



Involvement and Interest in International Engagement Within the Canadian CED Network

Results of a Membership Survey

**Prepared by the
CCEDNet International Committee**

April 2007



The Canadian **CE**D Network

Le Réseau canadien de **DÉ**C

Strengthening Canada's Communities

Des communautés plus fortes au Canada

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Uniterra for their funding support of the first phase of the CCEDNet International Survey Project.

We would like to thank all respondents for their participation in this project.

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Executive Summary

This document was created to report on the beginning phase of the first project of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network's (CCEDNet) International Committee. It will be shared with respondents and membership and used to gather feedback about CCEDNet's potential international involvement at the 2007 National CED Conference.

This report presents the results of 70 CCEDNet members who responded to a survey. The survey was conducted by CCEDNet as a first step toward designing and implementing an international mandate for the Network. This report provides a map of the Network in terms of three major themes: current and future interest and engagement in international development work; priority actions and outcomes for international engagement; and priorities for CCEDNet's role in representing and supporting its members in the international realm.

The respondents to the survey represent 11% of total CCEDNet membership. Since participation in the survey was voluntary, specific results represent the opinions and actions of the respondents only. That said, the response rate itself is assumed to be an indicator of the support within the greater Network; the overwhelmingly positive response from the 11% surveyed here translates into relatively high support for international engagement within the Network as a whole.

The response was strong nation-wide, mirroring the geographical distribution of CCEDNet's membership. Responses came from both individuals and organizations representing a wide array of organization types.

Understanding and addressing the responses of all respondents, concerns and support alike, is a priority of the Network.

What's Happening Now?

Overall, support amongst respondents was overwhelmingly high. Over 92% of respondents are currently involved or interested in international engagement. Those already involved internationally are primarily engaged in CED knowledge development, partnership, and policy work.

Hopes for the Future

In the future, respondents hope to continue building international partnerships. In addition, there was strong interest expressed in increasing participation in international events, meetings, and networks. Current participation in this international "circuit" is rather low. Respondents also expressed an interest in sharing their technical skills and sector-specific expertise, from work in aboriginal issues to agricultural development.

The Importance of Partnership

Partnership is a clear priority amongst survey respondents. Through organizational partnerships, internships, and exchanges, those who answered the survey hope to keep building these relationships for mutual learning and are asking CCEDNet to help them do so.

Why work Abroad?

The outcomes that respondents hoped to achieve from international engagement were broad and varied. Sustainable development, solidarity, and transfer of knowledge emerged as particularly high priority outcomes. It is interesting to note that current international action around sustainability and solidarity is low. Respondents may be hoping to work with partners to build their capacity to meet these priorities.

How Can we Help?

Respondents are asking for CCEDNet's support in the areas of priority they expressed throughout the survey: partnerships and exchanges, participation in international networks, and participation in international events.

A natural step in this direction for CCEDNet is the continuation of the international component at the National CED Conference, for which there is extremely strong support. The Network and its international partners are exploring their capacity for creating more frequent but smaller networking and knowledge sharing opportunities for national and international members. CCEDNet is also working to produce a publication and toolbox for members, profiling more detailed examples and best practices in international partnership work.

While CCEDNet's adoption of a policy to support the Millennium Development Goals is very strongly supported, respondents noted the importance of balancing this with the myriad of other priorities that compose CCEDNet's current mandate.

Reservations

In addition to providing a picture of the strong international support within the Network, the survey also revealed some areas of concern for members. Respondents recognized CCEDNet's unique role in domestic CED and some worry that international efforts would divert much needed resources away from domestic efforts.

The International Committee hopes to work with members to develop a vision of international engagement that is grounded in partnerships for mutual learning.

Next Steps

This report is a preliminary assessment of interest, involvement, and concerns that can more completely evolve into recommendations and actions through interactive input and dialogue within the membership. The international component of the 2007 National CED Conference will provide important spaces to expand on member priorities and concerns, how CCEDNet can support members, and how we can bridge members to our own involvement in international networks. This information is the foundation on which CCEDNet and the International Committee will build their international work plan for the coming year.

Implications for the Sector

Survey respondents indicated that building knowledge and mutual support for community through partnerships with organizations in the South is a viable and, for some, important component of their work. Within the broad potential of international partnership are concrete implications for trade and enterprise development to help us meet our ethical, social and economic goals. Strengthening such partnerships can help bring the community voice into national level discussion on foreign policy, trade, and development; CCEDNet can provide opportunities to develop that voice with grassroots community organizations and international development partners. For the CED sector itself, such partnerships provide opportunities for capacity building and networking. By facilitating these exchanges, CCEDNet hopes to strengthen Canadian CED interests as part of an international movement to end poverty and strengthen communities through alternative community-based approaches to sustainable development. As CED, social economy, and solidarity economy initiatives grow globally in significance and prominence (from Nobel Prize recognition to the global Make Poverty History campaign) the Canadian CED sector can play an important role in expanding support for initiatives, at home and abroad, through exchanging with Southern partners.

1. Introduction

This document was created to report on the beginning phase of the first project of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network's (CCEDNet) International Committee. It will be shared with the respondents and the membership and used to gather feedback at the 2007 National Conference about CCEDNet's potential international involvement.

Motivation

In 2002 and 2003, Michael Lewis and Yvon Poirier worked together to support Michael's involvement in the International Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS). After Ethel Côté joined the effort in early 2004, a more formal international sub-committee of the Policy Council was officially approved by the Board. There are a growing number of networks and organizations involved in RIPESS. Latin America and Canada are now building networks in partnership as well. There are five or six related networks in different African countries. European countries are also starting to work together. The new Boards of RIPESS and RIDELC in Latin America have many interesting people. With appropriate leadership and planning, a dynamic future is possible.

The CCEDNet International Committee was created at the 2006 National CED Conference in Vancouver. Its first main project was to understand what international involvement and interest already existed within the CCEDNet membership, to gain a better understanding of what role the members would like CCEDNet to play in the international realm, and to see if there was any support for CCEDNet engaging in policy development around the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This CCEDNet International Committee Survey of the CCEDNet membership is a first step to mapping the above and to identifying what direction and steps the Network and Committee should take next in international development work.

Methodology of the Survey

The creation of the survey began as an idea at the 2006 National CED Conference, through a discussion with international participants and practitioners during the action planning sessions on the Saturday morning. After the International Committee formally came together the members held a meeting to brainstorm what the goals of the survey should be, which themes to focus on, and what kinds of questions could be posed.

From this idea-sharing call a first draft of the survey was drawn up and sent back to the Committee members for feedback and comments. After the second draft was created with the necessary changes and adjustments the document was again sent to committee members and identified CED and international member practitioners outside of the committee for further feedback on the style, goal of the survey, and questions asked.

Once the survey was formatted into Survey Monkey it was again sent to the Committee and several member practitioners to test the functionality and clarity.

