



## 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, analysis and reflection dedicated to the practice of holistic community development, with an emphasis on Indigenous, Northern and rural communities.

### 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](http://www.nordikinstitute.com)  
[www.algomau.ca/cesd](http://www.algomau.ca/cesd)

## Director's Reflections



NORDIK Institute is 10 years old! Although our celebration will not occur for a few months yet, it is appropriate to take a few minutes

to reflect on what we have achieved to date, and the new direction we have charted for ourselves, and which we have summarized in this report in our new Strategic Plan. First, NORDIK's commitment to holistic community development, based on our emergence from and integral linkages with the Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) program, has meant that we have undertaken a broad range of research, reflecting the four pillars of community resilience: social equity, cultural vitality, environmental sustainability, and economic viability. The range of projects has been remarkable as a result – from our award-winning Air Quality study to the Paquataskimik project with Fort Albany First Nation which supported the re-connection of elders and youth through land-based activities; from the Downtown Dialogue in Action and the Animating the John Rowswell Hub Trail projects in Sault Ste. Marie to the Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains and the Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN) to the research with Asopricor in Colombia – NORDIK has promoted greater understanding and insight into how these four pillars serve as a foundation for community resilience. Second, NORDIK has served as an incubation centre for both

community based researchers and community developers/innovators. We have provided research skills training to over 400 community members working for health centres, cultural organizations, economic development offices, and in small businesses, government and band offices and many other community groups. We have also provided a rich training ground and supportive environment for undergraduate, Master's and doctoral students. To date, more than 100 students have worked on various projects, including 14 who have completed graduate studies while in our employ. Most importantly, most of these researchers have stayed in Northern Ontario! Perhaps most importantly though, NORDIK's work has been defined by our community, and those who have come to us requesting our assistance in addressing the issues which they face. As a result, we have identified four major thematic areas for us to address over the next five years: inclusion, partnership and justice with Indigenous peoples; strengthening change-making capacity within our region; fostering inclusive communities and identity recognition; and facilitating resilience and sustainability of Northern Ontario. I am confident that these areas of focus will continue to generate exciting research projects for NORDIK staff and faculty. Finally, I wish to extend my deep gratitude to the Board, faculty, staff and students who make it possible for NORDIK to work with our community partners in community-based research. It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated and diverse team of people.

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### Board of Directors

Dr. Celia Ross - Chair, Amy Boyer, Dr. Craig Chamberlin, Karen Kennedy, Cynthia Morriveau, Debbie Shubat

### Research Staff & Students

**Director of Research:** Dr. Gayle Broad

**Faculty:** Dr. Nairne Cameron, Dr. Shelia Gruner, Derek Rice PhD(c)

**Research Associates:** Dr. James Allen, Michael Burtch, Dale Innis, Dr. Linda Savory-Gordon

**Research Coordinators:** Jude Ortiz PhD(c), David Thompson, MBA, RAIN

**SEE Project Staff:** Katie Elliot, Coordinator, Mélanie Watson, Communications, Krista Bissiallon, Zack Falldien, Jordon Tabobondung

**Research Assistants:** Lauren Doxtater, Connie Manitowabi, Sean Meades PhD(c)

**CESD Students:** Felix Kofi, Kristine Lalonde, Jessica Numminen, Chelsea Parayko, Jasmine Recollet

## NORDIK Research & Research Staff Recognized



The past year provided several opportunities for the exceptional quality of NORDIK's research and researchers to be recognized for their high-quality contributions to the communities we serve. For the second time, NORDIK was awarded the **"Innovation Project of The Year"** at the Sault Ste Marie Innovation Centre's annual awards ceremony – this time for the **"Animating the John Rowswell Hub Trail"** project. Jude Ortiz was recognized as the project lead for this highly innovative project that engages community members, visitors, tourists and classrooms in learning about the cultural, ecological and social histories of the non-motorized, 22-kilometre trail around the city.

Katie Elliott, Project Coordinator of SEE, was the recipient of the **Great Lakes Honda Community Driven Award for Leadership**. This award is designed to recognize individuals who continually strive to make Sault Ste. Marie's local community a better place through their work with different community organizations or activities within the community.



