



Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone

2016/2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

August 2016

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Vancouver Island

as *the* place to engage in social innovation for local well-being

Message from Chair of Strategic Planning Working Group

Vancouver Island is our home. Comprised of Coast Salish, Nuu-Chah-Nulth and Kwakwaka'wakw traditional territories, it is a unique and vibrant place to live, work and play.

The Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone imagines our Island as a place where social innovation thrives; where individuals, organizations and communities work together to create opportunities to try new ideas and sustainable solutions for the challenges we face; where people come to learn about how communities care for their people and their environment.

Bounded by water, our Island provides us a distinctive opportunity to be a kind of living and learning laboratory for social innovation. We have tremendous assets to build from, including systems that can help form the infrastructure for a social innovation zone. From post-secondary institutions to social enterprise networks, we already have the enabling building blocks and eco-system.

The time is now. Working together, we can make it happen. We have the vision. Now we need a plan...

Leslie Brown
Chair, Strategic Planning Working Group
Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone (VISIZ)

Forward: Introduction to this Strategic Plan

This Plan attempts to capture the momentum around social innovation, social enterprise and social innovation on Vancouver Island. There are many moving pieces and many active actors. This Plan is a dynamic living document to help align efforts and build common direction towards concrete outcomes and impact.

This Plan focuses the efforts of where and how post-secondary institutions, students and community actors can work together to make Vancouver Island *THE* place to test and grow enterprising solutions to social issues.

Vancouver Island, as common to many places, operates in silos of sectors, geographies and relationships. However, truly effective social innovation creates bridges, finds opportunities to collaborate and recognizes that enterprising solutions come from conversation, engagement and the willingness to try new things together.

The Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone strategic plan captures the opportunity and intention to work together as a region, and recognizes that much work needs to be done to invite others to the table, to be always adaptable to the needs and innovation of local communities, and to build on what is already working. Early on, a decision was made to not focus on select social issues, but rather on the infrastructure that could support collaboration, connection and enterprising solutions to seed and grow, no matter what the issue may be.

“By working together, universities, private companies, governments, foundations and social benefit organizations can achieve outcomes beyond the capacity of any one sector or individual organization.” *Pinsent, M. 2012*

Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone

Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone grew out of a series of events and conversations, primarily Social Enterprise Catalyst (2014 & 2015) and Catalyst Conversations (2015). Together, the seven partners applied to McConnell Foundation to advance social innovation on Vancouver Island through research, mapping and strategic planning process. The 7 founding members of VISIZ include:



Additional partners are welcomed and being engaged.

Goals, Outcomes and Impact

Goal	Education and Training	Engaging students, community and post-secondaries together	Incubation and Acceleration of Social Enterprise
Outcome	Education on social innovation accessible and integrated into each post-secondary institution	A connecting platform that links students, community and post-secondary institutions for applied learning and research	Best practice incubator and accelerator program operating in three different regions of Vancouver Island
Outcome	A collaborative certificate or educational program on social innovation, accessible to students across the Island	Curated Social Innovation Cohort that supports paid work and applied learning experience for students in local social innovation and social enterprises	Skilled mentors and program specific to challenges and opportunities of social enterprises
Outcome	Students and community have access to Vancouver Island-based education in social innovation, social enterprise and social finance whether individual courses, programs or certificates	CityStudio's operating within 3 communities on Vancouver Island	Social procurement opportunities are being met by local social enterprises
Outcome			Social finance eco-system supports launch to scale of social enterprises
Impact	Students and community members access high quality education that leads to stronger communities.	There are more opportunities for students and alumni to work, contribute and build their futures on Vancouver Island.	Vancouver Island is host to a strong social enterprise and innovation sector that generates positive economic, social and environmental impacts.

Vision

The Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone (VISIZ) envisions Vancouver Island as *the* place to test and grow enterprising solutions to social issues. Vancouver Island is home to a collaborative ecosystem that supports social innovation, social enterprise and social finance that generates positive economic, social and environmental impacts.

The purpose of VISIZ is to:

- strengthen collaborative relationships, activities and initiatives of post-secondary institutions, community, economic actors and government in support of *enterprising approaches to social innovation on Vancouver Island*
- incubate, accelerate and scale innovation, through social enterprise, social venture, collaborative impact and social finance
- be grounded in research, education and engagement between communities, students and post-secondary institutions
- connect students and community members to inspiring ideas, models and processes
- be informed by sector leaders and economic actors
- benefit the communities of Vancouver Island.