All CCEDNet members were notified of the survey, which remained open from November 29th 2006 to January 31st 2007, three times by email and once through the CCEDNet newsletter. There were some targeted emails and phone calls; however the targeting was very limited as the committee felt that the voluntary participation of members would be another indicator of interest or lack of interest in CCEDNet's potential role in the international context.

The analysis and writing of this report have been collaborative between CCEDNet staff and International Committee members, with frequent opportunity for feedback and discussion. There will be the opportunity for all members to respond to the survey report and results during workshops at the 2007 National CED Conference in St. Johns, Newfoundland. The report will be sent by email to all participants of the survey after the Conference, adding another space for comments and feedback.

2. Who Responded

2.1 Response Rate

Approximately 650 individuals and organizations were invited to participate in the survey. A total of 70 surveys were completed: 61 in English and nine in French. All completed surveys were useable in the analysis of the results. However, for many of the questions several responses were discarded due to incompleteness or lack of clarity, resulting in different response totals for each question. Response percentages provided are based on the response totals for individual questions. The response rate, based on 70 completed surveys was 10.8%. Given the moderate recruitment methods, the voluntary nature of the participation, and result rates from similar research projects, we consider 10.8% to be a good response rate.

Since participation in the survey was voluntary, not random, we can affirm that the results represent the opinions and actions of the respondents only. It is assumed that those who responded are predominantly those within the Network who are already involved and interested in international work; we can only speculate about the interest in the rest of the membership.

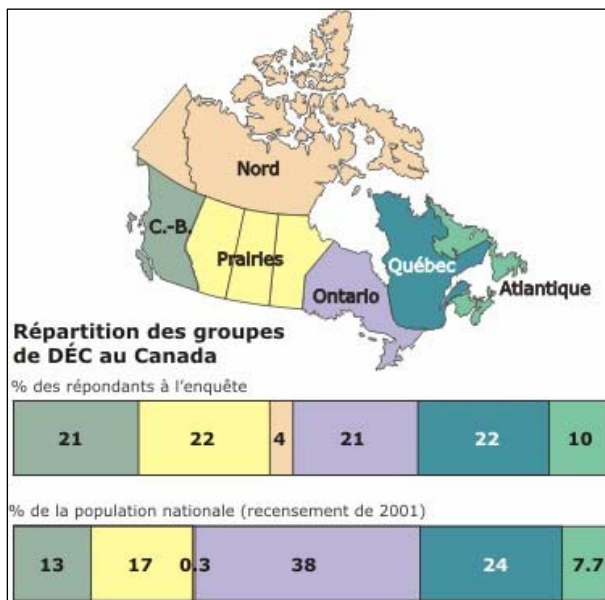


Figure 1: National Distribution of CED Practitioners

2.2 Geographic Distribution

The geographic distribution of the survey's response was based on 67 identifiable respondents. The regions used to define the sample are consistent with those used in the *Profile of Community Economic Development in Canada*¹: British Columbia; The Prairies, including Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba; the North, including the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut; Ontario; Quebec; and the Atlantic Provinces, including New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Figure one² illustrates the national distribution of CED practitioners, as reported by the 2003 Profile, compared to the national population distribution. Figure two represents the geographic distribution of the respondents to this survey. The sample gathered

¹ Chaland, Nicole and Rupert Downing. *Profile of Community Economic Development in Canada* (Victoria: BC: Canadian CED Network, 2003)

² Chaland and Downing 19.

by this survey as quite representative of the national CED distribution, with an under-representation in Quebec and in the North, and a slight over-representation in British Columbia.

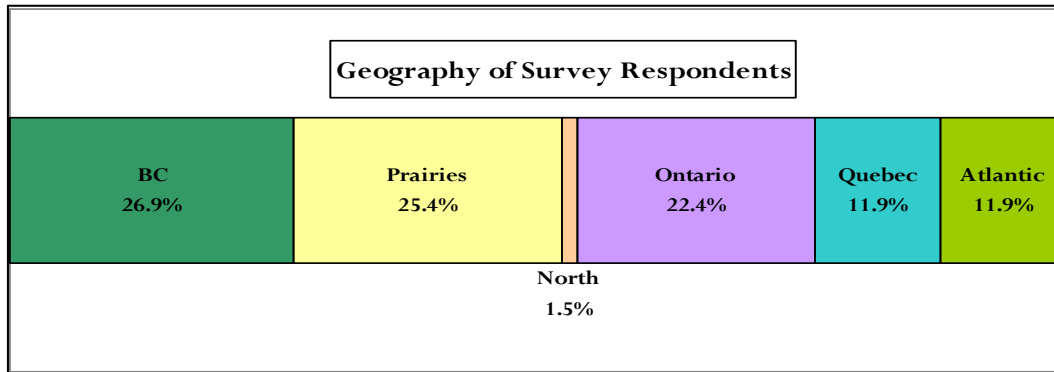


Figure 2: Geographic distribution of survey respondents

Figure three represents the geographic distribution of CCDNet’s membership. The geography of CCEDNet’s membership is clearly represented in the survey responses, explaining that the under-representation in Quebec is likely a result of low Quebec membership.

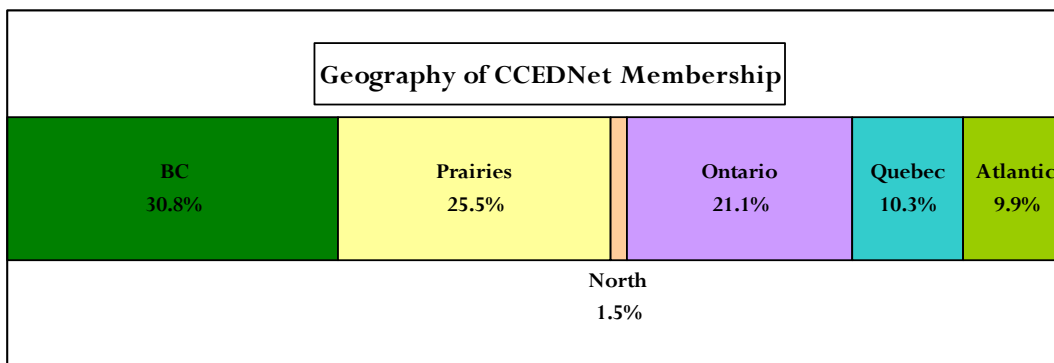


Figure 3: Geographic distribution of CCEDNet membership

2.3 Types of Organizations

Figure four illustrates the classification of survey respondents based on “Type of organization.” Respondents were able to select multiple classifications to define their work, thus the 118 responses. Since “Other” comprised such a high percentage of the 118 responses to the question, an attempt was made to highlight some of the consistencies that emerged in the open answers while respecting the respondents’ decisions to define their work in their own words. These groupings are presented in the highlighted rows of Table one, while the white rows represent the classifications offered in the survey. The table lists the number and percentage of respondents that chose each category.