Finally, Sault Community Career Centre nominated NORDIK Institute for **2015 Diversity Award**, announced each year at Chamber of Commerce Business Dinner. This award recognizes an organization that embraces, celebrates and applies holistic inclusion and participation of a diverse people making the community a better place in which to live, work and raise a family. NORDIK was cited for its community-based research with a broad range of community groups; its diverse research staff; and its commitment to social and economic justice.

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## Youth Dialogue on Climate Change, Food Security and Water

Based on Science Odyssey and the PromoScience program's intent to encourage youth to gain interest in science-related careers, Felix Kofi and Selina Haltom organized five events over a ten-day period, designed to engage rural and Indigenous youth in discussions around climate change, food security, animal welfare, and water quality and access. Eleven partners assisted in reaching out to more than 90 youth, including RAIN, the Algoma Youth Poultry Association, the Gore Street Café, the Soo York City Youth Arts Collective, the Aboriginal High School, White Pines Environmental Student Club and others.

The Science Odyssey workshops acted as a platform for youth to share their concerns and learn more about the role of environmental science within their communities, and to encourage them in becoming agents for change. The community partnerships extended the reach of the program of activities, and using the arts (such as the spoken word events, and visual tools) was an excellent way to engage with youth created a comfortable atmosphere and encouraged participation. Indigenous Elders enhanced student understanding of the science through sharing of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).



# YOUNG CHANGE MAKERS

## SEE - Supporting Young Changemakers Across Northern Ontario



Now in its third year SEE has evolved and grown, having a direct impact on young social entrepreneurs in Northern Ontario. Prior to its inception in September of 2014, a google search provided no hits for social enterprise and Northern Ontario; today there are more than 10 pages of 'hits', all of them linked back to SEE. Most importantly, SEE and its more than 30 partnering groups, have integrated social entrepreneurship into a well-recognized component of economic development. Just a few of its many achievements:

- In 2015, 'social enterprise' became a category in the Youth Enterprise Olympics, a competition hosted annually to encourage entrepreneurship within young people of high school age. Students meet, talk with and are advised by mentors, who help them develop a business idea, prepare a rudimentary business plan and execute a professional elevator pitch. In 2016, a social enterprise proposal won the overall award for best 'pitch' in both Northeastern and Northwestern Ontario competitions!

- Access to capital has been identified as one of the toughest barriers for social entrepreneurs to overcome in starting up their businesses. In partnership with PARO, \$250,000 per year for two years, was leveraged through the Social Enterprise Development Fund, to support social enterprise development in the NORTH (See SENO). Further funding for social entrepreneurs was leveraged through the Socent7 'Hook it Up' program and through Soup Ste. Marie
- SEE continued to build relationships, encourage networking and develop greater awareness and understanding of social entrepreneurship and social enterprises by hosting workshops in Timmins, Manitoulin Island, Thunder Bay, Elliot lake and Sault Ste. Marie.
- Recruited and provided mentorship and training to 3 diverse youth interns who brought their unique perspectives and passion to the project, including two Indigenous youth who created a network of young leaders.
- SEE was able to directly support the aspirations of young social entrepreneurs by offering micro-grants, mentorship, and skills training to bring their social enterprise ideas to reality. Our spotlight series raised the profile of 8 diverse YSEs, sharing their stories – both struggles and successes with the places they call home.
- Action research by SEE and NORDIK culminated in curriculum development, showcased in Algoma University's Community Economic and Social Development's Spring Institute, and completed a webinar series for young farmers, in partnership with FarmStart

SEE was successful in applying to extend its work until March 2017, and continues to engage with youth and communities across the region by using various platforms like our monthly e-newsletter, social media, and bilingual web portal [www.seethechange.ca](http://www.seethechange.ca). NORDIK wishes to extend its deep gratitude to Katie Elliot, Project Coordinator, who accepted a position with the Northern Policy Institute – though her office is still located within the NORDIK pod, and Mélanie Watson, who has moved over to Northern College in Timmins. Both of these young changemakers were crucial to making SEE such a successful project, and we look forward to their continued success in their new positions!