Key Definitions

Social Innovation

Social innovation provides new ways of approaching persistent problems faced by society. At the heart, social innovation involves collaboration between governments, institutions, businesses, nonprofit organizations and communities. By working together, these groups can creatively re-mix ideas, expertise and resources to build new solutions that inspire lasting social change.

Social Enterprise and Social Ventures

Social enterprises existence and purpose is to utilize business strategies to earn revenues and achieve social, environmental and/or cultural impact. These are also referred to as social ventures, impact businesses and social purpose businesses. Non-profits, co-ops and community contribution companies tend to be called social enterprises, whereas for-profits are social ventures. For the purposes of this Plan, we use these terms interchangeably.

Social Finance

Social finance includes community investing, microfinance, social impact bonds, sustainable business, and social enterprise lending. Outcome-based philanthropic grantmaking and program-related investments, sometimes referred to as venture philanthropy, also fall under the umbrella of social finance. These approaches to investment and funding share the twin focus of stimulating positive social and environmental returns for investors and the larger world.

Community

For the purposes of this strategic plan, the term ‘community’ encompasses local governments, First Nations, industry, non-profits and the people who live on Vancouver Island.

Process & Governance

Process

The Strategic Planning Working Group has guided the following steps and activities to inform this plan:

- Research and Literature Review on :
 - Effective Social Innovation
 - Social Innovation Frameworks
 - Post-Secondary Initiatives in Social Innovation
 - Scan of local research on social innovation

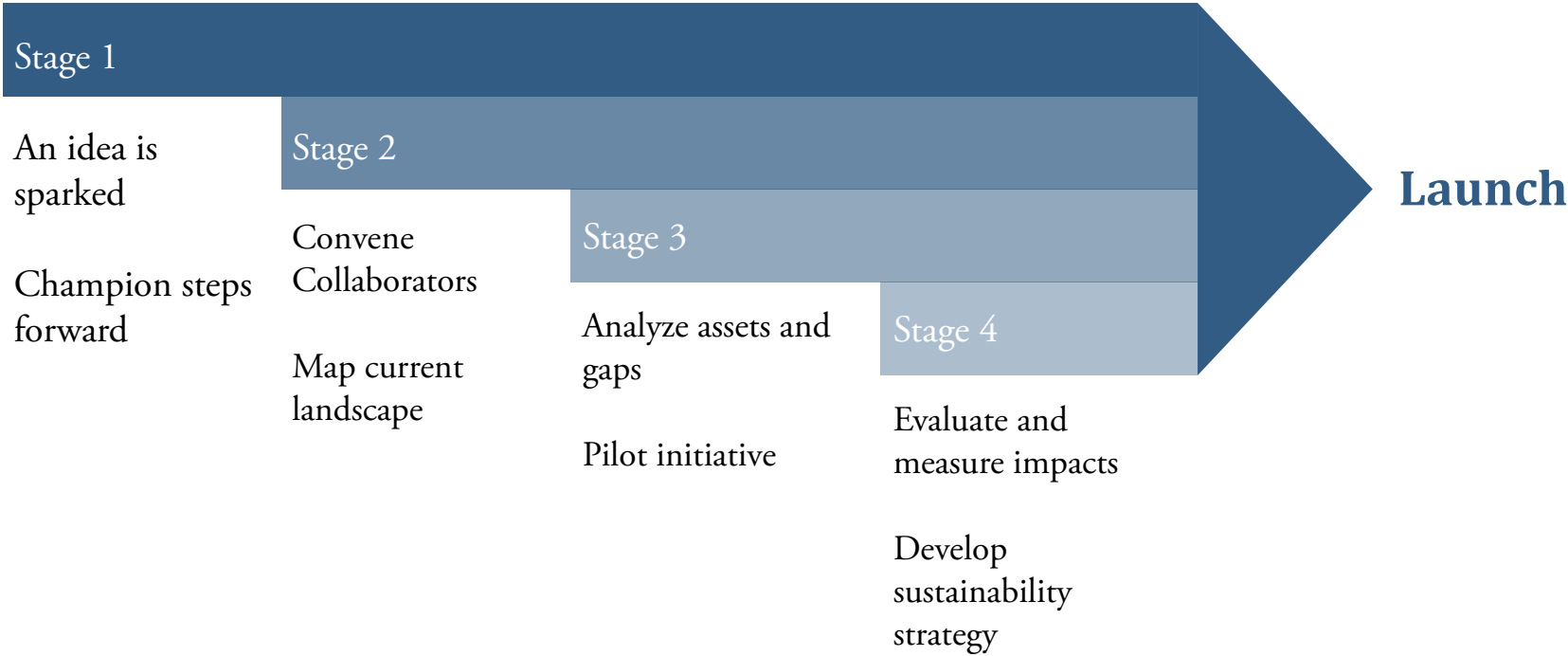
- Mapping Local Assets :
 - Social enterprises on Vancouver Island
 - Intermediaries and support for social enterprise and social innovation
 - Post-secondary assets related to social innovation and social enterprise