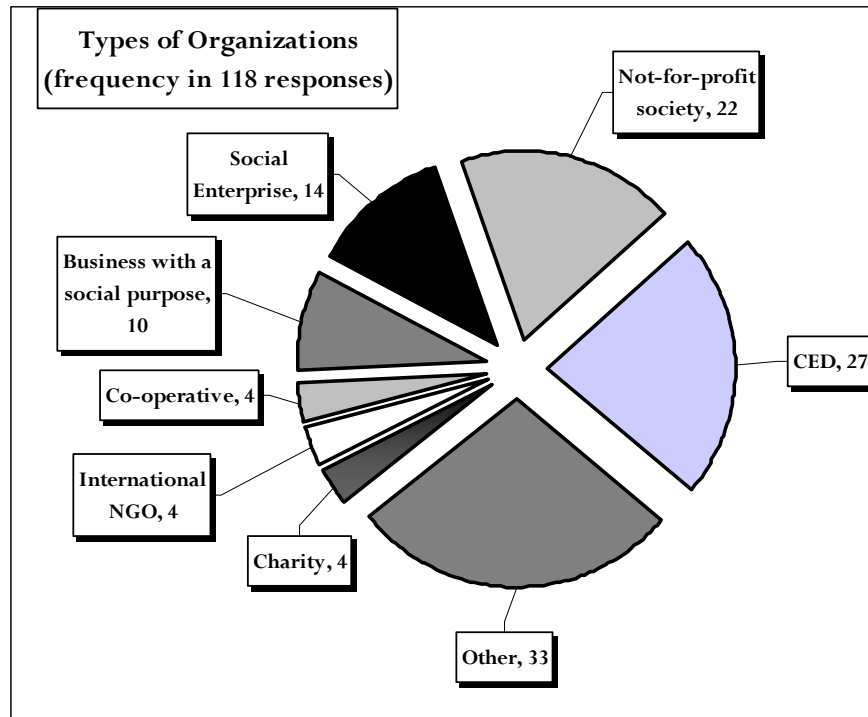


Figure 4: Types of organizations

TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS		
CED	27	38.6%
Not-for-profit society	22	31.4%
Social Enterprise	14	20.0%
Business with a social purpose	10	14.3%
Individual/Independent practitioner	6	8.6%
Charity	4	5.7%
International NGO	4	5.7%
Cooperative	4	5.7%
Educational Institution/Research centre	4	5.7%
Consultant	4	5.7%
Issue-Specific	4	5.7%
Foundation/Funder/Lender	4	5.7%
Municipality	3	4.3%
Network	3	4.3%

Table 1: Types of organizations

Other self-defined types of organizations from the open answer section included Federal Agency, School District, Tribal Organization, Awareness, and non-profit involved in CED). While many of the open answer responses could have fit appropriately into the broader categories provided, many respondents used this option to describe their work in greater detail: both its content (e.g. women's empowerment) and its tools (e.g. consultation).

3. Current and Future International Involvement within the Network

3.1 Current International Engagement & Interest

Figure five illustrates the current levels of interest and engagement in international activity within the Canadian CED community. Over half of respondents are already involved in international engagement, either personally or through their organizations. Most notably, over 92 percent of respondents are interested in international engagement. The response rate to the question represented in Figure six provides a more precise picture of current international engagement; “If you are involved in international engagement, how so?” received a 71.4 percent response rate.

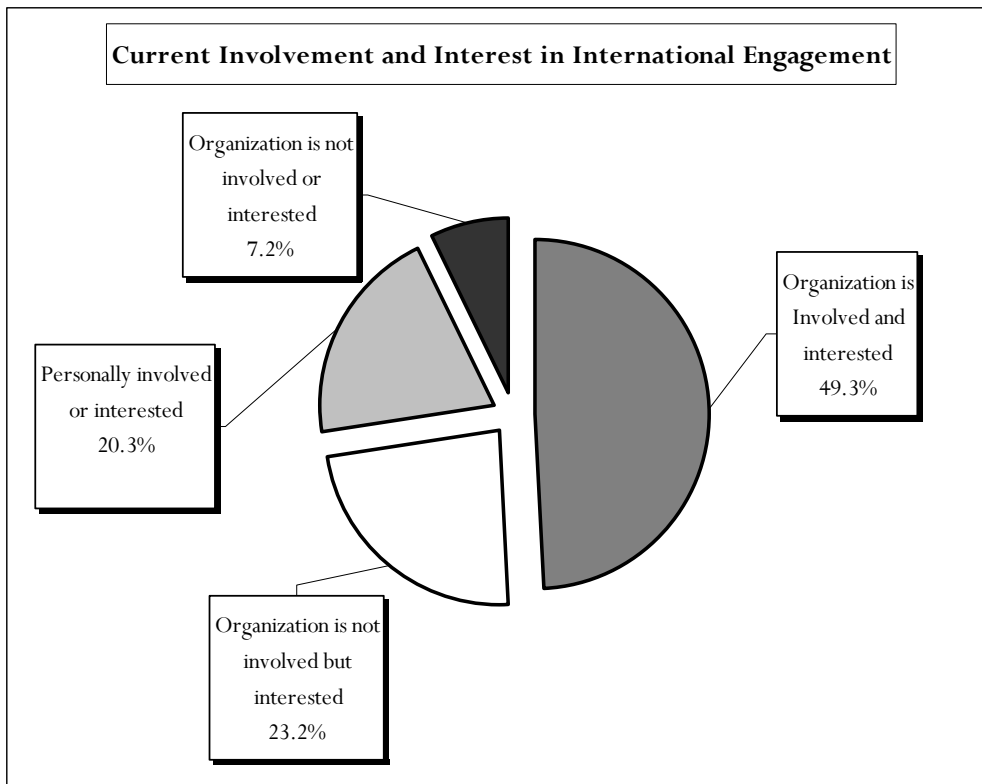


Figure 5: Current international interest and activity amongst respondents

As CCEDNet is a member-driven organization, it is important to closely examine the content of the reservations about international engagement expressed in this study. The 7.2 percent of respondents who expressed non-interest in international engagement were all based in British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces, but showed no consistency in organization type. While these observations are of little meaning, given the small size of the sample, this group provided several interesting open answer responses. These

comments explained that international work was not in the mandates of the organizations, suggesting perhaps that these respondents do not feel they have a place in international engagement without changing the fundamentals of their organizations. One mentioned that their growing work with new immigrants in Canada could benefit from international connections. These and other concerns about international involvement will be further explored throughout the remainder of this report. Understanding and addressing the opinions of all respondents, concerns and support alike, is a priority of the Network.

