



The Resilience Imperative

BALTA book to be published in May

Several years of BALTA research, reflection and writing will come to fruition with the publication in May by New Society Publishers of **The Resilience Imperative: Co-operative Transitions to a Steady-State Economy**. The book, by **Mike Lewis** and **Pat Conaty** of BALTA, addresses the challenge of forging a steady-state economy that is socially, ecologically and economically sensible and sustainable.

The central thesis of the book is that climate change and escalating energy prices compel us to reinvent our economic life on a much more local and regional basis. The book elaborates a variety of strategies for accomplishing this and provides numerous examples of successful models that are already being implemented around the world. The important role that social economy organizations are playing in the “great transition” to a new economy are highlighted throughout the book.

The book’s price is \$26.95. Pre-order now and receive a 20% discount. For further information about the book and to pre-order, go to: <http://communityrenewal.ca/resilience-imperative> Six excerpts from the book, published in *i4*, the e-journal of the Canadian Centre for Community Renewal, can also be found at the above link. ... cont’d on p. 2

Speaking events begin in May



“A comprehensive guide to the viable cooperative options inherent in the Great Transition”

Hazel Henderson

BALTA’s SSHRC Application Highly Rated – But Not Funded

BALTA submitted an application last November to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to fund a new research partnership and program on **Social Economy, Community Resilience and the Transition to Sustainability**.

Our proposal was given a very high evaluation by the review committee and recommended for funding. But more projects were recommended than there were funds available. Our project did not make the final cut of projects approved by SSHRC to receive funding.

The two-year Partnership Development Grant would have supported partnership development and planning for a future multi-year research program on the scaling up/out of innovations that strengthen the resilience and sustainability of communities and regions.

So we came very close and we thank

everyone who supported the development of a very strong proposal. The thinking, work and relationship building that have gone into the proposal will undoubtedly be of benefit in other ways as we continue to work together in future on these issues.

As a result of this decision, and with funding coming to an end for BALTA’s initial SSHRC grant for 2006-2012, we will be winding down BALTA’s operations over the next three months. A final newsletter in June will report on next steps in building upon BALTA’s legacy. 🙏

IN THIS ISSUE ...

| | |
|--|---|
| Report on BALTA’s 2012 Symposium | 3 |
| Mike Lewis appointed to Housing Task Force | 3 |
| Unleashing Local Capital Project | 4 |
| <i>All articles are by Stuart Wulff.</i> | |

The Resilience Imperative

continued from p. 1

Speaking Events

Mike Lewis will be participating in a range of events starting in May to promote the book and themes in the book – public speaking events, workshops, book signings, etc.

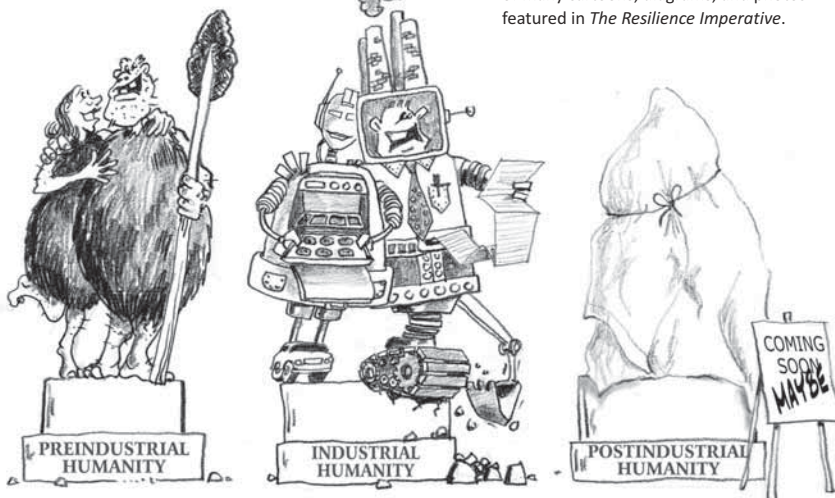
First, Mike is a keynote speaker at the annual conference and seminar series of the Land Trust Alliance of BC. The conference takes place in **Cowichan Bay, BC, May 3-5**. Mike speaks on the opening day. For further information go to: http://ltabc.ca/images/SeminarSeries_2012.pdf

More events are planned for the end of May.