- Social Innovation Snapshot events in Victoria and Nanaimo
- Assets and Gaps Analysis report
- Strategic Priorities document
- Community Consultations to receive feedback and ideas on priorities
- Community Consultation report
- Symposium of post-secondary and community educators

VISIZ is currently surveying and mapping the social finance landscape on Vancouver Island. This Plan is a living document and will be updated regularly. This plan has been approved by VISIZ Steering Committee, and will be signed on by as many local partners as possible.

Governance

Each of the goals below involve different actors, operate with different markets and revenue streams, and produce an array of outcomes. As momentum grows, more ideas come to light and start momentum of their own. This is an important organic approach. VISIZ engages the following process to guide new actions forward:



Keys to Success:

- **Partnership:** participating organizations and individuals work in partnership and contribute their passion, expertise and resources to advance the collaborative vision
- **Sustainable:** new initiatives are based on sustainable financial models, community goodwill and blended value and returns
- **Connected and adaptable:** we look to what is working elsewhere and also what is unique to the local context
- **Asset-based:** the starting place is ‘what currently exists’; students, post-secondaries and community all bring significant assets
- **Collective and transparent:** evaluation and impact measurement is transparent and to be shared
- **Benefits local communities:** local benefit is foremost, with potential provincial, national and global implications



GOAL 1: EDUCATION AND TRAINING

To integrate social innovation as a core teaching principle in each post-secondary institution on Vancouver Island, building the knowledge, critical capacity and understanding to bring collaborative and enterprising thinking to entrenched social issues.

Context

Students and communities are looking for education in social innovation, values-driven business practices, and opportunities to contribute to solutions to today's complex problems. Post-secondaries have existing educational assets that are disconnected from each other. By mapping Vancouver Island assets, VISIZ identified 47 directly aligned courses scattered throughout all five post-secondary institutions, offered by a range of departments. At the VISIZ-hosted Symposium in February 2016, many post-secondaries had an opportunity to learn what they are doing internally, as well as what the others are advancing.

There is an opportunity to connect what already exists and fill gaps in a way that can be used by multiple institutions and instructors, help educators by avoiding having to re-design courses that already exist by working together and pooling knowledge and resources.

This goal will be directed by a Social Innovation Education Working Group.

What is the *IMPACT* of meeting Goal 1? Students and community members access high quality education that leads to stronger communities.

Education on social innovation accessible and integrated into each post-secondary institution

Strategy 1:

Identify lead departments for each PSI and designated champions to participate in the Social Innovation Education Working Group

Strategy 1:

Complete an inventory of current academic opportunities for students and community members across post-secondaries

Strategy 3:

Develop recommendations and/or additions for integrating social innovation into existing programs

Strategy 4:

Work with faculty and staff to collectively build capacity in social innovation pedagogy and course design (online course, workshops, speakers)

Strategy 5:

Develop incentives and process for integrating lessons from and experiences of local social innovations/enterprises into curriculum and classroom learning

Strategy 6:

Award an annual 'course of the year' from each post-secondary and one community educator

Spotlight on Assets:

UVic's Co-operative Education department mapped all UVic's experiential learning opportunities throughout the undergraduate curriculum. This project identified over *750 courses* where students engage in significant experiential learning with many of these opportunities occurring with community partners. The University learning outcomes are used to guide student learning and in the case of co-op, community service learning, internships, work experience are used as the basis for assessment of student learning and organizational impact.

A collaborative certificate or educational program on social innovation, accessible to students across the Island

Strategy 1:

Engage community educators as partners in Social Innovation Education working group

Strategy 2:

Develop recommendations to fill gaps through new educational offering

Strategy 3:

Conduct a market and demand analysis

Strategy 4:

Present options for an Island-wide educational approach for social innovation and social enterprise back to Steering Committee and other stakeholders: certificate program, shared curriculum or badge program to be considered

Strategy 5:

Develop and pilot collaborative educational program

Spotlight on Assets:

The vision of the Vancouver Island Community Research Alliance (VICRA), involving all five campuses on Vancouver Island (Royal Roads, UVic, North Island College, and Vancouver Island University) is the social and economic sustainability and well-being of Vancouver Island communities and the natural environment. VICRA came together in 2008 with an MOU signed by all Island campus research-academic leaders. VICRA conducted many Island-wide collaborative research, student learning and community engagement projects focused on overall community well being, food security, housing, and CBR capacity building and training. The MOU was re-worked and signed again in 2015.

Particular areas of focus include identifying funding and in-kind opportunities to build on Goal #1- Education and Training and Goal #2 – Students, Communities and Post-Secondaries and also consider how to promote the social innovation lab- civic studio model on our Island campuses and with –in communities. Working together, we will build on the VISIZ Assets and Gaps research, and also help connect VISIZ to other cutting edge social innovation initiatives nationally and globally via our research, policy and learning networks.

Students and community have access to Vancouver Island-based education in social innovation, social enterprise and social finance whether individual courses, programs or certificates

Strategy 1:

Standardize search criteria for social innovation education

Strategy 2:

List courses on a common platform and within post-secondary course search

Strategy 3:

Market social innovation education opportunities to prospective and current students

Spotlight on Assets:

The MA in Sustainable Leisure Management (MASLM) at Vancouver Island University (VIU) allows students the opportunity to explore and apply innovative solutions to sustainability challenges in the global context. This program places graduates at the intersection of two growing, exciting, and globally significant areas of theory and practice: leisure and sustainability. The program prepares emerging leaders to examine and create solutions which ensure that residents and travelers alike can enjoy recreational experiences, natural and cultural amenities, heritage resources, and adventure as part of their life experiences on a sustainable basis.

Hosted at VIU's Nanaimo campus, this location provides learners with a spectacular learning environment and extensive opportunities to explore the concepts of sustainability and innovation. Easily accessed by air and water, this region includes world renowned natural areas (Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, Cathedral Grove), UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (Clayoquot & Arrowsmith), and vibrant arts and agricultural communities. Whether your leisure passions include arts and culture or sport and adventure, VIU provides the ultimate playground to study in.

GOAL 2: ENGAGING STUDENTS, COMMUNITY and POST-SECONDARIES TOGETHER

To increase opportunities for students, communities and post-secondary institutions to research, work and apply learning together.

Context

Applied learning, work-integrated learning, and experiential learning offer tremendous benefits to students, employers and post-secondary institutions. These opportunities include co-op programs, internships, community service learning, hands-on student projects, field studies, work-study, co-curricular opportunities and practicums.

Experiential learning fills a number of relevant gaps students face on Vancouver Island. The Vancouver Island Economic Alliance's (VIEA) State of the Island Economic Report highlights fewer unskilled work opportunities for youth 15-24 years old. Between 2010 and 2014, the number of people in the labour force on Vancouver Island has declined approximately 7%. Students who participate in work-integrated learning increase their chances of finding a job after graduation because it builds a network of contact/references, builds competencies and work place skills, and helps students clarify their areas of interest.

Work-integrated learning opportunities on the Island can help address the "brain drain" of bright skilled young minds leaving Vancouver Island in order to find work elsewhere, helping to keep qualified recent grads and their skills on the Island. Each of the three South Island post-secondary campuses offers experiential learning for their students. All have staff and/or departments dedicated to managing community engaged learning opportunities: a Work-Integrated Manager at Royal Roads and the co-op departments at Camosun and UVic.

