



CALL FOR INTEREST
Social Economy Pilot Project
Youth Collective Entrepreneurship

1. Introduction

The First Nations Social Economy Regional Table, coordinated by the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC) and the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC), initiated a pilot project this winter in partnership with the Chantier de l'économie sociale. The ***Youth Collective Entrepreneurship*** pilot project, made possible through the Secrétariat à la jeunesse, will have as its main objective to promote the model of the collective enterprise and to enable it to be experienced by young people of 15 to 30 years of age with an interest in collective entrepreneurship (social economy). This project, which will last for one year, will enable the creation of support tools for the start-up of collective projects initiated by young people as well as workshops on the social economy, and will also enable the holding of a networking and unifying "start-up" event. In addition, short films and podcasts will be created to showcase youth-led collective ventures and the issues and challenges that they are dealing with.

2. Background

The First Nations Social Economy Regional Table is seeking First Nations communities and organizations interested in participating in the First Nations youth collective entrepreneurship social economy pilot project.

The development of the First Nations social economy aroused interest at the initial First Nations Socioeconomic Forum, held in 2006 in Mashteuiatsh. The youth council, through its spokesperson, summarized it like this: "It is our hope that social economy will occupy an important place in the economic development of our Nations." This statement leads directly to the social economy becoming a privileged means of development, as it is rooted in an approach based on democracy, cooperation (partnership) and local authority takeover. Through these social values, similar to the vision of First Nations communities, the social economy becomes a model of development that is adapted to the cultural and social realities of First Nations. The social economy allows this while emphasizing all these human values, the common good and the preservation of the territory.

The culture of the First Nations is defined by its connection to the territory, its knowledge and know-how that testify to its history, transmitted from generation to generation. The development of collective and social entrepreneurship (social economy) takes place within an overall context in which all organizations and interveners committed to First Nations development must place an emphasis on youth and the next generation, community involvement, the self-determination of individuals and groups and their creativity in meeting the needs of the community.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this call for interest is to engage communities and organizations interested in recruiting a cohort of five or six First Nations youth with the entrepreneurial spirit to accompany them through a training program on collective and social entrepreneurship. The course of workshops and preparatory activities will culminate in a "start-up" event, November 17-19 in Montréal. The selected organizations and communities will receive a guide to workshops, awareness-raising and introductory activities on the subject of collective and social entrepreneurship (social economy) as well as preparatory training. The project aims to support and equip those working with a clientele of young people between the ages of 15 and 30 and interested in raising their awareness of collective and social entrepreneurship in their community but above all, it seeks to develop the leadership capacity of youth and their desire to contribute to the social, cultural and economic development of First Nations and to improve the living conditions of their communities.

The objectives of the pilot project are to:

- Promote the social economy among First Nations youth in Quebec;
- Foster the development of the social economy among First Nations youth by building on their values, aspirations and cultural richness;
- Support experimentation with and development of socioeconomic projects and social economy enterprises initiated by young people in their community;

- Invite the young collective entrepreneurs to participate in a “start-up¹” event designed specifically for them;
- Give recognition to youth community engagement;
- Build on the success of this project to raise youth awareness of the First Nations social economy so that it becomes a recurring event.

The youth collective and social entrepreneurship pilot project includes the following key activities and timelines:

Activities	Timeline
Interveners’ letters of intention to serve as “guides/accompanying persons”	June 20 to July 10, 2017
Recruitment of young collective entrepreneurs	August 2017
Training for interveners/accompanying persons	August 17-18, 2017
Workshops and preparatory activities	September to November 2017 Total: 8 weeks (3h/week)
“Start-up” event in Montréal	November 17-19, 2017
Review and evaluation of the project	Mid-January 2018

Planned steps and activities, as well as timelines, will be further clarified with the resources/interveners of the selected organizations or communities.

4. Eligibility criteria

Organizations or communities will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- The commitment of youth to the sociocultural and socioeconomic development of First Nations is a priority for the organization or community.
- The willingness of interveners to acquire knowledge and tools to support young people in their approach to collective and social entrepreneurship.
- The availability of suitable space that could be used to conduct weekly meetings with young collective entrepreneurs.
- The availability of resources/interveners who will be involved in the project (including attending the “start-up” event, November 17-19 in Montréal).
- Involvement with youth clientele between the ages of 15 and 30 must be demonstrated.
- Experience in community organization, entrepreneurship or the management of sociocultural youth projects are sought-after assets.

Interested interveners, organizations and communities are asked to consider the following questions:

5. Procedure

Les intervenants, organisations et communautés intéressés sont appelés à se poser les questions suivantes :

- Can we provide the time, space and human resource necessary for the successful implementation of this project?
- Do we agree to engage in the process from start to finish? Do we agree to share our experience and evaluation so that they can benefit other communities?
- Are we prepared to include such services in the regular activities of interveners and thereby ensure their sustainability?

¹ The term “start-up” is often used to describe a young innovative company or a company being constructed that has not yet begun commercial activities.

If you answer “yes” to all these questions and are interested in this project, we invite you to send us, **before July 10, 2017**:

1. A **letter of intent confirming interest and explaining why your organization or community would be a good candidate for the project**. We invite you to refer to the eligibility criteria and facilitating factors mentioned in the evaluation grid (Appendix I);
2. **The completed evaluation grid (Appendix I)**. The level of knowledge of interveners, organizations or communities is for guidance only. It will enable the coordination team of the pilot project to better prepare the training and support of the resources/intervenors involved in the project.

Once the application and nomination process has been completed, all applications received will be reviewed by a selection committee according to the above criteria.

6. Role of the FNQLHSSC

Work in close collaboration with the resource/intervener of the organization or community to conduct awareness-raising activities on youth entrepreneurship in the social economy, which may include:

- Develop and adapt youth collective and social entrepreneurship tools;
- Provide the guide to workshops and activities in collective and social entrepreneurship (social economy) for youth resources/intervenors;
- Provide preparatory training for youth resources/intervenors;
- Provide support and advice to accompanying persons (resources/intervenors) throughout the awareness-raising period and activities (including evaluation of the activities and “start-up” event);
- Coordinate the “start-up” event, November 17-19, 2017;
- Reimburse travel and subsistence expenses related to participation in the preparatory training (in Odnak) and participation in the “start-up” event (in Montréal) according to current policy.

7. Role of the organization or community

The interested organization or community must accept the following responsibilities and commit to:

- Designate a resource or intervener to coordinate the youth awareness project focussed on the First Nations social economy;
- Provide time to the resource or intervener for the integration of new practices and participation in the adaptation of accompaniment tools and activities;
- Use the adapted material and tools to be provided;
- Participate in the preparatory training in Odnak (August 17-18, 2017), the “start-up” event (November 17-19, 2017) in Montréal and in a meeting to take stock of and share experience (about 2 months after the event – to be confirmed).

8. Submission of applications

All applications must be sent by e-mail **no later than July 10, 2017**, to: karine.awashish@cssspnql.com

If you have any questions regarding the application process or the content of the project please contact:

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Table régionale d'économie sociale des Premières Nations



COMMISSION DE LA SANTÉ
ET DES SERVICES SOCIAUX
DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS
DU QUÉBEC ET DU LABRADOR



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