



THE SOCIAL ECONOMY INITIATIVE OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

HUGH MAYNARD
SOCIAL ECONOMY
CONSULTANT



Québec is considered a world leader in the social economy, and SEEnet is making sure that English speakers in the province benefit from all that leadership and experience in developing their local communities through social enterprise.



ABOUT US

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

SEEnet empowers Québec's English-speaking communities to build upon their vitality and creativity. By working with local talent and expertise, we help communities flourish.

SEEnet is building a network that will increase the participation of Québec's English speakers in the social solidarity economy. As the social-economy initiative of the Regional Development Network (RDN)—a collective of 18 regional organizations serving English-speaking communities in Québec—SEEnet is mobilizing resources so these communities can face socio-economic challenges with entrepreneurial approaches, active participation, and purposeful solutions.

OUR SERVICES

PROJECT CONSULTATION · WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS · NETWORK BUILDING ·
SOCIAL ECONOMY MENTORSHIP-INTERNSHIP (SEMI) PROGRAM · RESOURCE DIRECTORY

FOR MORE INFORMATION

seenet@regdevnet.ca · see-net.ca



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MOVING FROM MARGINS TO MAINSTREAM

Built on economic, social, cultural, and environmental objectives, the social solidarity economy rebalances the priorities of economic development with a focus on the value of people over profits. And while Québec is a world leader in the social solidarity economy, English-speaking communities in the province have been less involved.

SEEnet offers services and programs to meet these economic, social, and environmental goals within Québec's English-speaking communities.

ADVANCING INNOVATIVE IDEAS

SEEnet strategically mobilizes community knowledge, leverages available resources, and builds capacity for English-speaking communities to implement innovative projects. We offer workshops, consultations, and mentoring to both cooperatives and not-for-profit organizations for long-term growth. By building strong connections and province-wide partnerships, SEEnet helps advance innovative projects that increase economic and social opportunities within English-speaking communities.



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HISTORY

On December 2, 2021, the Regional Development Network (RDN) launched its social economy initiative, SEEnet—the Social Solidarity Economy English-Speaking Network.

With financial support from the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois de l'expression anglaise (SRQEA) and in partnership with the Coopérative de développement régional du Québec (CDRQ), RDN undertook a two-year effort to raise awareness and access to knowledge about the potential and possibilities of the social economy in English-speaking communities and to develop a service model that will engage these communities in creating meaningful employment opportunities that contribute to sustainable economic development and enhance community vitality. RDN is committed to building strong connections and province-wide partnerships to help English speakers get involved in Québec's vibrant social economy ecosystem.

SEEnet offers a workshop program, consultations, internships, mentoring, and networking opportunities to both cooperatives and not-for-profit organizations for long-term growth.

Since our launch, we've done the following:

- Developed and offered a series of online workshops on topics related to starting and running social enterprises
- Offered one-on-one consultations with nearly 20 organizations and groups on their social economy projects
- Hired a second social economy officer (for a total of one full-time and one part-time officer)
- Launched the Social Economy Mentorship–Internship program in April 2022 with ongoing monthly placements

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THE SOCIAL ECONOMY INITIATIVE OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

FACTS

Social economy enterprises play an important role in the economic and social vitality of Québec's regions where their number per capita is proportionally higher than elsewhere.

**\$47.8
BILLION**

Québec has about 11 000 social economy enterprises that generate nearly \$47.8 billion in annual revenue and employ almost 220 000 individuals.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

75% COOP/MUTUAL-BENEFIT SOCIETIES

25% NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

39% > 30 years

35% 16–30 years

Social economy enterprises are in business for the long-term with 39% having been in action for more than 30 years and 35% between 16 and 30 years.

Source: <https://chantier.qc.ca/discover-social-economy/definition/?lang=en>

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ABOUT RDN

Founded in 2019, the Regional Development Network (RDN) is a provincial non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing socio-economic development for English-speaking communities across the province of Québec. Supported by a network of regional English-language organizations, RDN collaborates with federal and provincial governments and municipalities as a way to represent its network's needs and challenges and to create projects and partnerships.

RDN's mission is to enhance and maintain the vitality of regional English-speaking communities in Québec by supporting network members to work collaboratively for their socio-economic development.

**VIVIANA
FERNANDEZ**
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
ADVISOR, CDRQ

“ I see RDN as a connector, an organization that knows and listens to people and communities within the social-economic space. As Malcolm Gladwell, author of *The Tipping Point* has put it, a “connector is someone who knows an impressive number of people,” more people than the average person knows. I see RDN as a positive leverage on sustainability, shared identity, equity, and collaboration for English-speaking communities in Québec. RDN connects people with people, financial resources, mentors, advisors, and government resources. ”

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THE TEAM

CATHY BROWN Executive Director

Cathy became the executive director of RDN in August 2020. A graduate of CEGEP de la Gaspésie et des Îles, she began working at Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) in 2001. She served in various positions before stepping into the role of executive director from 2008 until 2020. During her tenure, she led a significant expansion of program activities and service delivery for the benefit of the English-speaking communities along the Gaspé coast, particularly in the areas of health and social services, employment, and economic development (tourism). She has also served on various provincial boards and committees, including the Provincial Access to Health and Social Services committee, and she is a founding board member of the Provincial Employment Roundtable (PERT). ed@regdevnet.ca · 581-398-4098

OLIVIA CHAMPAGNE Social Economy Officer

Olivia has been an active participant in Québec's social solidarity economy for over half a decade. During this time, she has had the opportunity to work or serve on the board of directors of over a dozen nonprofits and cooperatives. Olivia is passionate about building collective capacity and excels at supporting the entrepreneurial process, organizational development, and project management. Olivia studied community economic development and business administration at the graduate level at Concordia University as well as environmental studies and economics as an undergraduate at the University of Victoria. olivia@regdevnet.ca · 250-532-5253

HOFFMAN WOLFF Social Economy Officer

Hoffman joined RDN with years of experience working with Québec City's English-speaking community, having served as the assistant executive director of the Morrin Centre and the president of Voice of English-speaking Québec. He's also worked as a project coordination consultant with several branches of the provincial government including the SAAQ, the RAMQ, and the CNESST. A native of North Carolina, he received his Global Business MBA from Laval University and his undergraduate degree from Roanoke College. hoffman@regdevnet.ca · 418-684-8810

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THE SOCIAL ECONOMY INITIATIVE OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

HUGH MAYNARD Social Economy Consultant

Hugh is a consulting specialist and owner of Qu'anglo Communications and Consulting, based in Ormstown, Québec, an enterprise with a focus on communications, strategic and organizational planning, and development initiatives for rural communities. He is a registered coach for social enterprise and social finance with Innoweave and acts as publisher of *The Gleaner*, a biweekly community newspaper serving the Chateauguay Valley region. He has held numerous executive positions with provincial organizations representing the English-speaking community of Québec. In the course of his professional activities, Hugh has travelled extensively across Canada and the United States, as well as to South and Central America, Europe, Russia, Ukraine, China, South Korea, New Zealand, and western and southern Africa. hugh@quanglo.ca · 877-782-6456 ext. 704

JENNY MONTGOMERY Network Communications Officer

Jenny joined the RDN team in February 2022. Before that, she was the deputy editor of *Photo Life* and *Photo Solution* magazines, where she worked for almost a decade. Originally from the United States, she has lived in Québec since 2009. When she's not at RDN, you'll probably find her working on a theatre project. She's also a director and playwright, and she serves on the board of the Théâtre Le Trident. A member of the Literary Translators Association of Canada, she has more than ten years of experience as a professional translator. jenny@regdevnet.ca · 418-684-8810

PRESS

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