

The Canadian CED Network

Le Réseau canadien de DÉC



I-CAN Newsletter

Spring 2011 Edition

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Produced by:

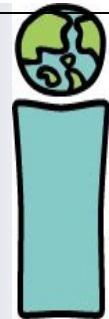
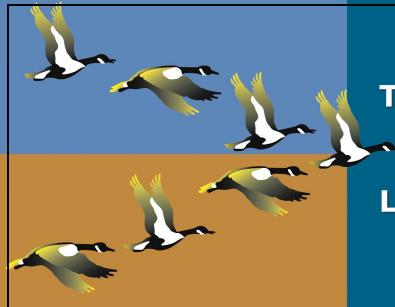
The Immigration
Canada Committee
ICAN

Affiliated with:

The Canadian
Community
Economic
Development
Network
(CCEDNet)

Edited by:

Robert Newell



About I-CAN!

Who is I-CAN?

The Immigrant & Refugee Community Action Network (ICAN) is a peer learning and action sub-network of the Canadian Community Economic Development (CED) Network. It is a **national network** of newcomer CED practitioners and their allies.

ICAN's mission is to raise awareness about immigrant-led CED, develop partnerships, build capacity of immigrant and refugee CED practitioners, and develop policy frameworks to create an enabling environment for immigrant and refugee-led CED. I-CAN creates opportunities for new immigrants and refugees to participate in the leadership of the CED and Co-op movements in Canada.

Membership Structure

- Plenary meetings:** It is open to members and non-members of the Canadian CED Network. All participants are encouraged to join the Network.
- Steering Committee:** 2 representatives are elected to represent each of the Canadian CED Network regions (from East to West). Steering Committee members should be members of the Canadian CED Network.
- Co-chairs:** 2 co-chairs are elected from the Plenary to provide leadership for the work of ICAN.

Meetings

I-CAN Steering Committee and Plenary meetings are held bi-monthly on alternate months. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Why Join I-CAN?

- Connect with your peers across the country.
- Learn about immigrant social enterprises through our regular case-study presentations.
- Access resources to help you in your work.

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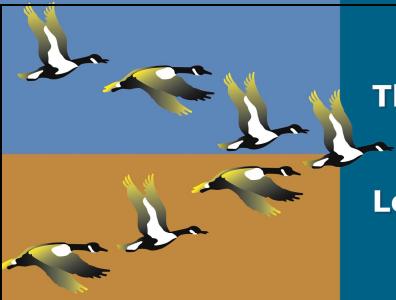
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Website

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

Blog

[http://icancednet.
wordpress.com](http://icancednet.wordpress.com)



The Canadian CED Network

Le Réseau canadien de DÉC



ICAN

Atlantic Canada

Social Economy Comes Alive Through Community Radio!

In early June (2010), around the time of the CASC and ANSER conferences (part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2011), Fredericton, New Brunswick will have a new FM radio station! We are planning a community radio broadcast to take place in downtown Fredericton. We'll get a special events license from Industry Canada to operate an FM station for a limited period of time (tentatively around May 31 to June 2). All will be welcome to share their stories and insight and songs and whatever else the spirits move you to share. The event will provide the opportunity:

- To reflect upon the accomplishments of the Atlantic Node and other regional Nodes of the CSERP (Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships)
- To offer the social economy sector in Fredericton (and their partners) a chance to celebrate their activities.
- To build connections, not only within Fredericton, but also with people who will be at Congress from across the country.
- To create a “living lab” which will illustrate how one particular communication tool can be used for community capacity building.
- To become a place for students (and anyone interested in participatory communications) to try their hand at community broadcasting.

We encourage anyone who is at all interested to contact us for more information. No previous experience is necessary. Training and facilitation will be provided by Ivan Emke and Ryakuga Communications. Community partners and students in the Network are especially invited to volunteer to participate and help out in Fredericton during the broadcast (travel support available through the Atlantic Node office). More information will be shared through our Network as plans develop.

L'économie sociale prend vie à la radio communautaire!

