



The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities



# Community Economic Development (CED): Canadian Perspectives



The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## Canadian CED Network

National, non-profit association of community organizations working to enhance the social, economic, and environmental conditions of their communities.



## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

# Membership

Several thousand networked organizations, including:

- Community based organisations involved in social and economic development: urban, Rural, aboriginal, Northern
- Other sectors: municipalities, co-operatives, social enterprises, credit unions, universities, foundations etc



# The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## What we do:

- Learning, training, information, and networking.
- Research and development re: new models, tools and strategies
- Evidence-based policy development
- Promote community economic development as an alternative model to respond to social, economic and environmental challenges



The Canadian CED Network  
Strengthening Canada's Communities

## Canadian CED Network

National Office in Victoria, BC

Regional Offices in Winnipeg,  
Toronto, Charlottetown

Regional Networks:

Provide information, news, learning  
events, capacity building and policy

National Committees

International Committee





The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## What is Community Economic Development?

Action by people locally to create economic opportunities and enhance the social and environmental conditions of their communities, particularly with those most marginalised, on a sustainable and inclusive basis.





The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## Community Resources for Community Benefit

CED, a multi-faceted approach, conceived and directed locally, for revitalizing and renewing community economies by managing and strengthening community resources for community benefit.





## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

# Building Local Economies

CED, an alternative to conventional approaches to economic development, is founded on the belief that problems facing communities – unemployment, poverty, job loss, environmental degradation and loss of community control – can best be addressed by community-led, grassroots, integrated approach.





## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

# Community Resources and Assets

Building on assets which the community already possesses

- Social and human capital
- Traditional practices
- Cultural diversity
- Community learning networks
- Local environmental knowledge
- Creativity and entrepreneurial spirit

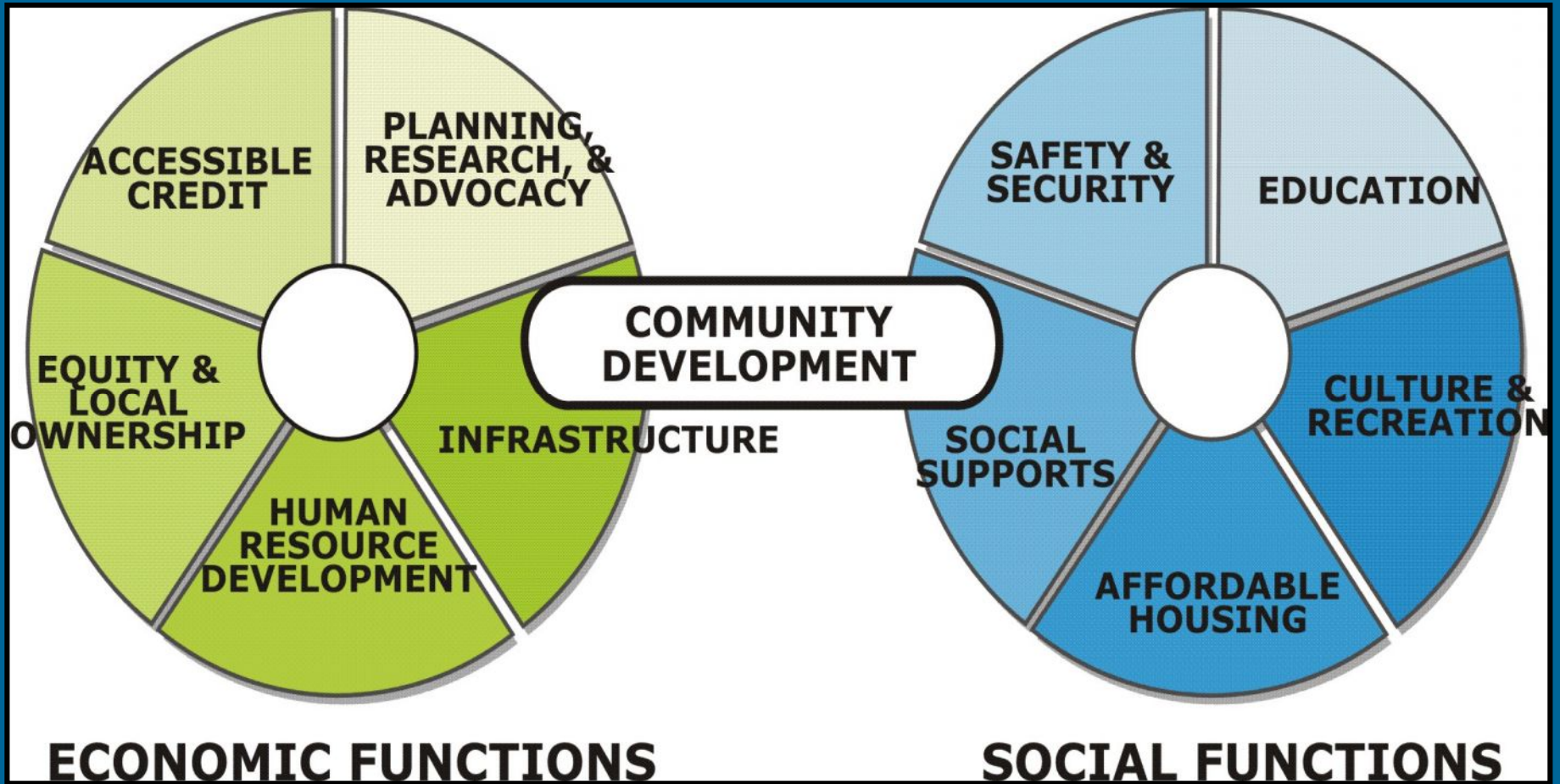
Growing collectively owned enterprises for community benefit

