

Driving Policy Through Practice



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Annual Research Report

May 2014 - April 2015

NORDIK Q&A

What is NORDIK?

The Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge Institute evolved from the CESD program at Algoma University and is a community-based research institute. NORDIK is committed to further developing Northern Ontario's capacity by working closely with its community partners and providing mentoring to new researchers.

NORDIK Vision

Promoting more vibrant, caring and sustainable communities through research, dialogue, reflection, and analysis and dedication to the practice of holistic community development.

NORDIK Principles

- Collaborative community-university partnerships
- Builds community capacity to conduct its own research for sustainability
- Holistic - economic, social, cultural, and legal/political development
- Inclusionary and participatory
- Strengths-based
- Sustainable

Undergraduate Programs

Algoma University offers degree programs in Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) and Community Development (CD). The CESD and CD programs promote the growth of sustainable communities - economically, ecologically, socially, and culturally. Apply today and start your studies on a full time or part time basis.

www.nordikinstitute.com
www.algomau.ca/cesd



Director's Reflections - Community Based Research and Policy Change



Community Based Research has been defined as "a collaboration between community groups and researchers for the purpose of creating new knowledge or understanding about a practical community issue in order to bring about change. ..." (Hills and Mullet, 2000) and effecting policy change is a key component of creating the long-term governmental support for the changes that communities need.

NORDIK influences policy change through a myriad of methods: we build partnerships, collaboratives and networks that can bring government attention to issues faced by communities; we bring together community development practitioners, academics and policy makers in symposia, conferences and workshops to share their knowledge and identify policy changes needed to better effect the development proposed; and through our research we provide evidence to policy-makers of the changes required by communities to facilitate the resolution of challenging socio-economic issues.

This report illustrates the breadth of policy issues that NORDIK researchers deal with on a day to day basis: from transportation and rail policy, to agricultural policy, to community forestry, to cultural and social policy, NORDIK researchers are consistently identifying policy gaps and necessary reforms. Most exciting of course is when we are able to see our work being taken up by policy advisors and makers, or when we see new government programs be implemented as a result of our research recommendations. In 2014-15, one of the most exciting new government programs that NORDIK tapped into was the Social Enterprise Development Fund (SEDF), a pilot project by the provincial government, to place funds in the hands of social entrepreneurs, and a policy-program change that NORDIK has been advocating for since 2006 with the publication of a report on barriers for people with disabilities in self-employment initiatives.

There are many more policy changes that can benefit the people of Northern Ontario and elsewhere. NORDIK looks forward to continuing its role of fostering 'new knowledge or understanding....in order to bring about change'.

Board of Directors

Dr. Celia Ross - Chair	Amy Boyer
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Director of Research

Dr. Gayle Broad

Faculty

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Dr. Zulfiya Tursunova	

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Michael Burtch	

Research Coordinator

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SEE Project Staff

Katie Elliot, Coordinator
Shannon Moan, Action Researcher
Mélanie Watson, Communications
Jordan Tabobondung, Partnerships

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Brent Miron	Candace Neveau
Chantal Bernard	Elizabeth Cooke
Lauren Doxtater	Lindsay Mantzel
Luke Hazelton	Sean Meades, PhD (c)
Suzanne Hammond	

Student Researchers and Assistants

Adela Turda	Amanda Parr
André Brown	Candace Williamson
Farah Ayaad	Hoda Ali
Samantha Boyer	

RESEARCH

Article published on ActiveHistory.ca

Stacey Devlin's article "Sharing Local History on the John Rowswell Hub Trail" was published in May 2015 by ActiveHistory.ca, an online publication that connects the work of historians with the wider public and connects the importance of the past to current events.

