

PROMOTING THE PRACTICE OF HOLISTIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge



RESEARCH • DIALOGUE • REFLECTION • ANALYSIS

Annual Research Report



2013-2014

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 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...



The theme of the 2013-14 year's report is 'holistic community development' to illustrate the breadth and depth of our work this past year. Local projects such as the Downtown Dialogue in Action and Animating the John Roswell Hub Trail illustrate the holistic approach by addressing social development, healthy, active living, and educating users about history, culture and ecology. This project serves to encourage those of us who live here to learn about our community while maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and also fosters tourism, as we showcase some of the many unique and fascinating aspects of Sault Ste. Marie.

NORDIK researchers were privileged to support Serpent River First Nation's Community Economic Opportunities Program (CEOP) that reflects its commitment to a triple-bottom line – land, people and prosperity. This was an exciting opportunity to work alongside a First Nation as it reclaims

its cultural values of land stewardship and sharing/caring for community members within a sustainable development framework. The SEE project also encourages a holistic approach, as it develops the infrastructure across Northern Ontario to support a new generation of changemakers, or youth social entrepreneurs. Funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation from 2013-16, project staff kicked off their work by bringing together youth, community partners, funders and other researchers in communities from Sault Ste. Marie to Sioux Lookout, from Cochrane to North Bay, and across Manitoulin Island. Their ongoing work to establish a vision, identify existing assets, and establish the supports Northern Ontario youth need to become social innovators/ social entrepreneurs – real changemakers – will most certainly contribute to holistic community development across the North. These are only a few of the highlights of our work for 2013-14, as we continue to create holistic community development that responds to the needs of all – our planet, our people and our economy. We are fortunate to be able to share this vision with so many across the North.

NORDIK Board of Directors

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Steffanie Petroni-Date
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SEE Project Staff

Katie Elliot, Coordinator
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Mélanie Watson, Communications

RESEARCH

Congratulations Dr. Gayle Broad

Dr. Gayle Broad, the Director of Research at NORDIK institute and Associate Professor at Algoma University, was awarded the City of Sault Ste. Marie's 2013 Medal of Merit Award for making outstanding contributions to the community.

Congratulations Steffanie Petroni-Date

Steffanie, a CESD grad and former NORDIK researcher, was awarded a Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada's 2013 Media Award for her (English print) "The Story of a Child Prostitute." It was published on LOCAL2.ca. She also worked with the Downtown Dialogue in Action project researching and engaging in conversation with sex trade workers on what their vision is for transforming the Downtown Core.

Social Entrepreneurship Evolution (SEE)

In October 2013 over 50 youth and their allies from across

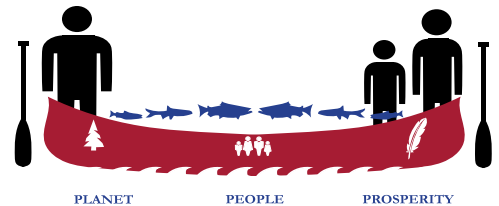
Northern Ontario came together to launch a 3-year project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation to support the development of networks and tools for Aboriginal, Francophone, and Anglophone youth (ages of 13-35) to become social entrepreneurs. SEE's goal is to connect and support youth who are interested in addressing social problems by using business strategies to mentors, training opportunities and events. Further events throughout the year included project staff recruitment, communications strategy development and asset-mapping in communities across the Northeastern part of the region. Thanks go to Trevor Waytowich of Thunder Bay who designed a logo to reflect SEE's work of supporting young change makers in Northern Ontario.



Animating the John Roswell Hub Trail Project

The City of Sault Ste. Marie's Planning Department and over sixteen diverse community organizations have partnered with NORDIK to highlight the rich cultural, historic, and ecological areas along the Trail, making the information widely accessible through a Trail Guide, a web portal, mobile devices, an app, and an Audio Tour. The resources currently under development will provide opportunities to learn about the community, past and present, from various perspectives by engaging in interactive activities. Healthy living tips will also be included. The Trail Guide and the Audio Tour will be offered in English, French, and Anishinaabemowin.

