

230 Kirk Hall  
117 Science Place, University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon SK S7N 0J6 Canada  
[www.usask.ca/icngd](http://www.usask.ca/icngd)

## Building Northern Capacity through Entrepreneurship (BNCE) Project

### What is the BNCE project?

The BNCE Project is managed by a team that formed in June 2014 and is comprised of University of Saskatchewan researchers from the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development and the Edwards School of Business. This project will provide northern Saskatchewan communities with new and valuable perspectives on their capacity for business development and sustainability.



In partnership with Northerners, we are exploring how entrepreneurship is impacting their communities. This project engages communities as together we define, describe, and assess the past, present and

evolving states of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Northern Saskatchewan. Our goal is to learn in what ways entrepreneurship has and is contributing to social and economic capacity building in relation to local concepts of 'the good life,' well-being and prosperity. Since this project started we have been building a network of connections across Northern Saskatchewan. Together, we are learning about the economic and social aspirations of our northern communities and how entrepreneurship is playing a role.

This project compares the situation in northern Saskatchewan with Northern Scandinavia as the two regions have much in common. Both areas have their remote and primarily Indigenous communities, and some communities in both regions are impacted by resource development. There are things to learn from both areas, and we will report on the results of this comparative analysis when we share what we have learned in partnership with our Northern Saskatchewan friends.



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## Where are we going?

Over the next year we will be visiting several northern communities to work with them to assess the role that entrepreneurship plays in improving social and economic conditions in ways desired by the communities. We will also assess the nature of the entrepreneurship in those areas, including how readily it is embraced in the communities.

The BNCE project goals moving forward are to:

1. Work with northern communities to establish meaningful partnerships and common goals;
2. Collaborate with northern communities to better understand their social and economic goals;
3. Communicate and share our findings in ways that can help communities throughout Saskatchewan's North.

## How will we be engaging with your community?

### Community meetings and workshops with students and community members:

We will be holding community meetings and workshops in 10 communities across Northern Saskatchewan. Two workshops will be held in each community: 1) a school workshop that will involve approximately 40 grade 10, 11 and 12 students; and 2) a community workshop with residents from your community who will be invited to come and discuss a number of topics including:

- 1) Local characteristics, history and change;
- 2) Dynamics related to the current economy, including the availability of goods and services and businesses that exist in the community;
- 3) Perceptions of local development/business capacity strengths and needs;
- 4) Thoughts on innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership.

### Photovoice and OurVoice:

We will ask community members to participate in the Photovoice component of the project, which is an activity that involves photography. Participants will take photos or collect existing pictures over a 2 week period based on their perspectives surrounding the ways entrepreneurship can contribute to the 'good life' and community well-being and prosperity.

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Participants will be given cameras and asked to take as many photos as they like, but select the top 3 photos that represent their thoughts and perspectives most closely. A follow-up Photovoice interview will be held 2 weeks following this initial workshop to discuss the photos over approximately 30-45 minutes. The participants will lead the interview through sharing their stories as they describe the photos they took.

### Who will be invited?

These meetings and workshops will be open to all community members. The school workshops are limited to high school students, mainly grade 12 students, but possibly also including some from grades 10 and 11 in some cases.

### Benefits of participation:

The results from the project will be shared throughout northern Saskatchewan through a website and other social media, a traveling photo exhibit, photos, videos, and written summaries – all to be available at different phases of the project over the next couple of years. We can also supply a summary of publicly available key statistics to communities.

Some of the benefits to your community by participating in this project include:

- Increased understanding of what is happening in other communities in the north
- learning from similar communities in northern Scandinavia
- sharing knowledge of your successes with other communities
- better understanding of the opportunities and challenges in your community
- Information that can help when developing plans for the community
- Information that can help when seeking assistance from governments and others
- Bringing knowledge back to the community in the form of a website, traveling photo exhibit, photos, videos, written summaries.
  - A summary of what we learned from the community, what they feel their priorities are.
  - If applicable for communities: a statistical summary of what Statistics Canada and other statistical sources know.

## What is our timeline?

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**June 2014 – February 2015**

Phase 1 planning and data collection

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<b>March 2015</b>	Phase 2 pilot planning
<b>April 2015 – May 2015</b>	Collect data for phase 2 pilot: student and community workshops and Photovoice component
<b>June 2015 – August 2015</b>	Phase 2 planning, community engagement and workshop coordination
<b>September 2015 – December 2015</b>	Phase 2 data collection
<b>January 2016 – February 2016</b>	Phase 2 data analysis
<b>March 2016 – April 2016</b>	Phase 3 planning
<b>May 2016 and on</b>	Phase 3 implementation

## Who is funding and approving this project?

This project is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for a 5 year term April 2013 – 2018 and has been approved by the University of Saskatchewan's Research Ethics Board. Research Ethics Office phone number: 306-966-2975.

## Who is managing this project?

Research collaborators from the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development and the Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan are the key parties involved in the project.

**Principal Investigator (PI):** Dr. Lee Swanson, Associate Professor, Management and Marketing, Edwards School of Business, University of Saskatchewan, 306-966-2124, swanson@edwards.usask.ca.

**Co-Investigator (CI):** Dr. Ken Coates, Professor, ICNGD Director and Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan, 306-966-5136, ken.coates@usask.ca.

**Additional Co-Investigators:** Dr. David Zhang, Associate Professor of Management and Marketing at the Edwards School of Business and Dr. Greg Poelzer, Executive Chair at the ICNGD, as well as an Associate Professor of Political Studies and an Associate Member of the schools of Public Policy and Environment and Sustainability.

**Project team members and field researchers:**

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- Dazawray Landrie-Parker, Research Associate, ICNGD
- Joelena Leader, Research Associate, ICNGD
- Dana Carriere, Graduate Student Research Assistant, Edwards School of Business
- Billy Rowluck, Graduate Student Research Assistant and former School Teacher, Northern Lights School Division
- Paola Chiste, Research Officer, ICNGD
- Vince Bruni-Bossio, advisor on the project, Assistant Professor, Edwards School of Business

## In conclusion

Community perspectives and insights are what drive this research project, informing almost every aspect of the project from how we gather information to the key questions that will we need to ask based on continual feedback, collaboration and partnership. At the end of the day, our goal is that the results of the project will be of benefit to your community. We are learning from community members how concepts of community and entrepreneurship are defined but also understanding in-depth meanings associated with the 'good life' and well-being and prosperity and its relationship to social and economic capacity building in the north.

## Learn more and participate

If you would be interested in hearing more about our project or would like to participate in one of our community meetings, we would be delighted to hear from you. You can reach us at the following phone numbers and emails.

Researcher	Phone	Email
Dazawray Landrie-Parker, ICNGD	(306) 966-8776	<a href="mailto:dazawray.parker@usask.ca">dazawray.parker@usask.ca</a>
Joelena Leader, ICNGD	(306) 966-1609	<a href="mailto:Joelena.leader@usask.ca">Joelena.leader@usask.ca</a>