

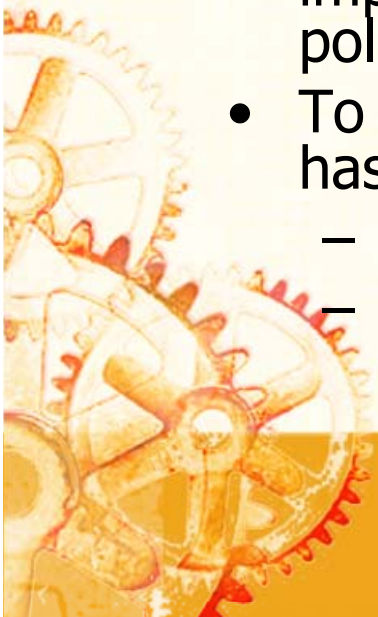
Social innovation in a knowledge based economy, preliminary comments

- In Canada: Quebec is a small French-speaking nation of 7 and a half million people in the English speaking sea of North America. This context has created cohesion within Quebec society that is unique in America.
- Social economy in Québec includes 6,254 cooperative and non-profit organizations, 65,028 jobs and over \$4.3 billion in sales annually.
- Canada officially recognized social economy in 2004.
- Social economy is a powerful tool to build social capital and strengthen social norms
- Social economy doesn't depend more on public funds than the military industry, aviation industry or agriculture
- A definition broad and inclusive



“crucible” or “halfway house”?

- Social economy needs it's proper identity. It is not a “halfway house” and not only a crucible.
- Redefining the development paradigm within Quebec society, of rethinking the relationship between State, Market and Civil society, and in so doing, positioning the social economy as an essential component within this new paradigm
- We refuse the role that many would have us play, that of simply cleaning up or compensating for the negative impacts of traditional economic development or public policies
- To innovate and build social capital, social economy has to be:
 - in control of it's means of production
 - Inalienable (remain a collective project)



Le Chantier: a network of networks

- Always working on what's unites us
- a board of 30 organisations (sectors, community movements, unions and local technical supports organisations)
- co-directs an inter-university research partnership involving 4 universities and a whole series of social economy networks
- founded the *Comité sectoriel de main-d'oeuvre de l'économie sociale et de l'action communautaire*: a partnership with public employment institutions and the actors in the social economy, to improve the management skills of workers, managers and administrators in diverse sectors of activity.



Social economy and innovation

- **New responses to social needs:**
 - Environmental: creation of the recycling industry
 - Health services (social services or human services, home care and proximity services)
 - Co-op housing and non profit organizations
 - Daycare services
 - Social inclusion



Social economy and social capital development

- Develop empowerment of communities and excluded people
- Often initiated by communities abandoned by the private or the public sector
- but more and more by choice (MBA in social economy)
- Improving the skills of our managers, administrators and workers,
- Building networks





THE SOCIAL ECONOMY. IT'S ABOUT MONEY AND HUMAN VALUES.

