

ANSER Newsletter

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Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research

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5th Annual ANSER-ARES Conference in Waterloo

5^{ème} Conférence annuelle ANSER-ARES à Waterloo

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Join us May 30 - June 1, 2012 at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University & University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario. The conference title is "**The Changing Role of Nonprofits and the Social Economy in an Uncertain World**". A variety of scholars, practitioners, governments, and students will participate in 3 days of stimulating presentations and conversations. The 5th annual conference will feature:

- An academic keynote address by Frances Westley, the JW McConnell Chair in Social Innovation, University of Waterloo
- A community keynote address by Allyson Hewitt, Director, Social Entrepreneurship, MaRS, Toronto.
- A congress-wide special event featuring Chad Gaffield, the president of SSHRC, and Olivia Nuamah, the Executive Director of the Atkinson Foundation, with Michael Hall, the Vice President of Research at the YMCA as moderator.

Each year, as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, ANSER-ARES brings together leading academic researchers, practitioners, consultants, policy makers and community organizations from Canada and internationally to discuss current and emergent issues.

The sub-themes for which there are papers, panels and roundtables include: differing perspectives of the social economy, civil society and its challenges, nonprofits and charities in a changing world, social enterprises and social entrepreneurship, co-operatives and their challenges, community organizing and community economic development, volunteering and citizen engagement, changing conceptions of financing, governance and management, public policy

and government relations, communication, networking and social marketing, and community-university research partnerships.

ANSER-ARES Annual General Meeting

Assemblée générale annuelle d'ANSER-ARES

Please plan to attend the Annual General meeting during the conference. More details to follow. All are welcome.

ANSERJ News / Nouvelles de la revue ANSERJ

La Revue canadienne de recherche sur les OSBL et l'économie sociale/Canadian journal of nonprofit and social economy research ANSERJ (<http://www.anserj.ca>) cherche un rédacteur adjoint de compte-rendu francophone. Le travail bénévole consiste à identifier des livres en français qui méritent un compte-rendu dans ANSERJ, à solliciter des personnes pour rédiger les comptes-rendus et à relire les textes avant leur publication dans la revue. Cette personne fait également partie du Comité de gestion de la revue. Contacter François Brouard, Rédacteur en chef francophone, francois_brouard@carleton.ca pour soumettre votre candidature ou si vous avez des questions.

ANSERJ, Revue canadienne de recherche sur les OSBL et l'économie sociale sollicite des articles de recherche de grande qualité portant sur toutes les facettes des organisations sans but lucratif et l'économie sociale. Des articles jusqu'à un maximum de 8000 mots peuvent être soumis à tout moment.

ANSERJ, the Canadian Journal of Nonprofit and Social Economy Research, welcomes high quality research articles on any facet of nonprofits and the social economy. Articles up to a maximum of 8,000 words can be submitted at any time. Presenters at the June 2011 ANSER and CASC Conferences are invited to consider preparing their papers for submission. As 2012 is the International Year of Co-operatives, the journal is particularly interested in receiving submissions in this area.

Peter Elson and Francois Brouard
Editors, ANSERJ
www.anserj.ca

Graduate Student Research Awards / Prix d'études supérieures

The awards committee met on January 25, 2012, to adjudicate the graduate student research awards. The recommended winners are:

The MA graduate research award winner:

- Jean-Vincent Bergeron-Gaudin – La difficile conciliation entre l'utilité sociale et la rentabilité économique: le cas des organismes communautaires ayant des pratiques marchandes;
- Honourable mention goes to Graziella Grabc and Abigail Franco Vazquez for their innovative and exciting research.

The PhD graduate research award winner is:

- Robert Mittelman - A study of consumer behaviour in online social lending for development;
- Honourable mention goes to Lynn Gidluck for her innovative and exciting research.

ANSER-ARES continues to build greater support of graduate student research and involvement in research related to non-profit studies and the social economy. In support of this objective, 2012-2013 will once again see the association providing a number of awards for graduate students. There are different deadlines for these awards, please visit the ANSER-ARES website (<http://www.anser-ares.ca/>) for more information.

Community Initiatives/Profiles

Projets communautaires & Portraits d'entreprises

The following interview with Russ Rothney was first published in the Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development (<http://www.edo.ca/edo-tools/journals>) in 2011. Rothney, Neechi Foods Treasurer & Neechi Commons Project Manager explores the successful Neechi co-op model and its contribution to Aboriginal community economic development. Neechi Foods Co-op, located in the north end of Winnipeg, has been operating for over 21 years as an associate member of Federated Co-operatives Limited.



