APPENDIX A1

Structure of the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships

Canadian Social Economy Hub

The national Hub was co-directed by the then Director of the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies at the University of Victoria (the Principal Investigator for the project), and the then Executive Director of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network, which then had its national offices in Victoria. The staff, located at the University of Victoria, consisted of between three to eight people, many of them students on part-time appointments. The structure of the Hub animated the community-university research alliance by resourcing activities led by both university and community based staff and partners.

As originally envisioned, the Hub’s main purposes were to:

• Encourage synergies among the regional nodes.
• Help the nodes avoid duplication and deepen research possibilities.
• Create National Facilitating Committees to address key issues for the SE Suite.
• Develop a rich database and communication system to inform Canadians and facilitate research.
• Deepen relationships among post-secondary institutions, communities and community developers within the Social Economy field.
• Selectively pursue research projects needed to integrate the research results of regional nodes and deepen understandings of the Social Economy.
• Collaborate with regional nodes and partnering organisations in providing opportunities to enhance public understanding of the Social Economy and foster discussions about it.
• Ensure that policy issues are addressed systematically throughout the five-year process through position and research papers communicated to public servants, politicians and community groups.
• Work with the regional nodes, partners, the academy and professional organisations to ensure that understandings and training in the Social Economy are better entrenched within Canadian research and teaching programmes.
Community-University Research Partnerships

- Support workshops, conferences and public forums on the Social Economy, collaborating as much as possible with regional nodes and partnering organizations in doing so.
- Liaise with organizations and individuals in other countries with an interest in research into the Social Economy.

The Hub operates a website, manages a national programme for students and young people interested in the Social Economy, operates telelearning sessions, undertakes a knowledge mobilization programme, and organizes conferences. It undertakes research on a project basis, as funding permits, focusing on projects and activities of general interest to the Partnerships or to assist in projects underway within the Nodes. The Hub has an advisory committee on national policy research and directs a national research project on public policy to strengthen the Social Economy in Canada, with international comparative analysis that links up researchers and practitioner organizations across the globe. The Hub was envisioned as a place where the Nodes and the Canada Research Chair in the Social Economy (Professor Marie Bouchard from the Université de Québec à Montréal) could exchange ideas and findings and develop research and conference activities.

Each node has a representative and an alternate on the Advisory Board. In addition, the Hub serves as a meeting place for national organizations involved in the Social Economy. They include the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (which also partners in the general management of the Hub), Le chantier de l’économie sociale, the Canadian Co-operative Association, Le conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité, Imagine Canada, CIRIEC Canada, the Co-operatives Secretariat, the Women’s Economic Council, the Department of Human Resources and Skills Development, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. In addition there are four international observers (from Japan, the United Kingdom, Argentina, and the United States), who attend at least one meeting of the Advisory Board each year, usually coinciding with a conference or other event in which CSERP was involved.