



## **Preliminary Profile of the Size and Scope of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia**

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## Executive Summary

Recognizing the presence and significance of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia has been largely based on anecdotal accounts, government reports, and non-government research and reports. In the current policy context and development of BC-Alberta Research Alliance on the Social Economy (BALTA) research priorities, members and partners identified the urgent need to have some basic and coherent data backing up the importance of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia. For instance, individuals have highlighted the usefulness of gathering basic employment data for the purposes of engaging with decision makers in government. This report is intended to be preliminary in its comprehensiveness.

The goal of this study is to begin to formally recognize the size and scope of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia by creating a preliminary profile. Organizations that form the Social Economy foster a greater measure of solidarity among human beings, their communities and society as a whole by emphasizing the social purposes of mutuality and collective benefit. Specifically, these organizations and activities place higher priority on mutuality, accountability to the public or a defined membership, self-help, caring for people and the environment. Aggregate data and description information was used to construct this profile according to six areas:

1. Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations
2. Size and Scope of Co-operative Businesses
3. Infrastructure Supporting the Social Economy
4. Non-Market Housing
5. Social Enterprises: Purpose, Scope and Supports
6. Community-Based Social Services

We include a discussion on trends, patterns, and issues found in the context of understanding the size and scope of the Social Economy. We provide a summary of our findings and discuss some gaps in knowledge as well as emerging trends that are contributing to strengthening the presence of the Social Economy in new and innovative ways. For information purposes we include a section of sources and resources to provide the reader with the information that contributed to this report. We feel that the information provided in this section can serve as a starting point for further research.

We end this report by urging caution as well as challenging individuals who question the validity of the Social Economy. We challenge the reader to view this document as a springboard to exploring the presence of similar organizations in your community. You are encouraged to get involved in a discourse that celebrates the efforts of individuals and organizations trying to make a change in the world by adopting practices intended to improve and reduce the gaps that permeate Canadian society. However, it is as important to critique as it is to celebrate. Our guiding objective should be to strengthen social bonds rather than continue to dismantle them. Can changing businesses practices do this? All individuals can be involved in this discourse as long as the common thread is to build rather than solely deconstruct. We encourage the reader to question and contest the examples, and assertions provided throughout this report. The challenges associated with addressing the gaps and identifying the size and scope of the Social Economy is an ongoing project for BALTA.

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## **1. Project Overview**

The purpose of report is to identify, review and analyze existing data and descriptive information with the objective of developing a preliminary profile of the Social Economy within Alberta and British Columbia. The profile is comprised of aggregate data and description information of the size and scope of the Social Economy, including: level and type of employment across the Social Economy; major activities; and breadth of activities according to common sectoral categories and to industry classification systems (e.g. North American Industry Classification System).

### **1.1. Objectives and Significance**

Recognizing the presence and significance of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia has been largely based on anecdotal accounts, government reports, and non-government research and reports. In the current policy context and development of the BC-Alberta Research Alliance on the Social Economy (BALTA) research priorities, members and partners identified the urgent need to have some basic and coherent data backing up the importance of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia. For instance, individuals have highlighted the usefulness of gathering basic employment data for the purposes of engaging with decision makers in government.

Organizations that form the Social Economy foster a greater measure of solidarity among human beings, their communities and society as a whole by emphasizing the social purposes of mutuality and collective benefit. Specifically, these organizations (which can be incorporated or unincorporated) conduct activities that place higher priority on mutuality, accountability to the public or a defined membership. Key pillars for these organizations are the promotion of self-help and self-reliance by caring for people and for the environment. This preliminary profile begins to formally recognize the size and scope of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia. The specific objectives are:

- Develop a profile of the Social Economy by identifying and organizing existing data (both aggregate and separate) in Alberta and British Columbia;
- Assess the usefulness of existing data sources to understand the size and scope of the Social Economy;
- Identify significant gaps in existing data or availability of data;
- Highlight where findings and issues may warrant further exploration; and
- Present findings to be used for other BALTA priorities and for advocacy purposes.

### **1.2. Expected Outcomes**

The profile is based on aggregate data and descriptive information from a wide variety of sources, including: research reports; StatsCan; government and non-government agencies. The different elements of this profile are based on employment statistics, size of budgets, types of activities or services; and industry classification. The specific outcomes include:

- A preliminary profile of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia;
- A profile that can be used immediately by CED and Social Economy networks in Alberta and British Columbia;
- Consolidation of basic and coherently organized data illustrating the size and scope of activities involved in creating a strong Social Economy; and

- Identify insights, leads and contacts relevant to the BALTA mapping project and aspects of the BALTA research agenda.

This project is not looking at the overall impact of the Social Economy in Western Canada, which is beyond the scope of this research; the purpose is to develop an initial understanding of the size and scope of the Social Economy. Impact will be addressed in other BALTA sponsored research activities specifically. The profile is intended to be used by CED and Social Economy networks (for example, non-profits, co-operatives and grassroots associations) for advocacy and planning purposes.

### **1.3. Organization of this Report**

This report will describe different elements that comprise the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia. Including the overview of the project (section 1) there are a total of seven sections in this report. In section 2, the parameters of the Social Economy, we introduce the concept of the Social Economy and how it is applied in this report. In section 3, an overview of the methodology and data collection procedures, provides detail regarding the approaches used for collecting the information used in developing this profile. In section 4 we provide background information on Alberta and British Columbia (for example, the size and scope of the provincial economies as well as a demographic picture of the provinces) aimed at contextualizing the importance of the breath of Social Economy.

In section 5 we describe the different areas that we have deemed to comprise the Social Economy. The purpose of this section is to serve as a point of discussion that could lead toward further refinement of our understanding of the Social Economy, with the goal transform the preliminary nature of this project into a more comprehensive and standard description of the Social Economy in Western Canada. We start this section with a review of the non-profit and voluntary sector. The description of the non-profit and voluntary sector serves as a springboard for the subsequent sections. The topics used to delineate the profile range from financing support to the scope of activities conducted by particular organizations. In all instances we provide examples to illustrate the information presented.

We conclude this report with section 6, which is a discussion on trends, patterns, and issues found in the completion of this research. In this section we summarize our findings and discuss some gaps in knowledge as well as emerging trends that are contributing to strengthening the presence of the Social Economy in new and innovative ways.

For information purposes we include section 7 (list of sources and resources) and the appendices to provide the reader with the information that contributed to this report. Moreover, we feel that the information provided in this section can serve as a starting point for further research. As stated, this report is intended to be preliminary in its comprehensiveness. We encourage the reader to question and contest the examples and assertions provided throughout this report. The challenges associated with addressing the gaps and identifying the size and scope of the Social Economy is an ongoing project for BALTA.

## 2. The Parameters the Social Economy for this Report

The definition of the Social Economy is highly contested within academic and practitioner communities. While there lacks clear consensus on a definition, there is widespread agreement that conceptually, the Social economy is a robust organizing framework that recognizes activities and initiatives that fall outside the public and private sectors.

The Social Economy encompasses a variety of organizations (e.g. co-operative, mutual associations) and provides services that share the characteristic of mutuality for the purpose of meeting the social and economic needs of individuals and communities. According to Neamtan and Downing (2005) the Social Economy encompasses a wide variety of activities (e.g. community development and entrepreneurship) undertaken by individuals and organizations that operate from the following principles:

- 1) A Social Economy enterprise serves its members or the community rather than to simply make profits;
- 2) Operates at arm's length from the state;
- 3) Promotes a democratic management process involving all users and/or workers through its statutes and the way it does business;
- 4) It defends the primacy of individuals and work over capital in the distribution of its participation and individual and collective empowerment.

This profile builds upon existing work from the Quebec experience in order to determine what organizations and activities are and are not included the Social Economy. In order to develop a broad profile, this report describes two interrelated aspects of the Social Economy: financing (e.g. equity and venture capital) and activities (e.g. social enterprises). For the purposes of this study the operational definition of the Social Economy<sup>1</sup> is characterized as,

encompassing the range of ways people exchange goods and services (often based on the principle of reciprocity) with each other and distribute profit as surpluses through various mechanisms, including: the family or household economy; local volunteer activities and opportunities; and the wide range of more formally structured organizations, (such as charities or member based associations) that explicitly pursue social goals using business oriented approaches.

A key challenge to developing this profile was the lack of a standard approach to organizing and accounting for the information—which is indicative of the need for this preliminary profile. Specifically, the availability and absence of aggregate information that recognizes the breadth of the Social Economy in both provinces ensures that much of this information is contested. The absence of information is more pronounced in instances where businesses are present in the market-based economy while striving to achieve a social mission. Consequently, the activities of different organizations can be so infused with the broader economy making it very difficult to determine where society is benefiting by having a robust Social Economy. While the conversation of what and is not included is vital, it is beyond the scope of this study. Moreover, in keeping with the spirit of research discovery, contested examples of organizations and activities are included in this report.

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<sup>1</sup> This description of the Social Economy is paraphrased from the Mike Lewis (August, 2006) discussion paper “Mapping the Social Economy in B.C. and Alberta: Towards a Strategic Approach.”



### **3. Methodology**

The purpose of this research is to complement BALTA's existing mapping priority rather than duplicate the longer term project. To that end data and information collection was conducted in response a general question about the size and scope of the Social Economy within Alberta and British Columbia. Since the foci of this research project was to gather information about the Social Economy rather than to map the existence of particular organizations, data collection was, as much as possible, focused on second tier and APEX organizations. Information gathered for this project targeted existing sources of data provided by secondary sources, which meant that we were seeking information readily and easily accessible.

The Internet was the primary approach to information collection. We accessed websites from second tier, APEX organizations and government agencies (e.g. Statistics Canada). There were six types of information and data that we identified as being relevant: the objectives of the organization; nature of service; target of service (e.g. membership or public); sources of financing and access to capital; type of decision-making; and annual budget. Most of the information used in this report is readily available online, either on the organization's website itself or within a linked document, for example, an annual report. However there were some organizations for which little information was available online. To address these gaps an effort was made to contact key individuals within the organization and an annual report was requested. If the organization produced no annual report a follow up email was sent in which specific information was requested in the form of direct questions.

#### **3.1. Determining Sectoral Parameters for Data Collection**

Initially we used some of the categories found in *Highlights of the National Survey of Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations* (2005, p. 15) as a starting point for information collection. The sectors used were arts and culture; sports and recreation; health; social services; environment; development and housing; law, advocacy and politics; grant-making, fundraising and voluntarism promotion and religion. When it became apparent that we were not capturing the breadth of organizations involved in the Social Economy we broadened the categories to include co-operatives, aboriginal social enterprise, networks, funding for social enterprise; transportation; food and agriculture; charitable giving; multicultural enterprise and immigrant social enterprise; employment and training; education health and wellness and finally, transportation and energy.

#### **3.2. Selecting the Organizations**

Purposeful sampling was the predominant method used to select organizations. That is search terms (for example, 'arts councils') were entered into search engines such as Google, Factiva and Pro Quest and the results were scanned for their relevance to the research topic. In addition to this method of seeking out organizations, some organizations came to the researchers' attention due to their presence on other organizations' websites.

#### **3.3. Achieving Saturation and the Presence of Persistent Gaps**

We used an iterative process of data collection, constantly reviewing the information for gaps. We identified two types of gaps, an absence of organizations representing specific sectors or limited representation of other types of organizations. It also became obvious that some sectors were more vigorously organized into second tier organizations and therefore their data was more accessible. Several cycles of collection and review revealed that some sectors could not be accessed using secondary sources of data (that is already existing data).

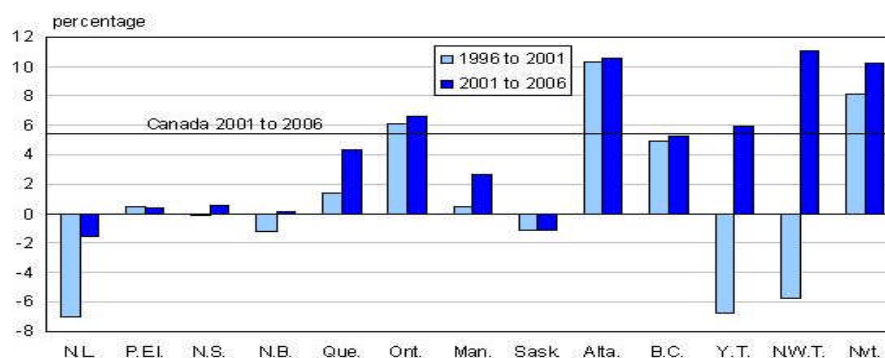
## 4. Background

In this section we provide details of three descriptive areas that situate the preliminary profile of the Social Economy within the contexts—including, the social, political, economic, and historical—of Alberta and British Columbia. The first are a general description of the population size of both provinces. Second, a description of the provincial economies based on gross domestic product (GDP), employment and dominant industry sectors. The third area provides information about the income groups present within both provinces.

### 4.1. Population

Alberta and British Columbia have a combined population of 7,403,000, which represents 23% of the Canadian population<sup>2</sup>. The population of both provinces have faced tremendous growth since 2001, and the most significant growth has been in Alberta. See figure 4.1 for more details, including a comparison across the provinces. As shown on table 4.1 the population in both provinces are largely found in urban centres rather than rural settings.

**Figure 4.1 Population Growth of Provinces and Territories, 1996 to 2006**



Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1996, 2001 and 2006

**Table 4.1 Urban and Rural Population by Province**

	Total population	Urban		Rural	
		number	% of total population	number	% of total population
Alberta	2,974,807	2,405,160	81	569,647	19
B.C.	3,907,738	3,309,853	85	597,885	15

Note: Rural population refers to persons living outside centres with a population of 1,000 and outside areas with 400 persons per square kilometre. Based on 2001 data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Censuses of Population, 1851 - 2001.

### 4.2. Provincial Economies

The economies of the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia are considered to be the fastest growing in Canada, with Alberta leading the pace of growth. As shown on table 4.2 the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of both provinces is \$432 billion. However, exports from Alberta (\$73) far exceed British Columbia (\$30 billion) with emphasis on the Oil and Gas industry.