Neechi Foods is committed to providing quality products and services to ensure a high degree of customer satisfaction and retention, building a strong co-operative and promoting community economic development and opportunities for Aboriginal peoples. Neechi sells freshly prepared bannock, wild rice, wild blueberries, freshwater fish, and other indigenous specialty foods, 'home-made' deli products, conventional grocery items and Aboriginal crafts, books and music. The co-op has been commercially self-reliant and profitable despite severe economic crises in its surrounding neighbourhood with annual sales reaching over \$600,000 in 2010-2011. Neechi is expanding its business and building the Neechi Commons business complex to open in 2012. Neechi has as its objectives to: 1) foster entrepreneurial leadership, dignified employment, and healthy food consumption within Aboriginal communities and inner-city neighbourhoods; 2) To promote regionally harvested and processed foods; and 3) To cultivate strong cooperative relationships and community spirit.

The following is an excerpt of an article published in the Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development (2011) Vol.7 (2) written by Durdana Islam and Shirley Thompson.

Shirley: What are the social goals of Neechi Foods as a co-op?

Russ: From the beginning we have always had the mandate of promoting community economic development and promoting healthier lifestyles. Obviously community economic development includes hiring people from the area, reinvesting profits back into similar activities and Aboriginal pride is always been stated as one of the goals to

develop people's confidence. The worker co-op model specifically is a way of getting people to develop a sense of business ownership and higher productivity. So even when the recession got bad in the early mid 1990's Neechi could survive and do business. During that recession period, the workers at Neechi decided themselves to cut their wages to stay in business.

Shirley: How many employees does Neechi have now?

Russ: About 12; the core is 8 employees and some part time backup.

Shirley: After the expansion of Neechi foods, how many employees will Neechi Commons employ?

Russ: There will be a core staff of 60 plus there will be several part time professional managerial positions. There will also be about 15 staff working in compatible organizations that will rent offices. The total is around 80 jobs. We are retaining a few employees at the old store to maintain a smaller grocery. We will keep the bannock for the neighbourhood seniors.

Shirley: We know that Neechi provides a market for products (blue berries, wild rice and fish for example) from northern Manitoba Aboriginal communities and fosters CED in these communities. What other products from Aboriginal communities could be marketed in Neechi?

Russ: Well, we sell wild berry jams and syrup from Lake Winnipeg. We are interested in products with value added processing. We often get asked about wild meats. Now the issue there is we would have to get it federally inspected. We sell a lot of bison from bison ranches. Food preparation at Neechi itself is another expression of our development strategy of encouraging retail links to regionally harvested and processed foods. We are getting to a scale where we can do it on a much more sustained basis. We get our main wild rice from nearby Wabagoon. It doesn't use preservatives unlike wild rice with preservatives to make it shiny black for the restaurant trade. We also get wild rice from another Aboriginal worker co-op from northwestern Ontario that is very conscious about all these issues. They send out traditional pickers in canoes to deliberately have seeds going back in. They do a sustainable harvest and they keep the chemicals out of it. We get hundreds and hundreds of pounds from them every year.

Shirley: Was it difficult to get a commercial fish vendor's licenses for Neechi?

Russ: No. It was not that difficult. We are able to buy directly from licensed fishers. We have often turned away people who are not licensed and we don't take fish out of season. We fill out forms and report monthly what we buy.

Shirley: So how is the fish market here in Winnipeg?

Russ: I think it is strong. At Neechi one of our goals is to support groups of Aboriginal fishers in the North. Although we don't have a huge market campaign for fish, we still sell a lot of fish.

Shirley: So creating more direct markets is only going to help Aboriginal fishers?

Russ: It could help others too. I should mention that at Neechi Commons there will be dozens of staff and most of them will be Aboriginal. We are going to set up an interactive website. We have got a marketing group working on this. It is going to be fully interactive and you can easily link "fish buying club" at our site if you want.

Video – Harvesting Hope in Northern Manitoba

Documentaire Harvesting Hope sur la sécurité alimentaire des Autochtones du Nord du Manitoba

Many ANSER-ARES members will remember this excellent 37 minute video shown at the ANSER-ARES Conference in Fredericton in 2011. A link for the video about food-related community economic development in First Nation communities can be found at:

http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~thompso4/harvestinghope_doc.html

