

Research
Dialogue
Analysis
Reflection

Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge

N·O·R·D·I·K·
INSTITUTE



5 Years of Strengthening Northern Communities



Craft Currents: Connecting Craftspeople across Northern Ontario (pg. 3)



SSM Air Quality Study 2010
Research on population health (pg. 3)

Annual Report 2010-2011



Sault Ste. Marie Mental Health Court Evaluation (pg. 5)



Beekeeping with the Algoma Food Network (pg. 6)

NORDIK Board of Directors, 2010-11

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NORDIK Q&A

What is NORDIK?

The NORDIK (Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge) research institute evolved from the CESD program. NORDIK is committed to further developing Northern Ontario's capacity by working closely with its community partners and providing mentoring to new researchers.

NORDIK Vision

Promoting more vibrant, caring and sustainable communities through research, dialogue, analysis and reflection dedicated to the practice of holistic community development.

NORDIK Principles

- Collaborative community-university partnerships
- Builds community capacity to conduct its own research for sustainability
- Holistic - Economic, social, cultural, and legal/political development
- Inclusionary and participatory
- Strengths-based
- Sustainable

Undergraduate Programs

Algoma University offers degree programs in Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) and Community Development (CD). The CESD and CD programs promote the growth of sustainable communities - economically, ecologically, socially, and culturally. Apply today and start your studies on a full or part-time basis. The CESD Spring Institute will offer 5-day courses in June 2012.

For more, visit :

www.nordikinstitute.com
www.algomau.ca/cesd

Director's Report

by Dr. Gayle Broad, Research Director

The 2010-11 year has been a busy and exciting one, and as we celebrate our 5th anniversary as a research institute, we can take pride in some of our overall accomplishments. **Thank You.**

One of the highlights of the past year for me personally, was the opportunity to enjoy a sabbatical, leaving NORDIK in the capable hands of Warren Weir, an active member of the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO). Warren supervised research, taught in the CESD Spring Institute, and began the process of putting some of our CESD courses on-line. We wish Warren all the best in his new position with Nicola Valley Institute of Technology as their Dean of Instruction.

NORDIK would also like to extend our deep appreciation to Elaine McDonagh of the Batchewana Learning Centre who has served on our Board of Directors since its inception. **Some Highlights from the 2010-11 Year**

- Impact of Outdoor Air Quality on the Health of Residents of Sault Ste. Marie.
- A new partnership with the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre in the development of the Rural-Agri Innovation Network (RAIN)
- Presentations by researchers in Montreal, Trento (Italy), Saskatoon, Prince George, Timmins
- Launching of the film "Paquataskimik is Home"



The Last Five Years

One of NORDIK's goals has been to increase the capacity of Northerners to conduct our own research. We have done that by developing the research skills of students, interns and researchers here on campus, and through providing training to community based researchers. On-campus, at least 6 researchers have completed post-graduate degrees during or shortly after their employment with us. Two of our current researchers are in process, and too numerous to name are those who have completed undergraduate degrees.

Community-based researchers are drawn from a variety of organizations and communities, and are well-placed to identify ethical issues related to community-generated knowledge and often provide access to communities and groups who would otherwise not feel safe in expressing their views. NORDIK faculty and staff are becoming well-known as leaders in community-based research across Canada through presentations at academic and professional conferences and the publication of journal articles. This sharing of knowledge is helping other researchers and communities to improve research processes, and participation helps us to improve our own skills, through engaging in the 'analysis and reflection' part of our mandate.

Thank you for being part of our celebration!

Research Staff and Students

Acting Director Warren Weir (MPA)

Faculty

Dr. Gayle Broad (Bristol)
Dr. Linda Savory-Gordon (Bristol)
Prof. Sheila Gruner (PhD Cand. UT/OISE)

Research coordinators

Jude Ortiz (PhD Cand. UWE)
José Reyes (MBA, Cape Breton)
David Thompson (MBA Cand. Cape Breton)

Researchers

Ildiko Horvath (PhD (c), MSc.)
Stephanie Blaney (MSc.N.)
Sean Meades (BA, Dalhousie) FedNor Intern
Sarah Marusyk (BA, Algoma) NOHFC Intern
Rob Rawn (MSW Cand. Grand Valley State) NOHFC Intern
Cynthia Morisseau (BA, Algoma)
Emily Colombo (BA, Brock; Cert. in CESD, Algoma)
Alexandra Jaffit
Andy Noel CESD student Daryl Nelligan CESD student

NORDIK's crafty intern, Sarah Marusyk

Sarah is originally from Fort Frances, Ontario, she graduated from Algoma University with her BA in English. As a Research Assistant with the Growing Ontario's Craft Community-North Project, she values connecting with craftspeople and artists across Northern Ontario. Sarah enjoys live music, the outdoors—particularly the lakes and rivers of Northwestern Ontario—and creating 'upcycled' jewelry.



Research

Community-based research provides rich opportunities to dialogue, identify issues, and bring about action.