The partnership has grown to include the Invasive Species Research Institute, Invasive Species Centre and Sault College's Natural Environment and Outdoor Studies. Lindsay Mantzel and Stacey Devlin have recently joined project lead, Jude Ortiz and Dr. Gayle Broad. Funders include the Ontario Trillium Foundation and NOHFC. Watch for the community launch in 2015.



Serpent River First Nation Moves to Community Economic Development

Serpent River First Nation (SRFN) invited NORDIK Institute to participate in an exciting project with them in 2013. The community's history of environmental degradation by outside forces (uranium mining and an acid plant constructed on their territory), together with the exclusion of many community members from the dominant economy, encouraged SRFN to embark on a new path towards sustainable development. SRFN established a project. In brief, the Economic Development Corporation has made significant changes in its approach to community engagement practice; its support for the development of small business; and has adopted a community economic development (CED) approach to its work. The 'triple-bottom-line' of land, people, and economy, is now guiding the community's efforts as it moves towards becoming a model of sustainable practices.

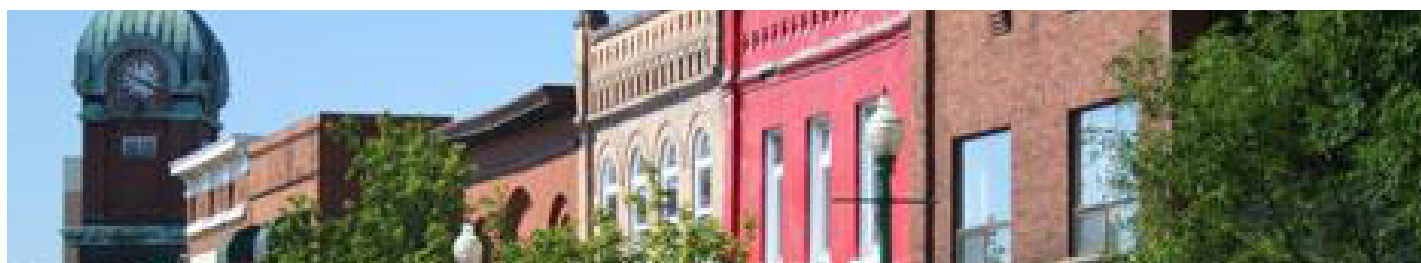
There is of course, still much more to do - for example, SRFN has also recently established an Environmental Review Panel, and a regional roundtable on sustainability - but the CEOP project and community dialogue it engendered has provided a foundation for building the community's strengths towards a healthy and sustainable future for SRFN's land, people, and economy.

ACTION RESEARCH



Downtown Dialogue in Action

The Sault Ste. Marie Police Services, John Howard Society, and NORDIK partnered with community organizations, downtown businesses, and residents to address crime prevention through social development in Sault Ste. Marie's downtown, commencing in May 2013. Tom Green, Dana Chalifoux, and Jessica Bolduc created the space for over 1000 residents, business owners, service providers and consumers, and others to voice their concerns and create a vision for the downtown area. This research also took on a strong action component, with numerous organizations and community members leading change within the community. Watch NORDIK's website for a posting of the full research report in the very near future.



Restorative Justice Training

The workshops that took place in October 2013 taught the Algoma District School Board, Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board, John Howard Society and city police attendees about building community peace rather than increasing order or punishment.

Neighbourhood Resource Centre

Located on Gore Street, this Centre is important and significant due to its colocation aspect. A number of community agencies, facilitated by the Sault Ste. Marie Police Services, worked together to create a welcoming environment in which the root causes of crime can be addressed.



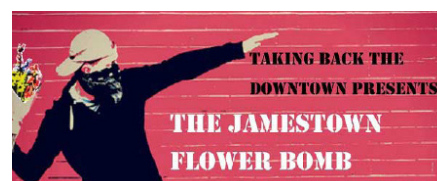
Soup Ste. Marie

Held at 180 projects in Sault Ste. Marie on November 14 2013, Soup Ste. Marie was hosted by NORDIK's Downtown Dialogue in Action and Gangplank (an organization of local business people). The public dinner was designed to use community-driven financial support to raise awareness and fund projects led by individuals, businesses and groups of community members. Teddy Syrette's project to develop better support for the LGBTQ Community, benefitted from the crowd funding of approximately \$1200.



Graffiti Reframed Exhibition

As part of National Youth Arts Week, the Arts Council of Sault Ste. Marie & District, the Art Gallery of Algoma, and NORDIK Institute organized the Graffiti Reframed Exhibition highlighting graffiti in the downtown core. Youth photographed graffiti to begin a community conversation about its purpose and its location in terms of creative expression and artistic practice, providing opportunity to re/visit perspectives about graffiti as the community moves forward in investigating its role and impact in social and economic development.



Jamestown Flower Bomb

On July 2013, the Jamestown Flower Bomb event aimed to beautify the less utilized area of Sault Ste. Marie's downtown. Through community engagement, members of Algoma University's CESD program and social workers helped to make positive changes in many aspects for this area of the city.



First Nations Micro Finance

On Oct. 8/13, Jessica Bolduc appeared on The Agenda with Steve Paikin to discuss microfinancing and its potential for Indigenous people, especially women and youth living off-reserve. Jessica was joined on the panel by Chief Isadore Day of Serpent River First Nation and Eugene Ellman, National Director, Oikocredit Canada. View at: www.theagenda.tv.org/podcasts.

Anishinaabe Inendamowin (Thought) Research Symposium

Hillary Trudeau, research intern, and former NORDIK intern Natalie Waboose, spoke at a research symposium hosted by Algoma University and its Anishinaabe Initiatives Division (AID). The symposium highlighted research illustrating Anishinaabe perspectives and encouraged Anishinaabe students to consider higher education. Dr. Karl Hele, Associate Professor and Director of the First Peoples Program at Concordia University, and Algoma U professors Dr. Rose Cameron and Dr. Dwayne Keough, as well as student Shelley Fletcher presented.

Expanding and Supporting Food Security and the Agro-Economy in the Algoma Region

Co-chaired by the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre and NORDIK Institute, with collaboration and support from local associations, producers, businesses, municipalities, and funding organizations, the aim of this project is to build farm capacity and undertake research for Northern Ontario agriculture, thus fostering business growth for producers in the Algoma region. In Apr. 2014, RAIN obtained \$989 000 from NOHFC for the Regional Tile Drainage Project. The goal of this project is to maximize and utilize existing land, as well as allowing for high value crops to be produced. With climate change and resulting extreme weather, tile drainage for flash flooding is particularly crucial.



Fallen Fruit

The Fallen Fruit initiative facilitates collaboration between property owners with fruit trees and/or vegetables gardens and volunteer harvesters to reduce food waste. It provides producers the opportunity to share produce they cannot pick or eat themselves with individuals and organizations. Launched in 2012 by CESD faculty member Professor Laura Wyper, its first season saw over 800 lbs. of fruit picked with 350 lbs. going to more than 10 local agencies and others in need.



Urban Beekeeping

Professor Laura Wyper's research aims to investigate the feasibility of urban apiaries, particularly hive health and neighbourhood acceptance. An April educational workshop focused on raising awareness of urban bee culture and fostering supportive community relations. Participants were surveyed at the beginning and end of the workshop to determine if peoples' knowledge and opinions of urban beekeeping had changed. This ongoing project has been very successful in attracting a diversity of age groups and raising awareness of the important role bees play in the food system.



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Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains (CAPT)

CAPT has played an important role in helping to organize a network of rail groups in Northern Ontario called the Northern and Eastern Ontario Rail Network (NEORN) (www.neorn.ca) which is committed to the revitalization of passenger rail service.

June 18/13 – local groups which promote passenger train service form a first-ever network of passenger train advocacy groups in Northern and Eastern Ontario.

Dec. 21/13 – CAPT partnered with Searchmont Resort and the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library to present the Searchmont Polar Express on the Algoma Central Railway.

2014 marks the 100th birthday of the Algoma Central passenger train. ACR established train service to bring more residents and tourists to the region. The Group of Seven were among some of the famous passengers who took the train to paint some of their most significant works.



Thank you to our Funders

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Coalition for Algoma
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