

About enp Canada (2012-2015)



ENP Canada ...the Journey and the Road Forward...

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

In 2012 a national network of independent organizations, dedicated to advancing Canada’s social enterprise sector, came together under an agreement funded by ESDC to create a national social enterprise capacity building network. Their purpose was simple, ***“To build sector and practitioner capacity by collectively designing and delivering training, resources and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations for the development and growth of social enterprises.”***

Represented by provincial and regional sector intermediaries with complementary history, expertise, assets and programs, the enp Canada affiliates embarked on a new approach for advancing this emerging way of doing business in the nonprofit sector. This new collective was represented by:

[Vancity Community Foundation](#) (British Columbia)

[Trico Foundation](#) (Alberta)

[CCEDNET](#) (Manitoba)

[Toronto Enterprise Fund](#) (Ontario)

[CISED](#) (Ontario)

[Le Chantier de l'économie sociale](#) (Quebec)

[Common Good Solutions](#) (Nova Scotia)

The national project structure reflected the need to have a regional perspective that could share best practices while keeping local priorities at the forefront of the work . Building on existing practices from enp BC, the affiliates quickly established a model and operating framework that resulted in the establishment of a national network, enp Canada. The following programs/projects represented each of the regional affiliates’ operations:

enp BC

enp Alberta

enp Manitoba

enp Toronto

enp Ottawa

Le Chantier de l'économie sociale (as an independent affiliate)

enp Nova Scotia

Over the course the three year project, the affiliate’s enp Canada work resulted in a number of positive outcomes.

Tools and resources

Innovative and practical capacity building tools were introduced to the sector through the enp program, setting a new standard for developing social enterprise skills. These supports

now help nonprofits across Canada to mature from organizational readiness and ideation to business plan execution.

New social enterprises participating in the market

Over 800 nonprofits directly benefitted from training and grants resulting in increased capacity for pre-launch, to start or enhance their existing enterprises. Hundreds more accessed other types of support through additional regional affiliate programming.

Stronger and more engaged social enterprise ecosystem

The maturing of the sector has increased awareness, broadened the range of stakeholders and led to increased investments and new resources, stories, a newsroom and communications about social enterprise.

Note: Many of the direct sector results are currently being researched and reported through the [National Social Enterprise Sector Study](#) conducted by Peter Elson, Mount Royal University and Peter Hall, Simon Fraser University and a number of the regional affiliates. This comprehensive sector report will be made available post April 2016...*stay tuned.*

So where to from here? The Road Ahead ...

As of January 1, 2016 the existing enp Canada program will transition into a new model of operating as the current program officially ends. The seven affiliates will continue their relationship and shared interest in the sector through the **Social Enterprise Community of Practice** (SECoP). They will continue to explore new ways to support the sector and deepen the understanding of each other's best approaches to advancing the ecosystem at a Regional level as well as Nationally. ***SECoP's purpose will be as follows - To use a practitioner lens to maintain, develop and nurture Canadian conversations about the skills and building tools needed to support successful social enterprises.***

Thank you!

Thank you to all our enp Canada partners and sector practitioners. Everyone is invited to stay engaged with them through this transition as they continue to work to build a stronger and more vibrant social enterprise sector.

Sincerely,

[Vancity Community Foundation](#) (British Columbia)

[Trico Foundation](#) (Alberta)

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