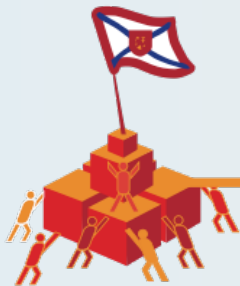


Education for Co-operation: Curriculum and the Co-operative Model in Nova Scotia's Secondary and Post-secondary Educational Institutions

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Co-operating to Build a Better Nova Scotia

Coopérons pour une Nouvelle-Écosse meilleure

Session 2.2, Nov. 23, 2012

“Co-operation is a craft that must be learned”

Richard Sennett, 2012

Together: The Rituals, Pleasures and Politics of Cooperation

Goals of the Presentation

- To provide an overview of the secondary and post-secondary education opportunities available for learning about co-operatives and co-operation in Nova Scotia. (to be updated by folks in the room today!)
- To generate ideas and recommendations for building on the existing base of co-operative education in Nova Scotia.
- To suggest the possibility of co-operation within and among the educational institutions of N.S.

Sources & Types of Information (1)

Secondary Education Institutions

“A Snapshot of Social Economy Content in Canadian Senior Secondary Schools” Sarah Amyot et al. (2010)

- Calls attention to current “gaps” regarding the representation of the social economy in Canadian secondary schools, and indicates potential areas of integrating social economy content into the curriculum.
- Concludes that education is vital to the process of creating a strong environment for the co-operative sector.

Today I draw on this report’s findings for Nova Scotia.

Sources & Types of Information (2)

Post-secondary Education Institutions

1. “University teaching of Co-operative Business Management and Philosophy in Canadian Universities”, Cheryl Lans, BCICS (2005)

- The first comprehensive study of co-operatives education since 1967, this study highlights the fact that more universities are teaching about cooperatives today and over a wider variety of faculties.
- However, the increase in number of universities offering courses does not necessarily indicate greater depth and scope, as “most post-secondary students are very ignorant about co-operatives and co-operative thought” (p. 63).
- She presents an argument for partnership and collaboration.

My presentation highlights key findings from this report in relation to universities in Nova Scotia.

Sources & Types of Information (3)

Post-secondary Education Institutions

“Integrating Cooperatives into the Business School Curriculum”, Christina Clamp, ACE Conference, Montreal (2012)

- Clamp reports on programmes offering courses on co-operatives in post-secondary institutions in Canada and the US.
- She calls for co-operatives to see themselves as partners with universities in the learning process, suggesting that they host interns, promote service learning, and support research on co-operatives and co-operation.

Today I draw on her findings regarding universities in N. S.
We updated this to the best of our ability, and welcome further information!

Education for Co-operation: Secondary Schools in NS

- **Key player**: the Nova Scotia Department of Education
- Amyot et al searched for **SE indicators** (keywords) in the policies, desired outcomes, and in selected courses offered in the province
- Noted curriculum supplement for grade 9 classrooms: **Community Economic Development** - emphasizes Nova Scotia's "*unique history of dealing with economic issues that challenge communities*", and encourages students "*to get involved in the development of their own communities*" (p. 71).
- Identified **synergies** between curricular and course goals and the value of teaching about the social economy.
- Recommended **integrating SE materials** throughout the curriculum. Emphasized business, entrepreneurship, social studies, and career/work transitions planning.
- **Work placements** in co-operatives and other SE organizations is also encouraged.

Education for Co-operation: Secondary Schools in NS

The study by Amyot, et al. (2010) on N.S. secondary school curriculums highlighted the main courses within which keywords reflective of SE concepts, principles and values are found, and teaching could take place:

Rank	Course	Rank	Course
1	Global History 12	6	African Canadian Studies 11
2	Canadian Economy 11	7	African Canadian Studies 11
3	Global Geography 12	8	Business Management 12
4	Entrepreneurship 12	9	Electro-technology 11 & 12
5	Tourism	10	Energy, Power & Technology 11 & 12

Adapted from: A Snapshot of Social Economy Content in Canadian Senior Secondary Schools, Amyot, et al. (2010, p. 78)

Key points: These courses comprise general aspects of the social economy; There are no ‘stand alone’ course(s) on co-operatives or the broader SE, but there are many opportunities exist to integrate education on co-operatives and co-operation.

Education for Co-operation: Post-Secondary Institutions

School	Co-operatives courses	Individual programmes	Discipline	# of faculty	Research activity
Acadia University	No Aspects at the Undergraduate and Graduate	No	Environment and Sustainability Studies; Community Development	<5	Not aware of any
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses include: Environment and Sustainable Society; Sustainable Community Development; Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainability • Key Contacts/Course Leaders: Glyn Bissix, John Colton, Alan Warner 					
Cape Breton University	Yes Undergraduate / Graduate level	No	Business	<5	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course: Business and Community Development; Social Entrepreneurship; Marketing for Non-profit Organisations • Key Contacts/Course Leaders: George Karaphillis and Catherine Leviten-Reid 					
Dalhousie University	No Aspects at the Undergraduate level	No	Agriculture	<5	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some research is being done in the area of agrarian movements (and present-day co-operatives and policy) in the Rural Research Centre, Faculty of Agriculture • Course: Rural Community Economic Development • Key Contacts/Course Leaders: Greg Cameron 					

School	Co-operatives courses	Individual programmes	Discipline	# of faculty	Research activity
Mount Saint Vincent University	No Aspects at the Undergraduate level	No	Sociology/ Anthropology	<5	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses include: Organizations in Society; Work in Society and Culture • Potential exists for co-operative accounting course to be offered in Business and Tourism 					
Nova Scotia Community College	No	No	--	--	Not aware of any
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently preparing a course to be offered as part of the business department (2012) • Contact person is Ron Robichaud 					
Saint Francis Xavier University	No Aspect in certificate and diploma courses. Coady Institute	No	Community Economic Development; International Dev'mt	<5	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of certificate and diploma, and courses include: Antigonish Movement Principles; Co-operative Movements; Community Organizations; Community-Based Microfinance; Livelihoods and Markets 					
Saint Mary's University	Yes Graduate	Yes Masters/ Diploma	Business: Mgmt & Economics	>5 on campus + distance faculty	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs: Master of Management (MMCCU); Graduate Diploma • Courses include: Economic analysis of co-operative firms; Co-operatives & Globalization; Co-operatives & the Social Economy; Research: Journal of Co-operative Accounting and Reporting • Key Contacts/Course Leaders:: Karen Miner, Larry Haiven, Sonja Nokovic, Daphne Rixon <p>** Université Sainte-Anne – no information in the sources used</p>					

Key Findings

- Under-representation of education about co-operatives and co-operation in secondary and post-secondary education institutions in Nova Scotia.
- The schools and universities do not teach enough about the history, characteristics, current and potential contributions of co-operatives.
- The secondary educational sector displays much unrealized potential for teaching about co-operatives and co-operation.
- A critical mass of post-secondary faculty and students are keen on co-operating to educate about co-operatives. Colleagues in Atlantic Canada as well.
- Co-operative sector has a crucial role to playing in advancing and promoting learning and research.

Thank-you!

Merci!

**To update this information for your
institution please contact**

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References:

Amyot, Sarah, Annie McKittrick, Janel Smith, Sarah Cormode, Melissa Fong. 2010. “A Snapshot of Social Economy Content in Canadian Senior Secondary Schools”. Working Paper for the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnership, University of Victoria.

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Clamp, Christina. 2012. “Integrating Cooperatives into the Business School Curriculum”, presented at the Association of Co-operative Educators Conference, Montreal

Lans, Cheryl. 2005. “University teaching of co-operative business management and philosophy in Canadian universities” British Columbia Institute of Co-operative Studies, University of Victoria
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