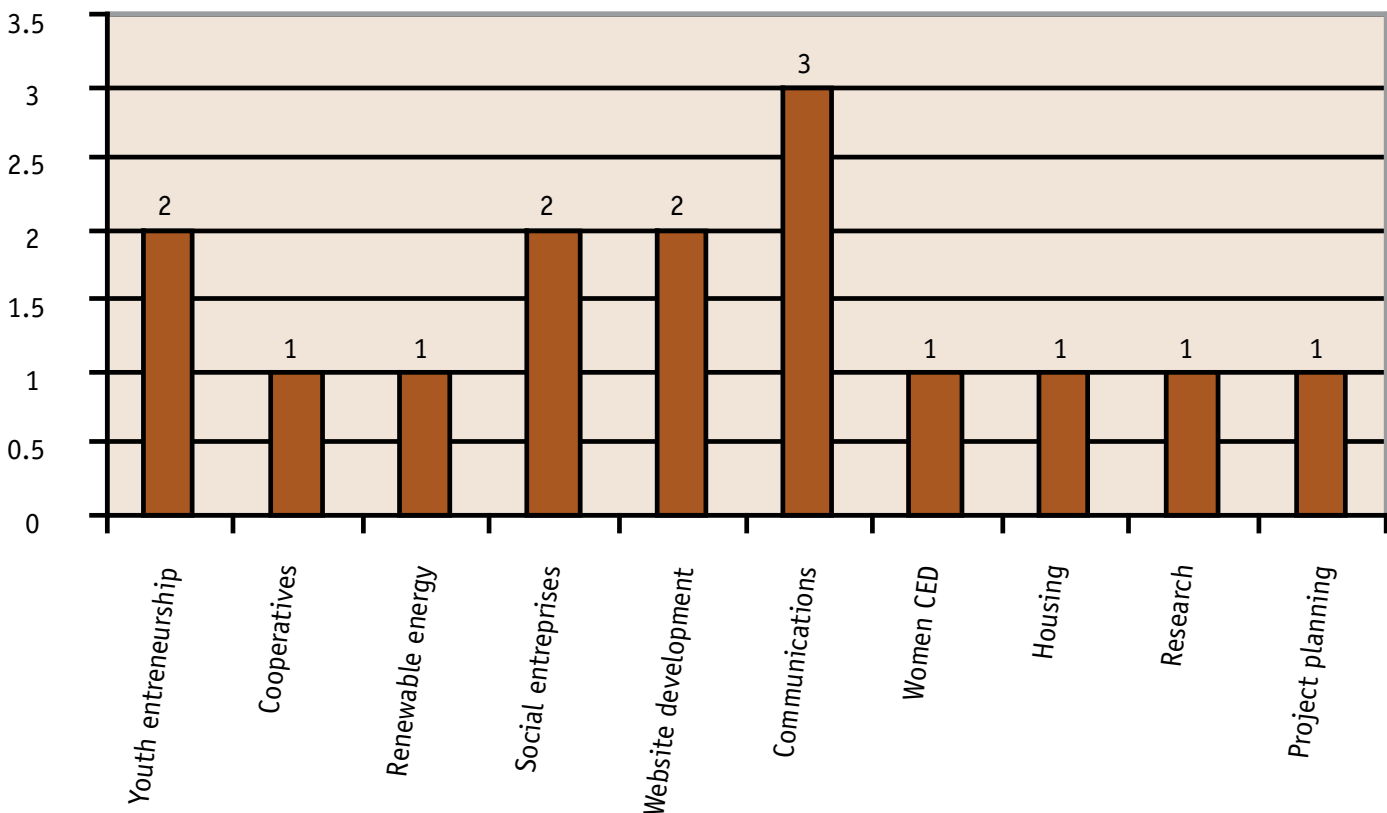
The CED Work Experience Program is the only national internship program that provides paid learning opportunities for young people to do community economic development in their own communities.

The first of its kind in Canada, this unique internship will place 60 post-graduate youth with community organizations across the country by March 2008. In 2006, the first 15 interns successfully finished their placements with their host organizations. Of the fifteen, eight are now working in community economic development, with five continuing to be employed with their respective host organizations.

The CreateAction program seeks to:

1. Provide a practical learning experience in which participants gain CED skills.
2. Provide an opportunity for participants to build a peer network to enhance social learning as well as future job opportunities.
3. Create and disseminate knowledge and resource materials specifically tailored to foster learning with entry-level CED positions.
4. Create a strong evidence base to argue for government and private sector investment in CED work experience programs.

Nature of Internships



The National Conference

2006 National Conference on CED & Social Economy



Rooting Development in Community

The 2006 National Conference on Community Economic Development (CED) and the Social Economy - *Leaf, Tree, Forest: Rooting Development in Community*, was our biggest success yet, bringing together 641 CED and Social Economy practitioners, civil society representatives, funders and other affiliates from every province and territory. Founded on a theme of social, economic and environmental sustainability, participants came together to share knowledge at dozens of workshops, plenary sessions, keynote addresses, and site visits.

The conference's theme, *Leaf, Tree, Forest: Rooting Development in Community*, was reflected both in the diversity of the program as well as the range of participants. Sessions focused on issues facing rural communities, aboriginal communities, women, youth, immigrants, and international settings were mixed with sessions presenting practical tools, techniques and experiences. Also featured was our first ever Marketplace and Showcase of Social Enterprises and CED Initiatives. This 'trade show' offered participants an opportunity to shop local social enterprises and learn more about outstanding community initiatives.



Other conference highlights included:

- The presence of a record contingent of international participants was indicative of the Canadian CED Network's participation in the international meetings on the Social Solidarity Economy in Dakar in 2005. It points in the direction of a new international thrust for the Canadian CED Network in the coming year.
- Announcement of an official partnership between the Chantier de l'économie sociale and the Canadian CED Network – a bridge built with Quebec's powerful and paramount social economy network.
- The Canadian Women's CED Council's pre-conference policy forum; registration was at capacity and the forum attracted a broad cross-section of conference participants. The discussions helped to bring women-centred CED to the forefront of subsequent policy discussions and speakers effectively articulated the importance of strategic lobbying against the trend in federal policy to cut social investment and responsibility.
- The presence of a wide range of social economy civil society representatives and senior civil servants provided valuable opportunities for consultation, discussion and input throughout the conference.

The Policy Stream of the conference program offered a series of 4 policy-related workshops, one plenary session, a pre-conference Policy Framework Renewal Forum, and CCEDNet's Annual General Meeting, all of which provided an opportunity for in-depth exchanges on priorities for next steps. A copy of the conference program and many presentations from the workshops are available on our website. Conference evaluations found that participants placed equal value on both the unique learning experiences and valuable networking opportunities offered at the 2006 National CED Conference on CED and the Social Economy.

The National Conference cont'd

The 2007 National CED Conference will take place in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, April 18-21, 2007. This event is being planned by the Canadian CED Network in partnership with local host: Futures In Newfoundland and Labrador's Youth (FINALLY!).

The theme of the 2007 conference, *Bring It Home: Building Communities On A Rock Foundation* is indicative of our desire to pause and reflect on our grass-roots beginnings, while coming together to develop a vision for what we wish to achieve. We hope that a key outcome of this event will be for participants to chart a course for the future despite uncertainty resulting from the continuing clawback of support and resources for CED. This event will focus on how we can build on our strong foundation to weather a potentially stormy future.

Newfoundland & Labrador – For the 2007 National CED Conference, Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador's Youth (FINALLY!) is the local host organization. Local host organizations assist in the preparations for the conference by providing input and mobilizing their communities. CCEDNet members can apply to be the local host organization of the National Conference. If you're interested, watch for the 2009 Call for Proposals to Host which will be sent out fall 2008.

There was unprecedented diversity among conference registrants in terms of sector, location, ethnicity, and role in CED and social enterprise. Add that to the fact that Canadian CED Network members were a minority of those who registered, and it is a sign of just how far our members are reaching out.

National Policy Council

David LePage, Co-chair
Enterprising Non-Profits Program,
Vancity Community Foundation
Vancouver, BC

Rosalind Lockyer, Co-chair
PARO Centre For Women's Enterprise
Thunder Bay, ON

Vicki Austad
New Westminster Community
Development Society
New Westminster, BC

Geri Collins
CFDC of Central Interior First Nations
Kamloops, BC

Ethel Côté
L'Art du développement Plantagenet
ON

Eunice Grayson
Learning Enrichment Foundation
Toronto, ON

Norman Greenberg
Connections Clubhouse
Hatchet Lake, NS

Peter Hough
Canadian Worker Co-operative
Federation
Kentville, NS

Eric Leviten-Reid
Caledon Institute of Social Policy
Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Mike Lewis
Centre for Community Enterprise
Port Alberni, BC

Shauna MacKinnon
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
Winnipeg, MB

Lynne Markell
Canadian Co-operative Association
Ottawa, ON

Bill Ninacs
Coopérative de consultation en
développement La Clé
Victoriaville, QC

Chris Pinney
Le Centre canadien de philanthropie
Toronto, ON

Marcia Tait
City of Edmonton, Community
Services-Innovative Services
Edmonton

Economic Revitalization

CCEDNet is working towards a Communities Agenda in Canada that would see all levels of government better supporting communities and their civil society organizations to create social and economic opportunities through sustainable and inclusive development. Poverty, homelessness, environmental degradation, inadequate child care, and gaps in social programs are resulting in worsening conditions in many communities. Community economic development offers a holistic approach to tackling these issues. In order to be successful, it needs a supportive public policy environment.

During the past year, The Policy Council, made up of 15 members from across Canada, has led this work with a focus on:

- Effectively responding to a changing external environment.
- Maintaining a policy profile for community economic development.
- Making CCEDNet's policy role more engaging and relevant for the members in their daily work in communities.

CCEDNet continued its leadership in policy development at the national level and enhanced CED policy in several provinces. Our Executive Director, Rupert Downing, discussed Social Economy issues in Ottawa, and joined with the Canadian Co-operative Association to engage federal representatives across the political spectrum on the value of CED and the Social Economy. We and our partners argued for the retention of the federal social economy initiative. While many program areas were cut, we succeeded

in creating understanding across political parties of the importance of CED and the social economy to urban, rural, northern and aboriginal communities.

The Human Resources Committee of the Policy Council continued to advance reform of contracting and funding policies that impact the community non-profit sector's ability to meet local needs. David LePage, Chair of the Policy Council, represented CCEDNet in a hearing before the Parliamentary HUMA (Human Resources, Social Development, and Persons with Disabilities) Committee on the social economy.

At the provincial level, CCEDNet members and staff from across the country took action on creating provincial CED policy to respond to issues like immigrant integration, food security, homelessness and poverty.

The 2006 conference provided input from members and partners on the need for CCEDNet to take a leadership role in promoting a Communities Agenda. The Policy Council is responding by providing increased opportunities for members to identify and work together on emerging issues, including housing, food and agriculture, social enterprise development, immigrant settlement, and child care.

CCEDNet's Policy Council (left), along with its subcommittees, develops and promotes national and local policy frameworks to enable the scaling up of community economic development's role in renewing marginalized communities.

Providing an Evidence Base for CED

Community economic development has a proven track record for building wealth, creating jobs, fostering innovation and productivity, and improving social well-being. CCEDNet has participated in documenting numerous success stories across the country which illustrated how wealth, jobs and community health have been fostered by CED initiatives. In 2006, CCEDNet completed several research projects including the The Pan-Canadian Community Development Learning Network Social Inclusion Project (see feature) and the Youth in CED research initiative.

The Pan-Canadian Community Development Learning Network, CCEDNet's 2.5 year action research project, focussed on the links between social inclusion and community economic development. The final report of the project examines the problems of exclusion and growing inequality in Canada, summarizes research findings, identifies critical opportunities for change and makes policy recommendations for governments and practitioners to strengthen comprehensive community-based efforts for integrated community, social and economic development. As part of the research, we asked practitioners to share tools and resources they found useful in developing integrated approaches to improving social and economic conditions. These have been compiled into an on-line, searchable toolbox that offers over 150 documents, guidebooks, videos, research reports, websites, and case studies in both English and French. The toolbox can be searched by title, keyword, author, format or topic.

Running from November 2005 to April 2006, the Emerging Leaders research project profiled 13 stories of Youth in CED across Canada. The purpose of this research was to inspire people of all ages by presenting CED organizations and projects currently being led and motivated by young people. The stories were intended to offer examples so that youth, practitioners and communities may learn from youth-driven CED.

CCEDNet is also the co-lead with the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies of a five-year national research program on the social economy. The program is



Among other elements, The Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op (CNYC) provides a place where measures can be taken to keep youth out of the social justice system. Participants learn how to operate a co-operative business by working on group-initiated environmental projects.

Source: Youth in CED Profiles: The Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op

funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and involves six regional research centres around the country, together with the national coordinating function (the "hub") based in Victoria, BC. A national board oversees the program inclusive of practitioner and university partners. CCEDNet is responsible for designing and managing the tele-learning program of the Hub that will offer practitioners and researchers regular opportunities to engage in emerging research subjects in both French and English. In October 2007, an international conference titled *Building and Strengthening Communities: The Social Economy in a Changing World* will be hosted in Victoria, BC.

The purpose of CCEDNet's Research Advisory Committee is to build CCEDNet's capacity to undertake effective evidence-based research over the long-term. Evaluation issues have been a major priority for our members, and the Committee has designed a workshop on evaluation methods and models.

