



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 economy. As the social-economy initiative of the Regional Development Network (RDN)—a collective of 19 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 SUPPORT · PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS · NETWORK BUILDING ·  
SOCIAL ECONOMY MENTORSHIP-INTERNSHIP PROGRAM · RESOURCE DIRECTORY

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[seenet@regdevnet.ca](mailto:seenet@regdevnet.ca) · [see-net.ca](http://see-net.ca)



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## MOVING FROM MARGINS TO MAINSTREAM

Built on economic, social, cultural, and environmental objectives, the social 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 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 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 initiative 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. The program was renewed for another two years. RDN is 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, project support, 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 and in-person workshops on topics related to starting and running social enterprises
- Offered one-on-one consultations with more than 35 organizations and groups on their social economy projects
- Launched the Social Economy Mentorship–Internship program in April 2022
- Started the SEEnet Ambassador program in June 2023 to help promote the social economy among English-speaking communities and to identify potential projects for development

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## 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%** CO-OP/MUTUAL-BENEFIT SOCIETIES

**25%** NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

**39%** > 30 years

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

**35%** 16–30 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 nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing socio-economic development for English-speaking communities across the province of Québec. Supported by a network of 19 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](mailto:ed@regdevnet.ca) · 581-398-4098

### **HOFFMAN WOLFF** Social Economy Manager

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](mailto:hoffman@regdevnet.ca) · 418-684-8810

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**HELENA BURKE** Manager of Regional Development

Helena joined the RDN team in January 2023. She began her career in community development in 2006 as a coordinator at the Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI) and then became the executive director in 2007. During her tenure at CAMI, Helena led community strategic planning and visioning exercises, built and nurtured vital relationships (both government and non-government), and leveraged significant financial and human resources needed to implement key programs and services for the English-speaking community (ESC) across sectors. Helena was a leader in implementing the social economy concept in the Islands' ESC and was successful in developing community businesses including culinary services, respite daycare services, and a social housing initiative. [helena@regdevnet.ca](mailto:helena@regdevnet.ca) · 418-937-6085

**KIM HARRISON** Programs Manager

Kim Harrison joined the RDN team in September 2023 and has been involved in community development for over two decades. She began her career as a coordinator for the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) and shortly thereafter moved into the role of executive director where she provided effective leadership and ensured the growth of the organization. Departing CASA in 2008, she continued to work in the sector with organizations such as the Quebec Community Groups Network and the Gaspesian British Heritage Centre. Returning to CASA in 2017, Kim worked as development officer and interim executive director. [kim@regdevnet.ca](mailto:kim@regdevnet.ca) · 581-886-6663

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**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](mailto:jenny@regdevnet.ca) · 418-684-8810

**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](mailto:hugh@quanglo.ca) · 877-782-6456 ext. 704

## PRESS

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Secrétariat aux relations  
avec les Québécois  
d'expression anglaise



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