

Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network (Community-University Research Alliance) Program of Research

Project Unit / Cluster / Etc...	Project title	Project Lead, Affiliation	Specific project-level research objectives	Expected deliverables
National	Survey of co-operatives - measuring longevity, social and economic impact	Dr. Luc Theriault, UNB and John Anderson, CCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat to use their annual national survey of 5800 co-operatives and a special survey to explore new themes amongst co-ops • Gain access to past data collected through the national survey of co-operatives and mine the data to identify key trends that demonstrate the social and economic impact of co-operatives throughout Canada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an analysis of social and economic contributions of co-operatives on Canadian communities (selecting key sub-sectors to explore more thoroughly such as agricultural co-operatives)
National	Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI) and Innovation	John Anderson, CCA and Dr. Michael Gertler, University of Saskatchewan, Centre for the Study of Co-operatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This research aims to track changes new co-operative development and trends in innovation through using statistics for the Co-operative Development Initiative and 8 year old program which funds the development of new and emerging co-ops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This research will examine what are the new trends in co-op development, what are the innovative sectors, in which provinces and language groups are these trends located. • The second part of the project will conduct interviews with a selective sample of these projects to track their development.
National	Examining the Value and Potential of National Co-op Sector Federations	Dr. Ian MacPherson, University of Victoria and Quintin Fox, Canadian Co-operative Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and analyse the development of co-operative sector federations in Canada (with a focus on three sectors: agricultural, health and housing) • Assess the gaps where federations do not yet exist in the Canadian co-operative movement and assess the potential for new development to better support development, best-practice sharing and so forth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear understanding of how co-op federations are established and how other federations can learn from these lessons • Clearer understanding of the factors involved in the development of federations and the motivations behind their formation • Clearer understanding of the role and value of national federations in Canada • Typology of the range of services and added value benefits that federations provide • Clearer understanding of how federations support and enhance co-operative development within their sector • Perspectives on the absence of a pan-Canadian agricultural co-operative network in the last 100 years • Clearer understanding of the growth of federations within Quebec and how lessons can be learned for the rest of Canada

National	Co-operatives and Alternative Energy Production	Dr. J.J. McMurtry, York University and Judith Lipp, Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First the project will outline the current literature on, and history of, the co-operative form in alternative energy production. • Second, it will examine current “best practices” of co-operative energy production, specifically in Europe and North America, to best understand the unique benefits that the co-operative form delivers in alternative energy production. • Third, the project will examine the current state of co-operative energy production in Canada both from a policy and a practice perspective, and will outline the unique benefits of this form as well as the ways in which it can address current criticisms of this form of energy production. A significant component of this third stage will be a mapping of alternative energy production by co-operatives in Canada, as well as a policy matrix mapping, which will outline similarities and differences between provinces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of “best practices” within co-operative energy sector, especially in Europe and North America • Literature review of co-operative alternative energy production and outline of the key concerns in alternative energy production. • Mapping of the policy frameworks for alternative energy production across Canada • Mapping of the current co-operative alternative energy landscape across Canada • Qualitative evaluation of the potential role of co-operatives in addressing key social, environmental and economic concerns regarding alternative energy production in Canada
National	Mapping the 170 year History of the Sussex Co-op, New Brunswick	Dr. Luc Thériault, University of New Brunswick and Wendy Keats, Co-operative Enterprise Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the historical publication produced in 1980 and building the depth of knowledge about this co-operative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a history of the oldest recorded co-operative-run organization in the world, highlighting the resiliency of the model • Contribute to the awareness-raising activities of the International Year of Co-operatives in 2012 through promotion of the book and sharing the history of the organization
Prairie	Measuring the impact of credit unions on wealth building in communities	Dr. Lou Hammond Ketilson, University of Saskatchewan Centre for the Study of Co-operatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understand the benefits credit unions provide their members and their communities, and the ways that credit unions help their members build wealth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key output that we intend to develop is an impact measurement tool based on a list of identified indicators. It is hoped that these measurement tools can be used by any credit union looking to measure its impact on member and/or community • Other outputs will include a variety of publications targeted to academic and non academic audiences
Prairie	Impact of co-operative housing on household income, skills and social capital	Dr. Catherine Leviten-Reid, University of Cape Breton and Karla Skoutajan, Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a survey on household-level income, skills development, and social capital in co-op housing, employing longitudinal research that helps measure the value of co-operative housing for those who are members of the co-op 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This research will inform the academic literature on housing and the social economy. It considers the move into a housing co-operative as an intervention, and examines how the organizational form may affect individuals as it relates to household income and expenditures, skills development and social capital • This research will produce a simple and easy-to-administer tool that can be used by housing co-operatives across the country. Closely related to this tool is a document describing the ‘how-tos’ of collecting data in this manner among co-operative, and other social economy, organizations
Western	Integrating Approaches to the Co-operative Difference	Dr. Ana Maria Peredo, University of Victoria and John Restakis, British Columbia Co-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project aims to establish conditions for community-university partnership through engaging all partners in a thorough mapping of the co-operative movement in British Columbia to identify research gaps where the group can collaboratively address these gaps to ensure value for community partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a series of community forums, a discussion paper has been created that helps the group conceptualize the diversity of co-operatives, communities, and relationships that comprise the co-operative difference