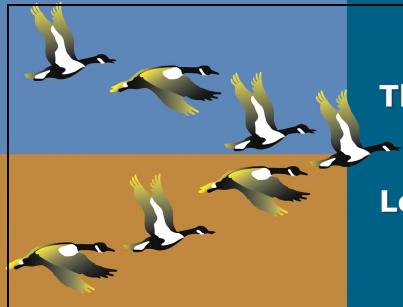
Au début du mois de juin (2010), à peu près au même moment où se tiendront les rencontres de l'ACCS et de l'ARES (dans le cadre du Congrès des sciences humaines de 2011) à Fredericton, le Nouveau-Brunswick aura une nouvelle station radio MF! Nous sommes en train de planifier une diffusion radiophonique communautaire au centre ville de Fredericton. Nous allons obtenir un permis d'événements spéciaux de la part d'Industrie Canada afin d'exploiter une station MF pendant une période limitée (provisoirement du 31 mai au 2 juin). Tous ceux qui souhaiteront partager leurs expériences, leurs idées, leurs chansons et tout ce qu'ils voudront partager seront les bienvenus. Cet événement donnera l'occasion :

- de réfléchir sur les accomplissements du Centre de l'Atlantique et des autres centres régionaux du CCRPÉS (Centre canadien de recherche partenariale en économie sociale)
- d'offrir au secteur de l'économie sociale à Fredericton (et à ses partenaires) la possibilité de célébrer leurs activités
- d'établir des contacts, non seulement à Fredericton mais également avec des personnes d'un bout à l'autre du pays qui participeront au Congrès
- de créer un « laboratoire vivant » qui illustrera comment un outil de communication particulier peut être utilisé pour renforcer les liens et les capacités communautaires
- de permettre aux étudiants (et à toutes les autres personnes qui s'intéressent aux communications participatives) de participer à une émission radiophonique.

Nous encourageons tous les intéressés à nous contacter pour obtenir davantage de renseignements. Aucune expérience n'est nécessaire. La formation et la facilitation seront fournies par Ivan Emke et Ryakuga Communications. Les partenaires communautaires et les étudiants du Partenariat sont tout spécialement invités à se porter volontaires pour participer et donner un coup de main à Fredericton pendant les diffusions (des subventions pour couvrir les frais de déplacement seront offertes par le bureau du Centre de l'Atlantique). Des renseignements supplémentaires seront communiqués par le Partenariat au fur et à mesure des diverses étapes de la planification. Entre temps, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter!

For more information...

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Eastern Canada

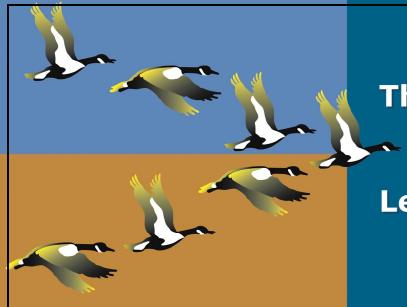
Fonds communautaire d'emprunt et Compagnie F

English Summary

In anticipation of the Forum on Entrepreneurship in Quebec (which took place this passing March), The Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Exportation (MDEIE) had been conducting rounds of consultations with relevant organizations in the field. ACEM (Montreal's Community Loan Fund) and Compagnie F (Women's entrepreneurship), two organizations that have a long history of working with people of low income, in particular, immigrants using entrepreneurship as a means to integration into Quebec society, have submitted a joint memoir, on this subject. Here is the conclusion, signed by Anne Kettenbeil and Roselyne Mavungu, Executive Directors of ACEM and Cie F, respectively. The entire document can be found on our website: www.acemrcreditcommunautaire.com.qc.ca.

Dans les années 70, le Québec était vu comme un endroit particulièrement dynamique et créatif dans plusieurs domaines, incluant l'entrepreneuriat. Le bouillonnement économique et communautaire rassemblait à la fois des militants du milieu de lutte à la pauvreté, des habitants de quartier qui se dévitalisaient (comme Pointe Saint Charles) et des chercheurs et professeurs universitaires en quête de modèles alternatifs. Ce mouvement s'est cristallisé dans les années 80 quand il a fallu répondre à une crise économique aiguë et faire face à un accroissement important de la pauvreté, en particulier à Montréal.