3.2 Nature of Current International Engagement

Figure six presents a categorical breakdown of the international engagement currently taking place in the Canadian CED community. To allow for greater self-definition respondents were able to select all categories that applied to their work. The numbers presented in the figure indicate the percentage of the 50 respondents identifying with each category. Categories were both theme-based (e.g. CED Knowledge Development and Fair Trade) and tool-based (e.g. Organizational Partnerships and Internships), which should be considered when examining the results.

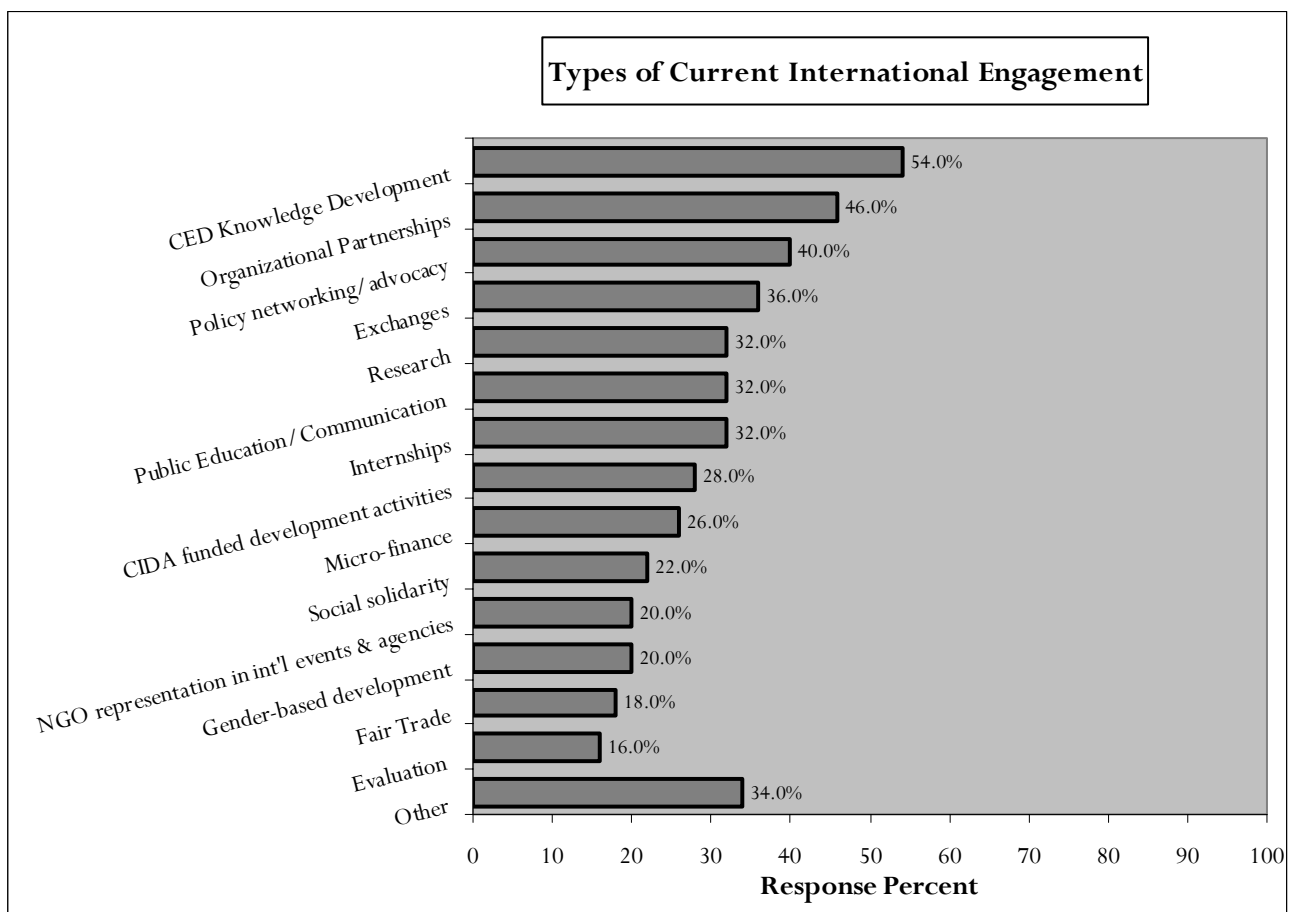


Figure 6: Types of international engagement in which respondents are engaged

As would be expected given the sample pool, CED Knowledge Development was the leading theme in current international engagement. Partnership (Organizational Partnerships, Exchanges, and Internships) emerged as a leading tool, together receiving 25.9 percent of the 228 total responses. Once again, the “Other” open-answer option received a high response rate. Table two presents an analysis of these answers. A degree of overlap emerged between the open-answer and the categories provided. For example, a respondent may have checked

“Organizational Partnerships” and chosen to expand on the nature of these partnerships in the open-answer. As such, these answers tended to be theme-based.

Open-Answer Response to Current International Involvement	
Involvement in international meetings and networks, through CCEDNet and otherwise	3
Student and youth opportunities (work terms, exchanges, volunteerships)	3
Tourism	3
Capacity building	2
Coop development	1
Farming	1
Immigration	1
Labour movement	1
Poverty alleviation	1
Social purpose enterprise	1
sustainability	1
Trade and export	1

Table 2: Self-defined current international involvement

3.3 Future International Engagement

Table three provides a breakdown of areas of interest for future international involvement. In open-answer format, respondents were asked to “...identify possible future involvements in which you or your organization would like to become involved.” The question was intended to reveal areas of interest in international involvement, but lacked clarity in this regard and there was evidence amongst the answers of some confusion. As such, any respondents that did not directly address international engagement were discarded. After analysis of the remaining responses, 89 separate answers were identified.

Within this sample three broad themes emerged: *Creating Opportunities in the Global South, Partnership*, and *Shaping the International Development Environment at Home and Abroad*. The high frequency of “Organizational partnerships for mutual learning” and “Practitioner exchanges” mirrors the popularity of these tools in current international engagement. “Participation in international conferences, meetings, and networks” represents an area of relatively high interest with relatively low current involvement, though it did emerge as a leading theme in Table two. It would be interesting to explore potential barriers to this participation. The wide range of responses under *Creating Opportunities in the Global South* was held together largely by the thematic nature of the answers, indicating a possible desire within the Network to share and capitalise on specific areas of expertise.