<sup>2</sup> According to the 2006 Canadian census the population of Canada is 31,613,000. The population of Alberta and British Columbia is 3,290,000 and 4,113,000, respectively.

**Table 4.2 Economic Indicators by Province, 2006<sup>3</sup>**

	Alberta	British Columbia
Gross Domestic Product (bil\$)	\$253	\$179
Exports (bil\$)	\$73	\$30
Per Capita Personal Income	\$38,208	\$30,644
Unemployment	3.80%	4.20%
Population	3,435,511	4,338,100

**Source:** The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region,  
[http://www.pnwer.org/Portals/0/Documents/Region\\_Research.pdf](http://www.pnwer.org/Portals/0/Documents/Region_Research.pdf)

Employment in both Alberta and in British Columbia is found in many diverse goods and services sectors. In both provinces employment is highest in construction within the goods-producing sectors and in trade in the services-producing sectors. Table 4.3 provides data on the predominant industries and employment levels therein. The industries categories are separated into groupings based on type of production and are consistent with the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) (see appendix A for a full listing of the NAICS categories).

**Table 4.3 Employment by Province and by Major Industry Groups, June 2009**

	Alberta	British Columbia	Total
<b>All industries - employment (thousands)</b>	<b>1,989.50</b>	<b>2,254.70</b>	<b>42,412.00</b>
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	<b>527.4</b>	<b>447.5</b>	<b>974.90</b>
Agriculture	53.5	37.1	90.60
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	142.2	37.4	179.60
Utilities	21.3	13.1	34.40
Construction	188.3	197.2	385.50
Manufacturing	122.2	162.7	284.90
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	<b>1,462.10</b>	<b>1,807.20</b>	<b>3,269.30</b>
Trade	293	370.4	663.40
Transportation and warehousing	106.8	110.1	216.90
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	114.5	134.2	248.70
Professional, scientific and technical services	147.7	173.7	321.40
Business, building and other support services*	65.9	94.5	160.40
Educational services	130.3	160.4	290.70
Health care and social assistance	197.6	258	455.60
Information, culture and recreation	80.5	124.9	205.40
Accommodation and food services	131.3	173.6	304.90
Other services	101.8	104.1	205.90
Public administration	92.2	103.1	195.30

\*Formerly Management of companies, administrative and other support services.

**Note:** figures are seasonally adjusted

**Source:** Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 282-0088.

As shown on table 4.4 enterprises in both provinces are quite varied in size, with the majority of employees within the 300 or more range and followed by small-medium businesses in the range from 0 to 49 employees. As noted, there is a substantial presence of small-medium businesses in both provinces, with the greatest number located in British Columbia.

<sup>3</sup> The figures presented in this table are from *The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region profile*. Alberta's GDP is different than what is presented by Statistics Canada, which is \$240 billion. However, the other figures are comparable to what is published by Statistics Canada

**Table 4.4 Employment by Enterprise Size, by Province, 2008**

	British		
	Alberta	Columbia	Total
<b>All sizes</b>	<b>1,746,218</b>	<b>1,907,441</b>	<b>3,653,659</b>
0 to 49 employees	567,734	703,225	1,270,959
0 to 4 employees	140,478	160,582	301,060
5 to 19 employees	242,806	311,786	554,592
20 to 49 employees	184,450	230,857	415,307
50 to 299 employees	331,223	355,492	686,715
50 to 99 employees	142,808	160,493	303,301
100 to 299 employees	847,260	194,549	1,041,809
300 and more employees	780,239	848,724	1,628,963
300 to 499 employees	83,916	74,091	158,007
500 and more employees	763,344	774,633	1,537,977

Note: North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), 2002.

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table 281-0042 and Catalogue no. 72-002-X

### 4.3. Income Groupings

As shown on table 4.5, the income groupings within both provinces range from under \$5,000 to over \$250,000. In Alberta 55% of all income groups are \$25,000 and over (the median total income being \$28,000), however, 37% of all income groups are below \$20,000, which is approaching poverty levels. The income pattern is very similar in British Columbia, where 49% of all income groups are \$25,000 and over (the median total income being \$24,000), where 43% of all income groups are below \$20,000, which is approaching poverty levels.

**Table 4.5 Individuals by Total Income Level by Province**

	Alberta	% of Alberta Total	British Columbia	% of British Columbia Total
<b>Total, all income groups</b>	<b>2,522,630</b>		<b>3,151,610</b>	
Under \$5,000	214,650	9	331,730	11
\$5,000 and over	2,307,980	91	2,819,870	89
\$10,000 and over	2,121,960	84	2,537,400	81
\$15,000 and over	1,903,580	75	2,185,870	69
\$20,000 and over	1,670,820	66	1,868,450	59
\$25,000 and over	1,474,130	58	1,625,960	52
\$35,000 and over	1,148,230	46	1,213,840	39
\$50,000 and over	753,060	30	733,450	23
\$75,000 and over	374,610	15	303,280	10
\$100,000 and over	190,990	8	133,850	4
\$150,000 and over	74,280	3	48,410	2
\$200,000 and over	41,880	2	26,640	1
\$250,000 and over	28,580	1	17,430	1
<b>Median total income</b>	<b>\$31,400</b>		<b>\$26,100</b>	

Note: Based on 2006 data

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table (for fee) 111-0008.

In essence, while there has been tremendous economic and population growth in both provinces, there continues to be significant disparity across income groups.

## 5. A Preliminary Profile of the Size and Scope of the Social Economy

The preliminary profile presented in this report makes use of existing research conducted by different groups and individuals that have a particular definition of their areas of relevance. As a result, there is no common definition and coherence to the different elements of what constitutes the Social Economy. One of the limitations of different groups undertaking their analysis of specific sectors within the Social Economy is the absence of a common language for comparative purposes. In fact many organizations described in this report may dispute their inclusion within the Social Economy. We begin the profile with a description of the non-profit and voluntary sector of the Social Economy.

### 5.1. Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations<sup>4</sup>

The Social Economy is often considered as synonymous to the non-profit and voluntary sector. However, while there is considerable overlap between the two concepts, the Social Economy in fact encompasses a range of activities and priorities that include non-profit businesses. This profile begins with Imagine Canada's 2005 *Survey of Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations* (NSNVO) as a starting point with which to understand the different elements of the Social Economy that are present in Alberta and British Columbia.

#### 5.1.1. General characteristics

According to Imagine Canada there are approximately 161,000 non-profit and voluntary organizations in Canada. As shown on table 3.1 there are approximately 39,000 of these organizations in Alberta and British Columbia, which represents 25% of the Canadian total. Collectively, the annual revenue of non-profit and voluntary sector in Alberta and British Columbia is \$18 billion. Other characteristics are provided in table 5.1 below.

**Table 5.1 General Characteristics of Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations**

	Alberta	British Columbia	Total
Number of Organizations	19,000	20,000	39,000
Total Revenue (mil)	9,000	9,000	18,000
Total Paid Staff (000's)	105	114	219
Number of Volunteers (mil)	2.5	2	4
Vol Hours (mil)	449	114	563
Total Membership (mil)	9	14	23

**Source:** Factsheet Voluntary Sector, Alberta and British Columbia, Imagine Canada, 2005.

#### 5.1.2. Types of organizations

As shown on figure 5-1 Sports and Recreation organizations are the most common type of organization in Alberta, accounting for 26% of all organizations, followed by Religious organizations (19%), Grantmaking, Fundraising and Voluntarism Promotion organizations (11%), and Arts and Culture organizations (10%). Although Hospitals, Universities and Colleges represent only 1% of organizations, they account for more than one tenth (11%) of total revenues.

<sup>4</sup> The information for this section was taken directly from the individual factsheets "Voluntary Sector, Alberta and British Columbia, Imagine Canada, 2005." Permission to use the material was obtained from Imagine Canada. The full reports can be found at [www.imaginecanada.ca](http://www.imaginecanada.ca)

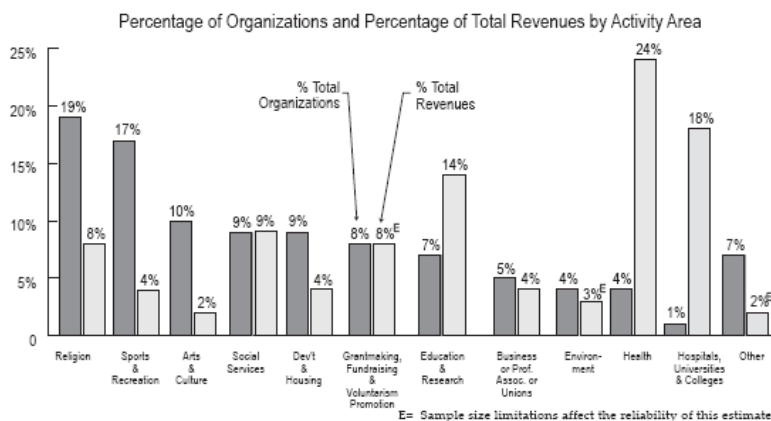
**Figure 5.1 Frequency of Organization Type, Alberta**



Source: Voluntary Sector Factsheet, Alberta, Imagine Canada, 2005.

As shown on figure 5-2, religious organizations are the most common type of organization in British Columbia, accounting for 19% of all organizations, followed by Sports and Recreation organizations (17%), Arts and Culture (10%), and Social Services organizations (9%). Although Hospitals, Universities and Colleges represent only 1% of organizations, they account for almost a fifth (18%) of total revenues.

**Figure 5.2 Frequency of Organization Type, British Columbia**



Source: British Columbia Factsheet Voluntary Sector, Imagine Canada, 2005.

### 5.1.3. Revenues

In Alberta most revenues are concentrated among a comparatively small number of very large organizations. Although less than 1% of organizations in Alberta have annual revenues of \$10 million or more, these organizations account for almost half (47%) of total revenues. The four in ten (43%) organizations with annual revenues less than \$30,000 collectively account for less than 1% of total revenues. Hospitals, Universities and Colleges account for 15% of the revenue in the \$10 million or more categories (7% of total revenues for all organizations).

Revenues from government account for one third (33%) of total revenues of non-profit and voluntary organizations in Alberta. Almost half (49%) of total revenues comes from earned income, 16% from

gifts and donations, and the balance (2%) from other sources. Excluding Hospitals, Universities and Colleges, organizations receive 30% of their revenues from government, 51% from earned income, 18% from gifts and donations, and less than 2% from other sources.

In British Columbia, most revenues are concentrated among a comparatively small number of very large organizations. Although less than 1% of organizations in British Columbia have annual revenues of \$10 million or more, these organizations account for over half (55%) of total revenues. The four in ten (44%) organizations with annual revenues less than \$30,000 collectively account for less than 1% of total revenues. Hospitals, Universities and Colleges account for about one third (31%) of the revenue in the \$10 million or more category (17% of total revenues for all organizations).

Revenues from government account for nearly half (49%) of total revenues of non-profit and voluntary organizations in British Columbia. One third (31%) of total revenues comes from earned income, 15% from gifts and donations, and the balance (5%) from other sources. Excluding Hospitals, Universities and Colleges, organizations receive 46% of their revenues from government, 34% from earned income, 16% from gifts and donations, and 5% from other sources. To illustrate the level of government funding provided for different sectors of the Social Economy table 5.2 provides a breakdown of the total government expenditures on culture for 2004.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 5.2 Total Government Expenditures on Culture by Province, 2007**

Province or territory	Level of government			Total Gross Expenditures
	Federal	Provincial	Municipal <sup>1</sup>	
	thousands of dollars			
Alberta	196,597	325,489	227,473	749,559
British Columbia	193,169	248,056	380,125	821,350
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>355,932</b>	<b>463,186</b>	<b>495,416</b>	<b>1,314,534</b>

**Sources:** Statistics Canada: Survey of Federal Government Expenditures on Culture, Fiscal Year 2006/2007; Survey of Provincial/Territorial Government Expenditures on Culture, Fiscal Year 2003/2004 006/2007; Public Institutions Division and Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division; Government expenditures on culture: data tables, July 2009

#### 5.1.4. Volunteerism

In Alberta, virtually all non-profit and voluntary organizations rely extensively on volunteer contribution, either as board members or to help carry out the organization's activities. In fact, the majority of organizations (58%) are completely volunteer run, having no paid staff. Collectively, Alberta-based organizations have approximately 2.5 million volunteers, of whom 161,000 are board members and 2.3 million are non-board volunteers. In Alberta, volunteers tend to be concentrated in mid-sized and larger organizations. The one third (35%) of organizations with annual revenues of \$100,000 or more account for almost two thirds (66%) of all volunteers. Conversely, the 43% of organizations with revenues less than \$30,000 account for just 11% of all volunteers.

In British Columbia, virtually all non-profit and voluntary organizations involve volunteers, either as board members or to help carry out their activities. In fact, the majority of organizations (60%) are completely volunteer run, having no paid staff. Collectively, British Columbia-based

<sup>5</sup> A report exploring the Socio – Economic Impacts of Arts and Cultural Organizations in BC and Alberta can be found at the following link, [www.tsa.gov.bc.ca/arts\\_culture/docs/dec2006\\_socio\\_economic\\_impacts.pdf](http://www.tsa.gov.bc.ca/arts_culture/docs/dec2006_socio_economic_impacts.pdf)

organizations have approximately 1.5 million volunteers, of which 168,000 are board members and 1.3 million are non-board volunteers. Volunteers tend to be concentrated in larger organizations, although the degree of concentration is not as pronounced as with revenues or paid staff. The 1% of organizations with annual revenues of \$10 million or more account for almost one tenth (7%) of all volunteers, and the 5% of organizations with revenues between \$1 and \$10 million account for 13% of all volunteers. Conversely, the 44% of organizations with annual revenues less than \$30,000 account for just 19% of all volunteers.

### **5.1.5. Employment**

In Alberta four in ten (42%) non-profit and voluntary organizations in Alberta have paid staff. Collectively, these organizations have approximately 176,000 employees (105,000 when Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded). Over half (57%, about 100,000 Albertans) of these employees work full-time, while 43% (76,000) work part-time (60,000 fulltime and 45,000 part-time when Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded).