- **Edmonton:** Mike will speak at a public event on the evening of **Monday, May 28** (venue to be confirmed). Books will be sold at the event and Mike will be signing books. Several workshops and meetings are also being planned for May 28-29 in Edmonton. For further information, contact: balta@xplornet.com.
- **Calgary:** Mike will speak at a public event on the evening of **Tuesday, May 29** (John Dutton Theatre, Calgary Public Library, 616 McLeod Trail SE, 6:30-9:00 PM). Books will be sold at the event and Mike will be signing books. Mike will also be speaking at a co-operative development workshop on **Wednesday, May 30** (Headspace, 1817 – 10th Ave. SW, 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM). Mike will participate in a roundtable discussion related to the book at a meeting hosted by Sustainable Calgary (Prairie Sky, 6:00-8:00 PM). For further information about all Calgary events, contact: Courtenay Hare, chare@momentum.org

Further events are likely and there will be further information in the next BALTA newsletter. You can also contact Mike Lewis (ccelewis@xplornet.com) to inquire about his potential availability to speak at an event. ☺

Coming Attractions at the Museum of Civilization ...



Advance Praise for The Resilience Imperative

“Exceptionally valuable.”

Gar Alperovitz, author, America Beyond Capitalism

“practical suggestions and inspiring examples to help us build more resilient communities.”

Richard Heinberg, Post Carbon Institute

puts flesh on the Occupy Movement’s “call for an economic alternative.”

Robin Murray, London School of Economics

This book is a beacon of hope... it sets out clearly why ‘business as usual’ is disastrous for both us and the planet, and spells out the necessary solutions.”
Stewart Wallis, Executive Director, new economics foundation

describes a way of being that creates a “better world in the areas that matter most to us as human beings – heating, food and housing.”

Neal Lawson, Chair, Compass

Realistic, accessible and uplifting”

“Ann Pettifor, Director, PRIME Economics

“a wonderful gift to all concerned about creating a more sustainable, non-fossil-fueled presence of humankind.”
Bill Phipps, moderator, United Church of Canada 1997-2000

“a remarkable book, as far-ranging as it is deep, informed both by historical precedents and emerging innovations.”

Clifford Rosenthal, President and CEO, National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions (1980-2012)

“For those interested in a vibrant alternative and sustainable economics that maintains a free market without exploitation, it is an essential read.”
David A Rodgers, President, International Co-operative Alliance Housing Sector Organisation

BALTA's Final Symposium Reflects on Accomplishments and Legacies



Photo: Stuart Wulff

BALTA members and colleagues gathered in Vancouver on January 12-14 for the final symposium of the current BALTA program. With BALTA's funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) coming to an end in June, BALTA will be winding down. The symposium provided an opportunity to reflect on BALTA's accomplishments and to discuss options for the future.

The opening evening featured several presentations providing a range of perspectives on BALTA's successes, challenges and legacies – from **Mike Lewis** as lead investigator; from **David LePage** giving a practitioner organization perspective, from **Mike Gismondi** giving an academic's perspective, and from **Lena Soots** giving a student's view. A panel of students on the final day gave additional perspective on the role of students within BALTA's research program.

Peter Hall, who has co-edited a book assessing the overall Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships experience across Canada, spoke on the final day, putting the BALTA experience in the wider social economy research context.

Much of the symposium focused on identifying and analyzing the key learnings and strategic level impacts arising from the six years of the BALTA research partnership and program. Discussions took place within the three main BALTA research clusters (SERCs*), with reports back to the full group.

