

Research
Dialogue
Analysis
Reflection

NORDIK INSTITUTE

Algoma U's Community-Based
Research Institute



Northern Ontario Women's Economic
Development Conference. April 2008



Opening night of Enjoyment of Form
Featuring local artist Ken MacDougall



International research
project: ASOPRICOR



Healing Lodge Singers at Algoma U 'Teach-in':
Understanding the Economic Crisis

Annual Report 2008-2009

"...dedicated to the practice of holistic community development"

NORDIK Board of Directors, 2008-09

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NORDIK Q&A

What is NORDIK?

The NORDIK (Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge) research institute evolved from the CESD program. 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

The establishment and operation of a research institute for the purpose of promoting more vibrant, caring and sustainable communities through research, dialogue, analysis and reflection dedicated 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
- Process is as important as outcomes

The CESD Program

The Community Economic and Social Development Program (CESD) is a four year interdisciplinary degree program at Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie, ON. CESD promotes the growth of more sustainable communities, economically, ecologically, socially, and culturally.

For more, visit :

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

Director's Report

by Dr. Gayle Broad
Research Director of NORDIK

"...dedicated to the practice of holistic community development"

2008-09 has been one which clearly demonstrates our holistic approach to community development, with action research that supports and reflects economic, social, cultural, environmental and policy development in the communities we serve.



Over the course of this second full year of operation, NORDIK completed five pieces of research and began or continued work on six additional projects. NORDIK played an active role in disseminating the results of research by co-hosting one local conference, one regional (Northern Ontario) conference, and one national academic conference (with a host of community and institutional partners), and through hosting two high-profile guest speakers in the ongoing lecture series.

Perhaps one of the most challenging - and satisfying - parts of NORDIK's work is that the organization's core staffing is provided by students at both the undergraduate and post-graduate level. It is challenging because as students complete their degrees, they often move on to full-time employment elsewhere. On the other hand, it is tremendously satisfying to see the research capacity of Northern Ontario grow as our researchers take their skills to other organizations and integrate the principles and ethics into their new workplaces. Some of those who went on to 'bigger and better things' in 2008-09 year include: Elise Ahenkorah, BA (Hons), Theresa Binda, MSW (congratulations on completing that while with us!), Madison Saunders, MES, and Alicia Mills. It has been a pleasure and honour to work with you all.

Dr. Gayle Broad

Research Director

Our Staff and Students

Faculty

Dr. Linda Savory-Gordon
Prof. Sheila Gruner

Researchers

Heather Schmidt - PhD Candidate
Jude Ortiz - PhD Candidate
José Reyes - MBA Candidate
Christine Sy MA
Ryan Bullock - PhD Candidate
Brandon Lawrence - NOHFC intern
David Thompson - NOHFC intern
Lori Middaugh - NOHFC intern
Elise Ahenkorah - CCEDNET intern
Bonnie Gaikhezheyongai BA
Prof. Debbie Shubat - Sabbaticant

Students

Linda Niganobe
Rebecca Stuebing
John Trudeau - Saulteaux Enterprises
Ian Roberts - Summer Jobs Canada

York University
University of West England
Cape Breton University
Trent University
University of Waterloo
Algoma U Grad BBA
Algoma U Grad CESD
Algoma U Grad SWLF
Algoma U Grad Law
Algoma U Grad CESD
Sault College



Research

NORDIK's work in Community-Based Research is beginning to develop a national reputation. This year, we continued our collaboration with the Centre for Co-operative Studies at the U. of Saskatchewan and a host of other universities in conducting research on the social economy; we began a new partnership with the Universities of Guelph and Carleton; and we provided advice and guidance to a number of individual researchers and communities across the province as they undertook their own research.

Rural Youth Research Internship Project

A new partnership with the Universities of Guelph and Carleton created linkages with FedNor's policy branch, and provided two youth with summer internships to study the community development activities of the Sault Ste. Marie and East Algoma Community Development Corporations. This research has led to further collaborations with a Swedish researcher, comparing Community Futures Program to a similar program in Europe.

ASOPRICOR

NORDIK's ongoing partnership with the Universities of Saskatchewan and Winnipeg in the Social Economy research project, Linking, Learning, Leveraging provided an opportunity



for two interns and NORDIK's Director to travel to Colombia to visit ASOPRICOR and learn from the work of seven community groups active in the social economy of that country.