- Social assets (housing, child care, etc.)
- Social enterprises including cooperatives
- Community investment funds (capital)
- Capacity building and community empowerment
- Integrated social and economic planning
- Investing in human, social, cultural, financial and natural capital of communities



# The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities





## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

### Why CED ?

Despite high overall national prosperity indicators, declining social and economic conditions in some urban and rural communities.

- Growing and inter-related concentration of social and economic disadvantage in communities/regions.
- Regional/local inequality has major aggregate impact on national productivity and well being
- Other jurisdictions regard this as number one priority for social/economic policy
- CED models generating real social and economic outcomes – IT WORKS !



The Canadian **CE**D Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## Government Support

Federal Social Economy Initiative – now cancelled except for research program.

Quebec:

- CED organizations created partnerships with cooperative, social movement, labour and credit union organizations to create a common agenda and network (Le Chantier de l'économie sociale).
- Generated over \$10 m in a capital investment funds for social enterprises and social economy.



## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

# Government Support

## Manitoba

CED priority of provincial government – cabinet committee, long term funding , tax credits

## Nova Scotia

Community and Regional Development Act, Tax credits for cooperative and community enterprises

Devolved authority to communities for regional social and economic development

## Nunavut

Comprehensive CED policy framework



## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

### Example 1

#### *Greater Trail Community Skills Centre*

- ✓ Social Enterprise distributes newspapers etc. for region
- ✓ Provides life skills and employability training to unemployed youth
- ✓ Jobs running the enterprise
- ✓ Promoting youth retention in region
- ✓ Surpluses re-invested in youth and community development priorities
- ✓ Employment development specific to local business and industry needs



## Example 2

### *Revelstoke Enterprise Centre*

- ✓ Community Development Action Plan engaging all sectors of the community
- ✓ Enterprise Centre run jointly by Municipal, economic and social organizations
- ✓ Six key ingredients: Human Development (Learning Centre); Planning and Research; Infrastructure; Loan Funds; Equity: Promotion and Brokering.
- ✓ Community Forest Corporation, Community Foundation (\$600k in capital)



## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

### Example 3

#### *Upper Skeena Development Centre, Hazelton*

- ✓ Regional CED strategy with First Nations and non-aboriginal communities in Upper Skeena.
- ✓ Healthy community initiative targeted to youth and healthy lifestyles.
- ✓ Use of new technologies and networking to build capacity.
- ✓ Learning shop and 'service learning' to develop life, civic and work skills, promote Aboriginal culture and language



## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

### Example 4

#### *City of Edmonton*

- ✓ Municipal policy and program supports to CED.
- ✓ 'Social enterprise trust' with foundations to provide loans for micro-enterprises – access to capital.
- ✓ Municipal priority on support to neighborhood groups/revitalization.
- ✓ Regional health authority support to community health promotion, including community economic development to reduce poverty.



## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

# Success Factors

## Asset Based Community Development

- Build on capacity of communities, not outside solutions, emphasise assets not deficits, mobilise social capital

## Evidence Based Planning

- Clear measures to track change, set benchmarks, identify outcomes and their causes





# The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## Success Factors

### Community Cooperation and Leadership

- Harness the energy, vision and resources of the non profit sector and its partnership capacity with all sectors of the community

### Accessible and Relevant Learning

- Learning opportunities that are relevant & accessible to people and respond to local circumstances





## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

### Success Factors

#### Integrate Social and Economic Development

- Support “joined up” approaches to addressing inter-related social and economic challenges facing communities

#### Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- CED that creates new niche products, services, markets building on locally unique skills, resources, assets – “social enterprises”





The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## Policy Priorities

Build Fairer and Stronger Local Economies that  
Contribute to Self Sufficiency

- ✓ Capital for community enterprises, tax credits for investing in local Community Investment Funds
- ✓ Procurement policies that advantage local and social enterprises
- ✓ Enabling environment for co-operatives and social enterprise growth
- ✓ Enterprise development and training support to local communities



## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

# Policy Priorities

## Tackle Poverty

- ✓ Shift tax and benefit structures to benefit those on low income, reduce dependency and provide incentives for asset building
- ✓ Support community based, comprehensive strategies for poverty reduction through community non profit organizations
- ✓ Invest in children and non profit, quality child care options
- ✓ Combine housing and CED strategies to break the cycle of poverty



The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## Policy Priorities

### Invest in Sustainable Communities

- ✓ Support municipalities and community agencies to create sustainable development action plans to revitalize urban and rural communities
- ✓ Promote sustainable local agriculture and food systems, local eco-tourism led by communities
- ✓ Promote community-based renewable energy systems that generate sustainable revenues to local communities
- ✓ Support community forest land tenures linked to development of value-added forest products



The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## Initiatives

Government (federal, provincial, municipal) dialogue and research on CED policies and programs – advocate for legislation

- ✓ Annual National Conference and Tele-Learning Program
- ✓ Place-Based Poverty Reduction: National Action Research Program and Learning Network
- ✓ Immigrant and Refugee CED Demonstration Program
- ✓ National Roundtable on Social Enterprise Development and Financing



The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## Initiatives

- ✓ National Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security
- ✓ Research on community renewable energy solutions to climate change
- ✓ Population health and social inclusion
- ✓ Innovative models of employment development
- ✓ Youth leadership, development and retention
- ✓ National Social Economy Research Program
- ✓ Profile of municipal engagement in CED



## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

### **International**

- International Committee of members including Uniterria, CUSO, Crossroads International, Canadian Cooperative Association
- Canadian representative to the Intl Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS), and the Local Economic Development Knowledge Network of the Americas (RIDELC)
- Co-director of the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnership connected to CIRIEC International



## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

# International Objectives

- Create a global solidarity movement as an alternative to neo-liberal globalization
- At the national and international levels, advance a policy framework which favors civil society and the social economy
- Create concrete economic opportunities for just and sustainable development
- Promote fair trade as a modality for sustainable community development
- Share knowledge and support capacity-building for community actors
- Educate the public in the North as to the interconnectedness of global issues and create opportunities for their engagement in international activities



## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

### International Activities

- Participation in and construction of international movements for the solidarity economy
- Brokering of international partnerships between Canadian members and social economy organizations in the South
- Knowledge and information exchange about the social economy and successful experiences in community development
- Research and recommendations on policy issues and advocacy



## The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

### International Activities

- Advocacy and political dialogue with national and international institutions
- Courses and learning events for capacity-building
- Collaboration in the design of activities to create concrete economic opportunities for organizations in the South and to involve Canadian organizations in international activities
- Education and awareness-building directed to the public in the North, encouraging action in solidarity with the South



The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## **Solidarity Economy**

Solidarity Economy designates all production, distribution and consumption activities that contribute to the democratization of the economy based on citizen commitments both at a local and global level. Solidarity Economy is a dynamics of reciprocity and solidarity which links individual interests to the collective interest. In this sense, Solidarity Economy is not a sector of the economy, but a transversal approach that includes initiatives in all sectors of the economy.



The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

## **Solidarity Economy**

Solidarity Economy is a strong tool of empowerment and social change that starts from...responsible citizens that want to keep control of the way they are producing, consuming, saving, investing, exchanging. It is a model of community-based and locally-based people's economy... sustainable development from civil society taking State policies and resources only as complementary to their own actions and resources. Carola Reintjas, Z Magazine, [Www.zmag.org/carolase.htm](http://Www.zmag.org/carolase.htm)



# The Canadian CED Network

Strengthening Canada's Communities

More information on our  
activities:

[www.ccednet-rcdec.ca](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca)