



# Communiqué

## President's Report

Linda Bell, BSW/RSW

First off, let me make a confession. This newsletter was originally going to be published as our Spring 2006 newsletter. Well, here we are into June, so I finally broke down and put "Summer 2006" on the draft I presented our Board. What the heck happened? Life, that what! We get so busy – all my colleagues and the people I know who work in community development are all out there trying to accomplish so many things..and when you have a goal of saving the world like so many of us do, it can be hard to give yourself permission to stop. Recently I had the

opportunity to attend a luncheon hosted by the Saskatoon Women's Network, and learned some wonderful lessons from the guest speaker, Pat Katz. If you have the chance, I urge you to hear her speak. She sends a simple but powerful message of slowing down in this crazymaking world. You can also check out her website: <http://www.pauseworks.com/>

I hope you enjoy our newsletter and consider becoming a member of CDSS. There is a lot of excitement in the air about our upcoming Annual

Conference in Regina this November. We are also pleased to be offering a workshop on Community Development, of which you will read more about in the newsletter.

As three of our board members prepare to head to the CDS International Conference in St. Louis, excited about our own chance to host this event in 2008 is beginning to build. We have an active Steering Committee – if you would like to be involved in this monumental undertaking, contact Kathie Cram (655.5383).

## Centre for the Study of Co-operatives Awarded Major New Research Funding

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The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan has been awarded \$1.75 million from the federal Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to study social enterprises. It is the largest SSHRC grant in the university's history, attesting to the high regard in which the centre has come to be held by major funding agencies.

The research team, led by Lou Hammond Ketilson, director of the centre, will investigate how social economy enterprises help

build more respectful relationships within communities, with the environment, and among stakeholders. Such enterprises include not-for-profits, co-operatives, community economic development organizations, community-based organizations, and other voluntary-sector initiatives.

The social economy is part of our sense of place, our history of working together for the common good through co-operatives, volunteerism, and other community initiatives. The

project is intended to advance understanding of this little-studied area of the Canadian economy, assist policy makers, and bolster student awareness of how social enterprises can be a yardstick for corporate social responsibility and for holistic thinking incorporating the full costs and benefits of alternative approaches to service provision.

The project, titled "Linking, Learning, Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities,"



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### Book Review

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## Pragmatics of Community Organization

By Bill Lee, reviewed by Susan Sebo

I was introduced to this book at my first community development class at the University of Regina.

As we studied each chapter I became more and more excited about community development.

This easy to read and understand book takes you step by step through the community development process.

Pre-entry – contact with sponsoring body  
Contact / Engagement –

learning about community and vice versa  
Community Analysis –  
Community image building  
Organizational Development – building organizations and good relationships  
Popular Education –  
Keeping the organizations going, who/what/where how and why. What next?  
Ending – Saying goodbye.  
Letting people get on with the work

This book is a valuable resource for those who are interested in community

development and a reference for those who already practice it. Ask at your local book store for a copy.

## Centre for the Study of Co-operatives Awarded Major New Research Funding (cont'd from page 1)

is part of a five-year national study of social economy enterprises. Participating universities, co-operatives, and other partners have committed in-kind contributions of \$4.7 million, for a project total of \$6.45 million. The project includes almost \$1 million in student funding, topped up by \$100,000 from the university's Research Services Office. Over the course of the project, this will support thirteen graduate and fifteen undergraduate students, as well as provide funds for twenty-two summer research assistantships and an additional twenty-three stipends for students working in community-based placements on specific research issues.

"Our proposal was successful because it is

interdisciplinary and based on innovative university-community partnerships," said Ketilson, an associate professor of management and marketing. "We have an exceptional project team, as well as strong and growing links with community and co-operative leaders, managers, and employees to work with our academic researchers." The project will be co-ordinated through the centre and the Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), another Saskatoon-based research unit.

The research involves twenty-four academics from ten disciplines and twelve universities, as well as thirty-three community partners and other national and international

organizations across British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, northern Ontario, and the US.

The centre is just winding down another national study on co-operatives, "Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Market Relations." Faculty and staff are thrilled to be engaged in this new initiative on the social economy. For further information, check out the centre's website at [www.usaskstudies.coop](http://www.usaskstudies.coop).

— Nora Russell

Are you interested in Community Development? Would you like to gain an understanding of this holistic and dynamic way of working with communities?

The **Community Development Society of Saskatchewan** is offering 1-day workshops in Community Development Basics.

**Topics include:**

- Definition – an understanding of what Community Development is.
- Getting at the root causes – upstream vs. downstream approaches
- Ways of Doing Community Development
- Traditional vs. Community Development Programming

We are offering these workshops to groups in communities all across Saskatchewan. For more information contact Kathie Cram at: 655-5383 or Linda Bell at 956-6147.

**See article below for a testimonial of our workshop!**



## My Workshop Experience:



I attended the recent workshop sponsored by the Community Network Coalition on the topic of Community Development. We have been developing a volunteer program at Riverside Community School for the past few years and 4 of our volunteers attended the workshop with me.

Please pass on our thanks to the presenters. The

volunteers really enjoyed the day and were very excited to learn so many things about what they have been doing. They kept saying "Oh, this is what we are doing!" The workshop really helped them see the value and importance of the work they are doing and put it in context.

The presenters were very knowledgeable and their material was easy to follow. It was nice to have so much information to

take with us. We will be teaching the other volunteers some of the methods and principles we learned at the workshop.

Thanks again for such an informative presentation. Good luck with your upcoming conference.

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## CDSS Annual Conference

# Communities Embracing Diversity

Watch for the upcoming CDSS Annual Conference, scheduled for November 2nd and 3rd 2006, at the Delta Regina Hotel.

The conference theme focuses on the community development

issues arising from diversity, as related to culture and ethnicity. The two day conference will explore the opportunities and challenges of these diverse characteristics.

The conference will begin on Thursday Nov. 2 at noon. The

program includes key note speaker, workshops, and an evening program, followed by more workshops on Friday morning. The conference will conclude at noon on Friday Nov. 3, 2006.

## About CDSS

*CDSS is dedicated to promoting awareness and understanding of the community development Principles of Good Practice, processes, concepts and issues.*

*CDSS provides opportunities for volunteers and professionals involved in community development to increase their capacity for developing community leadership.*

CDSS is a non profit organization located in Saskatchewan with a provincial Board of Directors elected by its membership at its annual general meeting held in November. Professionals and volunteers with an interest in community development principles and processes are invited to become members of CDSS.

Community developers volunteer and are employed in a wide variety of settings including Health Districts, Social Services, Community Agencies, Education, Aboriginal, Agriculture, Businesses and Financial Institutions from both urban and rural settings within Saskatchewan.

CDSS was founded as a chapter of the International Community Development Society (CDS) following the 1991 Annual International Conference of CDS held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. We are excited to announce a return of the International Conference in Saskatoon in 2008. Watch our website for details!