Creative Cities Network

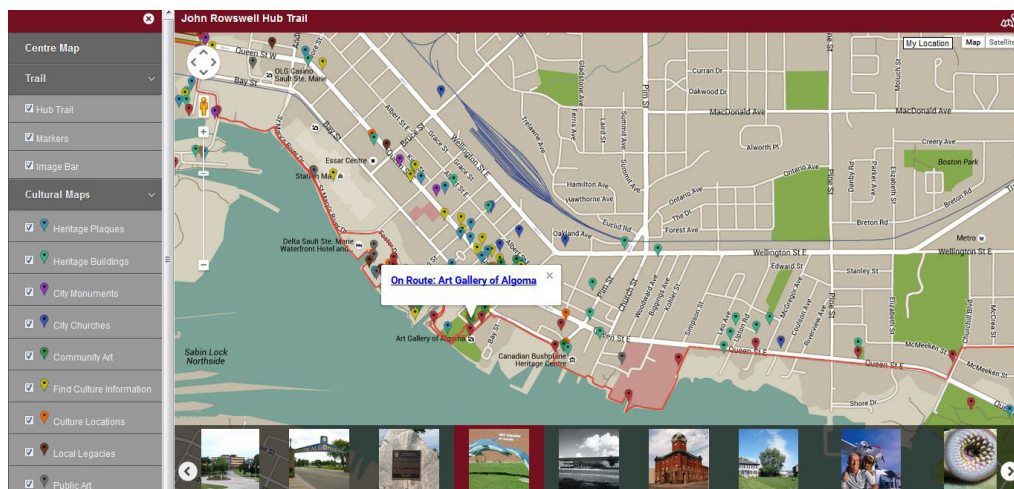
In June 2014, Jude Ortiz and Gayle Broad presented the Animating the John Rowswell Hub Trail research at the annual Creative City Network of Canada conference. The presentation's focus was on how the project contributed to building local capacity for cultural planning and development. The response was overwhelmingly positive and resulted in a broader sharing of knowledge through follow up inquiries and discussions.

Congratulations Dr. Gayle Broad

Dr. Gayle Broad wins Northeastern Ontario 'Executive of the Year' for her role as Director of Research at NORDIK Institute at the 2015 Influential Women of Northern Ontario Awards Reception. Read the full story at influentialwoman.ca.

"There are just so many people that contribute to making a success of NORDIK's work, and I just get to put my name on the letterhead."

Animating the John Rowswell Hub Trail



More than 40 individuals and organizations partnered in this community-municipal place-making initiative highlighting Sault Ste. Marie's historically rich, culturally significant and ecologically diverse assets adjacent to the Trail. It maps the community's significant wealth from an English, French and Indigenous perspective, providing space for respectful sharing of parallel and divergent historical understanding of this ancient location traditionally known as Baawating, 'the meeting place'. The information is now accessible through mobile devices and a trilingual printed Trail Guide and Audio Tour.

Led by NORDIK in collaboration with the City's Planning Department, the Animating project enables planners, community developers, and residents to utilize the information to inform policy, create a meaningful sense of place, and increase the quality of life and competitive advantage in attracting people and investment. The interactive resources will increase and diversify opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts, artists, residents, newcomers and tourists to engage, explore and connect with the City through the Trail; provide a platform for new cultural products; give newcomers an introduction to the community; and, foster cultural-experiential tourism as well as 'stay-cations'.

Research team: Jude Ortiz, lead; Lindsay Mantzel, Web developer; Stacey Devlin, Communications; Brent Miron, GIS and Videographer; Luke Hazelton, GIS; Chantal Bernard, Education Resources; and, Candace Neveau, Indigenous advisor.



**A 22.5km, multi-use, non-motorized trail offering
you an interactive experience around one of
Canada's oldest settlements.**

www.hubtrail.com

Dale Innis & Glenn Gould

Glenn Gould's legacy continues to intrigue us; new areas of research emerge every year. In a new book by NORDIK Research Associate Dale Innis, the evolution of Glenn Gould's interpretation of the keyboard music of J.S. Bach is explored, with particular emphasis on the contrast between his youthful 1955 recording of the Goldberg Variations and his final 1981 recording of the same work. This style transformation is placed in the context of Gould's life, including his early studies with Alberto Guerrero at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, his abandonment of the concert stage to focus exclusively on recording, and some aesthetic directions that he was following later in life. The core of the study, an in-depth analysis of the two recordings of the Variations, leads the reader to a critical look at authenticity in the performance of Baroque music, and its reception by listeners. Innis concludes with a look at some writers who may have influenced Gould, including the Japanese author Natsume Soseki, and explores the special relationship that Gould developed with the Canadian North, particularly the area around Wawa Ontario on the east coast of Lake Superior. NORDIK is planning to hold a book launch in 2016.