Over three quarters (78%) of paid staff in Alberta work for large organizations (those with \$1 million or more in annual revenues), even though these organizations account for just over 6%\* of organizations. In contrast, the 43% of organizations with annual revenues less than \$30,000 account for just 2% of total employment. Even though Hospitals, Universities and Colleges represent a tiny minority of organizations, they account for over one third (34%) of total employment in the \$10 million or more category (8% of total employment for all organizations).

Four in ten (40%) non-profit and voluntary organizations in British Columbia have paid staff. Collectively, these organizations have approximately 147,000 employees (114,000 when Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded). Over half (58%, about 86,000 British Columbians) of these employees work full-time, while 42% (62,000) work part-time (68,000 fulltime and 46,000 part-time when Hospitals, Universities and Colleges are excluded).

Almost three quarters (74%) of paid staff work for large organizations (those with \$1 million or more in annual revenues), even though these organizations account for just 6% of organizations. In contrast, the 44% of organizations with annual revenues less than \$30,000 account for only 2% of total employment. Even though Hospitals, Universities and Colleges represent a tiny minority of organizations, they account for over half (56%) of total employment in the \$10 million or more category (22% of total employment for all organizations). Table 5.3 provides a breakdown of the level of employment in different cultural industries.



**Table 5.3 Employment in Cultural Industries by Province, 2006<sup>6</sup>**

	% of total	
	Industries	Employment
<b>Canada</b>	1.95	321,600
<b>Alberta</b>	1.31	24,500
<b>British Columbia</b>	2.43	53,300

Source: 2007 National Vital Signs Report,  
[www.vitalsignscanada.ca/nr-arts-e.html](http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/nr-arts-e.html)

## **5.2. Size and Scope of Co-operative Businesses<sup>7</sup>**

The co-operative model has long been a staple of the western-based approaches to exchanges of goods and services, and has a significance presence within the Social Economy. These organizations are governed by a volunteer board of directors and operate under principles the International Co-operative Alliance. Most organizations have paid staff and as will be shown below, they have a significant presence in both Alberta's and British Columbia's economies. For descriptive purposes we separate co-operatives into non-financial and financial entities. In this report two types of co-operatives are explored: non-financial and financial. We conclude this section with a description of secondary and tertiary organizations<sup>8</sup> in each province.

### **5.2.1. Non-financial Co-operatives**

The presence of co-operatives in one form or another has become very prominent and has become a key force in the Canadian economy, both in terms of assets and employment opportunities. According to the report there are approximately 9,000 non-financial co-operative businesses in Canada, with approximately 10% located in Western Canada—that is, 490 in Alberta and 398 in British Columbia. The Co-operatives Secretariat lists non-financial co-operative businesses according to five types: Consumer, Supply, Marketing, Fishery, Production, and Service. See table 5.4 for a breakdown of the types of non-financial co-operatives according to key factors: number of associations, number of members, number of employees, volume of Business in millions, and the total assets in millions.

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<sup>6</sup> Cultural Industries include the sub-industries from the NAICS code 51 (Information and Cultural Industries) and NAICS code 71 (Arts, Entertainment and Recreation): 511- Publishing, 512- Motion Picture and Video, 515-Broadcasting (except Internet), 516- Internet Publishing and Broadcasting, 711- Performing Arts, Spectator Sports and Related and 712-Heritage Institutions. The sub-industries which are excluded are 517- Telecommunications, 518-Internet Service Providers, Web Search Portals and Data, 519-Other Information and 713-Amusement, Gambling and Recreation

<sup>7</sup> The information and data in this section was taken from the 2006 report available from the Co-operatives Secretariat

<sup>8</sup> Secondary organizations are comprised of primary co-operatives. Tertiary organizations are comprised of secondary cooperatives. In both forms, the intent is to support the work and operations of primary co-operatives through advocacy and different forms of technical assistance.

**Table 5.4 Summary of Non-financial Co-operatives**

<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>Consumer</b>	<b>Supply</b>	<b>Marketing</b>	<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Associations (number)</b>	33	4	10	2	27	322	398
<b>Membership (1000s)</b>	2,288	22	4	0	2	29	2345
<b>Employees (number)</b>	2,008	73	1,539	6	139	397	4162
<b>Volume of Business (millions)</b>	587.6	28	335.1	0	10.1	158.3	1119.1
<b>Total Assets (millions)</b>	271	14.1	128.8	0.1	22.1	1026.2	1462.3

<b>Alberta</b>	<b>Consumer</b>	<b>Supply</b>	<b>Marketing</b>	<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Associations (number)</b>	39	14	6	3	70	358	490
<b>Membership (1000s)</b>	657	149	2	0	12	211	1031
<b>Employees (number)</b>	5,879	1,515	2,660	25	112	1,095	11286
<b>Volume of Business (millions)</b>	1,408.90	1,352.90	568.9	0.3	12	336.3	3679.3
<b>Total Assets (millions)</b>	537.8	498.9	144.6	5.3	158.7	716	2061.3

Table 5.5 groups the different types of co-operative businesses present in Alberta and British Columbia according to the five types used by the Co-operatives Secretariat.

**Table 5.5 Number of Co-operatives by Type, Reporting in 2004**

<b>Type</b>	<b>British Columbia</b>		<b>Alberta</b>	
<b>Production</b>				
Animal Reproduction	0	5		
Grazing	0	12		
Feeder finance	8	52		
Farm	1	0		
Handicraft	8	1		
Other production/manufacture	2	0		
Tree farming	1	0		
Reforestation	2	0		
Wood processing	5	0		
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>70</b>		
<b>Consumer</b>				
Direct charge	2	0		
Grocery store	17	16		
Specialty food store	2	0		
Petroleum (consumer)	7	4		
Other consumer	5	19		
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>		
<b>Marketing</b>				
Dairy	1	0		
Fruit	5	0		
Vegetables	0	2		
Livestock	2	2		
Poultry & eggs	0	1		
Honey & maple	0	1		
Other marketing	2	0		
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>		
<b>Supply</b>				
Agri supply	1	6		
Feed mill	1	0		
Petroleum (farm)	1	7		
Other supply	1	1		
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>		

<b>Type</b>	<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>Alberta</b>
<b>Service</b>		
Rural electric	1	63
Natural gas	0	57
Water	1	82
Volunteer fire department	0	5
Seed cleaning	1	68
Other agricultural services	1	3
Health clinic	1	2
Home care	1	0
Other health	0	1
Taxi	0	1
Bus	4	0
Freight	5	0
Other transportation	2	1
Funeral	0	1
Recreation	5	1
Restaurant & hotel	0	1
Housing	264	52
Equity housing	1	1
Other housing	13	15
Editing & publishing	1	0
Radio, television & cable	3	0
Economic development	2	1
Business services	3	0
Other development	3	2
Fine arts & culture	2	0
Other services	8	1
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>358</b>

According to the Co-operatives Secretariat 2006 report eleven of the top 50 non-financial co-operatives are located in Western Canada. As shown on table 5.6 the five non-financial co-operatives located in Alberta and have the following characteristics:

- Total Revenues - \$2,849,625,776
- Assets - \$938,751,092
- Total Members - 706,588
- Full-Time Employees - 2,307
- Part-Time Employees - 3,340

The remaining six co-operatives located in British Columbia have the following characteristics:

- Total Revenues - \$586,015,057
- Assets - \$252,373,298
- Total Members - 2,568,470
- Full-Time Employees – 730
- Part-Time Employees – 991

**Table 5.6 Top 50 Canadian Non-Financial Co-operatives, by Province**

Rank by Revenues	Name of Co-operative	Province	Total Revenues	Assets	Total Members	Full-Time Employees	Part-Time Employees	
1	4	United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited	Alberta	\$1,624,058,000	\$549,361,000	221,289	775	453
2	5	Calgary Co-op Assn Ltd.	Alberta	\$925,959,000	\$313,785,000	413,274	1,232	2,530
4	13	Mountain Equipment Co-op	British Columbia	\$227,527,000	\$128,933,000	2,466,788	465	731
5	27	Medicine Hat Co-op Ltd	Alberta	\$104,706,638	\$28,958,907	28,577	100	105
6	28	Peninsula Consumer Services Co-operative	British Columbia	\$103,880,634	\$35,024,833	34,504	63	136
7	31	Vanderhoof and District Cooperative Association	British Columbia	\$99,856,779	\$29,694,157	15,348	38	50
8	34	Red Deer Co-op Limited	Alberta	\$97,518,192	\$21,507,574	43,000	145	227
9	35	Western Drug Distribution Center Limited	Alberta	\$97,383,946	\$25,138,611	448	55	25
10	39	Otter Farm & Home Co-op	British Columbia	\$95,368,089	\$35,451,676	26,481	152	73
11	46	Mid Island Consumer Services Co-operatives	British Columbia	\$59,382,555	\$23,269,632	25,349	12	1
			<b>\$3,435,640,833</b>	<b>\$1,191,124,390</b>	<b>3,275,058</b>	<b>3037</b>	<b>4331</b>	

Rank by Revenues	Name of Co-operative	Province	Major Activities
1	4	United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited	Petroleum, farm supplies, building materials
2	5	Calgary Co-op Assn Ltd.	Supermarket, petroleum, pharmacy, travel agency
4	13	Mountain Equipment Co-op	Outdoor recreational equipment
5	27	Medicine Hat Co-op Ltd	Gas bars, supermarket, farm supplies, pharmacy
6	28	Peninsula Consumer Services Co-operative	Petroleum, supermarket, tobacco retail
7	31	Vanderhoof and District Cooperative Association	Petroleum, supermarket
8	34	Red Deer Co-op Limited	Supermarket, petroleum, building materials, liquor
9	35	Western Drug Distribution Center Limited	Wholesaler veterinary supplies
10	39	Otter Farm & Home Co-op	Petroleum, feed mill, supermarket
11	46	Mid Island Consumer Services Co-operatives	Gas bars and other petroleum retail

## 5.2.2. Financial Co-operatives

In Western Canada there is a significant presence of financial co-operatives, referred to as Credit Unions. According to Credit Union Central of British Columbia there are approximately 1.6 million members, with over \$39 billion in assets. There are more than 360 retail branches in 139 B.C. communities. According to Credit Union Central Alberta Limited there are over 200 branches serving more than 700,000 members. There 50 independent credit unions from across the province, which have over 210 branches. At the end of 2006 Alberta Credit Unions maintained combined assets of over \$14 Billion.

Credit Unions have been integral in developing and supporting initiatives intended to foster a thriving Social Economy. In general these organizations are guided “by a commitment to improve the quality of life in the communities where we live and work” (Vancity, 2006). According to their Annual report, Vancity is Canada’s largest credit union, with \$12.3 billion in assets, more than 363,000 members and 57 branches throughout Greater Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Squamish and Victoria. In Alberta Servus Credit Union is the province’s largest with \$4.2 billion in assets. Servus is supported by 195,000 member-owners from 50 service locations in 27 Alberta communities.

### **5.2.3. Secondary and Tertiary Co-operative Organizations**

The co-operative movement has developed a strong infrastructure to support a variety of community initiatives and different ventures that ensure that strength and vibrancy of the co-operative movement. These organizations are present in all sectors where co-ops are in operation. Examples of roles that these organizations take on include: development, financing (loans, grants), enterprise development, technical assistance, and policy advocacy, to name but a few.

Secondary and tertiary co-operative organizations are involved in a wide array of activities, resource and development support for the broader co-operative movement in Alberta and British Columbia. The following is a selection of examples of a variety of non-financial secondary and tertiary co-operative located in each province:

- B.C. Co-operative Association (BCCA)
- Co-operative Housing Federation of B.C. (CHFBC)
- Alberta Community & Co-operative Association (ACCA)
- Prairie Power Limited (PPL)
- Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations
- Federated Co-operatives Association
- Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops
- Northern Alberta Co-operative Housing Association (NACHA)
- Southern Alberta Co-operative Housing Association (SACHA)

### **5.3. Infrastructure Supporting the Social Economy**

A strong infrastructure has developed within Alberta and British Columbia that support Social Economy organizations and their initiatives. This infrastructure is shown in the presence of intermediary organizations that provide financing or technical assistance. Capacity building is an integral aspect of the work conducted by intermediary organizations. Examples of capacity building activities include business training and community development. In this section we provide an overview of some of the different features of this infrastructure, including financing mechanisms aimed at ensuring the existence of a thriving Social Economy.

Another key area aimed at strengthening the Social Economy is the presence of intermediary organizations aimed at providing technical assistance for non-profit organizations and other grassroots associations. The focus of this technical assistance is on enhancing community capacity through community development and community economic development. These activities aimed at improving social conditions through capacity building and fostering economic initiatives. Examples of these initiatives include:

- Creating and supporting small businesses.
- Developing employability skills with people who are unemployed or underemployed.
- Creating innovative solutions for affordable housing for those at risk of homelessness.
- Creating opportunities for people with disabilities to find rewarding employment.
- Aboriginal communities working to develop local human resources and economies.
- Identifying and nurturing rural economic development opportunities.
- Developing individual and community assets

Intermediary organizations are also present in specific jurisdictions and neighbourhoods that have very vulnerable population. These organizations will promote local capacity building and help develop social enterprise intended to support local needs using a social justice orientation. An example is the Eastside Movement for Business & Economic Renewal Society (EMBERS) located in Vancouver’s inner city. According to their website:

EMBERS works to combat poverty and assists in the revitalization of Vancouver's inner city by facilitating community-based business development. We do this by helping individuals and groups start small businesses and social enterprises. We offer self-employment training, one-on-one business coaching, and work with residents, community groups and other stakeholders to develop plans, strategies and specific ventures to improve the lives of residents and build a healthy community.

In the following sections we describe some of the financing and training opportunities available for organizations operating within the Social Economy.

### **5.3.1. Venture Philanthropy and Enterprise Funds**

The emergence of venture philanthropy and enterprise funds has become a primary resource to support social development initiatives—including, social enterprises that are often deemed high risk—primarily through small loans; sometimes small grants are available. In many instances venture philanthropy and enterprise funds is the outcome government incentives aimed at for-profit and non-profit organizations to support individuals and new businesses. In addition to the funding component these organizations also provide business training and capacity building opportunities, which is often a condition to receive any financing for a proposed venture.