Les organismes de crédit communautaire, avec la création de l'ACEM et le Cercle d'emprunt de Montréal en 1990, s'inscrivent dans l'histoire du développement économique communautaire. Aujourd'hui, ces organismes (fonds et cercles d'emprunt) restent les portes importantes d'entrée du réseau entrepreneurial. Pour autant, chaque organisme doit continuer à référencer tous les clients vers les structures les mieux adaptées à leurs réalités. Les organismes de crédit communautaire ne remettent pas en question l'approche locale défendue par les CDECs et CLDs avec la livraison de « services de proximité ». Au contraire, nous croyons que c'est la base d'un développement économique harmonieux et communautaire. Mais, il faut en même temps reconnaître que la notion de proximité déborde la simple limite d'un territoire géographique pour permettre à des clientèles spécifiques de recevoir des services adaptés à leurs particularités, par exemple la « proximité culturelle ». Ainsi, à Montréal, un travail important de l'ACEM et de Compagnie F est de référer les promoteurs vers leurs services de proximité, les CLDs et CDECs.



Eastern Canada

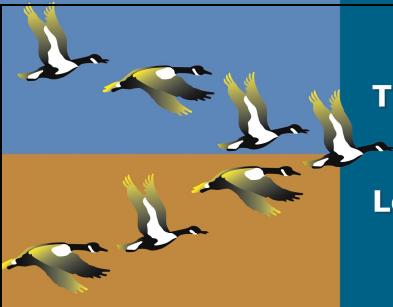
Fonds communautaire d'emprunt et Compagnie F
cont...

C'est ainsi que la souplesse des organismes de crédit communautaire est un atout essentiel pour répondre à la diversité des situations des personnes exclues des systèmes de financement traditionnels. Les études effectuées par le MDEIE sur les organismes du crédit communautaire et l'expertise montréalaise de ces organismes montrent que la clientèle accueillie, orientée et financée se situe souvent en marges. Ce fait n'empêche pas la réussite des projets entrepreneuriaux portés par ces personnes. Au contraire, nous pourrions nous interroger pour savoir si leur réussite n'est pas, en partie, due au fait que les personnes les plus créatives et innovatrices se situent souvent aux marges des systèmes normatifs. Une chose certaine, la souplesse de notre approche et l'accompagnement permettent à des centaines d'entrepreneurs de démarrer et réussir des projets qui n'auraient pas vu le jour sans notre appui.

À travers ce mémoire, l'ACEM et Compagnie F ont voulu dresser un tableau aussi fidèle que possible des réalités de terrain à Montréal. La métropole québécoise se distingue du reste du Québec par la place spécifique des immigrants, place qui s'est renforcée dans les 10 dernières années.

Pour autant, les résultats globaux du crédit communautaire montrent que les outils et pratiques développés depuis 20 ans sont un succès général. Et ce succès est d'autant plus appréciable qu'il se fait avec les personnes les plus fragiles économiquement et souvent victimes de discriminations systémiques.

Les organismes du crédit communautaire sont un maillon essentiel du réseau entrepreneurial. L'ACEM et Compagnie F sont déterminés à poursuivre leur mission en direction des personnes exclues des systèmes traditionnels de financement, à participer à la création d'emplois, à la revitalisation territoriale par la création d'entreprises, à développer les organismes d'économie sociale et à rester des partenaires de terrain exigeants et convaincus.



The Canadian CED Network

Le Réseau canadien de DÉC



ICAN

Western Canada

Multicultural Environmental Education Program

By Robert Newell

If someone asked you to close your eyes and picture “British Columbia”, you likely would conjure images of vast landscapes of forest green or extensive networks of shimmering waterways or immense mountainous terrain capped with a frosting of snow. These are aspects of our province that illustrate the richness and vastness of BC’s natural beauty, and anyone who considers this province “home” can take pride in the abundance of the natural beauty that surrounds us. The Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) recognizes how remarkable this province is and thus has created the Multicultural Environmental Education Program (MEEP): a program that helps newcomers to Canada experience our unique natural areas and sense of environmentalism.