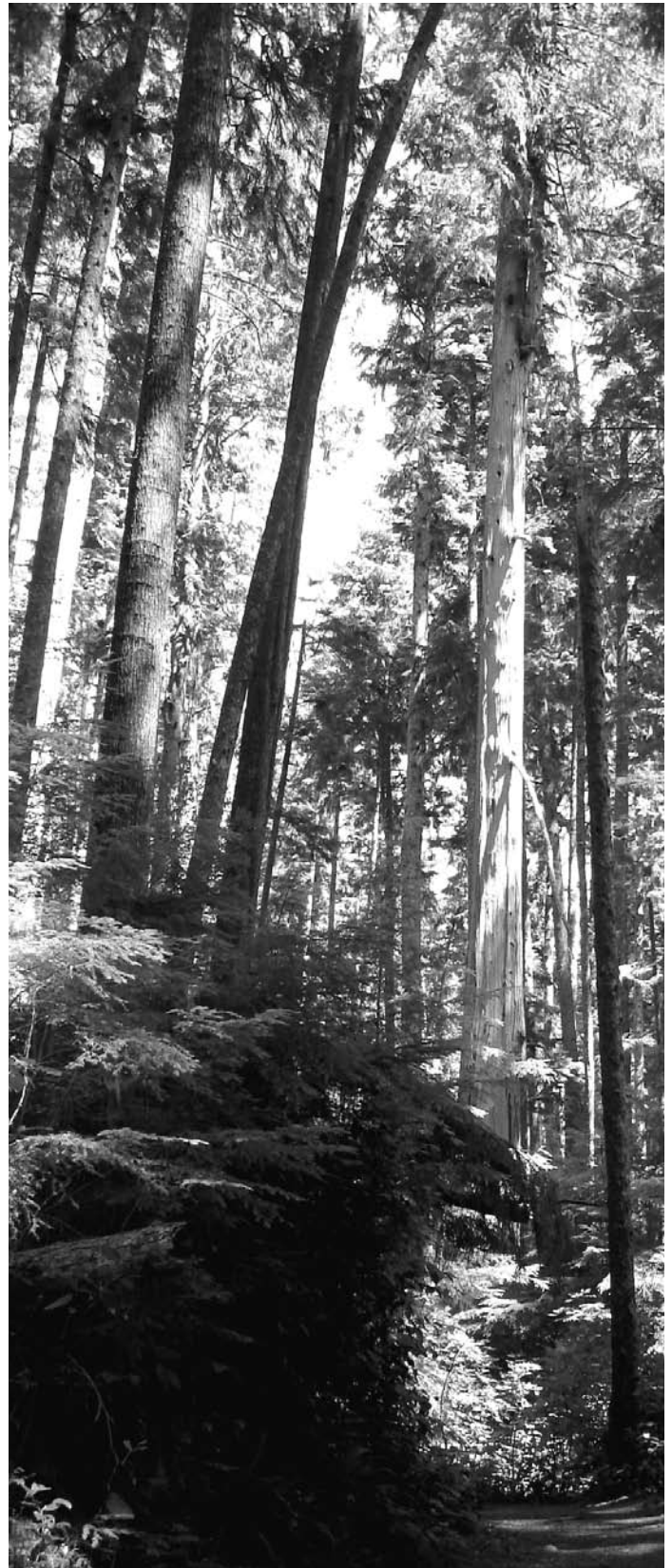
Feature: The Storytellers' Foundation

The Pan-Canadian Community Development Learning Network (PCCDLN):

This profile was prepared as part of a 2.5-year project of the Canadian CED Network looking at the links between social inclusion and community economic development which was completed in 2006.

Storytellers' Foundation is based in the upper Skeena River region in northwest BC. The region is home to 14 distinct communities all located on the traditional territories of the Gitksan First Nation, approximately 300 kilometers inland from Prince Rupert on BC's northwest coast. About 5,000 people live in two municipalities, Hazelton, and New Hazelton, seven reserves, two non-incorporated settlements and three valleys. These communities are all situated in the 30,000 square kilometres of area known as the Upper Skeena. The Gitksan First Nation makes up almost 80% of the population with most of the remainder of Western European descent.

The communities of the Upper Skeena are set in a land of lush, temperate rainforests, snow-capped mountains, salmon-bearing rivers and abundant natural resources. The diverse and distinct communities create a sense of belonging and give the local people a sense of identity and pride. There is a deep and inherent relationship between people, based on kin, and between people and the land. These relationships have evolved from a more than 10,000 year history of Gitksan living on the territories and from a strong, century-old, settler history which includes a culture of belonging to place.



Feature: The Storytellers' Foundation cont'd

Traditional economies based on bartering, trading and reciprocity were dominant until very recently in the Upper Skeena. The new economies, based on an industrial model of large-scale resource extraction and cash remuneration, are less than five decades old. The combined effects of colonialism, industrialization and corporatism have culminated in widespread impoverishment in the communities of the Upper Skeena. The current socioeconomic indicators are some of the worst in BC and include extreme unemployment rates.



Demographically, the Upper Skeena contains a very high youth population, with 70% under the age of 30 – twice the provincial average. Despite such dire socioeconomic indicators, the resiliency of the local population stemming from connection to the land and connection to kin is apparent. The people of the Upper Skeena expressed a need to learn to work together and a need to support the youth population – areas that community members were worried were being lost compared to historical practice due to the recent socioeconomic influences.

Storytellers' Foundation was created in 1994, after witnessing the lack of results from external sources investing millions of dollars into conventional approaches to human and economic development. It was created in the belief that there must be a better way based on systems rooted in Gitksan and Settler cultures. Over the years, the founders had observed and experienced that informal learning was flourishing in the Upper Skeena and supporting it was the local answer to a better approach for human and economic development. The informal

learning structures were well organized and based on the relationship to the land and kin. In the mid to late 1990s, Storytellers' Foundation carried out community research to allow the people living in the Upper Skeena communities to articulate their values and to express a collaborative vision for their socioeconomic future. Much of this research was in anticipation of the collapse of the already

fragile forest extraction industry. Many in the communities understood the cyclical nature of this industry and understood that a final collapse was soon to happen, resulting in mass unemployment. Jobs alone will not create change.

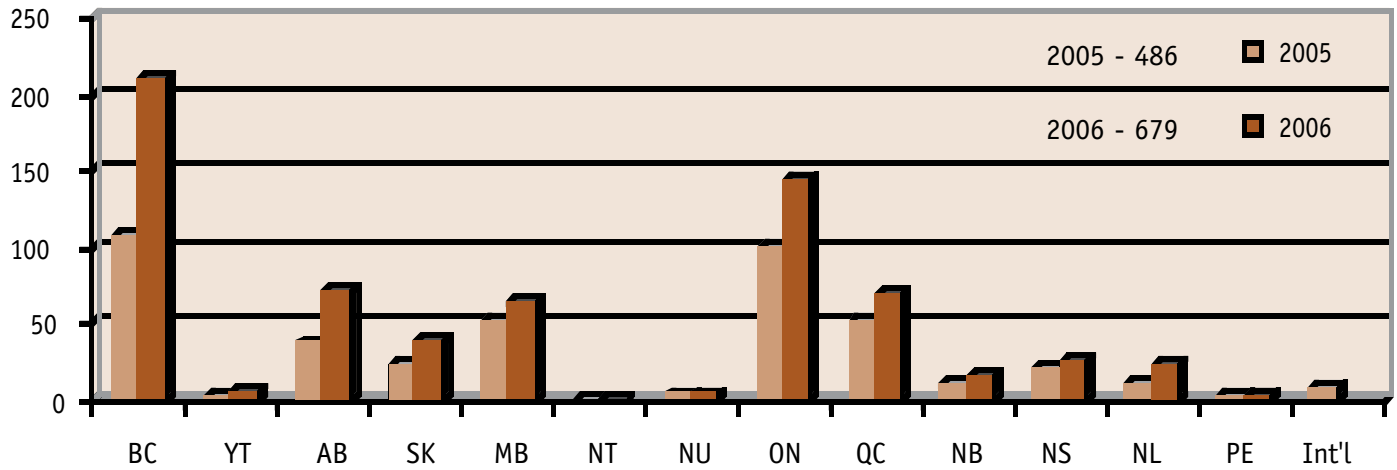
These discoveries allowed Storytellers' to create community learning strategies to begin to address the deeper, underpinning reasons that prevent Upper Skeena communities from flourishing in this pristine natural environment. They designed an Integrating Approach to health and literacy based on the values and principles heard from local people, and their practices are rooted in the values and ways of learning of both the Gitksan and Settler populations of the Upper Skeena.

Storytellers' work is first and foremost about being citizens and is place-based. It situates CED in an ecological framework that recognizes diversity as essential for survival and connectedness of people to the land they live on as a cornerstone of sustainability.

Adapted from Pan-Canadian Community Development Learning Network: Profile of Effective Practice - Storytellers' Foundation

Sustainable Growth of Our Network

Membership Comparison 2005 - 2006



This has been a remarkable year for CCEDNet as our membership has grown by 37%. This growth is testament to the policy work of the network and to the growing relationships between members that strengthens our work locally and offers support to each of us working in the field.

As we look to the future, the membership committee will be focusing its efforts on implementing strategies to engage members across the country. Many sub-groups are forming and supporting each other around specific areas of interest including food sustainability; emerging leaders; women in CED; and immigrant issues. There is much to be learned from each other as we develop local strategies within our areas of interest and work. The Membership Committee is a place where those accomplishments can be shared across "silos".

In our quest to ensure effective governance, we succeeded in completing a national membership consultation to improve policy and procedures for membership participation. These results will be presented at the 2007 AGM, for member decisions on new governance policies and procedures.

At the 2006 AGM, our members expressed concern over the fact that our Network was having difficulty securing long-term funding. To address this concern, a donor appeal program was developed and implemented. In the future, we will be engaging our members in developing an action plan to roll-out further financial sustainability measures.



Our Membership Committee seeks to:

- Engage members in developing membership policies.
- Encourage members to be active in building and promoting the network.
- Ensure that members are involved in outreach to the overall field of CED in Canada.
- Ensure that members, in their efforts to build their internal capacity to advance CED, have access to CCEDNet support services.

The membership committee recruits new members, sets membership policies, helps respond to emerging member priorities and contributes to the design of the Annual General Meeting.

As a result of our ever-increasing membership, CCEDNet's operations have become more effective in our quest to be a valuable resource for our members. Last year, we addressed our need for increased communications by hiring a communications officer, completing an operational communications plan, and successfully increasing media relations. We also hired a new financial

manager and bookkeeper. Although funding changes meant that we lost some key regional staff positions over the last year, we have worked hard to recruit new members of our team to support the vision and needs of members across the country.

Saskatchewan - With the completion of a strategic framework focusing on communications, outreach and capacity-building, our Saskatchewan members have been busy with a range of activities including social enterprise development, community financing and housing. The social economy research node, hosted by the University of Saskatchewan, has been engaging, researching and supporting the local CED community over the last year.

BC/Yukon - During a fifteen month process of engagement and consultation, members of the Canadian CED Network who reside in BC and the Yukon Territory participated in a strategic planning process to clarify their mission and vision, examine activities, and strengthen the governance and operational functions of the Network. These meetings resulted in the creation of The BC/Yukon Strategic Plan 2006-2009, which was adopted by Council in May 2006.

Membership Committee

Peter Frampton, Co-Chair
Learning Enrichment Foundation
Toronto, ON

Marie Prebushewski, Co-chair
Thickwood Hills Business & Learning Centers
Hafford, SK

Caroline Lachance
ÉCOF-CDEC de Trois-Rivières
Trois-Rivières, QC

Natasha Jackson
Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs
Halifax, NS

Ross Mayer
Council for the Advancement of Native Development
Edmonton, AB

Larry Casper
CFDC of Central Interior First Nations
Kamloops, BC

Scott Ricker
The Last Chance Ranch
Lytton, BC

Strengthening Capacity of the CED Sector

Over the last year, we have placed our goal of strengthening the CED sector as a top priority. With an increased number of tele-learning sessions, workshops and forums available, a large cross-section of our members came together for events which fostered both in-person and virtual capacity building.

The Practitioner and Sector Strengthening Committee strives to nurture and support CED organizations and practitioners in Canada. The committee seeks to enhance the capacity and skills of the CED community by providing resources, best practice tools, learning events and professional development opportunities. The Committee focuses on core assets for all CED practitioners, and works with existing technical assistance groups to promote collaboration and information sharing.

Over the past year, we have continued to improve on the Advocacy 101 workshop with delivery in both French and English at regional and national learning events. As more people enter the field of CED, from youth, to seniors, to New Canadians, mentorship plays an ever stronger role in ensuring that the new wave of practitioners have access to the skills and assets they need to be effective. To address

the issue of succession, our Practitioner and Sector Strengthening Committee has developed a new mentorship workshop which will be launched at the 2007 National CED Conference.

The Committee continues to be concerned with career development in CED and the many specialized sub sectors of the field. A priority for further work in this area is convening a participatory research initiative to identify the sets of core competencies, good practices and tools that all CED practitioners could work to develop – and working with education and technical assistance groups across the country to ensure that practitioners have the opportunity to access learning opportunities and resources to build these competencies

There are five asset areas or supports that people working in any CED organization need to be as effective as possible:

- Skills and knowledge
- Career information
- Economic benefits
- Tools and resources
- Networking opportunities

Manitoba – In October, 2006, the 4th Annual Community Development and Community Economic Development Gathering was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This increasingly-popular event, hosted by CCEDNet-Manitoba with the assistance of community partners, brought together over 500 participants. The purpose of the Gathering was to provide a free professional development and networking opportunity for individuals and organizations interested in community economic development.

Québec - Through our partnership with le Chantier de l'économie sociale CCEDNet members from across Canada participated in, The Summit on the Social Economy, one of the largest regional CED events ever held in Québec. Over 600 delegates came together to map out the next steps in the development of the Social Economy, confirmed provincial government support for the movement, and promoted solidarity with organizations in Canada and around the world.

Ontario – In 2006, CCEDNet-Ontario hosted tele-learning sessions on the Labour Market Development Agreement, which were very successful and brought together a total of over 60 practitioners. These events broke the barriers of distance and isolation and made information simultaneously accessible to practitioners regardless of their geographic location.

Manitoba – CCEDNet-Manitoba has been asked to join the youth organizers from Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata during their process of creating a youth-led conference. The conference seeks to build a sense of unity and pride in Aboriginal identity while assessing the needs of urban Aboriginal youth. There is much to be learned from the way Ma Mawi and this particular youth conference team organize and build capacity. CCEDNet is honoured to be involved with telling the story of Ma Mawi and their community capacity building processes for the second time.

Practitioner and Sector Strengthening Committee

Diana Jedig, Ontario Association of CFDC, ON (Chair)

Bob Annis, Rural Development Institute, MB

Mark Cabaj, Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement, AB

Michele Cherot, Greater Trail Community Skills Centre, BC

Melanie Conn, SFU CED Certificate Program, BC

Anne Doherty, Storytellers' Foundation, BC

Flo Frank, Common Ground Consulting, SK

Carol Madsen, C. Madsen and Associates, BC

Mohamed M. Maie, Tools For Humanity, AB

Parisa Pajouhesh, APR Consulting, BC

Barbara Rufo, Coopérative Interface, QC

Ify Uzor, Distinctive Employment Counseling Service of Alberta, AB

CCEDNet Board of Directors 2006-2007

Cathy Harrington, President, Lutherwood, ON

Natasha Jackson, Vice-President, Halifax, NS

Caroline Lachance, Secretary-Treasurer, ÉCOF-CDEC de Trois-Rivières, QC

David LePage, Chair of Policy Council, Enterprising Non-Profits Program, BC

Peter Frampton, Chair of Membership Committee, The Learning Enrichment Foundation, ON

Diana Jedig, Chair of Practitioner and Sector Strengthening Committee
Ontario Association of Community Futures Development Corporations Inc. (OACFDC), ON

Carol A. Madsen, C. Madsen Consulting, BC

Victoria Morris, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, SK

Larry Casper, Lillooet Tribal Council, BC

Ethel Côté, L'Art du développement, ON

Alex Chernoff, St. John's, NL

Louis Grenier, Conseil de la Coopération de l'Ontario, ON

Jaie Skalin, 2007 National Conference Coordinator (BC)

Marie-Germaine Chartrand, Coordinator
CED Work Experience Program (BC)

Erin Brocklebank, Communications Coordinator (BC)

Shelley McIntosh, Bookkeeper (BC)

Jackie Kanyuk, Member Services Assistant (BC)

Eileen Gillette, BC/Yukon Regional Coordinator, (BC)

Brendan Reimer, Prairies and Northern Territories
Coordinator (MB)

Elizabeth Haight (BC), Summer Student

Interns

Eliza Green (BC)

Yasmin Aboelsaud (BC)

Raïmi Babatoundé-Osseni (MB)

Alison Drain (ON)

Sara Stephens (MB)

Eileen Gillette (BC)

Katie Mazer (BC)

Jackie Kanyuk (BC)

Robyn Webb (MB)

Our very special thanks to the following staff for their contribution in 2006:

Ellie Langford-Parks

Mike Toye

Monique Beaudoin

Seth Asikamos

Daniel Champagne

Monique Bolduc

Celia Smith

Current CCEDNet Staff

Rupert Downing, Executive Director (BC)

Richard Chamberlain, Finance Manager (BC)

Paul Chamberlain, Director of Programs (ON)

Nicole Chaland, Learning Director
Co-operative Development Initiative (BC)

Farrar Brodhead, Emerging Leaders Coordinator (BC)

Get Involved

Membership in CCEDNet is open to all individuals and organizations who support our mission, values and goals.

Benefits include:

- Being eligible to vote on resolutions and hold office within CCEDNet
- Being eligible for travel subsidies to CCEDNet's annual general meeting, National CED Conference and related professional development events
- Opportunity to market products and services through CCEDNet
- Subscription to Making Waves magazine
- Informative mailings, publications and resources on CED
- Opportunity to participate in policy and practitioner development
- Local recognition of participation in a national network

To join our network please visit our website at www.ccednet-rcdec.ca.

Support Our Work

CCEDNet is a registered charitable organization. Donations are welcome.

We thank all those who have supported our work in 2006 and look forward to strengthening existing and new partnerships in the coming year.



Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of THE CANADIAN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NETWORK / LE RÉSEAU CANADIEN DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE

We have audited the statement of financial position of **The Canadian Community Economic Development Network / Le Réseau Canadien De Développement Économique Communautaire** as at December 31, 2006, the statement of operations and the statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, this year the organization derived part of its income in the form of donations, which by their nature are not susceptible to complete audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donations, revenues, excess of revenues over expenses and net assets.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2006 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Society Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year. In cases where the French version differs in meaning from the English version, the English version takes precedence.

Victoria, British Columbia
March 16, 2007

SHERWOOD & THOMAS
Chartered Accountants

THE CANADIAN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NETWORK/
 LE RÉSEAU CANADIEN DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2006

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
ASSETS		
Current		
Bank	\$ 83,227	\$ 77,057
Term deposits	200,000	-
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	94,568	85,357
Prepaid conference expenses	23,295	26,512
Prepaid parking and deposits	<u>3,471</u>	<u>3,254</u>
	404,561	192,180
Capital Assets (Note 4)	<u>31,752</u>	<u>34,108</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 436,313</u>	<u>\$ 226,288</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	\$ 298,826	\$ 94,510
Accounts payable (Note 5)	<u>47,820</u>	<u>48,844</u>
	<u>346,646</u>	<u>143,354</u>
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets	<u>89,667</u>	<u>82,934</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 436,313</u>	<u>\$ 226,288</u>

THE CANADIAN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NETWORK/
LE RÉSEAU CANADIEN DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2006

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
REVENUE		
Project revenues	\$ 1,517,650	\$ 982,035
Operating grants	82,352	80,000
Generated revenue	114,762	53,220
Memberships	66,346	54,866
Wage subsidy	-	1,932
Other revenue	326	693
	<u>1,781,436</u>	<u>1,172,746</u>
EXPENSES		
Administration		
Office	16,944	16,849
Equipment purchased	7,745	1,998
Professional services	4,800	6,009
Communications	3,495	6,321
Translation	9,211	4,851
Internet	1,745	2,047
Advertising	621	2,058
Insurance	1,005	1,901
Membership dues and fees	2,338	-
Rent	16,101	1,585
Interest and bank charges	1,480	760
	<u>65,485</u>	<u>44,379</u>
Committees and Board		
Contracted services	9,882	3,203
Travel and meals	4,078	34,790
Communications	3,120	11,080
Subscriptions	21,301	15,538
Miscellaneous	271	4,558
	<u>38,652</u>	<u>69,169</u>
Staff Costs		
Wages and benefits	466,261	317,239
Contract services	6,900	-
Staff training	804	-
Travel and meals	5,960	10,316
	<u>479,925</u>	<u>327,555</u>
Project costs (excluding staff costs)		
Travel and meals	331,663	266,473
Contractors	300,383	221,262
Intern salaries	279,581	-
Regional coordination	86,545	122,234
Administrative expenses	16,854	-
Communication	71,495	62,432
Translation	26,238	15,482
Materials and supplies	27,859	10,567
Office, meeting rooms and equipment rental	41,544	11,761
Interest and bank charges	2,401	1,805
Advertising and design	3,722	3,197
	<u>1,188,285</u>	<u>715,213</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 9,089</u>	<u>\$ 16,430</u>

THE CANADIAN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NETWORK/
 LE RÉSEAU CANADIEN DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2006

	<u>Invested in Capital Assets</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total 2006</u>	<u>Total 2005</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 34,108	\$ 48,826	\$ 82,934	\$ 35,979
Excess of revenue over expenditures	-	9,089	9,089	16,430
Capital assets acquired	<u>7,745</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,745</u>	<u>42,417</u>
	41,853	57,915	99,768	94,826
Amortization of capital assets	<u>(10,101)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,101)</u>	<u>(11,892)</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 31,752</u>	<u>\$ 57,915</u>	<u>\$ 89,667</u>	<u>\$ 82,934</u>

The Story of the Geese



When Geese fly in formation, they create their own unique form of teamwork. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in their "V", the whole flock adds at least 71% more flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in the V, and another goose flies point.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

When a goose gets sick, or is wounded and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with their companion and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, or until it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group.



Email: info@ccednet-rcdec.ca Website: www.ccednet-rcdec.ca

Head Office

211-620 View Street
Victoria, BC
Canada V8W 1J6

Tel (250) 386-9980
Fax (250) 386-9984
Toll-free 1-877-202-2268