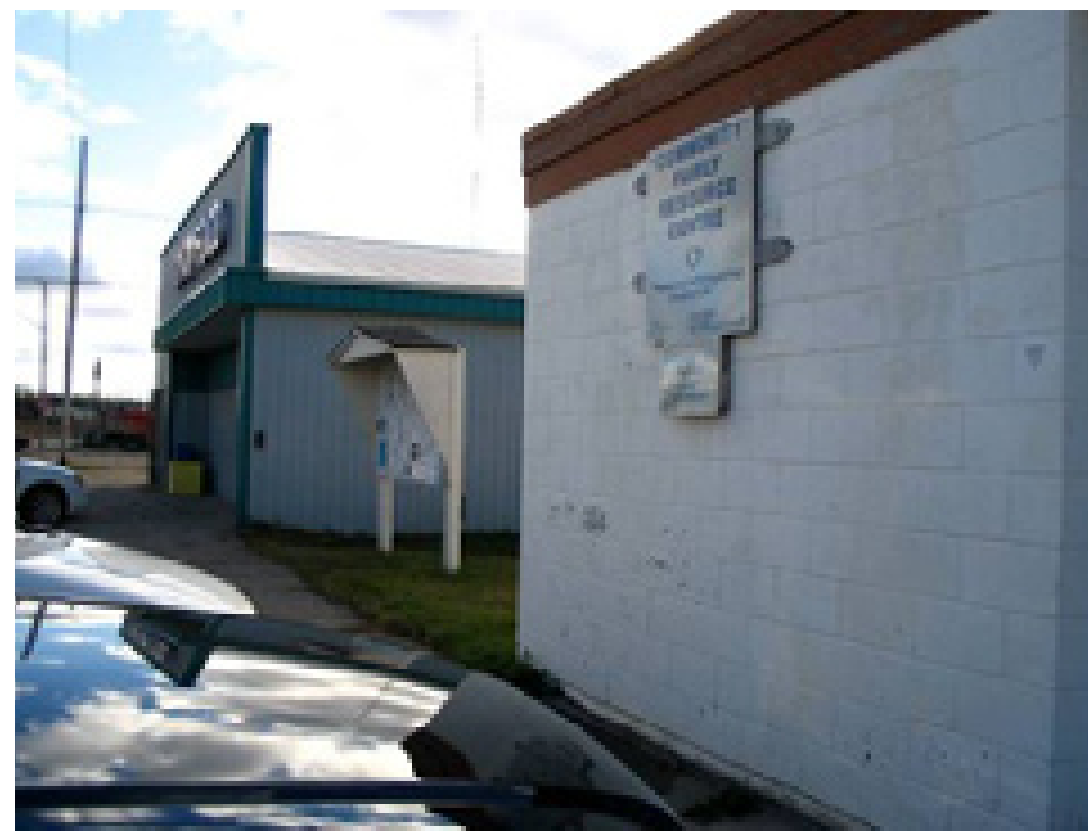


# Exploring the Social Economy in Saskatchewan: Rural Area

Researchers: Isobel Findlay, Lori Blondeau (University of Saskatchewan)



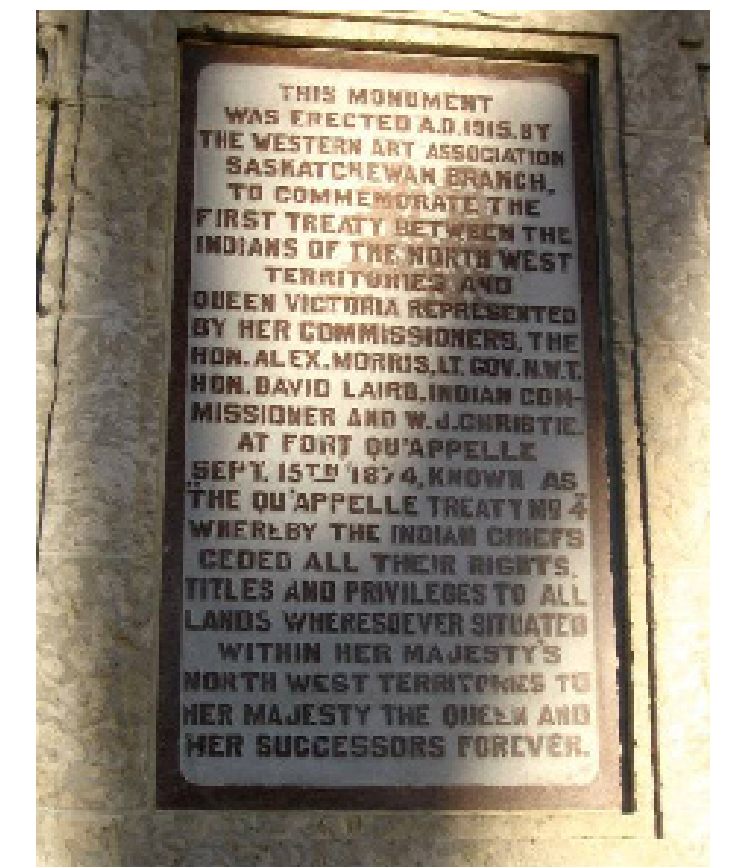
*Old and New Social Economy: co-ops and credit unions are instrumental in supporting local economies. New innovative social enterprises, like the Community Family Resource Centre in Lestock, located beside the co-op, develop and support their communities.*

## Rural Area Observations

- Rural de-population in non-Aboriginal communities corresponding with an increasing Aboriginal population
- Struggling with globalization and global economic forces
- Limited resources for social enterprise
- Race, class, and gender divisions persist; segregated communities along Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal lines
- A growing Aboriginal population and increased organization and capacity lead development
- A history of cultural diversity and interaction but also of colonialism and segregation



*The historic church in LaBret near the former residential school and the Treaty Four memorial in Ft. Qu'Appelle. Rural Saskatchewan must bridge the divide between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and confront and educate about its colonial past.*



## Rural Area Findings

- Perceptions that government policy has abandoned rural Saskatchewan
- Labour shortage and depopulation in towns, despite a growing young Aboriginal population
- Distance and isolation a key obstacle for social economy actors in rural areas
- Reliance on volunteers and community interaction: the informal economy
- Social economic enterprises inevitably must confront the history of a colonial past
- Rural areas are building on their strengths in innovative ways



*Treaty Four Governance Centre near Ft. Qu'Appelle, where the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council is located, represents a growing Aboriginal economy and organizational capacity for social enterprise development to serve its community.*

## Community Partners

Vision North  
Quint Development Corporation  
Child Hunger and Education Program

## Status of Project

Complete