MEEP aims to connect newcomers to Canada to the natural splendour and beauty of their new home within BC. Since 2008, MEEP has conducted outings and workshops which provide newcomers with the opportunity to interact with local nature and develop their knowledge of environmental practices. These sort of events vary in topic and format, and they can be anything from a walk with a nature interpreter at Elk Lake to a workshop on bicycle repairs. Even in this chilly weather, MEEP is still committed to running environmental events and has facilitated workshops on the local food harvest and how to be energy efficient in the winter.

VIRCS celebrates the diversity and multiculturalism of Canada, and it is important to note that MEEP does not intend to show newcomers the “right way for environmentalism.” Rather, MEEP aims to create a forum for information sharing so that ideas on topics like home gardening, water conservation and organic cuisine can be exchanged amongst different cultures. And, hopefully, MEEP events will make newcomers feel a bit more at home in this beautiful land.

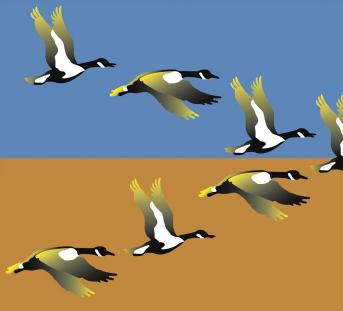
MEEP is currently going through a transition period in which it will be integrated into all VIRCS programs. For more information, please visit the VIRCS website at www.vircs.bc.ca.

CCEDNet Pacific Event

On March 3rd and 4th, the Vancouver Storyum building was a bustle of social enterprise networking and a brewing pot for Community Economic Development (CED) ideas. The Canadian Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) organized an event which gathered people involved and/or interested in CED issues across the country and globe. The event featured a tour of CED initiatives in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, a screening of the “Economics of Happiness”, workshops hosted by CED experts, a thought-provoking open space session, and multitudes of networking sessions.

Some of the workshops and discussions specifically addressed immigrant issues. In particular, Melanie Conn of Devco (a co-operative of consultants) and Gulalai Habib, a Vancouver-based Settlement Counsellor, hosted a particularly interesting session on immigrants and co-operative initiatives.

For information on a regional event near you, please visit: <http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/node/9919>



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A Simple Approach:

Investing community reintegration and leveraging Immigrant/Refugee experiences through Community Economic Development

By Mohamed M Maie

For those of us who are still reading social justice and globalization on daily news, I ask for your willingness to go along for another ride. The extraordinary range and depth of the work that is taking place in the field of community economic development (CED) has now become critical in terms of socio-economic issues. Any member or ally of I-CAN with dual citizenship reading this article will agree that CED is important locally, nationally, and internationally. The world faces complex problems varying in nature from the earthquakes in Japan to the strife in Libya to the constant instability in Haiti or Somalia. CED is a complex answer to complex problems.

The Canadian CED Network (CCEDNet) focuses on creating discussion and solutions to complex issues. Annual conferences and events bring together a network of professionals and academics working for community development and social justice in Canada. Many of us involved in CCEDNet hope the CED ideas produced from these discussions will extend beyond national borders because we want to express our solidarity with the international community. And the simple involvement of immigrants within CCEDNet through the ICAN network does make very real connections between national CED and international development.

Tools for Humanity is a good example of an international development organization with many immigrant interests that is involved within the I-CAN network. Tools for Humanity has been actively involved in CED projects within the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya and Ethiopia). Through simple involvement in discussions within the CCEDNet events and meetings, Tools for Humanity is just one of the groups that links our national development to international development.

CED tackles complex problems that have endless outcomes; thus, it is important to approach CED in a holistic sense. Poverty reduction, human security and social injustice are all part of larger complex issues, so it is important to look at the larger scope. Just as we approach CED within our communities, we should consider that our community is not a closed system. What affects one part of the globe will affect another, and I-CAN's involvement of immigrants in the CED movement in Canada and beyond shows that we are part of a larger system...a global community.