The three SERCs also discussed options for continuing the collaborative research and legacies of BALTA into the future, either through some form of BALTA or by other means. At the time of the symposium, there was still hope that BALTA's proposed new research program might receive SSHRC funding. Now we know this will not happen (see story, p. 1). However, it was clear that some of the relationships and research opportunities created through BALTA will continue in other forms in years to come.

As with past symposiums, there were also opportunities to hear reports on recent BALTA research projects and results, including three books arising from BALTA's research.

A report on the symposium will be posted on the BALTA website when available. 📄

*SERC 1 – Human Services and Housing; SERC 2 – Rural Revitalization and Development; SERC 3 – Analysis, Evaluation and Infrastructure

Mike Lewis Appointed to Housing Task Force

BALTA's director, **Mike Lewis**, has been appointed to a new Vancouver Mayor's **Task Force on Housing Affordability**. Vancouver and the BC Lower Mainland confront significant affordability issues related to housing.

The task force has been created to examine conditions which may act as barriers to the creation of affordable housing, the steps necessary to protect existing affordable housing, and opportunities for increasing affordable housing.

Affordable housing, including such mechanisms as community land trusts and the role of social economy organizations in affordable housing, has been a significant research priority for BALTA. Mike's new position will provide an opportunity to share and apply results from BALTA's research. 📄

Unleashing Local Capital in Alberta

Call for Applications

The Alberta Community and Co-operative Association, in partnership with other organizations, has launched the **Unleashing Local Capital** project. The purpose of the project is to empower communities to invest locally, direct their own economic development and reduce dependence on government supports through establishing their own local Community Investment Funds (CIFs).

During this initial phase the project will support three communities to develop and incorporate CIFs. The selected communities will receive funding and other support to establish their CIF. Communities must apply if they are interested in being selected. **The application deadline is Friday, May 4.**

For further information and application forms go to: <http://acca.coop/unleashing-local-capital/>

Unleashing Local Capital Project Information Webinars

- **April 10, 10:00-11:30 AM** – Register at http://recc.arpahub.ca/product_detail/2676/
- **April 17, 12:00-1:30 PM** – Register at http://recc.arpahub.ca/product_detail/2689/

A CIF is a pool of capital raised from local investors and managed by a local committee, which is then invested in local businesses. This provides entrepreneurs with access to capital to finance business development locally, and provides local investors with an opportunity to invest their hard-earned savings in their own community.

The CIF model has proven to be extremely successful in ensuring that important local businesses, jobs, and infrastructure remain and thrive in rural communities. The Unleashing Local Capital project will support the application of the CIF model in rural Alberta.

The Unleashing Local Capital project builds on research and development work on which ACCA and BALTA have collaborated to explore ways to enhance co-operative development and community sustainability.

The project is funded by the Rural Alberta Development Fund. Partners with ACCA include Alberta Family Business Institute, Alberta Rural Development Network, Athabasca University, Community Futures Network of Alberta and le Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta. 🇨🇦

BALTA

The BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance



BALTA Steering Committee Members

- Mike Lewis, Lead Investigator, Canadian Centre for Community Renewal
- Dr. Mary Beckie, Co-Investigator, University of Alberta
- Dr. Martin Garber-Conrad, Co-Investigator, Edmonton Community Foundation
- Dr. Michael Gismondi, Co-Investigator, Athabasca University
- George Penfold, Co-investigator, Rural Innovation Chair, Selkirk College
- Dr. Mark Roseland, Co-Investigator, Simon Fraser University
- Stuart Wulff, Staff, Canadian Centre for Community Renewal

Financial support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for BALTA's research program and this newsletter is gratefully acknowledged.



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

BALTA Staff



Stuart Wulff, Coordinator,
PH: 250.723.2296 or Email: balta@explornet.com
9777B Somers Road, Port Alberni BC V9Y 8N9



Don McNair, Communications
PH: 250.542.7057 or
Email: mcnair@cedworks.com