## UIYFC



The Urban Indigenous Youth For Change (UIYFC) project was led by Jordan Tabobodong and Krista Bissaillon in 2015-16 and both extended and transformed the work of SEE to create a group of Indigenous youth changemakers. In partnership with the Sault Ste. Marie Indian Friendship Centre, NORDIK and 4Rs, the project engaged youth primarily in Sault Ste. Marie, but also in the Parry Sound region and Timmins. The project demonstrated that cultural teachings and adapting

social entrepreneurship terminology to the Indigenous context were key components to its success. UIYFC created numerous opportunities for skills development, mentorship, cultural knowledge and the creative arts to assist in cultivating a strong identity for youth to become effective change-makers in their home communities. Funding from the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres has been obtained to extend the project into a second year.

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## SENO - Helping Social Entrepreneurs Access Funding

Over the past 12 months, the Social Enterprise for Northern Ontario (SENO) CoStarter for Change program in Northeastern Ontario has engaged over 150 participants through 15 workshops and training seminars and over 60 one-on-one meetings with budding social entrepreneurs. Zach Falldien, research assistant, reached out to Thessalon First Nation, Timmins, and Elliot Lake as well as other Northern communities to provide support to new and emerging social entrepreneurs. The program itself has been an offshoot of the Social Entrepreneurship Evolution (SEE) program which identified a lack of funding for social enterprises as it allots small grants and loans to social enterprise start-ups in the North. To date there have been 6 social enterprises funded in Sault Ste. Marie alone, and over 20 across the region, giving budding entrepreneurs that crucial assistance to pursue their social enterprise concept.



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## Soup Ste. Marie Goes to 'Northern Hoot'



The theme for the second Soup Ste. Marie event was "How will you make a positive change in the community through social entrepreneurship?". This event is a public dinner designed to use community-driven financial support to democratically fund projects. Northern Hoot with their ambassador for change program was crowned the 2016 champion! Northern Hoot won close to \$600 to extend its reach of investigative journalism across the North.



## Gitigaan Gabeshewin Urban Farm Camp

Gitigaan Gabeshewin or Urban Farm Camp, was a week long summer camp for children hosted by NORDIK over the past three years. NSERC funding obtained by Prof. Laura Wyper, Dr. Gayle Broad and Dr. Nairne Cameron was designed to encourage youth, particularly Indigenous youth, to engage with the sciences through urban farming. The program highlighted urban farming values, access to nutritious local foods, and various Indigenous traditional teachings and values. Twenty campers, ages 8-12, were able to re-connect with whole foods, sustainable food systems and local agricultural practices through activities such as a walk to identify indigenous plant species, using GIS to locate and map plants and gardens, and learning to clean, fillet and cook locally caught whitefish. Selina Haltom coordinated camp activities with counsellors Eva Dabutch, Sophie Missere and Krista Bissaillon.



## RAIN - Strengthening the Agricultural Sector

The Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN), a project of NORDIK and SSM Innovation Centre, entered its fourth year with a vision to build a resilient farm and food sector in northern Ontario through innovative research and agricultural development projects. This year Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp. (NOHFC) announced \$793,725 to RAIN to invest in 29 farm projects to clear land and bring new farmland into production and install tile drainage systems. RAIN's research program in 2016 has continued to focus on forage improvement and crop portfolio diversification. These projects have included: keyline plowing, fodder trees for sheep, pollinator monitoring, pasture improvement, soybean variety trials, canola variety trials and multiple projects in partnership with Algoma Soil & Crop Improvement Association. Over 15 RAIN research notes were developed that include research results and best practices. RAIN hosted a number of events, including the annual symposium on the topic of farm succession planning, the third annual Eat Algoma local food festival and a train-the-trainer workshop. RAIN has a number of new projects planned, which include:

- The Sustainable New Agri-Food Products & Productivity Program, a microgrant program for farmers and food processors to create new products or enhance productivity (funded by FedNor)
- Research projects on Cross-Seeding Forages and the Economic Impact of Sulphur Fertilization.
- Next Generation North, a program to assist new farm start-ups and farm successions with skills development and networking (all funded by Agricultural Adaptation Council)

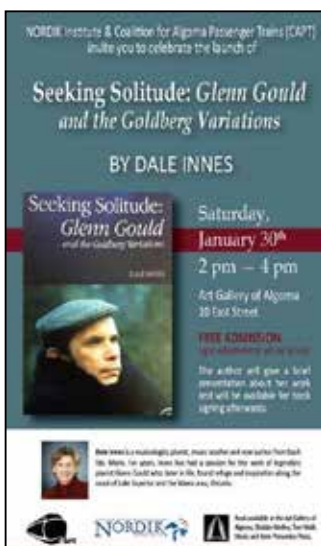


RAIN thanks its funding partners including FedNor, NOHFC, Agricultural Adaptation Council, Growing Forward 2 and its local partners from the farming community for their continued support.



