

Building Northern Capacity through Entrepreneurship



International Centre for Northern
Governance and Development



EDWARDS
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Working Together with Northern Communities to Support Current and Future Generations

In collaboration with communities throughout northern Saskatchewan, the Building Northern Capacity through Entrepreneurship (BNCE) project:

1. focuses on generating capacity
2. seeks to understand northern youth perspectives
3. helps communities achieve their goals
4. shares community success stories
5. builds community-University partnerships.

Funded through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council,

this important and timely work is being done without placing a financial burden on our community partners.

Between September 2015 and March 2016 we will carry on the work we started in partnership with Pinehouse when we collaborate with nine different communities throughout northern Saskatchewan. This work involves meeting with people in our partner communities and then sharing what we learn through our website, Facebook, and Twitter feeds (see the box below for information on how to connect with us).

We will also be doing a traveling exhibition in 2016 to share what we have learned with our northern friends.

What will all of this mean for your community? We expect that it will:

1. help your community make better plans for your futures
2. build your community's capacity to thrive through the development of new business ventures
3. ensure that you can create an even better place in which your future generations can thrive.

Visit our website at <http://northerncapacity.com/> to see our past newsletters and to get the most up-to-date information on our project. Please also connect with us on Facebook at [BNCEproject](#) and on Twitter at [@BNCEproject](#). You can also email us at northern.research@usask.ca.



Photovoice and OurVoice

Thank you to our friends at Pinehouse, Fond du Lac, Ile a la Crosse, and elsewhere across northern Saskatchewan for welcoming us into your communities and for working with us to better understand the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the north part of our province.

In Pinehouse, and soon in nine other communities across northern Saskatchewan we will run workshops along with the popular and engaging Photovoice and OurVoice exercises.

What is Photovoice and OurVoice? They are two of the methods that we are using in partnership with northern communities to ensure that their voices are heard in their own ways. With Photovoice, community participants are given a camera to use for two weeks to help them record their thoughts on a particular topic. OurVoice is a new method whereby students capture their thoughts on video while interviewing each other, all during the course of our visit to the community. All participants tell us that they really enjoy being involved.



What Participants Said

Participants in Pinehouse told us that they liked participating in “the videos because everyone was involved and had to really think about their own community”. They also appreciated the chance to talk “as a group with all our ideas, because it brings us all together and we have more ideas together”. When asked how they thought that participating in the workshops might benefit them, one person said “I will think more about the future and what I’d want to do to improve Pinehouse and the world”. Another person said that they realized “how amazing our community is” and someone else added “it got community members to start to understand the overall direction of the community”.

Do you know

... that the *Keewatin Career Development Corporation (KCDC)* website includes a Northern Wildfire Recovery page to provide information about the wildfire recovery efforts and assistance? From this website you can also access a useful Facebook page: <http://www.kcdc.ca/wildfirerecovery/>

The Demographics and Feedback

We met with approximately 80 people in Pinehouse in April. Of the 48 who gave us their detailed information, half were male and half were female. Their average age was 25, and the range was from 15 years old to 72. Most had lived there almost their entire lives. The participants included elders, students, professionals, management people, and general workers.

Next Steps

This fall and winter we plan to work with the communities of Ile a la Crosse, Buffalo Narrows, La Loche, La Ronge, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Air Ronge, Stanley Mission, Fond du Lac, Hatchet Lake, Wollaston Lake, Cumberland House, and Deschambault Lake.