Creating Opportunities in the Global South	34
Agricultural & Rural Development	5
Training	3
Environmental initiative	3
Micro-lending/Micro-finance	3
Sector Specific Involvement	3
Women & Children	3
Trade	2
Aboriginal Issues	2
Poverty relief	2
CIDA funded initiatives	2
Asset & Capacity Building	2
Start-up aid	1
Tourism	1
Crisis assistance	1
Health	1
Partnership	33
Organizational partnerships for mutual learning	12
Practitioner exchanges	7
Student exchanges/Work terms	3
Internships/volunteer/paid positions	3
Education and training – distance learning	3
Joint research and outreach	3
Municipal government twinning	1
Partnering with American organizations	1
Shaping the International Development Environment at Home & Abroad	22
Participation in international conferences, meetings, & networks	9
Communications and Outreach	4
Involvement with CCEDNet (Conference and International Committee)	3
Policy Development	2
Research	2
Incorporation of national and global economic analysis into local CED analysis	1
Advocacy of social responsibility within the private sector	1

Table 3: Areas of interest for future international involvement

4. Priority Outcomes from International Engagement

This question was interpreted in two different ways, 1) rank from 1-9 using each number only once or 2) rate each category from one to nine using each number as many times as needed. The analysis has attempted to take these different interpretations into account.

Figure seven represents respondents' priority outcomes in connecting internationally with CED partners. Respondents were asked to rate nine different outcomes with a score from one (highest priority) to nine (lowest priority).

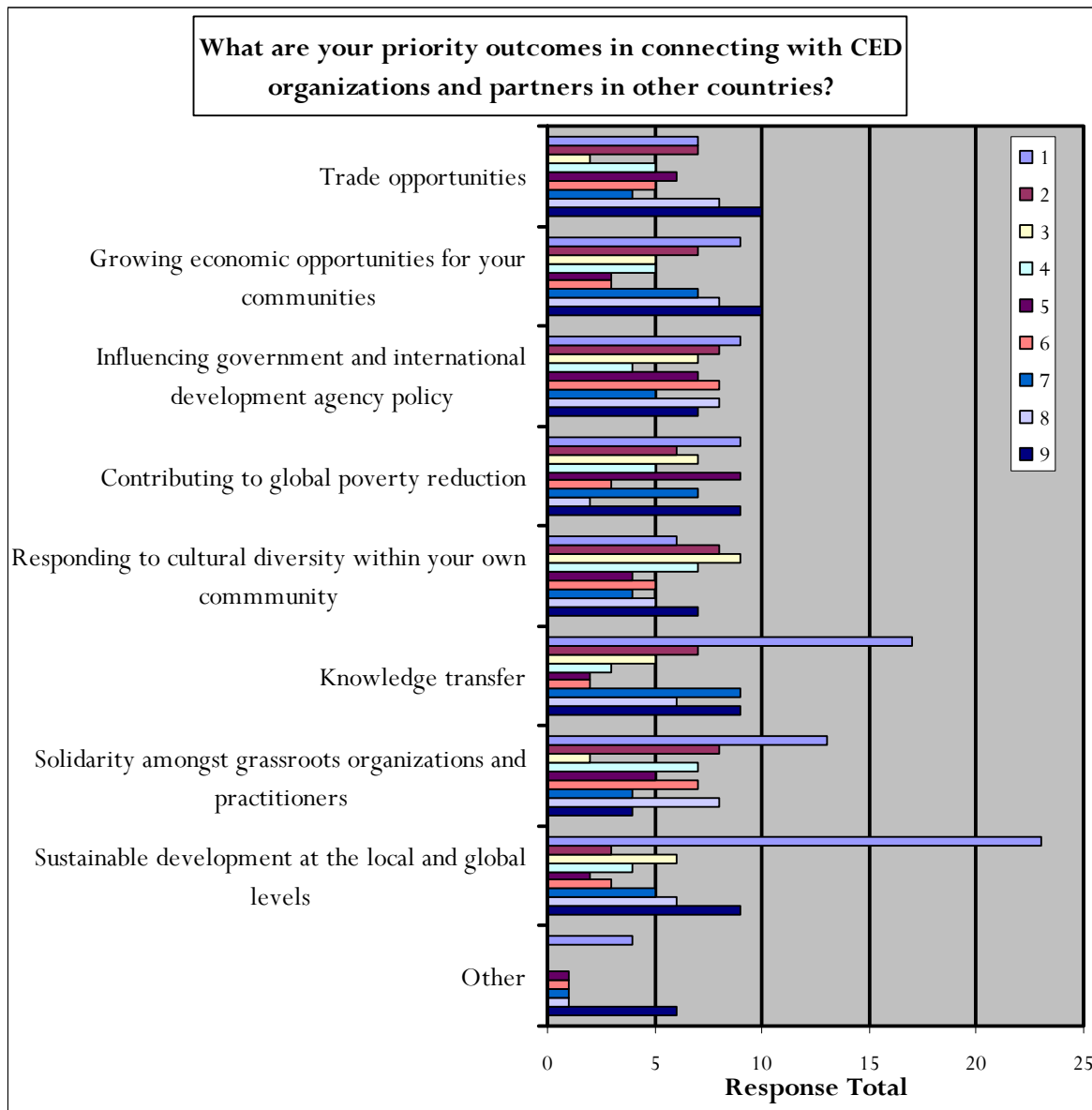


Figure 7: Priority outcomes from international engagement

Three notable answers emerged as being of highest priority: local and global sustainable development, knowledge transfer, and solidarity amongst grassroots organizations and practitioners. The high priority placed on knowledge transfer is consistent with the future interest in developing partnerships as seen in Table three and the current level of involvement in partnership and CED knowledge development as seen in Figure six.

Sustainability and solidarity emerged in this section of the survey as rather new themes: highlighting the difference between priority outcomes and priority action. While knowledge transfer is a targeted outcome, it could be that sustainability and solidarity are viewed as secondary results, naturally arising from partnership, knowledge transfer, networking, etc. The uniqueness of these themes to priority outcomes, rather than priority action, could also indicate that they are capacities that respondents lack and hope to gain from partners. Further information is needed to fully understand the uniqueness of these priorities.

5. CCEDNET's Role in International Engagement

5.1 How CCEDNet can offer Effective Support

Respondents were asked to choose, from a list of fourteen options, the ways in which CCEDNet can act as a resource in supporting their future international activities. These options and their percentage responses are listed in Table four. Once again, partnership, in the form of exchanges, internships, and twinning arrangements landed at the top of the list. All answers that garnered over 50 percent response rates were consistent with priorities expressed elsewhere in the survey: partnership, participation in international networks, and participation in international events.

Respondents are already quite active in international partnerships and the request for support in this area likely arises out of interest in combination with the logistical and financial challenge of coordinating overseas. International events, meetings, and networks draw a high level of interest but participation remains much lower. One obvious way in which CCEDNet can begin to address this interest is through the annual National Conference. Further research is needed to better understand the barriers to international activity and network participation and the ways in which CCEDNet can provide avenues for increased participation.