Cultural Policy Review

The City of Sault Ste. Marie's Cultural Advisory Board invited Jude Ortiz and Dr. Gayle Broad of NORDIK to facilitate a comprehensive review of its cultural policy, leading to it being contextualized within culture's contribution to the community's socioeconomic resilience. It recognizes the diversity, uniqueness and role cultural groups' play; the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples; and, the benefits of promoting innovation through multicultural, accessible and intergenerational engagement and participation in all aspects of civic life.



Michael Burth: *Painted Land*

NORDIK Research Associate and art historian Michael Burth, is currently engaged in a major research project with Gary and Joanie McGuffin on the Group of Seven which has served as the foundation for the documentary film *Painted Land*. The project entails extensive field research identifying, documenting and interpreting exact sites in Algoma and Superior's north shore where members of this famous group of artists painted their iconic works. The film, commissioned by TVO and produced by White Pine Pictures, was released in October 2015 for broadcast and has been named as an official selection for the 2015 Vancouver International Film Festival.

Link to movie trailer:
<https://vimeo.com/81618112>



CAPT

2014-2015 was a successful year for the Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains (CAPT). Their hard work on behalf of Algoma's passenger rail service resulted in the federal government's decision to preserve the passenger rail line operating between Sault Ste. Marie and Hearst. In addition to this success, CAPT has been recognized with the Algoma Kinniwabi Travel Association Award. Their Searchmont Polar Express event with the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library resulted in an Ontario Library Service Award.

- Linda Savory-Gordon, Co-chair



RAIN

The Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN) aims to enhance the agriculture sector by identifying producer needs and acting to create a vibrant regional food system. When RAIN started, there was a significant infrastructure gap for local producers, including field drainage, storage and processing. RAIN worked with the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp. (NOHFC) to develop a northern specific program. NOHFC responded with two projects to improve drainage infrastructure by facilitating over \$1.6 million in funding to 50 farms in the area. This funding assists producers with the cost of installing tile drainage for season extension and increased yield on over 3,000 acres.

- David Thompson, Coordinator

DIALOGUE

José Reyes: An Ongoing Legacy

(1963 – February 18, 2015)

This past February brought a great loss to members of NORDIK and the CESD community here at Algoma University, as well as to José's many friends and family here in Sault Ste. Marie and Colombia, and indeed, around the world – he was truly a global citizen.

José worked with NORDIK for several years, facilitating a research with ASOPRICOR, a community group in the Alto-Magdalena and Tequendama regions of Colombia, before moving to work with the Ontario Association of Indigenous Friendship Centres on the UACT project. Up until his sudden death, José was continuing to build relationships between Algoma University, ASOPRICOR and Uniminuto University, a relationship which resulted this past spring in six students from the CESD program spending over five weeks in Colombia. It also brought two professors from Uniminuto to Canada in late May 2015, to present with Dr. Gayle Broad at an international conference in Ottawa on community based research. José will be sadly missed by his friends and colleagues, and NORDIK's sympathies are extended to his wife Luz Dary Rodriguez and his son, Oscar.

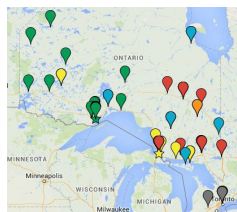
Social Entrepreneurship Evolution (SEE)

Social Entrepreneurship Evolution (SEE) is a diverse collaborative of partners working alongside youth and their communities to develop and connect sustainable infrastructure that will foster a culture of social innovation, while also supporting young social entrepreneurs through mentorship, training and education, funding and network building.

Throughout the last year, SEE and partners have continued to support this development across Northern Ontario through the launch of their bilingual online portal, multiple training webinars, community asset mapping, development of a learning community, speaking opportunities and events. This past June, SEE partnered with Nishnawbe Aski Nation, K-Net, PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise and the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre to host Start Something That Matters, an event held in Thunder Bay which brought together 80 youth, mentors, funders and community members to find creative solutions to our region's most pressing social, environmental and economic issues.

SEE's Spotlight Series highlighting diverse young social entrepreneurs has garnered provincial and national attention for its diverse stories of young Changemakers in Northern Ontario. To find out more, visit seethechange.ca or realiserlechangement.ca.

Key findings from the project to date will be captured in an interim research report based on community-based research practices, and shared with communities and policy makers. Findings include reflections on the collective impact model, language and social entrepreneurship.



Social Enterprise Development Fund: *Social Enterprise for Northern Ontario (SENO)* *Costarter for Change Project*

NORDIK Institute, in partnership with PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise (lead partner), regional Innovation Centres, United Way of Sault Ste. Marie and other community and business leaders has received funding through the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment & Training's Social Enterprise Demonstration Fund (SEDF) to deliver Costarter for Change - a two year regional project focused on social enterprise development in Northern Ontario.

Through this collaborative, social entrepreneurs and organizations will benefit from the experience and expertise of leaders in both the for-profit and non-profit sector; funding opportunities; and hands-on learning all though an inclusive, streamlined application process that will include multiple intakes through its two year span (March, 2015 – March, 2017). For further details, contact Katie Elliott, Project Coordinator (705-949-2301 ext.1037, katie.elliott@algomau.ca).

ANALYSIS AND REFLECTION

Neighbourhood Resource Centre

The Neighbourhood Resource Centre (NRC) was established through the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service's (SSMPS) community mobilization model of policing, a strategy that relies on community engagement as a means of deterring and preventing crime (Broad et al, 2015). The project was based on needs of the Gore Street area identified in the "Downtown Dialogue in Action" research (nordikinstitute.com).

The NRC provides Gore Street residents with easy access to a number of social service agencies who deliver programming, referrals and resources within the center, thus increasing the opportunity for social development to occur. In May 2014, NORDIK Institute was retained by the SSMPS to determine the nature and extent of the collaborative impact of the NRC on the Gore Street neighbourhood and initiate organizational development with the NRC Collaborative agencies. The year-long study examines the NRC Collaborative's socially innovative methods of service delivery in the Gore Street neighbourhood.

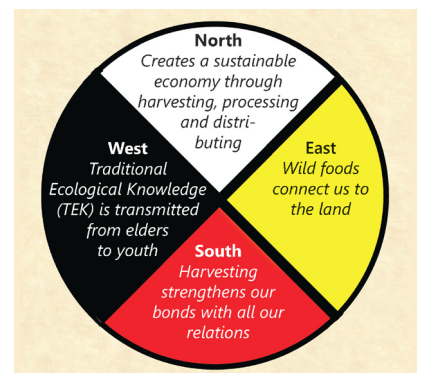
The Ontario Working Group for Collaborative Risk-Driven Community and Safety Well-Being has begun researching and developing frameworks for utilizing community mobilization as an effective means for risk mitigation, including NORDIK's work in this project, thus having policy impacts at both the provincial and local, organizational levels.

- Lauren Doxtator, Research Assistant



Wild Foods Distribution Hub at Thessalon First Nation: *Creating Sustainable Development Through Environmental Stewardship*

The Lands and Territories of First Nations have for time immemorial provided them with sustenance and sustainable economies through naturally renewable resources that are harvested and shared with everyone in the community. The Thessalon First Nation Wild Foods Distribution Hub is a community economic development project which demonstrates the feasibility of maintaining healthy forest eco-systems while generating self-sufficiency through the harvesting, processing and distribution of wild foods to national and international markets. A collaborative project that includes RAIN (Rural Agri-Innovation Network), NORDIK Institute, Nipigon Forage and Forbes Wild Foods, the Wild Foods Distribution Hub is in its early stages of development, the prefeasibility of establishing a distribution hub has already been assessed. The project is looking for additional partners to support the integration of traditional land stewardship into sustainable community economic development.