With the exception of co-op (which has clear employer intake processes), connections to campus assets such as consulting/design projects, hands-on course work and community service learning opportunities are often formed on a relationship-basis between faculty/institutions and communities.

- Communities have difficulty matching to student projects and finding entry points to access the creative power and energy of student
- Instructors rely on their personal relationships to access experiential learning for in-class projects, which can be time-consuming and take years to build up
- Students have a difficult time finding experiential work and learning opportunities in local social innovations, social enterprises and social finance

Goal #2 is about making the connections and building the opportunities for more student, community and post-secondary engagement, to the benefit of all.

What is the *IMPACT* of meeting Goal 2? There are more opportunities for students and alumni to work, contribute and build their futures on Vancouver Island.

A connecting platform that links students, community and post-secondary institutions for applied learning and research

Strategy 1:

Identify an appropriate platform for students, communities and post-secondary's to connect around social innovation initiatives, where:

- Communities can post work, project and research opportunities and needs
- Communities can find students and faculty member research interests
- Students can identify community projects and initiatives to conduct in-curriculum projects and research
- Faculty and staff can identify local social innovation initiatives for speakers, case studies, and curriculum-based projects
- Faculty and community groups can identify local research needs together

Strategy 2:

Pilot the platform with students, faculty, City Studio Victoria and non-profit leadership network

Strategy 3:

Receive feedback, update and expand; apply an appropriate revenue or subscription rate

Strategy 4:

Connect students more to support local community initiatives and events around social enterprise and social innovation—seCatalyst 2016 to be project managed by students

Spotlight on Assets:

Camosun College's Hospitality Management Program exemplifies curriculum where applied learning tied to social community benefit provide robust learning outcomes for students while building an engaged community. Over the past four years, student run events have given back over \$40,000 to the local community. This program success has been built on the creation of long term sustainable relationship with many community partners. Our Place Society is one example; students bring a gourmet dinner event annually to people accessing services at Our Place Centre.

The program also requires second year students (Integrated Events Management Course) to deliver four live events to four community partners; these partners have included Camosun Child Care Services, The Island Chef's Collaborative, Victoria Therapeutic Riding Association, The Didi Society and Community Micro Lending. Student outcomes include; learning how to integrate Social Innovation into the Hospitality Industry, building business relationships with community stakeholders and engagement in real world business practices. The community partners benefit from stronger public awareness for their organization, donations or fundraising efforts and the ability to work with future industry leaders.

Curated Social Innovation Cohort that supports paid work and applied learning experience for students in local social innovation and social

Strategy 1:

Review lessons learned and evaluation from 2016 pilot Social Innovation Cohort 1

Strategy 2:

Explore 3-year social innovation cohort extended trial with 10 students supported annually through bursaries alongside non-bursary student participants

Strategy 3:

Identify post-secondary champions for social innovation cohort initiative

Strategy 4:

Secure bursaries for student and community participation

Spotlight on Assets:

The Social Innovation Cohort is a pilot program that aims to advance social innovation on Vancouver Island by building on the assets of post-secondary institutions (PSI), providing a community-based work experience for students, and delivering financial and technical assistance and capacity value to support social innovation on the island. The pilot, which ran *January-April 2016*, matched 4 coop students from UVic and Camosun College to local social innovations for curriculum-based, real world learning experiences such as marketing, communications and business planning, IT and social media, general research support and opportunity identification, impact and measurement. Case studies on each of the SI initiatives are being conducted to understand their social innovation, document their story and help build a database of social innovation stories for Vancouver Island.

The organizations partnering in this pilot include the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable (CR-FAIR), Community Social Planning Council, the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) and the Cowichan Social Planning Council (CSPC). This pilot supports Indigenous Social Innovation specifically through the VNFC 'Siem Lelum' affordable residential housing project and the Cowichan Cultural Connections program lead by CSPC.