CAPT Trains

NORDIK supported the incorporation of another non-profit this past year – the Coalition for Algoma Passengers Trains (CAPT), through the provision of a research intern funded through NOHFC. CAPT continues to raise the profile of the need for cost-effective, environmentally efficient rail service through building a strong coalition of partners and expanding rail corridor tourism. In September 2008, CAPT initiated the first (sold-out) "Group of Seven" cultural event in conjunction with Searchmont Resort, drawing clear connections between culture and economic development.



Penokean Hills Farms

NORDIK continued the work with Penokean Hills Farms, a group of local beef farmers establishing a foothold in the local market, by conducting marketing research, and developing promotional materials. This work, together with the development of the Algoma Food Network, is contributing to the strong 'local food' movement that is spreading across Canada and around the world, addressing rising concerns regarding the safety and security of food systems.



Linking, Learning, Leveraging Supporting the North

Completed Research 08-09

- Nog-Da-Win-Da-Min Family and Community Services: Community-based Research on the Futures of Children's Services. (Heather Schmidt and Christine Sy)
- Rural Youth Research Internship Project: The Impact of Community Futures Development Corps. (David Thompson and Ashleigh Sauvé)
- Penokean Hills Farms Marketing Project Phase I. (Brandon Lawrence)
- Recovery of the Collective Memory and Projection into the Future: ASOPRICOR, Phase I. (Jose Reyes, Gayle Broad)
- CCEDNET Train the Trainer Final Report. (Elise Ahenkorah)
- Ken McDougall: The Enjoyment of Form. (Anne O'Connor, Ian Roberts)
- Music Opportunity Study Part 1 (Jude Ortiz, Rebecca Stuebing)
- Fort Albany First Nation—Land Stewardship Research Report. (Sheila Gruner, Christine Sy)

Linking, Learning, Leveraging (LLL) is a SSHRC-funded research project investigating the Social Economy. This project is comprised of multiple community partner organizations, academic researchers, and university students across Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. This partnerships with the University of Saskatchewan and Winnipeg, LLL provides opportunities to grow research on the social economy. Through research initiated in this project national and international linkages have been built to address the stress placed on communities by the forces of globalization.

The ongoing partnership with LLL provided an opportunity for an intern to assist NORDIK in co-hosting the Northern Ontario Women's Economic Development Conference with PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise in Thunder Bay – this conference raised the profile of women's role in the economy and

the contribution of women entrepreneurs to the success of Northern Ontario's businesses. It brought 200 women from across the North together for two days of intensive dialogue and analysis, as well as building a network of engaged, energetic and highly knowledgeable women.



Dialogue

Presentations

Greenpeace Canada's ED Bruce Cox Presents Climate Solutions: Nuclear Lies—Green Truths.

The focus of the presentation was on climate change solutions and how nuclear power threatens to halt green energy innovation in Ontario. Algoma University: March 9th, 2008

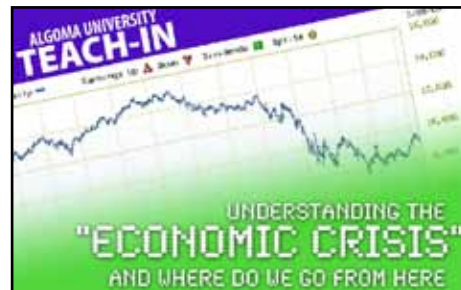


Canadian Indigenous Native Studies Association (CINSA) Conference: Visions of Sustainability

Algoma University's first academic society conference, CINSA featured Indigenous scholars, undergraduate and post-graduate Indigenous students and other researchers engaged in Indigenous studies across Canada. The conference attracted over 100 participants and was chaired by Prof. Sara Mainville. Algoma University: June 18th-20th, 2008

Understanding the Economic Crisis

NORDIK Institute and Community Resilience SSM, together with Algoma University, hosted a 'teach-in' to attempt to create a better understanding of the global economic crisis. Faculty, students and community members explored local, regional, national and international impacts of the crisis; its causes; and some potential solutions. Participants across the region were invited to join us through several portions of the event which were webcast.



Media stories, conference presentations, hosting conferences and - this year - assisting in the production of a documentary, have all been ways that NORDIK has stimulated dialogue at local, regional and national levels.

Ken McDougall Film, Enjoyment of Form

A documentary that explores the contributions of local artist Ken McDougall, brought together a community of artists, community activists, businesses and local institutions to celebrate the contribution of art to building a shared Northern identity.

Visual artist for over 60 years, McDougall supported himself through teaching, graphic art design, and through his painting - in short he sustained a livelihood in the North through following his two passions - painting and Northern Ontario.

Anne O'Connor, an enthusiast of McDougall's art, felt his work should be documented on the occasion of his 'final' show. O'Connor recruited a production team of talented young people to produce a film: Ian Roberts, a theatre graduate from Algoma University; Emily Colombo, a visual artist, to do promotions;

and Dan Nystedt, a local filmmaker who directed, filmed and edited more than 28 hours of footage.

A broad community partnership of public, private and government institutions provided the necessary funding. With over 30 showings of the film, an award recognizing the benefits of the work and the skills of the film-makers, the group is continuing to disseminate their tribute to a great local artist through the sale of DVD copies at the Art Gallery of Algoma.



Ken McDougall (left) with Dan Nystedt (right) filming at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre Arboretum.

Photo by Donna Hopper

Analysis & Reflection

Research is done within a context of analysis and reflection: What have we learned from this work? How can we apply it in different situations? How does this change both what we do and how we do it? This year presented a number of opportunities to gather people together to analyze and reflect on our work, and our plans for the future.

Native Child Welfare Community-Based Research

In 2009, the Nog-da-win-da-min Family and Community Services' (NOG) community-based research project on child welfare with the North Shore First Nations was completed by NORDIK.

Led by Heather Schmidt and Christine Sy, this project tested and expanded NORDIK's capacity to conduct participatory research, exploring an emotionally-charged issue in a sensitive and ethical manner.

NOG is a Child and Family Services organization that serves seven First Nations comprising the North Shore Tribal Council in Northern Ontario. In 2008, NOG decided to implement a community-based research project to ensure that community stakeholders

have relevant and timely child welfare information to determine the future direction of child welfare services for their communities.

The research project focused on two questions:

- What are the current 'best practices' in Aboriginal Child Welfare?
- Should NOG expand beyond its current range of prevention services for at-risk families? If so, should its services be expanded to include fully-mandated child protection and intervention?

NOG contracted NORDIK to undertake a community consultation process that would elicit community feedback around these questions. Based on a Medicine Wheel model, NORDIK and NOG staff

encouraged as many participants as possible to contribute to the consultation. A total of 146 people were engaged in the dialogue at 9 community feedback sessions.

The community consultation has resulted in a rich and deep dialogue around Anishinaabek life, and has given NOG a solid foundation to plan for its future.



Northern Ontario CED Network

On March 18th staff of the Canadian CED Network met with NORDIK and a small group of Social Economy practitioners and researchers from Northern Ontario in Sault Ste. Marie.

Included in this group were Paul Chamberlain and Adam Morello of the Ontario office of the Canadian CED Network, representatives from the Food Security Research Network, NORDIK (Algoma University), GEODE, KNet, and PARO. The group around the table identified themselves as forming the beginning of a Northern Ontario CED Network.

The identified priorities within this group were categorized within three broad categories. The predominant concern was for the environment and the management of natural resources. Priority was also placed on youth engagement and succession planning - particularly within rural communities. Finally,



job creation through social enterprise development - using the coop model - was seen as an essential device for creating community ownership and opportunities for youth. Ultimately, strong interest was voiced for the development of a northern vision - a unified image for development in the north to counter the implementation of development ideas from outside that do not benefit northern

communities.

As an immediate course of action for further networking and information sharing CCEDNet is looking to establish funding for a series of 6 videoconferences that will engage participants on subjects affecting the lives of Northern Ontarians, the first of which will be on forest tenure.

Visit us Online



www.NORDIKInstitute.com

Our Funders


For a complete list of our funding & community partners visit:
www.nordikinstitute.ca

- Algoma University
- Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation
- Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (Linking, Learning, Leveraging)
- FedNOR
- Centre for the Study of Co-operatives (University of Saskatchewan)
- The Canadian CED Network (CCEDNET)

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Thank you to Our Funders and Our Community and University Partners

ALGOMA
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 Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada



 **Ontario**
Northern Ontario
Heritage Fund

FedNor 

 **Linking, Learning, Leveraging:**
SOCIAL ENTERPRISES
KNOWLEDGEABLE ECONOMIES
& SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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