Wild garlic. User:Russavia / Wikimedia Commons / CC-BY-2.0



Wild berries. Via Pixabay



Fiddleheads. New Brunswick Tourism / Wikimedia Commons / CC-BY-2.0



Walleye. Via Wikimedia Commons



Maple syrup. User:Dvortygirl / Wikimedia Commons / CC-BY-SA-3.0

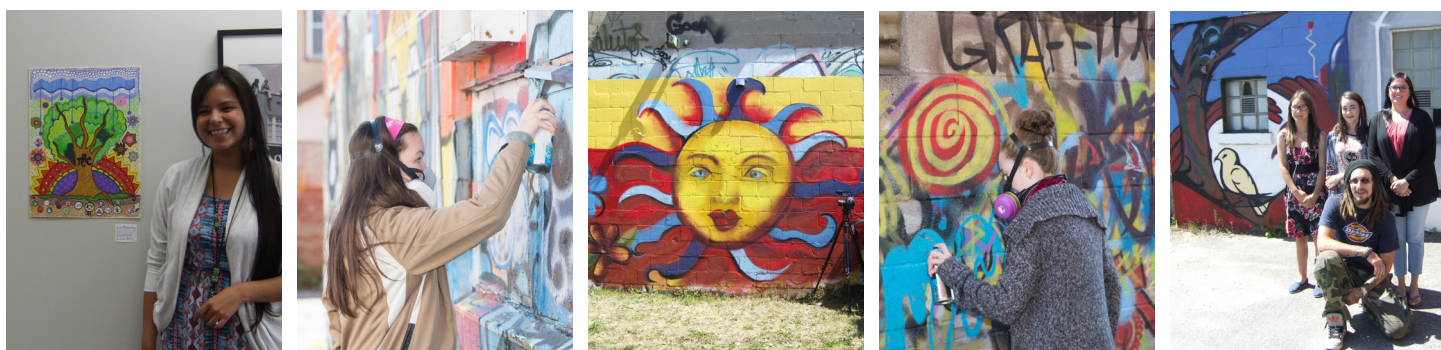
Graffiti Reframed - *Changing Perceptions*

Graffiti Reframed, a partnership between NORDIK Institute and the Arts Council of Sault Ste. Marie and District to engage the community in developing a shared understanding of graffiti and its place in Sault Ste. Marie, wrapped up in October 2015 with the presentation of findings to the public and City Mayor and Council.

The project engaged over 65 artists in painting 3 murals; connecting businesses with youth in commissioned art pieces during National Youth Arts Week; and leadership development through peer mentoring and skills development in the City's downtown. Sixteen artists were employed or supplemented their income through the initiative.

Research findings demonstrated the desire for more public art and the need to provide greater opportunities for youth to engage in visible creative expression. The impact of Graffiti Reframed on buttressing the creative economy, strengthening artistic capacity, and implicating the arts in place-making efforts were also apparent and reflect opportunities for future project and research collaboration.

Research team: Jude Ortiz, Sean Meades and Liz Cooke.



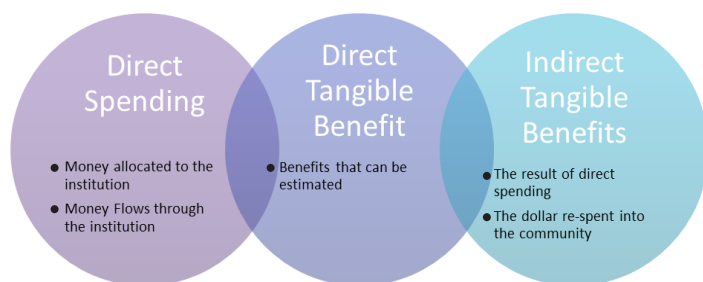
Public Library Social Return on Investment

CESD students Amanda Parr and Adela Turda conducted a Social Return on Investment (SROI) study of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library under the direction of Dr. Gayle Broad.

This research demonstrates that the Public Library's three branches respond to neighbourhood need with a variety of programs in addition to their circulation of a broad range of materials.

The study showed that the City receives a 236% return on its investment; provides \$603 of value for every open hour; provides employment for almost 100 individuals and generates over \$6.6 million in benefits to the community.

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT



Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge

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Thank you to our funders and partners



CESD Club



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