## Book Launch for Research Associate Dale Innes

In January 2016, NORDIK Institute and CAPT partnered to launch a new book written by NORDIK Research Associate Dale Innes, "Seeking Solitude: Glenn Gould and the Goldberg Variations". Innes is a musicologist, pianist, music teacher and one of Canada's foremost Gould scholars, arguably Canada's best-known pianist and certainly a unique personality. The book explores both Gould's unusual techniques and musical interpretations, while also providing insight into his creative processes, inspired in part, by his regular visits to the north shore of Superior and Wawa. Innes's work has attracted the interest of music scholars both nationally and internationally, and is garnering attention for the cultural heritage of the Algoma region. NORDIK takes much pride in having played a small role in the success of the launch, and is grateful to Kristine Lalonde, a CESD student who was the 'legs' of the launch, CAPT, and the Art Gallery of Algoma for providing the lovely venue for a sold out crowd.



## Painted Land: In Search of the Group of Seven



NORDIK's Research Associate Michael Burtch and a large team of local, highly talented folks including Gary and Joanie McGuffin and Dan Nystedt, provided the research, storyline and much of the filming for the highly acclaimed film, "Painted Land: In Search of the Group of Seven", which premiered in Sault Ste. Marie at the Algoma Fall Festival in October 2015. In March 2016, NORDIK hosted a second viewing in the City at the Grand Gardens on Queen Street, due to many requests for another large-screen viewing of this high-quality film. On this occasion, the film was followed by a panel discussion with Michael Burtch, Shirley Horn and Frank Belleau. Produced by White Pine Productions, the documentary film premiered at the Vancouver International Film Festival and has been broadcast repeatedly on TVO with plans for more broadcasts from the Documentary Channel and Yes TV. It

has been screened to full houses in cities from Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg and Yellowknife to Toronto, Oakville, Hamilton, Ottawa, Kingston, Kitchener, Montreal and Wolfville, NS, cities in Michigan, and others too numerous to list. The film was selected by the Ontario media Development Corporation to launch its 10th Anniversary celebration at the Bloor St. Cinema in Toronto and on June 22, the Directors Guild of Canada announced that it was one of four nominees, out of 260 submissions, for the prestigious Allan King Award of Excellence in Documentary Film. The film provides viewers with amazing visuals of the best landscapes that Northern Ontario can offer, and gives much greater understanding and insight into the work of the Group of Seven. The interest in the film from such a broad audience also highlights the potential the Algoma region has for cultural tourism development.



## Metis Nation Ontario (MNO) Asset Mapping



In March 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario's Education and Training department contracted NORDIK Institute to conduct an Asset Mapping exercise. The exercise identified the nature and extent of education, skills and labour force participation of MNO's citizens, as well as the organization's programs and services. The report included three geographical maps of office locations, Métis owned businesses and available post-secondary bursaries, visual figures of survey responses as well as a Métis sash illustration of the assets identified in the data. The report concluded that the Métis culture, including the transfer of land-based knowledge and skills, is at the root of the entrepreneurial spirit and ventures so much in evidence amongst Métis peoples.

## Facilitation for Community Groups



NORDIK continues to provide facilitation and support to community groups in such areas as strategic planning and policy and procedure development. In 2016 Jude Ortiz and Dr. Gayle Broad facilitated a review of the Arts Council of Sault Ste. Marie and District's By-laws and Policy and Procedure Manual in collaboration with board members. The revised documents were adopted at the organization's AGM.