An example of an enterprise fund is The B.C. Social Enterprise Fund. According their documentation, the fund was “created by B.C. Technology Social Venture Partners in 2005, in partnership with Vancity and Vancouver Foundation.” The fund provides financial support in the form of grants to social enterprises and non-profit organizations for the purpose of revenue generating activities.

An example of venture philanthropy is Social Venture Partners in Calgary. Social Venture Partners “is a philanthropic organization that applies the venture capital model to philanthropy. Partners invest in innovation and then actively nurture their financial investment with guidance and resources.” In essence Social Venture Partners in Calgary represents a partnership between donors and non-profit organizations. The recipients of any funding are also entitled to receive business training and other professional advice.

A partnership between a community foundation and different levels of government in Alberta has resulted in a new social enterprise fund. The Edmonton Community Foundation has partnered with the three levels of government to establish the Edmonton Social Enterprise Fund in 2007. The enterprise fund is made up of 10 million dollars and financing is primarily available as loan, but there are grants available for technical assistance. There are very specific priority areas that are targeted by the fund's administrators, those are: resources and capital to develop social ventures, encourage new low-income housing developments, and to support efforts aimed at addressing chronic unemployment or underemployment.

### 5.3.2. Community Futures Corporations

Community Futures (CF) is a program, funded in Western Canada by Western Economic Diversification. Community Futures are non-profit organizations guided by a volunteer board of directors and staffed with business professionals, who together are actively engaged in helping to develop and implement community-based economic development strategies. Community Futures are user-friendly business development centres that control and manage investment funds from which they make fully repayable loans (up to a maximum of \$150,000) to community members who are interested in starting or expanding their own businesses. The Core services/supports provided by Community Futures include:

- Access to Capital;
- Business Services; and
- Strategic Community Planning & Support.

Community Futures are entrepreneurial development centres that provide one-on-one business training to assist individuals who are interested in self-employment or in expanding their business. Community Futures are proactive, progressive community organizations dedicated to strengthening both their community's entrepreneurs and their community's economy as a whole. Table 5.7 provides a regional breakdown of the impacts of the programs in Alberta and British Columbia.

**Table 5.7 Community Futures Loan Funds (with Regional Breakdown)**

	Alberta	British Columbia	Total
Community Futures Organizations	27	34	61
Loans	360	635	995
Value of Loans \$M	17.1	28.1	45
Jobs Created/Maintained	942	2146	3088
Leverage	13.5	33.5	47
2006–2007 Community Futures Staff/Volunteers			0
Employees	172	327	499
Volunteers 332 285 155	308	367	675
Volunteer Hours	12735	21648	34383

Source: 2006–2007 Pan West Annual report

The projects and initiatives that have used community futures funding range in scope and purpose. Some examples of Alberta based initiatives have included<sup>9</sup>:

<sup>9</sup> For further descriptions of individual initiatives please visit [www.cfna.ca](http://www.cfna.ca) or <http://communityfutures.ca/provincial/bc/index.html>

- Canmore - Centre for Wellbeing, \$50,000 loan
- Tourism - Sustainable Funding Model for the rural Edmonton Region, \$57,500 loan
- River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Centre, \$50,000 loan

There is much more information available regarding the different activities and initiatives that the Community Futures program has undertaken. The reader is strongly encouraged to review the Community Futures website for a national review of the various activities that have resulted in strengthening local communities and local economies.

### **5.3.3. Community Foundations**

Community foundations have become another source of financial support for Social Economy organizations. Community foundations support a wide range of activities—such as health, education and social services to arts, culture, and recreation—through small loans or grants. Community foundations facilitate philanthropy through the creation of permanent endowments using funds donated by individuals and organizations. According to the Community Foundations of Canada there are 163 community foundations in Canada. In Western Canada (including Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia) \$105,797,107 was granted to charities in 2006 (personal communication, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008). Interestingly, as will be discussed below, over 80 percent of the Western total comes from foundations located in Alberta and British Columbia.

There are 42 foundations in British Columbia and 12 in Alberta. According to Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), Alberta Community Foundations have a total combined assets of more than half a billion dollars. In 2006, more than \$45 million in grants was provided to various Social Economy organizations and community initiatives. Although a similar aggregate number was not available for British Columbia, the Vancouver Foundation alone provided \$40 million in grants to various Social Economy oriented initiatives. Community Foundations support various community oriented activities by providing grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. The following is a list of the 2006/2007 Grant Recipients by the Campbell River Community Foundation:

- Campbell River Dragon Boat Society
- The Campbell River Multicultural & Immigrant Services Association
- The Campbell River Arts Council
- The John Howard Society
- Campbell River & District Assoc. for Community Living
- Campbell River Beacon Club
- Island J.A.D.E. Society

Community foundations have also participated in forms of advocacy aimed at strengthening the Social Economy, such as facilitating partnerships and policy advocacy to different levels of government on issues relevant to the foundation. A recent example is the Edmonton Social Enterprise Fund, which was made possible through the work of the Edmonton Community Foundation.

### **5.3.4. Supporting Aboriginal Enterprise Development**

In both provinces populations identified as Indigenous, Aboriginal or First Nations have consistently been disenfranchised and are disproportionately represented in impoverished social and economic conditions—the level of poverty among these populations often exceed national averages. These groups live in conditions that perpetuate a cycle of poverty because of a lack of resources and an

absence of trust. The underlying reasons for these conditions are a combination of historical, social and political, but there are ongoing efforts to improve the conditions found among this population. Special recognition to the needs of these groups has resulted in targeted funding for initiatives fostering private and social enterprises, and for capacity building (e.g. skills development). From a conceptual perspective the Social Economy is uniquely situated to address many of the barriers to success. In this section we describe key funding programs for members of aboriginal communities.

In Alberta there are a variety of initiatives aimed at increasing members of the First Nations participation in the economy. For example, First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative (FNEPI)<sup>10</sup> developed in consultation with First Nations and industry stakeholders. The First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative is guided by the following principles:

- Supporting the development of effective partnerships between First Nations, industry, government and other stakeholders;
- Strengthening First Nations economic capacity; and
- Assisting in the development of a viable First Nations private sector.

In addition to the FNEPI there are a variety of funding programs available to support the economic self-reliance of First Nations communities. Three programs follow and table 5.8 provides a breakdown of the expenditures for each program since 2005-06:

- Strategic Economic Initiatives (SEI) – support economic capacity building;
- Economic Capacity Building (ECB) Program - increase the ability of First Nations to implement economic development initiatives through the development of learning networks, sharing of best practices and the development and use of training tools.
- Regional Partnership Development (RPD) Program- funds the hiring of Regional Economic Partnership Coordinator to facilitate and support economic opportunities

**Table 5.8 Expenditures to Date for the Three Funding Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>Total</b>
RPD	\$1,000,000	\$1,750,000	\$2,150,000	<b>\$4,900,000</b>
ECB	\$250,000	\$370,000	\$470,000	<b>\$1,090,000</b>
SEI	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	<b>\$4,000,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,250,000</b>	<b>\$3,620,000</b>	<b>\$4,120,000</b>	<b>\$9,990,000</b>

Source: FNEPI Program Review and Assessment,  
[www.international.gov.ab.ca/documents/FNEPI\\_Stakeholder\\_Questionnaire.pdf](http://www.international.gov.ab.ca/documents/FNEPI_Stakeholder_Questionnaire.pdf)

Another interesting and important source of support for Aboriginal development is the Alberta Indian Investment Corporation (AIIC). The AIIC was formed in 1987 and is “owned by all First Nation communities in the province of Alberta.” The AIIC has become a source of loan and equity financing for First Nation owned businesses. In addition to providing loan capital, the corporation has invested in businesses as well, for example the Wingate Inn in Edmonton’s west end and the Homefire Grill.

<sup>10</sup> For more information please access the following web site, [www.international.gov.ab.ca/509.cfm](http://www.international.gov.ab.ca/509.cfm)



In British Columbia the B.C. Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and the Department of Western Diversification provides training programs for Aboriginal youth. The Business and Entrepreneurship Skills Training (BEST) provides youth with crucial job creation and skills training. The training is offered as a series of workshop type sessions that focus on developing the feasibility of business ideas. The overall focus of the program is to encourage self-sufficiency through self-employment.

The B.C. Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation established the Economic Measures Fund (EMF) in 2003. The program has the following objectives:

- To build First Nations economic/business development capacity;
- Increase First Nations participation in mainstream economic initiatives; and
- Improve the investment climate in B.C.

Based on a 2005 evaluation report<sup>11</sup> a total of \$24.8 million was provided to 145 projects. The project ranged involved a variety of economic sectors, including forestry and tourism. While the fund was successful, it is unclear whether the fund still exists or how many of the projects resulted in Social Economy oriented businesses; however, the funding potential was clearly in place.

#### **5.4. Non-Market Housing**

Social Economy organizations have a significant role in providing affordable housing. This housing, (including non-profit co-operatives) referred to as non-market, is not bought or sold for individual profit and any increases to rents are intended to offset increases to maintaining a particular property. Increasingly the non-profit model of housing is being put forward as the primary way in which housing can remain affordable.

Across Alberta and British Columbia these organizations are primarily non-profit societies and are partially funded by federal, provincial, or municipal housing program. These societies include service clubs, faith-based organizations as well as community-based organizations that support vulnerable populations including, the mentally ill or the disabled. Interestingly, seniors are the predominate group accommodated in this housing.

As with the co-operative model, the presence of a provincial umbrella organization (in the form of The B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association) presents a number of advantages from an organizing perspective as well as being an important resource for individual organizations seeking to be involved in non-profit housing, but there is a notable absence of a similar organization in Alberta. However, that absence does not mean there is an absence of non-market housing in the province.

The B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association provides the distribution of the individual societies and number of units according to regions in British Columbia. As shown on table 5.9, the distribution of non-market housing has the following characteristics:

- The sector consists of 511 societies managing
- There are a total of 37,911 individual units

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<sup>11</sup> Evaluations for the Economic Measures Fund, 2005, [www.gov.bc.ca/arr/reports/down/emf\\_report\\_nov\\_16.pdf](http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/reports/down/emf_report_nov_16.pdf)

- There is a disproportionate number of units in the lower mainland

**Table 5.9 Distribution of Non-Market Housing, British Columbia**

	Non-profit Societies	% of Total	# of Units	% of Total	BC Households	% of Total
Lower Mainland	237	47%	24,674	65%	964,190	57%
Vancouver Island	92	18%	6,034	16%	298,975	18%
Southern Interior	139	27%	5,617	15%	319,175	19%
Northern Interior	43	8%	1,586	4%	104,389	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>37,911</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,686,729</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: The BC Non-Profit Housing Association, [www.bcnpha.ca/admin/fileupload/SustainNP.pdf](http://www.bcnpha.ca/admin/fileupload/SustainNP.pdf)

In the province of Alberta there is a notable absence of an APEX organization that tracks the size and scope of the non-market housing system. While there appears to be considerable public investment in non-market housing, the provincial government does not track the size of the non-market housing system, largely because of the selective and reactive approach to addressing the shortage of affordable housing. For the purposes of this study we relied on data provided by individual jurisdictions and non-profit societies that collect their own information—provided from annual reports or from individual websites. In order to have some indication as to the scope of non-market housing availability in Alberta we focus on the largest urban jurisdictions (Calgary and Edmonton) that collect data and make their information public.

As shown on table 5.10, in Calgary there are 13,596 non-market housing units, where 54.5% (7,415) of those units are managed non-profit societies.<sup>12</sup> In Calgary non-market housing is divided into seniors and other: 5,804 (42.7%) housing units are for seniors and the remaining 1,610 units (11.8%) are managed and operated by various non-profit societies.

**Table 5.10 Distribution of Housing Units, City of Calgary**

Housing Category	# of Units	% of Total
All Private Dwellings Units	395,779	100.00%
All Non-Market Housing Units	13,596	3.40%
All Non-Market Housing Units	13,596	100.00%
Calgary Housing Company Units	6,182	45.50%
Non-Market Housing for Seniors	5,804	42.70%
All Other Non-Market Units	1,610	11.80%

Source: City of Calgary Survey of Non-Market Housing, January 2005, Fast Facts #04: Affordable Housing and Homelessness

The City of Edmonton does not collect the same information regarding the size and scope of the non-market housing system in a consolidated format. In spite of the absence of up to date data from Edmonton, we found that based on a 2000 inventory<sup>13</sup> of the non-profit housing stock

<sup>12</sup> 45.55% (6,182) of those units are managed by the municipal authority, which is outside the scope of this study.

<sup>13</sup> City of Edmonton (2000) Non-Profit Housing Inventory, [www.edmonton.ca/CommPeople/HousingInventory2000.pdf](http://www.edmonton.ca/CommPeople/HousingInventory2000.pdf)

conducted by the City of Edmonton, approximately 51 non-profit societies provide approximately 8,376 non-market housing units available for seniors and other groups.

### **5.5. Social Enterprises: Purpose, Scope and Supports**

An important trend emerging within Canada's Social Economy has been the increased rate that social enterprises are appearing across the different sectors of the economy. In the present context the use of the term social enterprise is characterized in two ways. First, businesses that exist for the purposes of generating revenue and support an organization's (usually a non-profit organization) ability to carry out its mission. Specifically, a social enterprise is often a source of revenue that is filtered back into an organization that will allow it to provide particular programs and allow it to maintain its operations.

The social aspect of a social enterprise is further revealed in the purposes of the business itself. For example, providing employment training and skills developed for vulnerable populations. Other examples include providing fees for service or specific programs within a larger organization, such as the *The Fixit Chicks* based in Edmonton. Second, social enterprises are also businesses that operate for the purpose of strengthening local communities or the business will further a particular social cause, often with a social justice focus.

A significant challenge to including social enterprises as part of a profile of the Social Economy is that we are uncertain as to what is the economic impact of these organizations. However, we do have a sense of the different sectors where there are social enterprises. The types of businesses that apply the social enterprise approach are quite varied across both provinces. One sector where social enterprises are thriving is in food and beverage. The following is a list of some of the types of social enterprises and their social purpose.