Strategy 1:

Pilot an applied work 'lab' experience for students to apply learning to municipal and local issues; City Studio Vancouver model to be adapted to local context

Strategy 2:

Measure and evaluate process and impact

Strategy 3:

Develop transferable, adaptable and sustainable model for other island municipalities to access and integrate

Strategy 4:

Pilot three additional spaces in other Island locales to support collaboration and increased student involvement in addressing local issues and opportunities

Spotlight on Assets:

City Studio Victoria is an innovation hub inside City Hall where staff, students from the University of Victoria, Camosun College, and Royal Roads University, along with community members co-create, design and launch projects on the ground. The central mission of City Studio Victoria is to innovate and experiment with the ways cities are co-created, while teaching students the skills needed to collaborate on real projects. These projects improve our city and enrich our neighbourhoods, making the city more livable, joyful and sustainable. City Studio Victoria convenes stakeholders, defines problems and creates solutions while improving student skills and retaining talent in the city. We aim to create a culture change at City Hall and in the post-secondary institutions where learning by doing becomes the new normal.

GOAL 3: INCUBATION AND ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

To fill existing gaps to support Vancouver Island social enterprises and social innovation initiatives from ideation to start-up to growth to sustainability.

Context

Social enterprise and venture incubation and acceleration is becoming commonplace in communities across Canada.

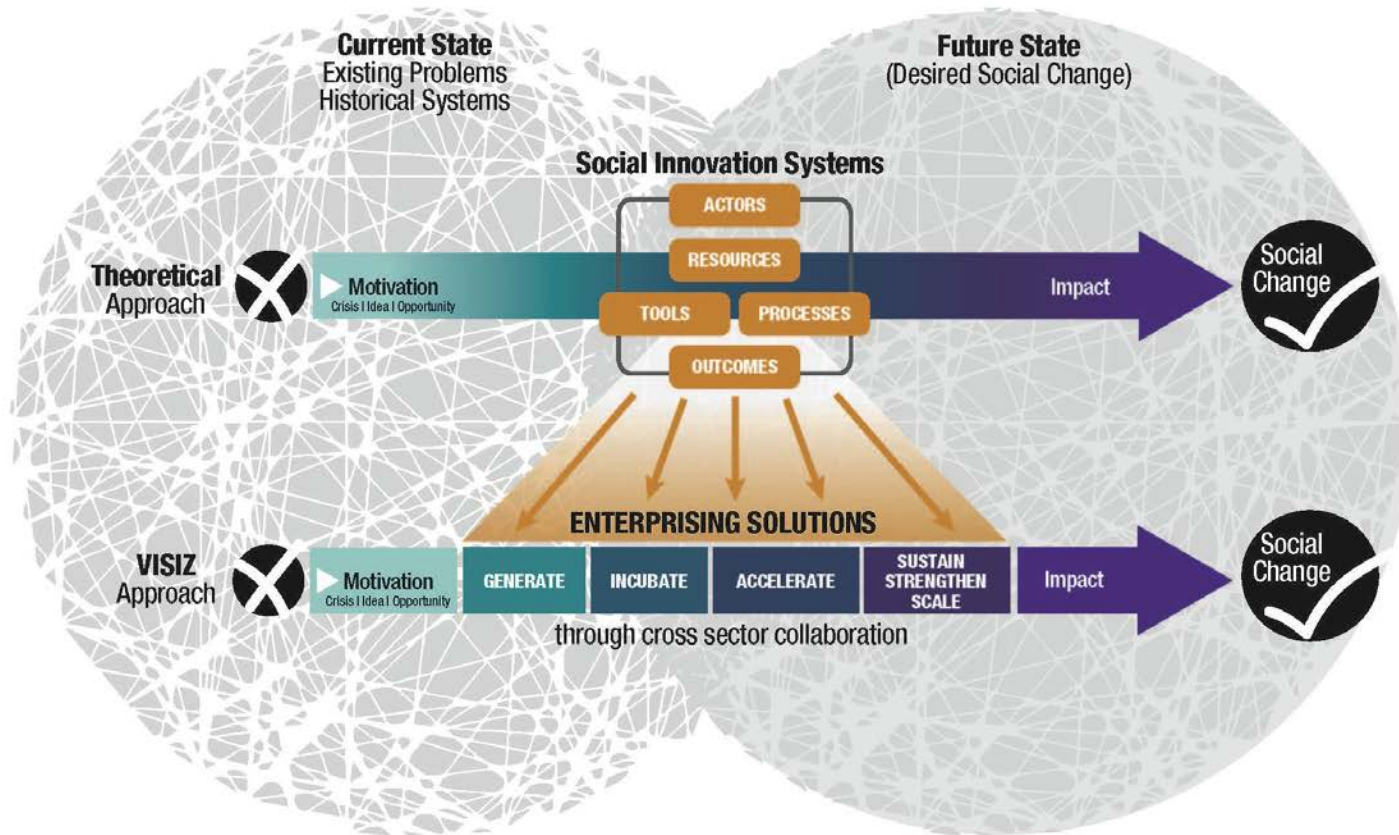
However, there is a gap on Vancouver Island in incubation and acceleration of social innovation and social enterprises. Business schools and continuing education encourage entrepreneurship and the Innovation Centre for Entrepreneurs (ICE) at UVic provides early stage incubation supports for students. However, once past the start up stage, or if not a UVic student or recent alumni, incubation and acceleration supports are lacking.

