



Release

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For Immediate Release

Subject: Launch of the International Forum on the Social and Solidarity Economy

The Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) is proud to be partner today in the launch of the International Forum on the Social and Solidarity Economy, to be held from October 17 to 20, 2011 at the Palais des congrès in Montréal.

The social and solidarity economy complements the public and private sectors. It is made up of collective enterprises engaged in the production of goods and services in the public interest. In other words, the social and solidarity economy includes all non-profit organizations, cooperatives, mutual companies and associations. The activities of these organizations are based on values of solidarity and democracy and they contribute both to social well-being and economic growth.

An enabling public policy and program environment is needed for the social and solidarity economy to be able to develop and deliver to its fullest capacity. In an enabling environment, the social and solidarity economy can become an engine for development and play an increasingly important role in meeting needs that are not adequately addressed by the public or private economy. The social and solidarity economy is one of the responses to the current economic crisis, both for Southern and Northern countries.

The Forum will serve as a crossroads of people and ideas, seeking to strengthen partnerships and between civil society organizations and governments to support the social and solidarity economy in participating countries. All the activities in which participants will take part will be facilitated using a participatory and interactive approach, in the spirit of co-construction and dialogue.

Incorporated in 1999, the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) is a member-driven not for-profit charitable organization made up of community-based organizations, co-operatives, social enterprises, and other organizations involved in community economic development (CED) across the country.

CCEDNet members lead local action to create economic opportunities and improve social conditions, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged. CED is an approach recognizing that economic, environmental, and social challenges are interdependent, complex, and ever changing and that effective solutions are rooted in local knowledge and led by community members.

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Forum website:

<http://www.fiess2011.org>