- Café Etico in Vancouver – offers fair trade that support the communities across Latin America
- Potluck Catering in Vancouver – employment training and meal programs
- Kla-How-Eya in Surrey – the profits are used to support job based skills training through their Culinary Arts department
- Eco Café in the Village in Pigeon Lake Alberta – offers regional and seasonal cuisine
- Kids in the Hall Bistro in Edmonton – employment training and skills development for youth
- EthniCity Catering in Calgary – provides Canadian employment experience and training to immigrant women in transition.

In a related vein to the food and beverage industry, the *Quest Food Exchange* is an example of an organization that salvages and rescues perishable and canned goods are often found in the trash. The useful items founds are then redirected to individuals in need throughout the lower mainland. According to their web site, Quest diverts “6.15 million pounds of surplus food from landfills each year, which adds up to \$6.28 million worth of food.”

Social enterprises are also found in different manufacturing industries. For example, in British Columbia, two examples of social enterprises are supported by Coast Social Enterprise Foundation, *Sewing with Heart* and *Landscaping with Heart*. The services provided by this business range from producing quality handbags to garden design. In both cases employment is ensured for individuals recovering from mental illness.

Social enterprises are also found throughout the Arts and culture sector. For example, according to the *Creating Employment Through Art* (CETA) website:

CETA evolved from an innovative pilot project of the Carnegie Centre (City of Vancouver Community Services) in 2002, to a new business in 2004. Through the hard work and creativity of its Eastside members, CETA aims to be the premiere custom tile mosaic and mural company in British Columbia and a business of conscience and revitalization. In 2001, the Carnegie Centre, with the support of Western Economic Diversification, piloted a mosaic project (Living Footprints) with a number of street people from the Downtown Eastside. The project comprised 31 mosaic markers at historic sites in Downtown Vancouver and in Oppenheimer Park.

Social enterprises are also found in different areas related to farming and agriculture. For example, *Providence Farm* in British Columbia has an innovative approach to health and wellness. They offer “innovative programs for people with barriers to education and employment through Horticultural Therapy and vocational training. Our farm is dedicated to restoring the spirit and skills of those affected by physical, mental and emotional challenges.”

The social enterprise model is also applied in promoting awareness of the environmental and nutritional value of consuming local food and promoting local food systems. An example is the Farm Folk City Folk Society:

is a non-profit society that works with farm & city to cultivate a local, sustainable food system. We develop and operate projects that provide access to & protection of foodlands; that support local, small scale growers and producers; and that educate, communicate and celebrate with local food communities.

Farmers’ Markets are another type of social enterprise related to raising awareness about local food systems using a business models. Farmer’s markets are places where one can buy fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, herbs and other farm products, including processed food like jams, pies and sausages, from farmers and growers who sell at stalls or tables there.

In Alberta, farmers’ markets are support by various networks and regulate by the provincial government. According to *Alternative Agricultural Markets in Alberta* (2004), the total economic impacts of farmers’ market activities in 2003-2004 were estimated at a \$213.1 million injection into GDP, generating \$141.1 million in household income and creating 5823 jobs. If Alberta demand for farmers’ market products increases by \$56.5 million during 2004-2005, the economic effects for GDP at factor cost would rise by \$43.2 million, total household income would increase by \$20.3 million and employment impacts would be an addition of 1181 jobs.

In a study conducted at the University of Northern British Columbia, B.C.’s farmers’ markets contribute \$118.5 million annually to the provincial economy. Specifically, the study for the B.C. Association of Farmers’ Markets shows British Columbians spend \$65.3 million directly at farmers’ markets and another \$53.2 million at neighbouring businesses. Over 131,000 people make more than 3.1 million visits to B.C. farmers markets during a market season.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Individual reports can be accessed at the following web site. <http://www.unbc.ca/planning/localfood/reports.html>

As described above, there are significant financing opportunities for enterprises aimed at populations identified as Aboriginal, Indigenous or First Nations. To that end, different groups have applied the social enterprise model in raising awareness of the breadth of the aboriginal cultures as well as promoting self-sustaining businesses opportunities. An example of an organization supporting aboriginal social enterprise is Vancouver Aboriginal Social Enterprise (VASE). According to the VASE description,

The VASE creates small micro-businesses to generate revenue for community based early childhood education and literacy programming while creating much needed employment and skills development in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside

In cooperation with Enterprising Non-profits VASE has supported the development of different aboriginal focused business. The following list provides a few examples:

- Aboriginal Mother Centre Society - Sale of aboriginal specialty products including beautiful scarves, tote bags, and blankets.
- Native Art Gallery – Sale of Native art, jewelry, totem poles, masks, carvings etc.
- Neil Squire Solutions - Ergonomics and Assistive Technology
- Smart Growth Advisory Services - consulting service targets areas of smart growth planning, research, visioning, and First Nations' planning
- Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association - Aboriginal Specialty Products; Consulting Services, Employment Programs

## **5.6. Community-Based Social Services**

In addition to the business orientation of many Social Economy organizations that are situated throughout Alberta and British Columbia, many organizations also provide integral supports for vulnerable populations. These organizations assist in the integration of immigrants and refugees through employment training (for example, the Edmonton Mennonite Centre through Edmonton) or organizations aimed at addressing the unique needs of immigrants through integration programs.

There are also broad-based associations aimed addressing policy and program issues found among local agencies. For example, the Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (AAISA) has 20 member agencies across the province that all serve the needs of a growing immigrant population. In British Columbia the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of B.C. is also comprised of members that address the needs of a growing immigrant population. However, this organization also provides education for anti-racism and other areas related to social justice issues.

There are also broad-based associations that focus on issues relevant to an aging population. According to The Alberta Council on Aging, they are:

a non-profit registered charitable organization that is committed to maintain or improve the quality of life for Seniors and encourage their full participation in all aspects of society. ACA's membership is comprised with more than 4000 individual members and 400 seniors' groups and agencies as organizational members. ACA is Alberta's only provincial non-government umbrella organization representing seniors.

Social economy organizations also provide unique services aimed at supporting child care and other family needs. For example, the Alberta Association for Family Day Home Services is comprised of member agencies that operate Family Day Home Programs. The Association is comprised of about 80 contracted agencies from across the province. These agencies serve approximately 8,000 children.

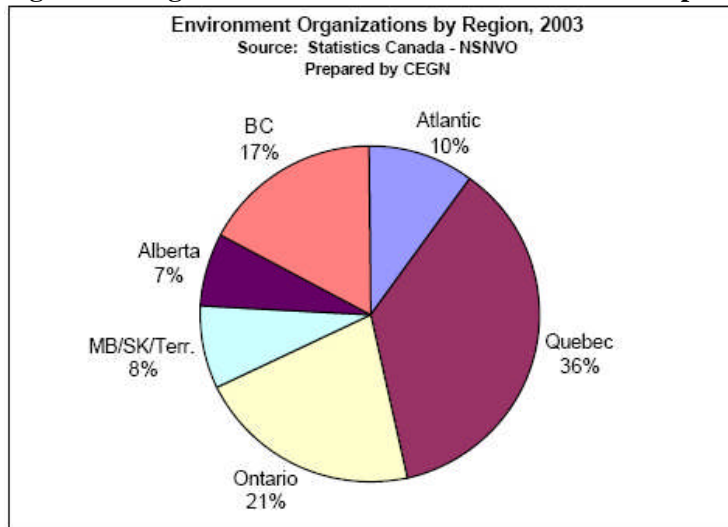
In the area of counselling services, Social Economy organizations also provides key leadership for vulnerable populations. For example, the Aboriginal Consulting Services Association of Alberta provides Aboriginal-specific support services which focus on individuals, families and communities. They provide family and individual counselling, for instance in areas of family violence situations. This organization also provides referrals to other agencies/programs as required. An important component of this organization is that they offers courses and workshops; topics that include parenting, teen relationships, and family violence.

These examples of community-based social services are by no means exhaustive of what is provided by Social Economy organizations. In fact most of the organizations mentioned throughout this document have some component related to social support of some sort or another, for example, business training for individuals self-identified as living with a disability likely requires specialized interpersonal skills development. The inclusion of social services by Social Economy oriented organizations is illustrative of the complex dynamic that results when prioritizing the blending of business practices with progressive social values. Fr many of these organizations the blending of the social with business is as likely to be a reward as it is to be a challenge.

As the reader has no doubt noted, there was one notable gap in this profile. Organizations and initiatives aimed at addressing issues and concerns related to the environment and sustainability was repeatedly found throughout the information collection process. In fact, many of the organizations included a statement of concern regarding the environment and the need to foster sustainable business practices, which made it particularly challenging to determine the breadth with which Social Economy organizations prioritize environmentally sustainable business practices.

An outcome of this increased awareness has been the emergence of organizations dedicated to addresses issues relevant to the environment. A challenge with respect to this project was that these organizations were not classifiable in terms of their mission or purpose. For the most part these organizations can be classified as non-profit or voluntary based, with a focus on the Environment. As shown on figure 6.1, Alberta and British Columbia has a sizable number of environmental organizations, but far less than what is found across the country level.

**Figure 5.3 Regional Breakdown of Environmental Non-profit Organizations, 2003**



The increased presence of organizations with the addressing issues related to environmental causes and concerns requires further attention, specifically what is their role within the Social Economy. Does this trend mean that the Social Economy should be more closely linked with the environmental and sustainability movement? However, the outcome may have the opposite effect in that these issues may be relegated to having marginal status. Fortunately, we found that many of these type of organizations try to cross the public and private sectors while being grounded within the principles that guides our understanding of what is known as the Social Economy.

## **6. Trends, Patterns and Identified Gaps in Knowledge**

As shown in this report the size and scope of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia is vast and robust. The Social Economy is present in all sectors of the Canadian economy; however, the social element is crucial in delimiting what part the Social Economy has within Canadian society. In other words, organizations oriented towards the Social Economy align their conventional business form with a social purpose. The ubiquitous presence of co-operatives and other social enterprises is a case in point.

There is also a strong infrastructure supporting the Social Economy. The infrastructure is manifested in the presences of different intermediary organizations that promote skills development and employment training, and increasing presence of venture philanthropy funds and other innovations intended to support high risk ventures that have a social purpose. However, it is important to make clear that although these ventures may be deemed high risk, due diligence is a key part of the approval process for any initiative. The primary difference is that these organizations provide individuals with business skills development, among about things and therefore serve an intermediary function.

The presence of intermediary organizations initiatives makes it possible to support the development of the Social Economy beyond its present form. What is notable is that many of these organizations operate using the same policies and programs that support other areas of the Canadian economy. The primary distinguishing feature is that there is a social mission attached

and profits are referred to as surpluses, which are either reinvested into the business or into the broader community.

The unstructured nature of conceptualizing the Social Economy is both a limitation and as well as a strength. While the breadth of the Social Economy seems very significant, there are many confounding factors that have hindered the strengthening of the Social Economy. Specifically, the evolution of the Social Economy in Alberta and B.C. has been a piecemeal approach to planning and more the result of reactive practices on the part of government to address the needs of vulnerable groups.

In many instances grassroots initiatives exist to address many of the shortcomings of the public and private sectors. The notion of public sector and market failure is one explanation for the presence of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia; however, this explanation is very limited in terms of the conceptual utility of the Social Economy and in fact delegitimizes the integral work of many of these organizations. An alternative explanation is that the Social Economy is fulfilling a need that the other sectors have neglected. Consequently, the public and private sectors produce and reproduce the very need to have a strong Social Economy. From a theoretical perspective, the role of the Social Economy complements the private and public sectors.

While this report represents the starting point with which to develop a comprehensive profile of the Social Economy, there were many challenges associated with the limited nature of this report. These challenges are not so much related to the research process per se. These challenges can be seen as the manifestation of the contested nature of the Social Economy.

First, the contested nature of defining the Social Economy limited what organizations were included in this report and who were excluded. For example, are Alberta Charter schools included or excluded? For all intents and purposes these organizations fall within the definition of the Social Economy in that they do have an independent board of directors and are in partnership with the provincial governments, but for historical purposes (i.e. the elitist stereotype) prevents the acknowledgement that Charter Schools can in fact be a Social Economy organization if their charter is oriented with a broader social purpose.

## **6.1. Challenges and Issues**

We often attach a sense of benevolence to the Social Economy that should in fact be critiqued. The sense of benevolence is both appropriate and unfounded, which is illustrative of the contested nature of the social economy as an organizing framework. Many of the social process found within these organizations are also present in less favourable contexts. For instance, the concept of reciprocity and mutuality is as likely to be found in a local chapter of a racist organization as it is in a local community centre. Further reflection is required to recognize the importance of balancing social processes aimed benevolence but result in malevolence, which can exist in many of non-profit organizations.

A second challenge related to completion of this research is the absence of a coherent and standard research infrastructure that supports Social Economy organizations. The presence of secondary and tertiary co-operative organizations is clearly a strength; however, the absence of such a structure across other areas of the Social Economy can make it seem as though the Social Economy is weak. Furthermore, the Social Economy suite (of which BALTA is a part) is crucial to enhancing our understanding of the Social Economy, but due to political considerations the



suite will disappear within four years. It is important that efforts be made to create a research infrastructure that can update the operations and activities of Social Economy oriented organizations. This infrastructure can resemble the Co-operatives Secretariat or Imagine Canada, but there is an urgent need to establish mechanisms for information sharing and consolidation in order to strengthen both capacity and building a sense of solidarity.

A third challenge associated with this research is recognizing those organizations that operate within the private market. As shown in this report, social enterprises straddle the line of private wealth and the redistribution of wealth. In some instances what delineates a Social Economy organization can be based on a group's culture as much as it does on a mission statement. For example, the limited inclusion of Aboriginal enterprises in this report presented both ethical and philosophical challenges. For instance should all of these enterprises be included as part of the Social Economy because they are part of a group who have been systematically oppressed for generations and operate a for-profit business whose clientele are those very individuals? The only social purpose can be that an aboriginal person started a business by accessing specific different resources or resources outlined in this report. We are not advocating the inclusion or exclusion of groups, but the infusion of private sector practices into the Social Economy makes it more difficult to tease apart what makes the Social Economy distinct from the private and public sectors.