Supporting practitioner exchanges and internships	68.30%
International activities/workshops/events at the National Conference	66.70%
Matching Canadian CED organizations with international partners in "twinning" arrangements	58.70%
Creating opportunities for Canadian CED organizations to participate in international development agency consultations and activities	57.10%
Supporting practitioner engagement in international NGO networks	57.10%
Distance/Peer learning & networking using internet, tele-learning, etc	44.40%
Research	44.40%
Regional learning events	42.90%
Public education and social marketing strategies	41.30%
Developing policy proposals to Canada's government on trade, aid and foreign policy	41.30%
Promoting international twinning arrangements to municipal and other governments focused on CED	38.10%
Marketing of fair trade/solidarity economy products and trading opportunities	36.50%
Creating evidence of the benefits of global-local alternatives to traditional trade policies	30.20%
Other (please specify)	11.11%

Table 4: How CCEDNet can support respondents' future international activities

Some specific priorities emerged in the open-answer option. These included: identifying and supporting student work coops and exchanges; linking members with other Canadian organizations engaged in international work; developing funding sources for international CED

work; lobbying major funders; and assisting in the formation of cooperatives. One respondent alluded to the potential benefits for CCEDNet with an increase in international partnership amongst its members.

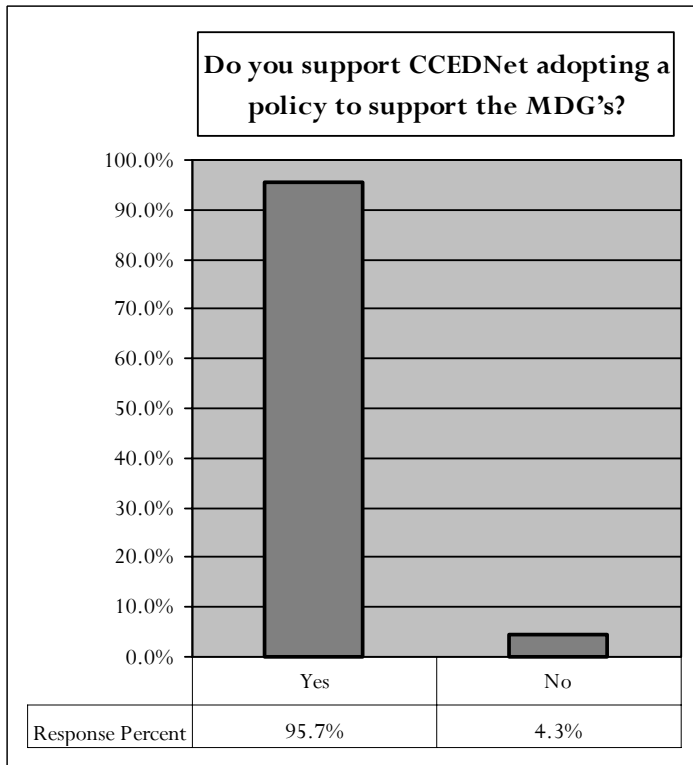


Figure 8: Support for CCEDNet adoption of an MDG policy

Two of the three respondents who did not support the CCEDNet adoption of a MDG policy (Figure eight) belonged to the group “Not involved or interested” (Figure five) in international engagement. In the following question, respondents calling for low priority on member engagement around the MDG’s (Figure nine) were more evenly distributed amongst those interested and uninterested in international engagement. These results highlight concerns about resource diversion and the importance of balancing international involvement with members’ other priorities. While support for the principles behind the MDGs is extremely strong, these concerns could affect interest in individual member action around the MDGs.

5.2 The Millennium Development Goals

Canada officially supports the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to reduce poverty in the world by 50% by 2015. To date Canada is contributing 0.34%, and has no planned timetable to meet a 0.7% target for development assistance. Figure eight illustrates that respondent support around CCEDNet adopting a policy to support the MDG’s is exceptionally strong. The distribution of priority level illustrated in Figure nine confirms the importance of balancing the high support around the MDGs with the diversity of members’ other priorities. As previously mentioned, it is essential to CCEDNet’s member-driven mandate that we fully understand the nature of the reservations and desired direction of support revealed in the study before further taking or directly supporting international action.

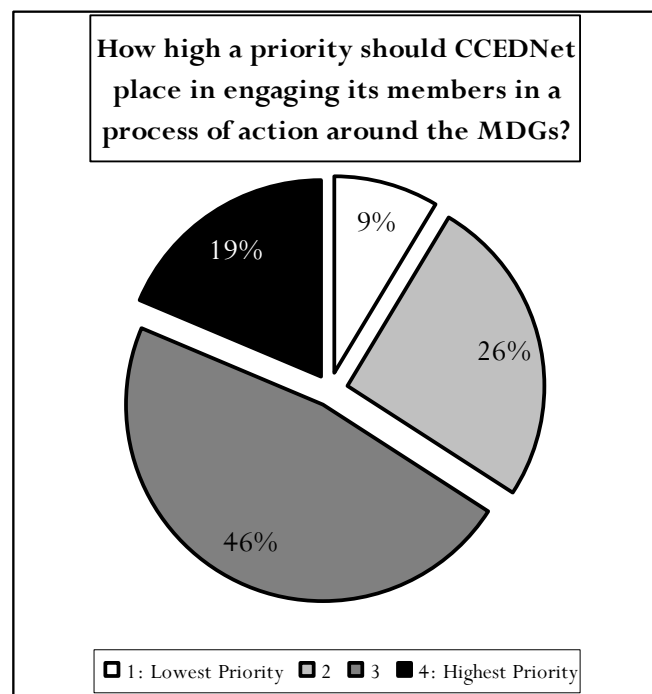


Figure 9: Priority for CCEDNet encouraging member engagement in the MDGs

5.3 International component of the annual conference

Over the past years, CCEDNet has had an international component during annual conferences, featuring international guests and internationally-focused workshops. Respondents were asked whether they supported CCEDNet in the continuation of this practice. As with the MDG's, support was overwhelmingly positive. The results are displayed in Figure ten.

This question received full support from the group of respondents who are "Not involved or interested" (Figure five) in international engagement. Those who did not support the international component of the National Conference referenced the importance that CCEDNet's domestic role remain at the centre of its mandate.