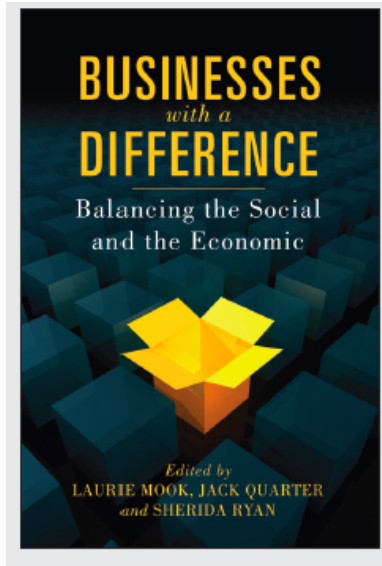
Aboriginal peoples in northern Manitoba tell their stories of the lack of healthy, affordable food choices in stores, if a store is available, in their First Nation or Northern communities. According to a recent University of Manitoba survey of 14 northern communities, 75% of households are food insecure, compared to 9.2% for Canada. Extensive compromises in food selection and total food intake are documented in conjunction with more severe levels of food insecurity and poverty.

Food access is affected by a fly-in community's lack of access to all-weather roads, which increases the final price, limits the types of food available, particularly restricting fresh fruit and vegetables and damages the food. High unemployment and low incomes with high prices for food leads to household food insecurity. Currently public health restrictions, due to prions and other health risks, prohibit selling wild game and ban free public distribution of country foods in hospitals and schools if the food has not been processed and inspected at a federal food processor. But a federal food processor is not available in northern Manitoba. Food safety risks are low if wild meat and fish are cooked properly while the risk of food insecurity is high. The participatory video called "Harvesting Hope in Northern Manitoba" looks at policy from the community level. This video features First Nation and Metis people from Northern Manitoba as well as academics and past Assembly of Manitoba Chief, Ovide Mercredi.

Despite the grinding poverty and many barriers to accessing healthy food, people in northern communities are growing hope. These communities are planting gardens, starting greenhouses and teaching traditional Aboriginal methods of gardening, berry picking and fishing to children and families. In the video, academics and Aboriginal leaders review barriers to food sovereignty and provide policy direction to move towards food security in these communities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ANNONCES

New Book: *Businesses with a Difference: Balancing the Social and the Economic*
Edited by Laurie Mook, Jack Quarter, and Sherida Ryan (University of Toronto Press).



This 2012 book explores how market-based social economy firms such as social enterprises, social purpose businesses, co-operatives, credit unions, and community economic development corporations meet distinct social needs while making money. This book considers whether these types of businesses have the potential for growth in the modern economy. Are they destined to function only in areas where conventional firms cannot achieve a sufficient rate of return, or will the role of social economy organizations change as businesses begin placing more emphasis on corporate social responsibility? Building on the popular 2010 collection *Researching the Social Economy*, *Businesses with a Difference* explores the challenges and opportunities faced by firms that seek a genuine balance between their social and economic objectives. Through international case studies, including comparative analyses, this innovative collection highlights the unique issues that must be addressed when associations are accountable not to investors and shareholders, but instead to ordinary people.

Laurie Mook is an assistant professor in the School of Community Resources and Development and research associate at the ASU-Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation, both at Arizona State University. Jack Quarter is a professor and co-director of the Social Economy Centre at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. Sherida Ryan is the co-ordinator of the Community University Research Alliance on Social Business for Marginalized Business Groups at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

Events/Événements

Funding Policies and the Nonprofit Sector in Western Canada

The Institute for Nonprofit Studies at Mount Royal University will host a policy forum on October 15-16, 2012 entitled "Funding Policies and the Nonprofit Sector in Western Canada". The purpose of this forum is to examine and profile the context and application of current nonprofit funding policies in each of the four western provinces. Academic researchers will present a contextual analysis of nonprofit funding and senior policy makers, leading academics, and nonprofit executives will have the opportunity to discuss the implications of these initiatives. The forum will be held at Mount Royal University. This forum will appeal to senior policy makers, researchers, nonprofit leaders, and those with an interest in nonprofit-provincial government relations not only in Western Canada but across the country. This policy forum has the support of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC), the Prairie Political Science Association (PPSA), and the Government of Alberta. Registration will be limited and fee information will be available by early summer. We invite you to save this date. Contact Kim Warnke at kwarn464@mymru.ca for further information.

Moncton: Gérer la distinction cooperative/ Managing the co-operative difference

29 février au 2 mars 2012

Centre de conférences Delta Beauséjour, Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick

February 29th - March 2nd 2012

Delta Beauséjour Conference Center, Moncton, New Brunswick

Send any nonprofit or social economy research announcements for distribution to members to the address below

ANSER-ARES moderated email list

anser.ares@gmail.com

Subject: ANSER Member List

Vous pouvez nous faire parvenir pour diffusion aux membres toute annonce de recherche portant sur l'économie sociale ou le secteur à but non lucratif.

Une liste d'envoi pour les membres d'ARES

anser.ares@gmail.com