Market analysis on local lamb and chevon (meat goats)

The Algoma Sheep and Lamb Producer's vision is that co-operation can be profitable. It is this outlook which prompted them to ask NORDIK to investigate the local lamb and chevon market.



NORDIK will determine the feasibility of a market-based co-operative for lamb and goat producers in the Algoma District. The project will analyze an increased local ethnic market, and the increasing demands of health-conscious consumer diets. If feasible, the study would help local lamb and goat producers' better coordinate, process, and market their products. The study results will be presented at the RAIN Agriculture and Agri-Food Symposium (see below).

Growing Craft in the North

NORDIK is coordinating Ontario Crafts Council's one-year project that aims to provide artists with a variety of places and spaces to learn, share business skills and further develop sustainable livelihoods while raising the visibility of the culture sector's vitality. The project includes a juried exhibition of contemporary craft that will tour 6 Northern communities and close in a Toronto gallery in March 2012; an exhibition catalogue (print and on-line); a series of artist professional development workshops, meet and greet events, and a symposium, Reflecting the North: Regional Realities in Art, Craft and Culture, that will be held in Sault Ste. Marie on November 4th, 2011.



Paquataskamik Project

The Paquataskamik Project is an ongoing project of Fort Albany First Nation supported by NORDIK. NORDIK hired a research assistant this past year who aided in the development of creative materials and the coordination of research activities. A second raft excursion was organized and undertaken by the Education and Outreach Coordinator in May. Planning sessions took place throughout the year in Timmins, Ft. Albany and Sault Ste Marie, and were followed by public screening of the film "Paquataskamik is Home", also produced this year, which documents the first (2009) raft excursion, as well as the learning efforts for high school and university students who are engaged in community based research on the raft itself. The film tells the stories of the sites and people that belong to the vast cultural corridor and watershed that link First Nation communities. Other activities include: website development (www.paquataskamik.weebly.com), the production of a Cree language map, environmental and educational strategies and community engagement planning.

RAIN (Rural Agri-Innovation Network): In early 2011, NORDIK and the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre began a collaboration to bring together farmers, woodlot owners, and researchers to strengthen the regions agriculture. A symposium at Algoma U, November 4 & 5, will join local researchers with researchers from U of Guelph, and local producers to focus on regional opportunities.

Sault Ste. Marie Air Quality Study

Bayview Area Residents have lobbied for decades for assistance in determining the impact of the neighbourhood's air quality on the health of local residents, and in 2010, NORDIK Institute was able to partner with Health Canada to address their needs. Beginning in 2003, former MP Tony Martin, together with a group of residents concerned about emissions from nearby Essar Steel Algoma, began the search for a team of health professionals with the skills and knowledge to conduct this research. In the fall of 2009, the group found Dr. Robert Dales and a team of professionals at Health Canada with the technical know-how, and then approached NORDIK to manage and oversee the data collection. Although the project stretched NORDIK's capacity to the limit, Ildiko Horvath, the project lead, together with Stephanie

Blaney, gathered a team of local health care professionals and recruited over 60 healthy adults to participate in the study.

The \$900,000 study on the effects of industrial air pollution involved local researchers, nurses, health professionals and research participants. This is the third study of outdoor air quality in a Canadian urban centre, and is the largest. The study's 60 research participants were closely monitored in three testing environments: breathing unfiltered air at Sault College, breathing unfiltered air at Essar Steel Algoma grounds, and breathing filtered air at the Essar/Bayview site. NORDIK Institute still awaits the final analysis and

interpretation from Health Canada.

Not only did the study provide employment to twenty-five health care professionals throughout the May – August period, it also provided honoraria to all participants, many of whom were students, saving funds for another school year. On June 23rd 2011, NORDIK received the Innovation Research Project of the Year award from the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre for the Air Quality Study.



Dialogue

Presentations

Transitioning to Resilience:

Community Resilience SSM and NORDIK hosted an event

featuring Buzz Holling (U of Florida) who spoke on resilience theory in relation to local economies and social systems.



Oct 30/10: Arts Development

Forum: Regional Arts Network Development

Jan 13/10: Cultural Policy

Workshop: The Politics of Art and the Art of Politics

Feb 23/11: Film Screening: The Economics of Happiness with discussion panelists: Mayor Debbie Amaroso, Prof. Derek Rice, Ken Coulter

Dec 10/10: Goat Marketing

Workshop: Presentation and workshop on marketing goat locally

Investigating Student-led Business Opportunities

A small space is available on the ground floor of the Windsor Park, an off-campus student residence in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, for a food/beverage business or other business opportunity.

NORDIK is evaluating a variety of business opportunities to determine an ideal business solution for the available 600-700 square ft. area. The space will likely be open to the public in order to generate sustainable revenues but the primary beneficiaries of the space will be the students living in Windsor Park and Algoma University students as a whole.

NORDIK will conduct market research and a feasibility study to identify market demands, opportunities, and determine the best opportunity for the space. Qualitative and quantitative research will be done on Algoma University students to determine specific needs and demands of that primary target market. Grants and other funding opportunities are also being identified for greater sustainability.

A final recommendation will be made based on the research conducted followed by

the development of a business plan and then implementation of the business plan. Ideally the business will be implemented and operational by September of 2012.



School of Community Development Animators

In February 2011, José Reyes and Gayle Broad travelled to Colombia to explore a continued partnership between Algoma University and ASOPRICOR.

ASOPRICOR is a community-based organization that represents many rural organizations, co-operatives and communities in rural Cundinamarca, Colombia. ASOPRICOR is intensely involved in sustainable development initiatives in this region including agriculture, social enterprise, and women's organizations. For the last five years, ASOPRICOR and Algoma U had a partnership where students, faculty, and community members exchanged knowledge and experiences between North and South.

This new project will include a Colom-

bian University, UNIMINUTO, to develop an educational program with a focus on maintaining and extending efforts in holistic sustainable development projects in the region. The project will create a post-secondary program similar to Algoma U's Certificate in Community Economic and Social Development, and adapted to the Colombian context.

José Reyes currently works as a research coordinator at NORDIK Institute where he oversees multiple projects, includ-

ing a project on immigration in Sault Ste. Marie, 'Welcoming Communities'.



Analysis & Reflection

Research is done within a context of analysis and reflection: What have we learned from this work? How can we apply it in different situations? How does this change both what we do and how we do it?

Evaluation of Sault Mental Health Court

The Mental Health Court (MHC) is a special court that diverts individuals with mental health problems into treatment programs to address their difficulties with the criminal justice system.

The goals of the court include decriminalizing individuals with psychological problems; lowering rates of incarceration in correctional and psychiatric facilities; and increasing effectiveness of regional mental health services.

The study collected data on participants who have used the MHC in order to determine the effectiveness of the program and address any gaps in the service. Outcomes of the research indicated that participants had a positive experience with the court overall, but improved clarity of roles and

processes is needed. Greater public awareness is needed to address the stigma surrounding mental illness in the community. The research was funded by Proceeds of Crime Grant through the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

Dr. Jim Horley, a forensic psychologist and professor from the University of Alberta, has recently been leading a NORDIK research project that studies the effectiveness of the Sault MHC. Jim Horley's focus within psychology is the assessment and treatment of criminal offenders. His current research includes a number of projects relevant to forensic psychology and is currently completing a book on human sexuality. Jim Horley worked closely with NORDIK intern, Robert Rawn, who is currently completing his Master's of Social Work from Grand Valley State University

Algoma Food Network

The mission of the Algoma Food Network is dedicated to building and supporting a strong, sustainable, healthy local food community that is accessible to all.

In early 2011, the Algoma Food Network underwent a strategic planning session in which the group set priorities for the next three years. Among these priorities are continuing communication efforts through partnerships; engaging youth in the production and preparation of food; and the marketing of local farms, farmers' markets, and rural attractions.

One of the main priorities of the network is to have a communication stream between farmers and consumers. One of the ways the Algoma Food Network group has done this is through the Buy Algoma. Buy Fresh. Producers' Directory. The directory is a tool to promote awareness and access

to locally sourced, wholesome foods. The directory is available online at www.buyalgoma.ca where consumers can search for a wide variety of products, locate farm gates, and get the latest updates on events in the rural area.



Research & Marketing Assistant
Alexandra Jaffit and Mary Eaton
(Mary's Bees & Crafts)

Welcoming Communities Initiative

Daryl Nelligan and Jose Reyes

Welcoming Communities Initiative (WCI) is a multidisciplinary alliance of universities, colleges and communities aimed at developing and testing measures to attract and fully integrate immigrants and minorities in cities across Ontario. The Sault Community Career Centre, NORDIK Research Institute and the Welcoming Communities Initiative joined in partnership to produce a baseline survey to identify and eliminate gaps in programs and services, consolidate community resources, and address current and pending labour shortages through Immigration Strategy. In Timmins, NORDIK will undergo the same process of survey development.



Lake Huron North Shore Bike Route

David Thompson and Gayle Broad

A bike route, along the north shore of Lake Huron, has been proposed. The route will link Sault Ste Marie and Sudbury for cyclists and will allow for travel between two Northern Ontario's cities without jeopardizing their safety by requiring the use of the Trans-Canada Highway. In early 2011, NORDIK met with municipalities and townships along Highway 17 who have an interest in the project. In 2011-12, NORDIK has proposed a research project that will determine the feasibility of such a bike route, with the hope of involving multiple stakeholders between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. The study will determine what is envisioned and feasible for this project.

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- Algoma University
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- FedNOR
- Centre for the Study of Co-operatives (University of Saskatchewan)
- The Canadian CED Network (CCEDNET)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs



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Congratulations Tiffany Gallivan

Tiffany received the 2011 Algoma U Thunderbird Award given to an employee in recognition of exceptional accomplishments. NORDIK acknowledges Tiffany's very valuable assistance.