Co-working hubs, incubation spaces and accelerators for entrepreneurs are increasingly available on Vancouver Island, primarily in the Capital Region and Nanaimo. There are approximately a dozen co-working solutions, servicing mainly the Greater Victoria and Nanaimo regions. The growth of incubation and acceleration is strongest for the tech sector, followed by traditional business development and supports. Even with the recent abundance of co-working spaces, dedicated social impact spaces and curated support are few and far between for new and operating social ventures. Social enterprise and social innovation also responds well to an incubation-to-acceleration approach with lots of room to build and provide those supports.

What is the *IMPACT* of meeting Goal 3? Vancouver Island is host to a strong social enterprise and innovation sector that generates positive economic, social and environmental impacts.

Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone

SOCIAL INNOVATION FRAMEWORK



Strategy 1:

Host a meeting of seCatalyst partners to discuss incubation and acceleration approaches

Strategy 2:

Meet with existing tech and small business supports to explore integrating incubation and acceleration supports for social enterprises in their programming

Strategy 3:

Explore the options for adapting successful incubation and acceleration programming into local communities

Strategy 4:

Develop a sustainability model to accompany a successful program model

Strategy 5:

Pilot incubation and acceleration, in partnership with key local champions such as Chambers, Community Futures and co-working spaces, in three communities on Vancouver Island in 2016/2017:

- Victoria
- Nanaimo
- Comox/Campbell River

Spotlight on Assets:

Social Enterprise Catalyst seeks to strengthen and grow Vancouver Island-based social enterprise economy. To do this, seCatalyst host a series of events to support, showcase and inspire social enterprises, including Day of Learning which builds sector wide capacity and seCatalyst Gala which directly infuses three social enterprises with financial and technical support. While raising awareness and capacity of social enterprises as a means for economic and social development and healthy communities, seCatalyst also creates strategic partnerships to support the sector, across government, non-profits, funders, and the private sector.

Strategy 1:

Inventory required mentor skills and capacities to assist existing mentor pools to meet the specific needs of social enterprises

Strategy 2:

Strengthen the pool of mentors available to social enterprises by building their knowledge of the unique features of social enterprise; host a series of mentor workshops and training

Strategy 3:

Link coaching and high capacity students to incubation and acceleration supports

Strategy 4:

Pilot financial literacy programs specific to non-profits and the non-profit context on Vancouver Island

Strategy 5:

Host incubation and acceleration program for non-profit cohort

Spotlight on Assets:

Royal Roads University challenges its coaching students to contribute to a not-for-profit organization, while growing the credibility of the coaching profession and contributing to individual learning. RRU's coaching students offer confidential professional coaching sessions for leaders working in not-for-profit and charitable organizations. These coaches act as a confidential resource to help not-for-profit leaders promote their ideas and discover aspirations, set and achieve goals, create tangible business results; and assist with personal alignment and growth.

Strategy 1:

Invite government, post-secondary and other institutional purchasers to host and meet with social enterprises at seCatalyst Day of Learning

Strategy 2:

Translate procurement opportunities and capacity requirements into easily accessible communications

Strategy 3:

Host social enterprise and local business sector-specific workshops on upcoming social procurement opportunities and requirements, facilitating networking and collaboration opportunities

Strategy 4:

Work with the sector to make recommendations of key infrastructure that would assist social enterprises to be successful at obtaining and delivering on large social procurement opportunities

Strategy 5:

Support social enterprise sector to collectively measure their impact

Spotlight on Assets:

North Island College - FEED Comox Valley

FEED - Food Environment & Economic Development - Comox Valley is one of nine projects working nationally, with funding from The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, to increase the supply of local food in publicly funded institutions.