Promoting more vibrant, caring and sustainable communities through research, dialogue and action, leading to the practice of holistic community development, with an emphasis on Indigenous Peoples

## Objectives

## Supporting Actions

### Inclusion, Partnership & Justice with Indigenous Peoples

- Build on NORDIK's strength of working cross-culturally
- Undertake dialogue with Indigenous peoples to determine research priorities
- Recruit more Indigenous scholars (faculty & staff)
- Collaborate in co-hosting workshops, conferences with Indigenous organizations
- Integrate an Indigenous component into every research project



### Strengthening Change-Making Capacity

- Research and policy recommendations broadly disseminated
- Extend youth initiatives beyond 2016
- Train community based researchers and Community Development practitioners
- NORDIK's ongoing sustainability assured



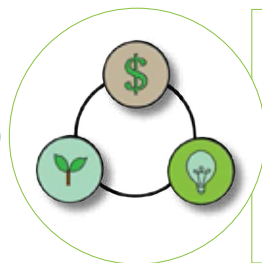
### Foster Inclusive Community and Identity Recognition

- Promote local and regional identity
- Elevate voices and dismantle barriers facing equity-seeking peoples and/or groups



### Facilitate Resilience & Sustainability of Northern Ontario

- Strengthen & extend partnerships & hubs (e.g. RAIN, CAPT and SEE)
- Extend & enhance agriculture/wildfoods sector
- Support rail infrastructure development
- Enhance and expand social economy/innovation
- Continue to encourage economic diversification





logue, analysis and reflection dedicated  
ous, Northern and rural communities.

## Outcomes

**Expansion** &/or enhancement of cross-cultural relationships  
**Research priorities** established and at least 2 research projects per year completed reflecting same  
**Maintain** at 1/3 indigenous staff & faculty at all times  
**Host** at least 1 event annually with Indigenous policy focus  
**Every research report** contains voices & recommendations from Indigenous people/organizations

**Communications strategy** developed and implemented  
**Pan-Northern public policy** partnership established  
**Obtain 3-5 year funding** support for youth-led social innovation activities  
**Provide** at least 4 workshops and/or symposia annually  
**NORDIK Social Return on Investment** study completed, revenue streams diversified

**Establishment** of an eco-cultural-tourism collaboration/hub  
**Arts and culture partnership/hub** is established and funded (similar to RAIN, SEE)  
**Designation** of Algoma-SSM as a cultural industry cluster  
**Every research project and report** contains voices & recommendations reflecting the aspirations of equity-seeking groups

**Funding** of a large-scale 5-7 year collaborative initiative involving multiple sectors is secured  
**Measurable increase** in agriculture/wild foods economy in region  
**Local Operation of Rail Line** Sault Ste. Marie to Hearst, Sault Ste. Marie to Sudbury  
**Measurable increase** in social economy sectors in region  
**Measurable increase** in economic diversity of region

## Strategic Plan



NORDIK undertook its own Strategic Planning processes in 2016, culminating in the above document. The full narrative report is available at [www.nordikinstitute.ca](http://www.nordikinstitute.ca). We are grateful to the staff, students and board members who contributed to shaping our future work, while retaining the best of what we have learned over the past 10 years.

### Youth Arts Mural Brightens Bushplane Heritage Centre

In August 2016, six young women artists created a mural along the John Rowswell Hub Trail. This project was sponsored by the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre and NORDIK Institute as a 'place-making' opportunity for youth to create community art. The mural, illustrating the role of aviation in the history of protecting Northern Ontario's forests from the ravages of fire, has transformed a large trailer on the Centre's site into a cultural attraction. The mural making was part of NORDIK's efforts to raise the profile of the contribution culture and the arts make to expanding the cultural economy.

### CAPT & NEORN - Tough Battles for Transportation Infrastructure



Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains (CAPT) continues to be a part of the Algoma Passenger Rail Working Group under the leadership of Chief Jason Gauthier, Chief of Missanabie Cree First Nation to bring back the passenger service between the Sault and Hearst. CAPT has played a very active role in engaging communities through petitions, meetings and media events in order to express the devastating effects of the cancellation of passenger service on the Algoma line.

NORDIK has played an important supportive role to the Northern and Eastern Ontario Rail Network (NEORN) that is trying to have passenger rail service restored throughout Northeastern Ontario, including on the existing ACR line from Sault Ste. Marie to Hearst, the Huron Central Line from Sault to Sudbury, the CP line from Sudbury to North Bay and the ONTC from Toronto to North Bay to Cochrane to Hearst. NEORN is a network of rail groups such as CAPT and it is in turn a part of Transport Action Ontario (TAO).

Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge



RESEARCH • DIALOGUE • REFLECTION • ANALYSIS

Thank you to our funders and partners



### CESD Club

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