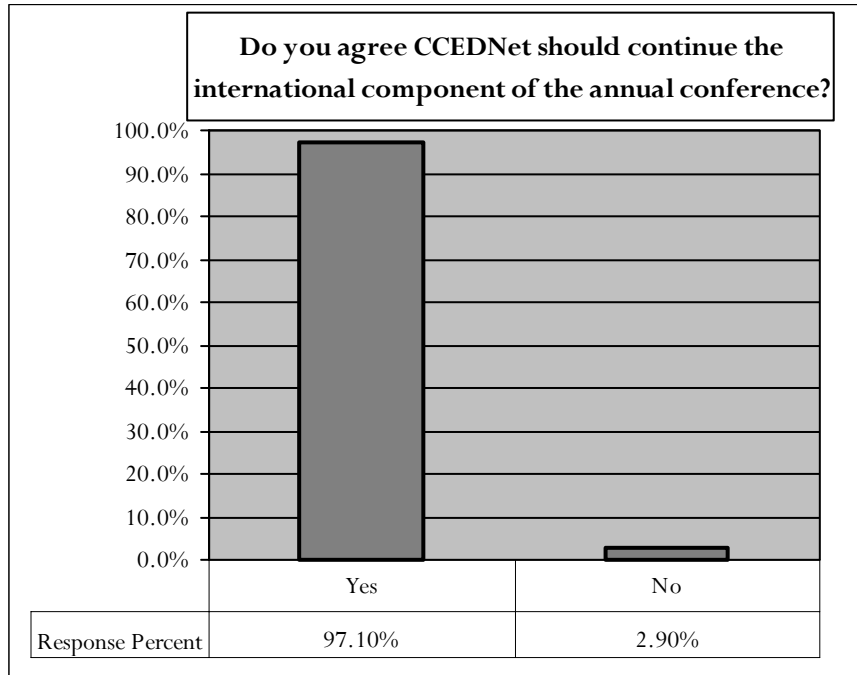


Figure 10: Support for the international component of the National Conference

6. Support for CCEDNet International Engagement

Many supporters of international engagement within the Network already recognize international contexts in which their values and skill sets can be used and exchanged:

“As a First Nation in this Country, we would like to be able to reach out to other First Nation (Indigenous Peoples) internationally to be able to look at mutually beneficial partnerships.”

“Grass root level non profit social enterprise was a tradition in south Asia for a long time. We should learn more from them.”

“Look at your strengths and build on them internationally.”

“Our primary goal at present is organizational sustainability through activities and projects that are consistent with our values and experience. If opportunities for asset building projects became available internationally, that would be an interesting experience that would align with both.”

“Pleased that you are contacting the members for input. This is definitely an important component for providing clear direction for moving forward the network.”

Inherent in the discussion is the interplay between local and global change:

« Mais par nos petites actions internationales, nous vivons mieux notre diversité canadienne et nous nous rappelons les valeurs fondamentales du développement. Ce type de travail est essentiel... et oui le global a un impact sur le local.... »

7. Concerns About CCEDNet Incorporating International Engagement

The responses to questions about CCEDNet's direct involvement in international initiatives reveal some central questions in this discussion. What does it mean for CCEDNet to adopt a policy in support of the MDG's? There is concern that an international commitment such as this might redirect staff and funding from domestic efforts to international initiatives. One respondent expressed the following:

"I feel that there is already SO much funding, resources and opportunities for international development/CED. The reason I am a member of CCEDNET is because of its focus and push for domestic development/CED. We are the only organization that really does this for Canada."

There is perhaps also a concern that CCEDNet should be supporting its members in their respective engagements – so long as it supports Canadian CED – rather than tailoring their work:

"...Canadian CED should focus on Canadian CED. CCEDNet should/could support a national organisation whose focus is international and/or participate as an associate to keep abreast of global developments."

These responses also introduce questions about how members are thinking of international engagement. Many of the respondents who prioritized issue-specific areas of international involvement may be envisioning aid projects that are rather unidirectional in benefits and resource expenditure. Meanwhile, respondents who focused on building partnerships may have a clearer vision of mutual learning in their current and future international engagement. This difference is illustrated in the following comments:

"re- the MDG's: I think it makes more sense to get it together in Canada before focussing on assisting other countries... most specifically as it relates to Aboriginal issues and living conditions in Canada."

"I believe that CCEDnet's first priority is to strengthen the practice in Canada. Part of that effort could be to send interns/volunteers to work in communities in Canada and abroad to learn."

"The reason we [our organization] do[es] not place a high priority on reducing poverty around the world is because we need to reduce poverty here in Canada first. It is a disgrace that in a country such as Canada that many of the First Nations do not have safe drinking water. The economic opportunities are so limited and the challenges for a 'grass root' movement to make a difference almost insurmountable."

The International Committee hopes to work with members to develop a vision of international engagement that is grounded in partnerships for mutual learning.

8. Conclusion

As a member-based, democratic organization, CCEDNet is directed by the priorities and concerns of its members. With regard to international engagement, this research is a strong first step in gaining such an understanding. This report provides an indication of general interest in international involvement within CCEDNet membership. Members who chose to answer the survey expressed overwhelming support for engagement, both on their own and through CCEDNet, in international work. While these results do not necessarily represent the opinions and actions of the rest of the Network, the enthusiasm within this 11% sample encourages CCEDNet to take next steps in better understanding member priorities, expanding its mandate, and taking action in the international realm.

Given the strong interest in international engagement, CCEDNet must gain a better understanding of how it can effectively support its members in these efforts. Through further dialogue with respondents, we will be able to further break down the categorical responses in this survey to paint a clear picture of ways in which members hope to be supported. Gaining a better understanding of the barriers to areas of international engagement with high interest and low current participation (in particular, international events, meetings, and networks) is important in answering this question.

CCEDNet must also consider the capacities in which it is most effective and able to support members' international initiatives. To support the interest in partnership and international networking, one current priority for CCEDNet is to better understand how to connect members to the International Committee's activity overseas and in international networks. Posting reports and photos on the CCEDNet website and in the *Making Waves* publication will aid in this effort. CCEDNet also wants to maximize information sharing amongst members around best practices in CED and international development. Using the information gathered in this survey and at the 2007 National CED Conference, we will profile examples of successful partnership work to create a publication and toolbox for interested members.

There are some themes, namely solidarity and sustainable development, which respondents named as top priority outcomes but did not reference as priority throughout the rest of the survey. Given the strong and unique nature of this support, it would be useful to gain a clearer understanding of these priorities from respondents.

In addition to providing a picture of the strong international support within the Network, the survey also allowed for the identification of areas of concern for members. A better understanding is needed of the specific concerns and reasons for reservations surrounding engagement in international development. Respondents who identified as uninterested or opposed to their own or CCEDNet's involvement in international development should be contacted further about their concerns.

CCEDNet must also begin a dialogue around these concerns at the 2007 National CED Conference. Not only will this help us to better understand our role, but it may also help alleviate some concerns. For example, respondents who raised concerns about the diversion of resources away from domestic efforts might be relieved to know that all funds that have gone toward international activity was available only for international initiatives and could not have been allocated for Canadian community work – yet through the partner projects initiated Canadian communities will now benefit where they wouldn't have otherwise.

The 2007 National CED Conference is the first place to begin building on this information base. It is a rare opportunity to have many parties and priorities in the same room and to talk about these similarities, differences, needs and interests face-to-face. This report is a preliminary assessment of interest, involvement, support and concern that can more completely evolve into recommendations and actions through interactive input and dialogue.

Appendix A. CCEDNet International Committee Survey

1. Vision

Community economic development (CED) is something that happens the world over, and among CCEDNet members, we have noticed that a number of organizations are involved to some degree in exchanging knowledge and experiences across borders. The International Committee of CCEDNet would like to explore how its members think that CED in Canada stands to gain from international alliances and exchange of experience, from specific local experiences to broader policy development experiences.

