



The Hon. Mélanie Joly, MP, PC
Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages
Employment and Social Development Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

6 March 2020

Minister Joly,

On behalf of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet), we would like to belatedly congratulate you on your re-election and your appointment as Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages.

CCEDNet is a national association of community organizations, co-operatives, credit unions, foundations, municipalities and citizens working to enhance the social, economic and environmental conditions of Canada's communities. We have members in all regions of Canada, including urban, rural, northern and Indigenous community settings.

Our members are innovation leaders for building inclusive economies. From the first community loan fund in Canada, to the first community development corporation, the dynamic co-operative and social enterprise sectors and many more, CCEDNet members are at the forefront of creative solutions to equitable growth. One of CCEDNet's leading members, the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), is a prime example of innovative leadership, bringing together public, private and civil society sectors to enhance economic activity that benefits communities, especially Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs).

In particular, our members are well placed to support your mandate to create worker transition centres offering skills development initiatives and community diversification activities.

Through the last term of your Government, Innovation, Science and Economic Development actively supported the development of a Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy for Canada, led by Employment and Social Development Canada. The landmark report produced by the Co-Creation Steering Group, *Inclusive Innovation*, is an invaluable roadmap to the new thinking and approaches needed to tackle Canada's most complex social and economic challenges.

While the SI/SF strategy is not mentioned among your mandate priorities, it has always been positioned as a cross-departmental initiative. ISED and the Regional Development Agencies, as regional convenors of federal departments and agencies, have an especially important role to play. We strongly encourage you to continue supporting the advancement of the SI/SF agenda, as part of the following steps:

- **Ensure a level playing field for social enterprises:** Expand the capacity and access to existing small and medium enterprise services through the Canadian Business Network and other federal business development programs to enhance business supports and readiness for investment by social enterprises and co-operatives.
- **Adapt Innovation Incubators:** The creation of tailored innovation incubators and labs on priority social issues (such as community renewable energy, population aging, social inclusion) would accelerate social innovation and the creation of social enterprises and co-operatives focused on social impact across Canada.
- **Support Community Investment Funds:** Based on the proven success of Nova Scotia's Community Economic Development Investment Funds, five provinces now have CED investment and tax credit programs, and communities across the country are organizing to redirect capital to local needs. However, these programs can be undersubscribed due to a lack of technical expertise and capacity among community leaders. A program to leverage existing expertise and transfer knowledge would dramatically increase subscription rates and corresponding inclusive economic growth opportunities.
- **Create OLMC Intangible Economy Investment Fund:** Create an OLMC Intangible Economy Investment Fund (IELF) to drive enhanced, future-oriented economic activity, innovation and productivity that would benefit Official Language Minority Communities across Canada. The IELF would be used to catalyze and leverage companion investments to: a) build, expand, and scale-up forward-looking businesses in the intangible economy; b) improve the availability of jobs in the knowledge economy and get people ready to take on these jobs; c) expand involvement in local, regional, national, and global knowledge supply chains and trade, and ; d) leverage investment dollars from other public, private and civil society partners.
- **Invest in Knowledge Transfer:** Adapt Québec's program for OLTIS (organisations de liaison et de transfert en innovation social) to create pan-Canadian social innovation knowledge transfer centres such as the TIESS.

We request a meeting for an opportunity to discuss our recommendations further and look forward to working with you so that the efforts of our members can help make Canada a more prosperous, inclusive, sustainable and innovative country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laurie Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laurie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Cook".

Laurie Cook
President, CCEDNet

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marianne Jurzynec". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Marianne" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Jurzynec".

Marianne Jurzynec
Chair, CCEDNet Policy Council

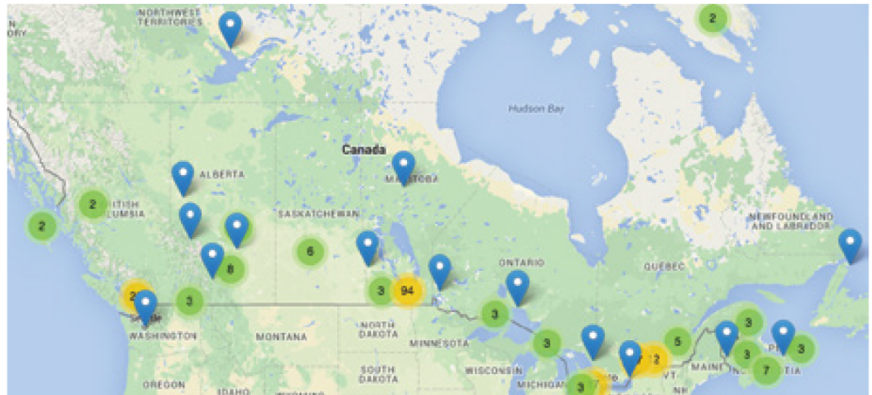


**Canadian
CED Network**
Réseau canadien
de DÉC

About the Canadian CED Network

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, practitioners, active citizens, researchers, and other organizations involved in community economic development (CED). Throughout Canada, CCEDNet members are helping local residents take action to build healthy, inclusive and vibrant places by creating economic opportunities that improve social and environmental conditions.

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<p>Promoting Community Economic Development</p> <p>Le promotion du développement économique communautaire</p>	<p>Strengthening Canada's Communities Des communautés plus fortes au Canada</p>	<p>The Canadian CED Network Le Réseau canadien de DÉC</p>	<p>Community economic development (CED) is action by people locally to create economic opportunities and better social conditions, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged.</p> <p>Le développement économique communautaire (DÉC) est une approche locale visant à créer des débouchés économiques et de meilleures conditions sociales, en particulier pour les personnes et les groupes les plus défavorisés.</p>
			<p>www.ccednet-rcdec.ca</p>