		operative Association		
Western	Survival Rates of Co-operatives in British Columbia	John Restakis and Carol Murray of the BC Co-operative Association and Joanna Buczkowska, University of Victoria Sauder School of Business Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will build on the knowledge gained through the initial phase of the project funding under the Social Economy CURA, exploring further depth into the conditions that support longevity and durability of co-operatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will provide an index of factors that contribute to the longevity of co-operatives that will allow for comparative studies between co-operatives and other forms of enterprise This index of factors will also be used to inform future co-operative development
Western	Co-operative Inquiry: Co-operatives and Marginalized Community in British Columbia	Dr. Ana Maria Peredo and Dr. Jo-Anne Lee, University of Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will examine the ways co-operatives are embedded in marginalized communities (focus on women of colour), how co-operatives are understood by these communities, what impacts co-operatives have on marginalized communities The project will explore concepts of oppression, intersectionality, historical context, and the ways in which marginalized communities interact with co-operatives and the community-based economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will map the community-based economies in British Columbia in relation to marginalized communities, while providing an assessment of co-operatives' relationship, value and limitations within these communities
Western	Co-operatives in British Columbia: Infrastructure Support	Dr. James Rowe and Dr. Ana Maria Peredo of the University of Victoria and John Restakis of the British Columbia Co-operative Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the factors that affect the success and viability of newly incorporated co-ops in BC Provide an understanding of the policies, initiatives, and legislation that support and encourage (or inhibit and discourage) the development of co-operatives in British Columbia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 'Best practices' and an understanding of networks and infrastructures that have worked elsewhere concerning infrastructure support and co-operative development Provide a thorough collections of steps that co-ops can take, individually and collectively, to build support for the co-operative sector at a variety of scales
Atlantic	Co-operative Sustainability and Planning Practices: Lessons from Consumer Co-operatives in Atlantic Canada (<i>changed from original title of Social Reporting in Co-operatives</i>)	Dr. Leslie Brown, MSVU, Dr. Elizabeth Hicks, MSVU, André Lelerc, Université de Moncton, Léo LeBlanc, Co-op Atlantic, Monique Bourque, Co-op Atlantic, and Roméo Cormier, Co-op	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to the theory and practice of Sustainability Accounting, Auditing and Reporting through implementation and collection of data from the Consumer Co-operative Sustainability Planning Scorecard tool (CCSPS). To recruit and assist Co-op Atlantic consumer co-operatives in test-piloting the tool; To assess the impacts of doing Sustainability Reporting on strategic planning within the co-op; To identify factors affecting take-up and ongoing engagement with sustainability accounting, auditing and reporting; To identify any "co-operative difference" as manifested in the CCSPS Reports; To use the information presented in the reports to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an aggregated picture of the performance & practices of retail co-operatives in the Atlantic region; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully developed and tested "Consumer Co-operative Sustainability and Planning Scorecard" – a social/ethical accounting, auditing and reporting tool for co-operatives; Creation and distribution of "Guide to Using the Consumer Co-operative Sustainability and Planning Scorecard"; Distribution of the tool and user guide on publicly accessible website; Minimum of 4 interactive workshops with interested co-operatives on how to use the tool; At least 4 presentations about the tool and its development at CASC and other conferences; Submission of at least 3 articles to journals or other publications, relating to the tool and its implementation; A "measurement panel" to be held at one CASC

		Atlantic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute to the effectiveness of Co-op Atlantic's member stores' governance, management planning, and control systems • To work with others who are interested in developing tools to further improve the CCSPS 	conference.
Atlantic	Co-op Index: Diagnosing co-operatives for member / employee participation & adherence to principles and values	Dr. Sonja Novkovic, SMU, Peter Hough, CWCF and Dr. Ryszard Stocki, National-Louis University, Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist co-operatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measure the extent to which they adhere to universally-recognized co-operative principles and values; - Measure the degree of participation that members experience in the management of the organization; - Measure and assess organizational effectiveness; - Diagnose areas for improvement and action. • To refine the Co-op Index diagnostic tool for worker co-ops, and expand the tool for other co-ops (e.g. producer co-ops); • To bring together experts and stakeholders from the various types of co-operatives to share experiences & expertise; • To teach co-op practitioners how to administer the Co-op Index tool to worker co-ops in their regions (domestic & international); • To analyze data from the Co-op Index to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How co-ops' adherence to ICA principles and values affects organizational performance and impacts wider community; - To what extent co-operative values are adhered to in everyday operations, and how co-ops can use this as a competitive strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Co-op Index diagnostic tool (automated report) available to the worker co-operative sector through CWCF • At least one more iteration of the tool made available to the co-operative community (e.g. Co-op Index for producer co-ops) • Workshops (domestic and international) led by project team members, teaching interested groups about the tool and how to use it • Research paper on the tool and its impacts; • Presentations about the tool at various conferences • Contributions to journals and other publications
Atlantic	Theoretical advances in economic and management models	Sonja Novkovic, SMU and Ryszard Stocki, National-Louis University, Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contribute to the literature on the theory of labour-managed and co-operative firms, based on the behaviour of co-operatives as observed in the course of the research of this CURA, using theoretical modelling and computer simulations • To explore and build on the theories developed in behavioural economics (Cory and Lynne, 2009), evolutionary economics (Nelson and Winter 1982), as well as organizational psychology and participatory management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two presentations at research conferences • Submission of at least 1 journal article • Material will be used for a new graduate course in economics of co-operatives and non-profit enterprises.