After the 2006 CCEDNet national conference, an International Committee was formed, whose first task is to identify who is actually networking internationally and what are the CED organizations' interests in furthering this international vision.

2. Goals

A- Map the existing international development connections or relations (development, solidarity, partnerships, study tours, membership in an international organization, etc.) within the CCEDNet membership

B- Identify members of CCEDNet interested in becoming more involved, and in what way; either in existing or future partnerships

C- Identify how CCEDNet could support present or future international partnerships.

This input will help the International Committee draft a terms of reference and an action plan for CCEDNet and its members.

If you have reports, newsletters, websites, etc, or information that could be useful for the CCEDNet International Committee, please forward to Farrar Brodhead at fbrodhead@ccednet-rcdec.ca

3. Survey

1. ***Name of respondent and organization (if applicable):**

2. ***Type of organization (check all applicable):**

- CED organization
- Not-for profit society
- Cooperative
- Charity
- International NGO
- Social enterprise
- Business with a social purpose
- Other (please specify)

3. **Is your organization involved or interested in international engagement? (Please check the appropriate box).**

- a. My organization is involved and is interested in international engagement.
- b. My organization is Not involved but is interested in international engagement.
- c. My organization is Not involved and is Not interested in international engagement.
- c. I am personally involved or interested in international engagement.

4. **If you are involved in international engagement, how so? (Please check the appropriate boxes)**

- Internships
- CED knowledge development
- Micro-finance
- Organizational partnerships
- CIDA funded development activities
- Policy networking/advocacy
- Evaluation

- Gender based development
- Social solidarity
- Fair trade
- Exchanges
- Research
- public education/communications
- fundraising
- NGO representation in international events and agencies (e.g. Micro credit Summit)
- Other (please specify):

5. Could you please identify possible future involvements in which you or your organization would like to become involved? Please specify. (Open answer)

6. How can CCEDNet be a resource to supporting your organization's future international activities? (Please check the appropriate boxes)

- International activities/workshops/events at the National Conference
- Regional learning events
- Distance/Peer learning and networking resources using the internet, tele-learning, etc
- Research
- Marketing of fair trade/solidarity economy products and trading opportunities
- Supporting practitioner exchanges and internships
- Public education and social marketing strategies
- Matching Canadian CED organizations with international partners in "twinning" arrangements
- Developing policy proposals to Canada's government on trade, aid and foreign policy
- Creating evidence of the benefits of global-local alternatives to traditional trade policies
- Creating opportunities for Canadian CED organizations to participate in international development agency consultations and activities (e.g. of the UN and World Bank)
- Supporting practitioner engagement in international NGO networks

- Promoting international twinning arrangements to municipal and other governments focused on CED
- Other (please specify):

7. Canada officially supports the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to reduce poverty in the world by 50% by 2015. To date Canada is contributing 0.34%, but has no planned timetable to meet a 0.7% target for development assistance.

Do you support CCEDNet adopting a policy to support the MDG's?

- Yes
- No

8. How high a priority should CCEDNet place in engaging its members in a process of action around the MDGs? Please check the appropriate number (1=Lowest, 4=highest):

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

9. What are the priority outcomes for your community/organization from connecting with CED organizations and partners in other countries? Please number in order of priority (1=High, 9=Low):

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Knowledge transfer									
Trade opportunities									
Growing economic opportunities for your community									
Contributing to global poverty reduction									
Responding to cultural diversity within your own community									
Solidarity amongst grass roots organizations and practitioners									
Sustainable development at the local and global levels									
Influencing government and international development agency policy									
Other									

10. Over the past years, CCEDNet has had an international component during annual conferences (workshops and guests). Do you agree CCEDNet should continue this practice?

- Yes
- No

11. Is there anything that you would like to add? (Open answer)

Appendix B. Internationally Interested & Engaged Members

(Please note that some of the organizations in this list may not be CCEDNet members but were represented by individual members in the survey. Personal information is not being released for confidentiality reasons.)

Alberta

Another Way
Edmonton, AB

The City of Edmonton
Edmonton, AB

Growing Food Security in Alberta
Edmonton, AB
www.foodsecurityalberta.ca

East Parkland Community Futures
Mirror, AB
www.eastparkland.com

British Columbia

Bamfield Community School Association
Bamfield, BC

Centre for Sustainable Community Development at
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, BC
www.sfu.ca/cscd

Edible Strategies Enterprises, Ltd
Fanny Bay, BC
www.ediblestrategies.com

TruCORE Associates
Kamloops, BC

New Westminster Community Development Society
New Westminster, BC
www.newwestced.bc.ca

Centre for Community Enterprise
Victoria, BC
www.cedworks.com

Canadac
Victoria, BC
www.canadac.com

ASPECT
Victoria, BC
www.aspect.bc.ca

CFDC
North Okanagan, BC
www.futuresbc.com

Manitoba

Wheat Belt CFDC
Brandon, MB
www.wheatbelt.mb.ca

Parkland CFDC
Grandview, MB
www.pcfdc.mb.ca

SEED Winnipeg, Inc.
Winnipeg, MB
www.seedwinnipeg.ca

Jubilee Fund
Winnipeg, MB
www.jubileefund.ca

New Brunswick

Burnt Church First Nation
Burnt Church, NB

Falls Brook Centre
Knowlesville, NB
www.fallsbrookcentre.ca

Newfoundland & Labrador

Central Labrador Economic Development Board
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL
www.cledb.ca

FINALY!
St. John's, NL
www.finaly.ca

Nova Scotia

JCI
Sydney, NS

Resource Opportunities Centre
Terence Bay, NS
roc.prospectcommunities.com

Ontario

Community Economic Development for Immigrant
Women
Ajax, ON

Six Nations Economic Development
Ohsweken, ON

CUSO
Ottawa, ON
www.cuso.org

CECI/WUSC - Uniterra Programme
Ottawa, ON
www.uniterra.org

New Economy Development Group
Ottawa, ON
www.neweconomygroup.ca

Ottawa Community Loan Fund
Ottawa, ON
www.oclf.org

Northern Consulting Group
Sudbury, ON

FedNor
Thunder Bay, ON
fednor.ic.gc.ca

PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise
Thunder Bay, ON
www.paro.ca

Canadian Crossroads International
Toronto, ON
www.cciorg.ca

LEF
Toronto, ON
www.lefca.org

Prince Edward Island

MYDAS – MJASC
Charlottetown, PE
www.mydas-mjasc.coop

Quebec

ACEM
Montreal, QC
www.acemcreditcommunautaire.qc.ca

Compagnie F, entrepreneurship pour femmes
Montreal, QC
www.compagnie-f.org

Saskatchewan

Quint Development Corporation
Saskatoon, SK
www.quintsaskatoon.ca

Saskatoon Credit Union
Saskatoon, SK