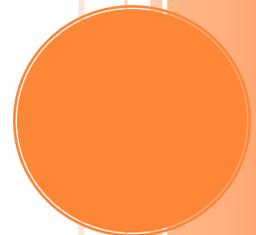


STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC
IMPACT OF THE
COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY,
AND SOCIAL ECONOMY
SECTOR IN THE PONTIAC

Executive Summary

Excerpt translated from the French text authored by Stéphanie Lalande

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Study on the Economic Impact of the Community, Voluntary, and Social Economy Sector in the Pontiac

HIGHLIGHTS

The Pontiac Community Development Corporation (CDC Pontiac) is a group of 23 *Community, Voluntary, and Social Economy* (CBES) organizations that offer services to the population of the Pontiac. As part of this study, the CDC Pontiac and its 23 members were interviewed, and their financial statements were analysed.

Profile of CBES Organizations

All organizations are non-profit. Some of them are charities with a charitable number (6), others are social economy (3) and some are hybrids (5). They are generally composed of small work teams of one to ten employees, including management or coordination. They have an **average of 5.6 full-time employees**. A high school diploma is required for most of their positions, although many require technical college training and experience.

These organizations could not exist without the very important contribution of the **352 volunteers** whose efforts contribute as much to the accomplishment of activities as to the governance and sound management of the organization. **One hundred and nineteen (119) volunteers** sit on the **24 boards of directors**.

Economic Impact

Generally considered from a health and social services perspective, these organizations have a significant economic impact. Largely financed by **government grants**, more than **\$8,151,000** supports the Pontiac population. The organizations' annual revenues vary greatly: 26% of them have revenues of less than **\$50,000** per year, while 17% have revenues of more than \$1 million per year.

Thanks to grants and public donations, CDC Pontiac member organizations hire **254 people annually**, including **117 full-time, 49 part-time and 88 on contract**. These jobs represent more than **\$4,549,050** in payroll and benefits. In addition, just as they seek public support, these organizations' local purchasing practice returns **\$984,000** to the community.

Comparison with companies

Organizations and businesses are similar in terms of team size, annual revenues, funding challenges, staff retention, and equipment repair / modernization.

In addition to having a social impact, CBES organizations also have an economic impact, and viewing them from these two perspectives would allow them to benefit from their full potential.

INTRODUCTION

Often overlooked in economic studies and poorly understood by decision makers, the *Community, Voluntary, and Social Economy* (CBES) sector struggles to promote the importance of its actions and their impact on communities. Although considered by many to be a key sector for the vitality of the Pontiac, several questions remain unanswered: What is the economic contribution of this sector? What are its characteristics? How does it contribute to the vitality of the communities? What partnerships can be developed and / or strengthened with municipalities towards a common goal, i.e. the well-being and health of the population?

Through this study, the CDC Pontiac is documenting these issues on which little has been written. In 2017, a study of businesses and entrepreneurs was conducted, but it did not include CBES organizations. This study attempts to draw some parallels between the realities of businesses and those of the CDC Pontiac's member organizations.

The intention of the CDC and its members is to have an economic portrait of the CBES sector's contribution in order to inform, raise awareness, and increase its collaboration with other social economy players in the Pontiac.

The CDC Pontiac and its 23-member organizations form a significant and representative group of the diversity of the mission and vocation of Pontiac's non-profit organizations.

The study first presents the CDC Pontiac as a group, then member profiles describe their characteristics, as well as their economic contribution and collective impact on the Pontiac. The last section presents the CDC Pontiac's contributions to its members.

The CDC Pontiac and
its 23 members

Key Players in the
Economic Vitality of the
Pontiac.

METHODOLOGY

Individual Interview

To carry out this study, 24 one-on-one interviews lasting 90 minutes each were conducted with every CDC Pontiac member organization and the CDC director. Interviews were also conducted with the mayor and director general of various Pontiac municipalities.

Document Analysis

Annual reports and financial statements were analysed to extract the characteristics of each CDC Pontiac member organization.

Objectives and Results

The Study's Objectives:

- Obtain economic data on CDC member organizations.
- Compare the needs of Pontiac entrepreneurs with those of CDC member organization workers.
- Identify the types of services offered by CBES organizations by municipality, and how they interact with one another.

Expected Results:

- The CDC has evidence of the realities of its member organizations, and their impact on the Pontiac economy.
- The CDC has an overview of the services offered by its members and how municipalities contribute to the delivery of services.