A key issue that kept recurring for us, which is the fourth challenge, is related to understanding the general purpose of the Social Economy when there is considerable overlap with the private and public sectors. We understand why the idea of the Social Economy is conceptually useful; however, paradoxically our understanding of the size and scope is based on approaches advanced by the public and private sectors. Perhaps a more authentic way to determine the size and scope of the Social Economy is to develop new measures and support innovative alternatives to the conventional indicators of an economy's gross domestic product.

A fifth challenge is related to understanding the individual motivations that influenced the development of particular social businesses and community-based services. For instance, what motivated different people to start begin a social enterprise? For some it was the gap in government support, for others it was the absence of support for "high risk" ventures. Furthermore, many individuals started particular businesses in response to the destructive impact that the broader economy is having on vulnerable populations. In various conversations with representatives of Social Economy organizations described, there is an inherent passion and commitment to address issues of social justice and other inequities. Further research should explore individual motivations that contribute to an identity of mutuality that promotes reciprocity, which are pillars of what has become known as the Social Economy.

A sixth and final challenge is related to the availability of data and other types of information that are reliable and coherent that can demonstrate the impact of the Social Economy on Canadian Society. This aggregate data and descriptive information was limited to particular sectors and from specific jurisdictions. For example, while British Columbia has a comprehensive account of the level of non-market housing, this type of account is sorely lacking in Alberta. There should be a concerted effort to develop a data and information collection system that reflects the unique operations of the Social Economy organizations. A key strategy is to combine quantitative accounts with cases and stories of the work of these organizations. Success alone cannot and should not be measured by numbers alone. An important feature of the

Social Economy is that impact is felt immediately by individuals. We need to understand that impact by honouring life experiences as much as the bottom line.

## **6.2. Next Steps**

As stated in the introductory section the goal of this study was to begin to formally recognize the size and scope of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia. The preliminary nature of this profile demonstrates the need to continue efforts to fully recognize the complex and contested nature of the Social Economy. This profile of the Social Economy in Alberta and British Columbia is a starting point with which to develop an understanding of the size and scope of organizations that operate with a specific social purpose. There are many other examples that could have been included, and the reader is encouraged to enhance this profile by including additional examples and descriptions. The intention was not to be comprehensive per se, but to demonstrate the breadth of the different constituents that form the Social Economy.

From a definitional perspective many organizations identified may not agree with being included as part of the Social Economy. In fact, many organizations contacted throughout this research questioned both the efficacy of the Social Economy as well as the conceptual nature of the Social Economy—some expressed concern that being considered part of the Social Economy may in fact ghettoize them or can negatively impact their organization’s work. Moreover, key leaders in BALTA question the validity and utility of including some examples of organizations. While those concerns and issues are very real (many of which we do not disagree with), it is time to move beyond concerns that divide and separate our research. We feel it is crucial that we build our understanding of the Social Economy by recognizing that efforts have focused on strengthening elements that has come to be collectively known as the Social Economy.

We end this report by urging caution as well as challenging individuals who question the validity of the Social Economy. We challenge the reader to view this document as a springboard to exploring the presence of similar organizations in your community. You are encouraged to get involved in a discourse that celebrates the efforts of individuals and organizations trying to make a change in the world by adopting practices intended to improve and reduce the gaps that permeate Canadian society. However, it is as important to critique as it is to celebrate. Our guiding objective should be to strengthen social bonds rather than continue to dismantle them. Can changing businesses practices do this? All individuals can be involved in this discourse as long as the common thread is to build rather than solely deconstruct.

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## **Appendix A – North American Industry Classification System**

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) groups the economy into 20 economic sectors: five largely goods-producing industries (NAICS 11 to 31-33) and fifteen service-producing industries (NAICS 41 to 91). The NAICS coding system is a 2 to 6 digit listing of the individual sector. Each sector is further divided into subsectors that account for the different areas of the economy. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by the governments of Canada, the United States and Mexico. The 20 economic sectors are listed below; the number in brackets represents the first grouping.

- **Goods-producing industries**
  - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (11)
  - Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction (21)
  - Utilities (22)
  - Construction (23)
  - Manufacturing (31-33)
  
- **Services-producing Industries**
  - Wholesale Trade (41)
  - Retail Trade (44-45)
  - Transportation and Warehousing (48-49)
  - Information and Cultural Industries (51)
  - Finance and Insurance (52)
  - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)
  - Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (54)
  - Management of Companies and Enterprises (55)
  - Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services (56)
  - Educational Services (61)
  - Health Care and Social Assistance (62)
  - Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (71)
  - Accommodation and Food Services (72)
  - Other Services - except Public Administration (81)
  - Public Administration (91)

Further information to the official NAICS Canada 2002 definition of each sector and sub sector can be found at the following web address [www.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/cis-sic.nsf/en/h\\_00004e.html](http://www.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/cis-sic.nsf/en/h_00004e.html)

## **Appendix B – Cross Sector Examples of Social Economy Organizations**

Although there are numerous examples of Social Economy organizations incorporated throughout this report, in this section we include a selection of the different Social Economy organizations used in creating this profile. While not all examples were used in the final description (in many instances the research went along different paths that would otherwise have included these examples), we provide these examples to represent the wide array of Social Economy oriented organizations. The information provided in this section was taken directly from the organization's website or from their annual report. You are encouraged to contact these organizations or visit their websites in order to explore the breadth of their activities as well as to gain an understanding of the Social Economy.



### **Aboriginal Consulting Services Association of Alberta**

[www.informedmonton.com/public/agency/0020.htm](http://www.informedmonton.com/public/agency/0020.htm)

Provides Aboriginal-specific support services which focus on individuals, families and communities. Provides family and individual counselling, support in family violence situations and referrals to other agencies/programs as required. Offers courses and workshops; topics may include parenting, teen relationships, family violence.

### **Adult Basic Education Association of British Columbia**

[www.abeabc.ca/index.htm](http://www.abeabc.ca/index.htm)

The Adult Basic Education Association of British Columbia is a professional association which fosters and promotes excellence in adult basic education instruction and programming.

### **Affiliation of Multicultural Societies of B.C.**

[www.amssa.org/about/index.htm](http://www.amssa.org/about/index.htm)

AMSSA provides leadership in advocacy and education in British Columbia for anti-racism, human rights, and social justice. AMSSA supports its members in serving immigrants, refugees and culturally diverse communities. There is a head office in Vancouver and branches all over province. 85 member agencies make up the organization. AMSSA has 6 staff, 10 contract staff and 13 board members. Its annual budget is 679,476.

### **Alberta 4-H**

[www.4h.ab.ca/](http://www.4h.ab.ca/)

To develop youth as self-reliant, contributing individuals with marketable skills to succeed in today's society. The Alberta 4-H Council is made up of 14 elected members from the 7 4-H regions in Alberta, 2 elected 4-H Alumni members, one elected representative to the Canadian 4-H Council, 2 selected 4-H Ambassadors (one of whom has voting privileges) and a non-voting 4-H Branch representative. The Council members are all volunteers, and at this time the Council does not have any employees. The Alberta 4-H Councils current operating budget is about 60,000.00. This is a separate account from all other 4-H partner accounts. This budget covers all expenditures, and there is no reliance on government for any grants or assistance.

The 4-H Foundation of Alberta Board currently has 9 voting members who are elected by the board. Three non voting members - The past chair, a 4-H Branch Representative as well as the 4-H Foundation CEO. The 4-H Foundation has a number of staff - primarily the CEO, a marketing coordinator, and various centre staff who have positions in the 4-H centre facility - facility

management, kitchen, cleaning etc. The foundation hires part time staff on a needs basis as well as contract staff for various activities. The Foundation's annual operating budget is about 600,000 per year. The 4-H Foundation also manages various endowments, scholarships and trust funds for the overall 4-H program.

### **Alberta Association for Family Day Home Services**

[www.cfc-efc.ca/aafdhs/](http://www.cfc-efc.ca/aafdhs/)

The Alberta Association for Family Day Home Services is a non-profit organization in which members operate Family Day Home Programs/Agencies. The Association represents approximately 80 contracted agencies in the province, which serve approximately 8,000 children. All member agencies offer a quality child care service in a family environment which meets the needs of children and families in each community. AAFDHS has a 7 member board.

### **Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies**

[www.aaisa.ca/files/about\\_aaisa.html](http://www.aaisa.ca/files/about_aaisa.html)

AAISA provides an association by and through which the members can work towards addressing the needs of immigrants, the agencies that serve them and the larger community which welcomes them. AAISA has 20 member agencies from across the province. It is run by a 5 member board and 2 paid staff. The Alberta Council on Aging is a non-profit registered charitable organization that is committed to maintain or improve the quality of life for Seniors and encourage their full participation in all aspects of society.

### **Alberta Block Parent Association**

[www.albertablockparent.ca/index.html](http://www.albertablockparent.ca/index.html)

ABPA responsibilities include:

- assisting with start-up of new programs
- ongoing support and resources for established programs
- ensuring that faltering programs are properly closed down

### **Alberta Council for Environmental Education**

[www.abcee.org/](http://www.abcee.org/)

The Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE) is an incorporated Alberta Society with federal charitable status. Our mission is *to work collaboratively to advance environmental education (EE) in Alberta*. ACEE calls upon a Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee to provide advice and direction on key questions. ACEE was founded by the Board to help deliver on the many suggestions we heard throughout the Summits on EE. We are working hard to create a stable organization that can be an effective platform for the initiatives that EE stakeholders have called for. ACEE operates throughout Alberta. It has over 180 members and a 7 member board and one paid staff member.

### **Alberta Craft Council**

[www.albertacraft.ab.ca/](http://www.albertacraft.ab.ca/)

Since 1980 the Alberta Craft Council has organized exhibitions, publications, marketing ventures, education projects and information services for its members and the general public. Our mandate is: to stimulate, develop and promote the craft arts in Alberta. Our goals are: to support contemporary and heritage crafts as significant art forms that contribute to Alberta's cultural enrichment. To develop an Alberta craft industry of creative, skilled, viable, sustainable



craft studios, businesses and networks. The council has 240 individual members, approx. 32 organizational members. It has 7 paid staff, approximately 100 volunteers and 10 Board Members. In 2006 it had an operating Budget of 560,000.

### **Alberta Ecotrust**

[www.albertaecotrust.com/index.html](http://www.albertaecotrust.com/index.html)

Alberta Ecotrust Foundation builds partnerships throughout Alberta between environmental organizations, corporations and others who support environmental action to:

- Fund and support effective grassroots environmental projects
- Build capacity and sustainability in the voluntary sector
- Promote the environment as the foundation of a healthy community

Alberta Ecotrust operates throughout Alberta but its office is located in Calgary. It has 28 partners. It is run by nine paid staff and has a nine member board which oversees the whole organization including 35 volunteer committee members. Its budget in 2006 was 1, 109,567

### **Alberta Environmental Network**

[www.aenweb.ca/](http://www.aenweb.ca/)

The AEN is a non-profit, non-partisan umbrella organization dedicated to helping preserve and protect Alberta's environment. Membership in the AEN is open to any non-profit, non-governmental organization demonstrating sincere concern and action toward a healthier environment. Visit often to get the latest environmental news, updates, and events. Be sure to click the read more links to view the full articles. There are 57 members of the network which has an 11 member board.

### **The Alberta Music Festival Association**

[www.albertamusicfestival.org/](http://www.albertamusicfestival.org/)

AMFA Mission Statement: to promote and develop music and speech arts in Alberta through performance and workshop style adjudication. To accomplish this purpose,

- AMFA plans and presents the annual festival for competition among local festival representatives,
- offers assistance to the local festivals,
- publishes the annual Syllabus.

Provincial Jurisdiction means that 35 towns and cities hold festivals which are held under the auspices of this umbrella association. There are 10 Members of the Association's Executive.

### **ArtStarts in Schools**

[www.artstarts.com/](http://www.artstarts.com/)

Founded in 1996 with a professional staff and volunteer board of directors, ArtStarts in Schools is a unique not-for-profit organization offering educators, artists, parents and students a broad range of programs, services and resources to promote arts and creativity among B.C.'s young people. ArtStarts envisions a society where the arts are regarded as an essential part of educating young people and a catalyst for creating innovative, engaged and contributing members of society.

ArtStarts in Schools has a leadership role in transforming the way children and youth are engaged, in and through the arts, and in promoting the value of the arts in young lives. ArtStarts

in Schools provides innovative arts programs for young people, practical resources for teachers and artists, and leadership in advocacy for arts in education.

### **Arts Touring Alliance of Alberta**

[www.artstouring.com/index.php](http://www.artstouring.com/index.php)

Our organization provides visionary inclusive programs and services that are fundamental to the growth of a strong arts touring industry in Alberta. The Alliance has 2 paid staff and 14 board members.

### **Assembly of British Columbia Arts Councils**

[www.assemblybcartscouncils.ca/](http://www.assemblybcartscouncils.ca/)

The Assembly of British Columbia Arts Councils is dedicated to connecting communities to promote and advance community arts and cultural development in British Columbia. The Assembly was founded in 1979. Its original purpose was to provide advocacy, leadership and support to community and regional arts councils in the province of British Columbia. Since then the Assembly has broadened its vision and mandate to support the central role of arts and arts practices in building community and the unique ways in which arts and culture contribute to a strong, healthy society. In partnership with the province's community and regional arts councils, and other arts service organizations, agencies and individuals, we undertake this by providing advocacy, communications and networking, education, training and tools and resources. The assembly serves all of British Columbia through 91 community and regional councils. There is 1 paid staff and 15 board members.

### **Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training (ASPECT)**

[www.aspect.bc.ca/](http://www.aspect.bc.ca/)

The Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training (ASPECT) is an association of community-based trainers that represents and promotes the interests and activities of members to strengthen their capacity to provide services to people with barriers to employment. ASPECT has 7 paid staff and 9 board members.

### **B.C. Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs**

[www.endingviolence.org/](http://www.endingviolence.org/)

The B.C. Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs works to coordinate and support the work of victim-serving and other anti-violence programs in B.C. through the provision of issue based consultation and analysis of resource development, training, research and education. Our work is guided by respect for difference, human dignity and equality.