In the summer of 2015 FEED Comox Valley successfully delivered five demonstration farm-direct crops into North Island College, St Joseph's acute care hospital and the Glacier View long-term care facility.

FEED Comox Valley is currently in discussion with CR-FAIR and Cowichan Green to expand the project creating NIC - FEED Vancouver Island. The project is currently researching the potential of 'Grow to Order' contracts, which would provide stability of demand for Vancouver Island farmers and stability of price point and supply for Vancouver Island institutions facing steep price increases on imported food.

Social finance is understood and accessible to investors, innovators and Indigenous Investors

Strategy 1:

Build the capacity of social finance investors, innovators and Indigenous entrepreneurs through education:

- Conduct a case study series specifically looking at lessons learned from social enterprises, social ventures and social finance on successful financing strategies
- Build “how to” guides of replicable tools – CICs, community bonds, CDLFs, etc—for Vancouver Island investors, investment managers and entrepreneurs
- Coordinate an annual series of workshops to social innovators on financial readiness and investment
- Coordinate networking opportunities amongst categories (investors and/or entrepreneurs etc.) and across categories
- Build one-to-one coaching into the delivery of education and training

Strategy 2:

Enhance the delivery of social finance information

- Add a searchable field for the Vancouver Island region on www.impactmoneyfinder.ca
- Develop and share examples of successful social finance strategies and cases, to be shared through www.impactmoneyfinder.ca
- Enhance the education and financial literacy offerings on Impact Money Finder

Strategy 1:

Participate around tables that are promoting social finance eco-system development, such as Partners for Social Impact

Strategy 2:

Encourage the development of research, curriculum, and educational opportunities that further the understanding of Indigenous perspectives, approaches, and values

Spotlight on Assets:

Vancity is a values-based financial co-operative serving the needs of its more than 509,000 member-owners and their communities through 59 branches in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Victoria, Squamish and Alert Bay. Vancity multiplies the power of members' deposits by lending to and investing in local businesses, organizations and initiatives that create positive economic, social and environmental impact. This is done by way of creative social finance solutions that address the capital gap commonly faced by impact businesses.

An important goal for Vancity is to bring impact investing programs to scale as a way to help build jobs, the local economy and community. Vancity's approach includes supporting the delivery of a range of financing, including patient capital, start-up loans, venture capital, and junior and senior debt. This also includes innovative solutions such as Vancity's microloan programs and the creation of community investment co-operatives like the Knives and Forks Community Investment Co-op.

EMERGING AREAS



There are a number of emerging areas and conversations where momentum is building. These conversations are still in exploratory stages but are important aspects of our Vancouver Island social innovation eco-system:

- There is much to be learned from the innovation that is taking place within Indigenous communities. Early conversations reflect that innovation may be framed in unique ways and the process for nurturing innovation may offer important lessons. VISIZ is learning from Indigenous innovation through an initial research project (2016-7), and from involvement of two Indigenous groups in the initial Social Innovation cohort.
- Research connected to and driven by local communities is a key area of work. The Vancouver Island Community Research Alliance (VICRA) is an important actor in identifying social innovation research strategies. There are many ideas on how these connections can be made stronger and where specific areas of research and action connected to specific social issues can be strengthened. However, research funding and research autonomy make community-driven and connected research more complicated than it seems. More work needs to be done here on identifying the opportunity and infrastructure to make stronger connections.

- Social innovation breeds new ideas that will result in new technologies. Interaction Lab at Camosun is an asset that can usher forward technological solutions that emerge from social innovation. This is an exciting emerging area.
- Vancouver Island is well situated to become a hub for international students interested in applied social innovation. A Social Innovation Intensive could benefit local communities as well as offer an attractive and dynamic educational experience.



Vancouver Island Social Innovation Zone

Innovation. Enterprise. Finance.

Our Partners:



University
of Victoria



COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
research·insights·solutions



Part of:

