

NUNAVUT SOCIAL ECONOMY

SUMMER 2009

A CLOSER LOOK AT REPULSE BAY

RESEARCHER TO STUDY ROLE OF
CO-OP IN SOCIAL ECONOMY

Repulse Bay residents interested in the social economy can get involved with a related research project this summer.

Jen Alsop, a researcher from Carleton University in Ottawa, will visit this August to work on her project called "The Role of Co-operative Enterprise in the Social Economy of Repulse Bay, Nunavut."

"I hope to learn about the role the Naujat Co-op plays within the larger community of Repulse, as well as its contribution to the social economy," she said. "I'll be spending a month in Repulse Bay, interviewing officials and stakeholders in the operations of the Naujat Co-operative, as well as seeking information on businesses and associations in town."

Alsop will be asking questions about formal and informal business activity, capital planning and construction, relations between the various levels of government, and the level of country food harvesting and sharing in town.

The research project came about in cooperation with the Naujat Co-op and Arctic Co-operatives, according to Alsop. Residents can also contact John Kaufmann at Naujat Co-op for more information.

REPULSE CONT. PAGE 3

PRESERVING HISTORY

POND INLET LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS
COMMUNITY HISTORY



Francois Koonark looks at historical photographs in the Rebecca P. Idlout Public Library in Pond Inlet.

With over two decades under its belt, the Pond Inlet Library and Archives Society continues to thrive with dedicated staff and volunteers.

"Things change from year to year, but we've managed to sustain this board for 20 years, which we're really proud of," said community archivist Philippa Ootoowak. The social economy group, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last November, has a two-part mandate: to support programs and activities at Pond Inlet's Rebecca P. Idlout

Library, and employ a staff member for the small but growing archives there.

The library board's roots date back to the 1980s, with the establishment of the community library. Over the years the librarian, using funds raised by the library board, collected rare and out-of-print books relating to the north, and photographs of local historical interest, as a way to attract more attention to the library.

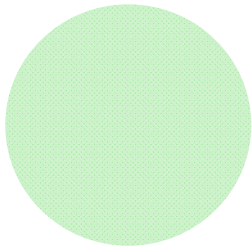
In 1993, the board

ARCHIVES CONT. PAGE 2



Above: A 1973 community newsletter which is now a part of the Pond Inlet Archives' collection.

Right: Gisa Inuaraq (left), vice president of the Pond Inlet Library and Archives Society, stands with community archivist Philippa Ootoowak.



ARCHIVES CONT. FROM PAGE 1

In 1993, the board began actively searching for photos of the area from the National and Hudson's Bay Archives and purchased several copies.

"(The archives) grew alongside the library and literacy programs," Ootoowak said. "More recently we realized that the job description of the local librarian did not include the care of rare northern books or the archival collections, and we wanted to make sure that they would be preserved for future generations."

In 2008, the board changed its name to the Pond Inlet Library and Archives Society, to reflect its dual mandate and to bring more attention to the archives. Located in the Nattin-nak Centre, which also houses the Visitor's Centre, the society's archives attracts

interest from cruise ship passengers as well as local residents and visiting researchers. Their interests vary from past explorers and Inuit culture to the environment and climate change in the area.

Local elders enjoy relating stories about their memories of the photographs and explaining relationships to the younger family members. Textual materials such as "Suvugug" (the local newspaper of the 1970s) and oral history audio visual tapes are also of much interest. "We are very aware that knowledge is being lost as elders pass on and there is an urgent need to record and preserve as much information as we can now," Ootoowak said.

The archives now receives inquiries from as far away as Britain and Europe.

"There is a fine balance between protecting the mate-

rials while still allowing access to the public. That's where digitization will come in somewhere down the road," Ootoowak said. For now, binders of photo reprints of the originals seem to satisfy everyone, but Ootoowak said she hopes to garner funds for the digital project in the not too distant future.

As with many other social economy organizations, fundraising is a challenge for the eight-member board. While there is a five-year strategic plan for the archives and an annual plan for library programs, things change as funds become available or not.

In the meantime, Ootoowak said, "We continue to do outreach to generate interest and remind people why both literacy and archives are important to all of us."

SOCIAL ECONOMY RESEARCH IN NUNAVUT

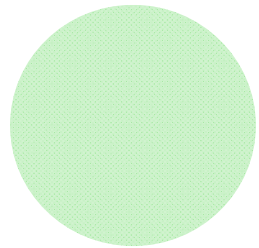
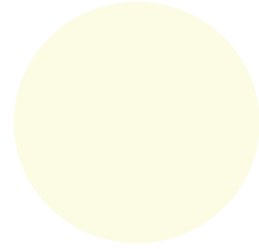
SOCIAL ECONOMY SURVEY UPDATE

A new survey of Nunavut’s social economy is now underway. This will build on existing information to create a more complete picture of the territory’s social economy sector.

Please consider taking the time to complete the short questionnaire if you are contacted to speak on behalf of a social economy organization.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Karen Mackenzie	Valoree Walker
Nunavut coordinator	SERNNoCA coordinator
Nunavut Research Institute	Northern Research Institute
867-979-7298	867-668-8857
karen.mackenzie@arcticcollege.ca	sernnoca@yukoncollege.yk.ca



REPULSE CONT. FROM PAGE 1

**ARE YOU FROM
REPULSE BAY AND
INTERESTED IN TAKING
PART IN
JEN ALSOP’S
RESEARCH PROJECT?**

EMAIL HER AT
JENALSOP@GMAIL.COM
OR CONTACT JOHN
KAUFMANN AT THE
NAUJAT CO-OP.

Alsop, who is originally from British Columbia, said she has been interested in social economy and social development issues for a long time.

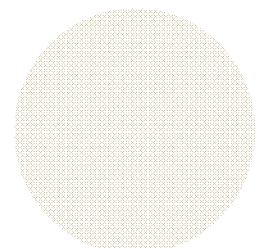
“I believe that all communities, once they realize their common needs and aspirations, are capable of creating a kind of future for themselves and their children that is sustainable, equitable and prosperous,” she said. “I hope that this research will allow the community to reflect upon the composition of the economy of their town, and especially the central role that the co-op continues to have in the livelihood of Repulse Bay.”

The project should be complete by mid-October. Results will then be returned to the community, as well as presented at a conference in

Whitehorse.

While in the community, she also plans to put together a short history of the Naujat Co-op as a learning resource for Tusarvik School.

And when she’s not working, Alsop said she’d like to spend some time on the land around the hamlet.



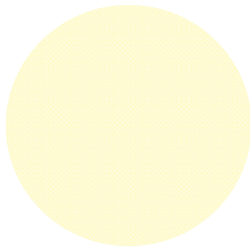
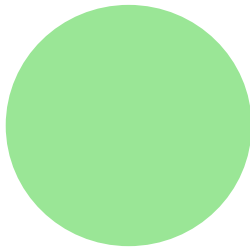


Would you like to contribute to the next issue of Nunavut Social Economy ?

NUNAVUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 1720
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0
www.nri.nu.ca

Phone: 867-979-7277
Fax: 867-979-7109



WHAT IS SERNNOCA?

The Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada (SERNNOCA) is a five-year research program looking at the social economy of the North.

One of six regional networks across the country, it's made up of community partners, colleges and universities in Nunavut, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavik and Labrador.

The *Nunavut Social Economy* newsletter is a publication of its Nunavut coordination office, at the Nunavut Research Institute in Iqaluit.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

The program aims to connect researchers and their community partners with others who are researching social economy in the North. The knowledge they collect could:

- Help develop the social economy in Nunavut
- Demonstrate the importance of the social economy in the territory

SERNNOCA's work is supported by the largest grant for social science research ever awarded in northern Canada.

Dr. Chris Southcott of Lakehead University is the principal investigator of the network. The Yukon College is the lead institution to administer the \$1.75 million grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for its implementation.



- Bring a local perspective to the discussion of sustainable development
- Ensure northern students have a chance to participate and gain experience in the research
- Improve the way organizations important to the social economy function

For more information, please see <http://dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/sernnoca>

SERNNOCA'S PARTNERS:

