
Voices of Community Investment

Newsletter - March 2008



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Tele-Learning Session - March 12, 12:00 Eastern

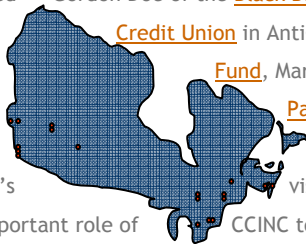
CCINC is kicking off the new year with its first tele-learning session on Thursday, March 6. Kellie Anderson of [Momentum](#) based in Calgary will speak on the subject, “Helping Borrowers Succeed”. To learn more and to sign up, [click here](#).

Mark your Calendars for the 3rd Annual AGM - May 28 at 12:00 pm EST

CCINC’s 3rd Annual AGM will integrate on-screen presentations and teleconferencing. By going electronic, all members can participate, and CCINC can focus its resources on delivering services that members have identified as priorities; tele-learning, regional workshops, research and development, and legislative change. Remember 12:00 pm Eastern Standard Time!

First Regional Meeting Held in Nova Scotia last September 2007

On September 21, 2007, CCINC organized a regional meeting in Halifax with managers of local funds. Those in attendance included Gordon Doe of the [Black Business Initiative](#) in Halifax, Sally van de Wiel of the [Bergengrin Credit Union](#) in Antigonish, Norman Greenberg representing the Andrew [Peacock Fund](#), Mark van de Wiel from the start-up fund under the [Greater Halifax Partnership](#), and Willy Robinson from [iNova Credit Union](#) in Dartmouth. The session started with a [presentation](#) of what CCINC’s vision, mission and goals are. Participants re-emphasized the important role of CCINC to facilitate discussion, share best practice (and even bad practice), coordinate training, and to lead research and development. Participants also identified tele-learning ideas: pre-and post care; credit union and non-profit partnering; getting to your target population; measuring success; and expanding your programs. Participant evaluations gave a big thumbs up so we are making this part of our service!



Regional meeting planned for Ottawa, April 28

Since the first regional meeting was such a great success we are planning to have another in Ottawa on April 28th, so if you know of anyone from that region who could benefit from an association such as ours let them know. We will be sending out an invitation for the meeting in March.

Catherine Ludgate joins CCINC Board

Catherine is the manager of community business programs at [Vancity Credit Union](#). In this role, Catherine works with a staff team to deliver information services, one-on-one advisory supports, and a range of financial services to micro-enterprises, social enterprises and to individuals lifting themselves out of poverty. Before joining Vancity in March 2006, Catherine spent her entire working career in the voluntary sector, and most recently was the Director of the IMPACS Communications Centre, a social enterprise focused on building the capacity of the sector to use social marketing, media and communications tools. She is regularly consulted on issues of developing and growing social enterprises. Catherine serves on the boards of the CCINC, CCEC credit union, and the Global Youth Education Network.





Board hires experienced community investor as ED

Seth Asimakos has stepped down as one of the founding board members of CCINC to step up as the new Executive Director. Seth brings a social entrepreneurs spirit to the job from 10 years experience as the founding manager of the [Saint John Community Loan Fund](#) (Saint John CLF). The Saint John CLF has made over 150 loans from a loan pool built from community investors. It has delivered financial literacy training to more than 300 participants and is currently renovating a 3 unit building for its office and some affordable housing. All of this started with a trip to look at the [Montreal Community loan Association](#) in 1998. Seth will take the next 6 months to properly transition from the Saint John CLF to the ED of CCINC. He looks forward to developing CCINC as the leader in community investment in Canada, by sharing best practice, facilitating training, leading research and development and working with government to create a friendlier legislative environment.

Christen Webb is Seth's first hiring and will act as the Executive Assistant. Christen brings office and database management work experience from the contact centre industry and providing support to a couple of small businesses. She also has extensive experience as a volunteer trainer and coordinator with [Junior Achievement](#), having delivered each in school training program JA has, and also coordinating the school program in Hampton, NB. Christen looks forward to working full time in the enterprising non-profit sector.



Sector Development—Causeway Initiative

CCINC participated in two meetings last fall organized by [Causeway](#). Causeway is a national discussion to accelerate the growth of social finance options for charities and community organizations. Causeway is hosted by Tides Canada. Board members Seth Asimakos and Beth Coates each attended one of the two meetings. The [report](#) on the first meeting provides a good summary of the meeting and holds some of the recommendations made by CCINC.

Research—Social Economy and financing

Seth Asimakos the new ED of CCINC and Peter Hough ([Tenacity Works](#)), CCINC's Chair, are leading one of the research projects under the [Atlantic Node of the Social Economy Research Suite](#). The research will focus on financing of social economy organizations in two communities in Atlantic Canada—one rural and one urban. We will continue to update you on progress.



Borrower stories—from our membership

Securigarde II is a security guard service that works with commercial retail stores and was created by Lancine Kane (in uniform) a young immigrant. It employs other young immigrants who have completed their studies as security agents. Lancine is shown here showing off new uniforms purchased with a loan from the Montreal Community Loan Association.



Questions or comments, email us at loanfund@nbnet.nb.ca or call 506-636-8542.