### **B.C. Coalition of People with Disabilities**

[www.bccpd.bc.ca/s/Home.asp](http://www.bccpd.bc.ca/s/Home.asp)

The B.C. Coalition of People with Disabilities is a provincial, cross-disability advocacy organization. Our mandate is to raise public and political awareness of issues that concern us. We hope, through our work, to facilitate the full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of society and to promote independence.

We are a non-profit organization that represents people with all types of disabilities throughout B.C.. The BCCPD is an umbrella group our membership includes individuals and groups from the communities of people who use wheelchairs, people with visual or hearing impairments, and

people with hidden disabilities, mental health disabilities, learning disabilities and HIV/AIDS. BCCPD has 17 paid staff, 15 other volunteers they consider 'core' although they have more for various campaigns. They have a 13 member board, which they also refer to as volunteers. Their annual budget is about 1.6 million dollars.

### **B.C. Council for Families**

[www.bccf.bc.ca/hm/index.php](http://www.bccf.bc.ca/hm/index.php)

The B.C. Council *for* Families (the Council) provides leadership, training and support for an array of preventative programs and initiatives that are delivered in a variety of settings and through hundreds of organizations in communities in every region of British Columbia. BCCF has 8 paid staff, 31 consultants, 2 volunteers and 12 board members.

### **B.C. Environmental Network**

[www.ecobc.org/index.cfm](http://www.ecobc.org/index.cfm)

The BCEN was established in 1981. We are a provincial network of the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN). The CEN is a nation-wide umbrella organization of over 1500 environmental groups. It has regional and affiliate networks across Canada. Through group membership in the BCEN, environmental activists are linked via the **ECOBC supersite** with services, activities, breaking news and other environmental activists nation-wide. The BCEN has 7 board members and 2 paid staff.

### **B.C. Health Coalition**

[www.bchealthcoalition.ca/](http://www.bchealthcoalition.ca/)

The B.C. Health Coalition champions the protection and expansion of a universal public health care system. The B.C. Health Coalition is a strong network of organizations and individuals, which in total represents over 600,000 British Columbians. We are seniors, women, people with disabilities, and anti-poverty activists. We are youth, men, parents concerned for their children's future, and people living with HIV/AIDS. We are community living advocates, health care providers and their unions. The BCHC is a coalition of 75 organizations and community partners. It is run by 3 full time paid staff and has 11 steering committee members. Their annual budget this year is 292,000.

### **B.C. Human Rights Coalition**

[www.bchrcoalition.org/](http://www.bchrcoalition.org/)

The B.C. Human Rights Coalition is a charitable non-profit community based organization that seeks to promote and strengthen human rights throughout B.C. and Canada. The B.C. Human Rights Coalition has 9 board members, 15 staff members and an annual budget of 970,085

### **Café Etico**

[www.codev.org/codev2/](http://www.codev.org/codev2/)

Café Etico offers you a great coffee experience - fair trade, organic coffee at a great price. Roasted locally to ensure that you get the best tasting cup of coffee, you also know that the rich flavour is contributing to communities across Latin America and supporting a positive model of global trade. 14 Board Members; 7 Staff members; 1,131,658 Annual Budget for 2006.

### **Canadian Mental Health Services, Social Enterprise Services**

<http://vancouver-burnaby.cmha.bc.ca/services/ses>

Social Enterprise Services (SES) are businesses that are majority owned, managed and operated by mental health consumers. SES work on the premise that people can create their own work that fits their lifestyle needs. Social Enterprise Services operate within a triple bottom line model of health, empowerment and employment. The Social Enterprise Services (SES) program out of Canadian Mental Health Association Vancouver /Burnaby Branch supports individuals with personal experience of the mental health system (and/or a mental health disorder or illness) in their efforts to development group community economic development projects or to pursue entrepreneurship goals. These businesses can operate as cooperatives, incorporated business, societies, partnerships or sole proprietorships. Participants will either have a viable business idea or have the capacity to support other projects.

### **Centre for Community Enterprise**

[www.cedworks.com/socialenterprise\\_01.html](http://www.cedworks.com/socialenterprise_01.html)

Welcome to the Social Enterprise page of the Centre for Community Enterprise and its nonprofit partner, the Canadian Centre for Community Renewal! Whether you're new to social enterprise, or an experienced practitioner, this page will put you in touch with a full range of useful resources.

### **Centre for Sustainability**

[www.centreforsustainability.ca/index.html](http://www.centreforsustainability.ca/index.html)

The Centre for Sustainability (CFS) was established in 2003 with the mission to increase the capacity and effectiveness of people and organizations engaged in British Columbia's not-for-profit sector. Now in its fourth year of operations, CFS continues to build its reputation as an important access and referral point for not-for-profit organizational development resources in the province. CFS has 3 staff, 1 full time 2 contract positions. They have 10 board members and an annual budget of 540,474.

### **Core Book**

[www.corebook.ca/](http://www.corebook.ca/)

Guide to social enterprises in B.C.. At CORE our mandate is to promote the ideals of wellness and sustainability, as well as the businesses that do the same in our neighbourhoods and community. CORE is a place to show that across Vancouver there is an abundance of companies that take health, environmental and social responsibilities as seriously as you do.

### **Crafts Association of British Columbia (CABC)**

[www.cabc.net/](http://www.cabc.net/)

The Crafts Association of British Columbia (CABC) is a registered non-profit charitable arts service organization, incorporated under the Society Act since 1973. The CABC acts as a coordinating body for all craft disciplines in the province and is a network of craft professionals dedicated to the development of excellence in crafts. The CABC is a voluntary membership-driven organization, comprising individual craftspeople, craft guilds, associations and supporters of arts throughout the province. The Association offers a number of programs and services designed to meet the needs of its membership and craftspeople throughout B.C.. CABC has about 450 members, 3 paid staff, approximately 50 volunteers and 9 board members. Its budget is between 350,000 and 400,000.

### **Creating Employment Through Art**

<http://www.cetacoop.com/>

CETA evolved from an innovative pilot project of the Carnegie Centre (City of Vancouver Community Services) in 2002, to a new business in 2004. Through the hard work and creativity of its Eastside members, CETA aims to be the premiere custom tile mosaic and mural company in British Columbia and a business of conscience and revitalization. In 2001, the Carnegie Centre, with the support of Western Economic Diversification, piloted a mosaic project (Living Footprints) with a number of street people from the Downtown Eastside. The project comprised 31 mosaic markers at historic sites in Downtown Vancouver and in Oppenheimer Park. The pilot proved so successful that unsolicited inquiries and commissions began to role in. Projects completed include 12 mosaics representing the 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac for the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Memorial Gardens, 5 mosaics for VanCity Savings headquarters, 5 distinct wall mural projects for 5 local businesses, and others listed on our projects page. As of July 2004, CETA had constructed 52 tile mosaics and 5 painted murals, which have employed over 170 street people. Eight members manage all aspects of the business.

### **Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary**

[www.ddrcc.com/index.html](http://www.ddrcc.com/index.html)

At DDRC, we have a vision of inclusion. Officially, our vision statement reads, 'everyone belongs.' Together with our vision statement, our mission statement reads, 'DDRC promotes awareness and supports communities to include persons with developmental disabilities, thereby strengthening communities for all citizens. DDRC has 12 paid staff and 14 board members.

### **E4C**

[www.e4calberta.org/](http://www.e4calberta.org/)

Founded in 1970, E4C is a charitable human services organization providing a diverse range of services to the community. Additionally, E4C acts to support emergent responses to need through a variety of mechanisms, among which include the provision of administrative and support services to community groups and networks, banking and accounting services, communications supports, meeting and office space, and other facilitative responses. E4C has and continues to work to achieve collaborative efforts in response to community need and emergent issues. Our approach ranges from participating in networks and associations, joint ventures and partnerships to helping groups connect with other resources within the community. There is 18 member board; 2006 budget - 9,157,455.

### **Edmonton Arts Council**

[www.edmontonarts.ab.ca/index.html](http://www.edmontonarts.ab.ca/index.html)

The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is a non-profit society and a charitable organization funded primarily by the City of Edmonton The Edmonton Arts Council is supported by 89 organizations and 33 business and 172 individual members. It has six staff and 18 Board members (4 executive members and 14 members-at-large) Income for 2005: 576,853.

### **Edmonton Community Foundation**

[www.ecfoundation.org/](http://www.ecfoundation.org/)

The Edmonton Community Foundation exists to help the people of Edmonton and area by encouraging philanthropy and funding charitable activities. Through contributions from donors,

the Foundation assembles and administers permanent pools of capital so the returns can be perpetually reinvested in our community. The foundation complements and supports other charitable agencies.

### **Edmonton Mennonite Centre**

[www.emcn.ab.ca/](http://www.emcn.ab.ca/)

The Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN) is a community agency that seeks to assist immigrants and refugees, coming to the Edmonton area, achieve full participation in the community, contributing their experiences and skills to strengthen and enrich the lives of all Canadians.

### **EMBERS**

[www.dtes.ca/embers/default.htm](http://www.dtes.ca/embers/default.htm)

EMBERS (Eastside Movement for Business & Economic Renewal Society) is a non-profit agency that works to combat poverty and assists in the revitalization of Vancouver's inner city by facilitating community-based business development. We do this by helping individuals and groups start small businesses and social enterprises. We offer self-employment training, one-on-one business coaching, and work with residents, community groups and other stakeholders to develop plans, strategies and specific ventures to improve the lives of residents and build a healthy community.

### **Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program**

[http://www.canadabusiness.ca/servlet/ContentServer?cid=1081944202818&pagename=CBSC\\_FE%2Fdisplay&c=Finance](http://www.canadabusiness.ca/servlet/ContentServer?cid=1081944202818&pagename=CBSC_FE%2Fdisplay&c=Finance)

Western Economic Diversification Canada's (WD) Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program (EDP) assists people living in the Edmonton area who have a disability and are interested in pursuing self-employment goals. The EDP supports the federal government's ongoing commitment to help reduce barriers and increase self-employment opportunities for Canadians with disabilities.

The Edmonton component of WD's EDP is specifically designed to benefit individuals living in the Edmonton area who have a disability and are interested in opening their own business or need support for an existing one. In Edmonton, the Distinctive Employment Counselling Services of Alberta (DECSA) administers a \$400,000 loan fund and provides mentoring and training support to entrepreneurs with disabilities living in the Edmonton area, on behalf of WD. Participants may access loans of up to \$75,000 to:

- start or expand a business;
- purchase and apply new technology;
- upgrade facilities and equipment;
- develop marketing and promotional activities; and
- establish working capital.

### **EthniCity Catering**

[www.ethnicitycatering.ca/index.html](http://www.ethnicitycatering.ca/index.html)

EthniCity Catering is a non-profit social enterprise of the Centre for Newcomers. We provide Canadian employment experience and training to immigrant women in transition. At the same time, we connect you with the culinary knowledge and skill these women bring from their home countries.

## **Evergreen**

[www.evergreen.ca/en/index.html](http://www.evergreen.ca/en/index.html)

Evergreen is a registered national charity founded in 1991. We are a national non-profit environmental organization with a mandate to bring nature to our cities through naturalization projects. Evergreen motivates people to create and sustain healthy, natural outdoor spaces and gives them the practical tools to be successful through its three core programs:

- Learning Grounds - transforming school grounds
- Common Grounds - conserving publicly accessible land
- Home Grounds - for the home landscape

Community naturalization is a collective effort that includes people from all walks of life in the revitalization of their schools, homes or community and, ultimately, in the environmental, social and economic functioning of their cities. There are 10 paid staff with a budget of 3,461,389 in 2005.

## **Farm Folk City Folk**

[www.farmfolkcityfolk.ca/](http://www.farmfolkcityfolk.ca/)

FarmFolk/CityFolk Society is a non-profit society that works with farm & city to cultivate a local, sustainable food system. We develop and operate projects that provide access to & protection of foodlands; that support local, small scale growers and producers; and that educate, communicate and celebrate with local food communities.

## **Federation of Alberta Naturalists**

[www.fanweb.ca/](http://www.fanweb.ca/)

In 1970, six natural history clubs joined together to form the Federation of Alberta Naturalists (FAN). Since then, our membership has grown to include 33 clubs representing over 4500 individuals. FAN's greatest strength is its province-wide focus on natural history issues. We are the voice of Nature Alberta, keeping you up to date on provincial issues. Our quarterly publication, Nature Alberta, contains wildlife articles of interest to all. We also market many attractive and informative books that seek to increase understanding and appreciation of nature and natural history in Alberta. The Federation is overseen by a 11 member volunteer board.

## **First Call – B.C. Child and Youth Coalition**

[www.firstcallbc.org/index.htm](http://www.firstcallbc.org/index.htm)

First Call grew out of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. When Canada ratified that Convention in 1991, its advocates gathered in a National Conference and agreed that it is time to give children a first call on our resources and on our advocacy efforts. The B.C. representatives were drawn from a variety of sectors: education, health, justice, social services, and others. They called their first First Call meeting in 1992. In the same period, a group of people who had been working on child and youth issues regarding the Royal Commission on Health Care and Costs formed the Child and Youth Planning Advocacy Network (CYPAN). In 1995, First Call and CYPAN merged, forming First Call: B.C. Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition. Is made up of over 75 provincial/regional partner organizations, contacts in 52 communities, 25 First Call mobilizing communities and a network of community partners and individuals committed to the Four Keys to Success for children and youth. More partners are always welcome. We are not a registered society but rather a coalition of over 75 provincial organizations and community partners. We are housed and hosted by the Children's Hospital in Vancouver.

We are staffed by 3 full-time employees and we have a Steering/Coordinating Committee rather than a Board of Directors. We generally have at least one student working in our office but that is about it in terms of volunteers. We use volunteers for our annual fundraising dinner and for conferences or presentations. Our budget is a little under [sic] \$300k (\$292,000).

### **Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House**

[www.froghollow.bc.ca/aboutus.html](http://www.froghollow.bc.ca/aboutus.html)

We are a volunteer – driven, community – service agency. Our mission is to make neighbourhoods better places to live. Our goal is to enable people to enhance their lives and strengthen their communities. Our challenge is to work with communities to develop innovative programs and services that meet the changing needs of a diverse population.

### **Glen Valley Organic Farm Co-operative**

[www.gvofc.org/](http://www.gvofc.org/)

The Glen Valley Organic Farm Co-operative (GVOFC) is a community of individuals who have come together with the shared goal of sharing, owning and operating the Glen Valley Organic Farm. The GVOFC's members come from a variety of backgrounds, including conventional and organic farming, education, law, project management, marketing and group facilitation. The GVOFC uses the consensus model of decision-making, ensuring that all members have a voice.

### **Highwood Crossing**

[www.highwoodcrossing.com/](http://www.highwoodcrossing.com/)

Highwood Crossing is a family owned, certified organic grain farm located next to the Highwood River south of Calgary. When owners, Tony Marshall and his wife, Penny, switched over to sustainable organic farming methods in 1989, they were returning to agricultural practices that were similar to those used on the same farm by Tony's great-grandfather nearly 100 years earlier. (The name Highwood Crossing refers to a shallow portion of the Highwood River on the farm where travelers used to cross before there were bridges or roads.).

Today, Highwood Crossing Farm is certified organic by design and produces only 100% organic crops that include wheat, rye, flax, canola, oats, barley, peas, hay and sweet clover. The Marshalls also have a certified organic processing facility on the farm where they produce and package food products from the crops that they grow. These products include cold pressed flax and canola oil, organic granola, flax seed muffin and pancake mix, stone ground flours as well as whole grains and cereals. (On-farm processing plays an important role in reducing the high environmental costs associated with transporting food products 1000's of miles to distant markets.).

### **Hollyhock**

[www.hollyhock.ca/cms/](http://www.hollyhock.ca/cms/)

A visit to Hollyhock, Canada's Leading Educational Retreat Centre, is the start of a journey, often a journey of a lifetime. Not for profit Hollyhock is an unparalleled centre of learning and connection that exists to inspire, nourish and support people who are making the world better. There are 12 Board members and 12 paid staff.

### **Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Centre**

[www.sacsbcc.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=86&Itemid=274](http://www.sacsbcc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=86&Itemid=274)



Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Centre is uniquely situated in the midst of the region known as the Fraser Valley, centrally located in the community of Surrey, British Columbia. Surrey is an ideal location to hold events or functions targeted to people and organizations residing in Fraser Valley communities.

We rely on organizations to choose us when they need someone capable to cater and hold events, or to provide culturally related goods and services. To sustain and compliment the human services offered here at Kla-how-eya, we have embarked on a journey to create our special and unique brand of social enterprise. We have a dedicated team of volunteers and staff anxious to meet your food service, conference and cultural needs.

### **Open Cinema**

[www.opencinema.ca/](http://www.opencinema.ca/)

OPEN CINEMA is a non-profit society based in Victoria, B.C., with a mission to screen thought-provoking films, inspiring community conversation and grassroots action, furthering the role of filmmaking as a tool for social innovation. OPEN CINEMA is dedicated to being a catalyst for community-building, by providing access to socially relevant cross-platform programming while facilitating local dialogue and global networking opportunities. There are 5 board members, 6 staff members, and 3 volunteers.

### **Peas on Earth**

[www.peasonearth.ca/](http://www.peasonearth.ca/)

Certified Organic Market Garden, was officially founded by Eric and Ruby Chen in the year 2000. Eric has worked on his family's vegetable farm since he was in junior high school. After Eric and Ruby finished their studies at the University of Alberta, majoring in Agriculture Economics and Business respectively, they decided to commit to farming on a full time basis. Since then, they have put their minds and souls into their market garden business and have built and nurtured it with love. Eric has been practicing organic farming since the 1990's but did not apply for organic certification until the year 2000.

Eric and Ruby have chosen organic farming practices in part because they believe that incurable diseases such as cancers are caused by the chemicals used in typical food production. Therefore, they want to do their share in providing the community with a fresh and healthy alternative to the chemically treated and genetically modified foods.

### **Pivot Legal Society**

[www.pivotlegal.org/](http://www.pivotlegal.org/)

A non-profit legal advocacy organization located in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Pivot's mandate is to take a strategic approach to social change, using the law to address the root causes that undermine the quality of life of those most on the margins. We believe that everyone, regardless of income, benefits from a healthy and inclusive community where values such as respect and equality are strongly rooted in the law. Pivot Legal Society relies on the support of more than 100 volunteers, interns and staff. It has 10 board members and recent budget figure is 348,538 (2005).

### **Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network**

[www.plan.ca/AboutPlan\\_Glance.php](http://www.plan.ca/AboutPlan_Glance.php)

PLAN is a not-for-profit charity created by and for families who have a relative with a disability. Our goal is twofold: to ensure a safe and secure future for your relative with a disability and, in the process, to provide you and your loved ones with peace of mind. In pursuit of this goal we're inspired by a simple but powerful vision: *the vision of a good life for all people with disabilities and their families*. PLAN is connected with 5,000 families across Canada. PLAN has five full time employees and six part time employees and 400 volunteers. Their operating budget for 2007 is \$875,000.

### **Plenteus**

[www.givemeaning.com/](http://www.givemeaning.com/)

GiveMeaning's goal is to provide as much opportunity as possible for expressions of generosity, while maintaining a technical and legal platform that:

1. Shields Donors from having their personal information shared and their privacy invaded by unsolicited professional solicitations
2. Enables tax efficient gifting where applicable
3. Provides Donors a Return On Generosity with a more intimate level of transparency and accountability
4. Facilitates the mobilization of a worldwide community of caring people who collaborate to change the world for the better, through shared awareness, shared connections, and shared resources

And thanks to a unique sponsorship model, 100% of the money raised for GiveMeaning Projects goes to the Implementing Organization responsible for carrying out the goals of the Project.

### **Providence Farm**

[www.providence.bc.ca/](http://www.providence.bc.ca/)

We are a working organic farm with an important mandate. We provide innovative programs for people with barriers to education and employment through Horticultural Therapy and vocational training. Our farm is dedicated to restoring the spirit and skills of those affected by physical, mental and emotional challenges. Take a deep breath and you'll find the air is healthy; the work, worthy; the place, happy. There are 14 board members, 22 full and part time staff.

### **Quest Food Exchange**

[www.questoutreach.org/](http://www.questoutreach.org/)

Almost two decades ago, Quest Outreach Society launched an innovative business model: to rescue food — perfectly good cans, boxes and perishables — that would otherwise be tossed in the garbage and headed for our landfills, and redirect it to hungry people in the Lower Mainland who need it most. We call it the Quest Food Exchange. Today, we're B.C.'s only food exchange and we divert 6.15 million pounds of surplus food from landfills each year, which adds up to \$6.28 million worth of food. We fill and then empty our 575-m<sup>2</sup> warehouse each day, providing food to hundreds of social service agencies in the region feeding 60,000 people a month. Yet we're capturing less than 1% of the food being wasted.

### **Reliable Business Outsourcing**

[www.reliableoutsourcing.ca/home.htm](http://www.reliableoutsourcing.ca/home.htm)

We understand that professionals with health issues\* desire to contribute to society in a meaningful and productive way, while managing their physical, emotional and financial wellbeing. We also understand that businesses need access to a skilled flexible workforce on a short or long-term contract basis. So we developed a strategy to partner these two groups for their mutual benefits. Our Mandate:

- Develop a social enterprise that connects contractors/consultants to businesses' outsourcing needs
- Build on existing relationships with multiple community sectors
- Create a seamless service framework
- Advance the self-employment of contractors/consultants with disabilities
- Make a difference in people's lives

### **ReStore**

<http://www.habitat.ca/restoresc648.php>

Habitat for Humanity Greater Vancouver operates two ReStores. The ReStores accept donations of new and used building materials and sell them to the public at bargain prices. Profits pay operating costs and help build local Habitat for Humanity homes. With convenient locations in Vancouver and Burnaby, make ReStore your home improvement headquarters!

### **River Cree**

[www.rivercreeresort.com/?section=about\\_us](http://www.rivercreeresort.com/?section=about_us)

We are committed to being the resort of choice by providing memorable and entertaining experiences. Me'Chet Charities Limited holds the casino charity license for the Enoch Cree Nation under the First Nations Gaming Policy. Me'Chet is the fulltime umbrella charity organization for the River Cree Casino, and ensures that the appropriate charity license is in order, and that charitable events within our casino are operated in accordance with the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission's AGLC Regulations. Me'Chet will provide fair, accountable, and transparent management of charitable gaming funds, and will work to improve the community and lives of the Enoch Cree Nation, and its surrounding areas by strengthening social, community, and personal development.

Allocation of Me'Chet charitable gaming revenues will benefit numerous organizations including those supporting education and learning; relief of the aged, youth, and disadvantaged; adequate, affordable, accessible housing; medical and health care services; heritage preservation and cultural awareness; community betterments; physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional well being and quality of life for Elders of the Enoch Cree Nation, as well as other laudable organizations.

### **Skills Centre, The**

[www.communityskillscentre.com/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx](http://www.communityskillscentre.com/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx)

a leader in social & economic development; leading with a social conscience consistently obtaining results for job seekers and employers by focusing on a client-centred-approach to employment services anticipating and acting on the diverse training needs of our community responding to the skills shortage through teamwork and creative thinking.

### **Social Purchasing Portal**

[www.ftebusiness.org/](http://www.ftebusiness.org/)

Encourages Social Enterprise through mass purchasing The *Social Purchasing Portal* is a web-based application that integrates supply chain economics and corporate social responsibility to achieve community benefits. Simply, the *Social Purchasing Portal* (SPP) provides an on-line environment for business-to-business procurement transactions to leverage community economic development activity.

### **SUCCESS**

[www.successbc.ca/](http://www.successbc.ca/)

A multi-service agency in British Columbia, Canada. Established in 1973 and incorporated in 1974, our mandate is to promote the well being of all Canadians and immigrants. We encourage their participation in the community through delivering services in five major areas: social services, employment services, business and economic development services, training and education services, and health services (under the auspices of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Multi-Level Care Society incorporated in 1995). To strengthen our financial resources, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation was established in 2001. 10 Board Members; Budget was 10,469,116 in 2005.

### **Sun Prairie Mills Ltd**

[www.sunprairie-organic.com/](http://www.sunprairie-organic.com/)

We built the mill in 1982 with the intent to provide nutritious, unadulterated, wholesome food to our community. For this reason, all our flour products are stone-ground and undergo a minimum of processing and alteration. We mill grain from our own farm and from other organic producers in the area. Both our farm and flour mill are certified organic. At our farm, we are aware of these delicate ecosystem interactions. We work diligently towards balancing our soil food web; and towards reviving a healthy diversity of soil life.

### **Tenant Resource Advisory Centre**

[www.tenants.bc.ca/](http://www.tenants.bc.ca/)

TRAC is a Vancouver-based non-profit organization working on behalf of B.C.'s one million tenants. We came together in 1983 to protest a government plan to eliminate rent control and abolish the Rentalsman, a government agency which mediated disputes between landlords and tenants. Today, we work to improve legal protection for tenants, and to promote community action for the purpose of protecting and increasing the supply of affordable rental housing in B.C.

### **TK Ranch**

[www.tkranch.com/default.cfm](http://www.tkranch.com/default.cfm)

TK Ranch pastures and hay lands have been certified organic since 1998. Currently our certification is through QCB Organic (certificate # 362005). Due to persistent drought and grasshopper infestations since 1995, growing an adequate annual supply of winter feed has been extremely difficult for us. Just the freight costs on a load of 40 large round bales is over \$700 – that is over \$17.50 per bale for delivery alone. If we were to purchase certified organic feed it would make the cost of our beef too expensive for the average consumer. Instead we have chosen to purchase mostly forages that require few petrochemical inputs. This allows us to control our costs better, while still meeting most of our customer's needs.

All animals in our program are raised under the 'pasture model.' The chickens and turkeys raised for the program are in a barn only when they are in the brooder as newly hatched chicks. After

the brooding period, they are moved onto pasture where they remain until finished. The pigs raised for the program are farrowed (born) outside on pasture or in loose housing structures. Once the piglets are weaned, they remain on pasture until finished. As a result of our commitment to animal welfare, TK Ranch received the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Farmer of the Year Award in 1998. Calving in June and July on TK Ranch. TK Ranch is also committed to wildlife rehabilitation, to the preservation of wild fowl habitat and to bird banding for the purposes of conservation.

### **Vancouver Aboriginal Social Enterprise (VASE)**

<http://thevase.net/>

The VASE creates small micro-businesses to generate revenue for community based early childhood education and literacy programming while creating much needed employment and skills development in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

- Aboriginal Mother Centre Society
- Native Art Gallery (Prince George Native Friendship Centre)
- Neil Squire Solutions (The Neil Squire Society)
- Smart Growth Advisory Services
- Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association

### **Volunteer B.C.**

[www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/)

To promote the development and role of volunteer centres in B.C. and to work cooperatively with volunteer centres, other voluntary organizations, and governments in the development of effective voluntary action. VBC has 117 organizational members and 15 individual members. 3 (staff and contractors – not distinguished on website) and 12 board members run the organization. Their annual budget is \$30,208.47.

### **Westcoast Community Enterprises**

[www.westcoastce.com/index.html](http://www.westcoastce.com/index.html)

Westcoast Community Enterprises, a Division of The Centre for Community Enterprise Inc. has been working to create healthier community economies since 1977. In collaboration with the Government of Canada, Westcoast has helped over 1000 enterprising people launch their own business.

### **Youth One**

[www.youthone.com/about.cfm](http://www.youthone.com/about.cfm)

A not-for-profit organization (founded 2000, in Edmonton, AB) to create an on-line community for youth and through this link youth and youth-at-risk with information regarding resources available in the broader community. Youth One is a place where young people can get support and give support. Our online Peer Support services (Peer Support Forums and a Crisis Chat room) are for youth who are going through a tough time – be it with a relationship, school, family, health, or crisis situation. We are confidential and non-judgmental, and we're here to listen and empower. So whether you need to vent and get things off your chest, wanting to help others who are reaching out, or just looking for more information, we're here to help you along the way.

## Notes