

Canadian Sustainability Indicators Network (CSIN) Learning Event #28 Summary

*Measuring Success - Indicators for Strategic Approaches to Sustainable Community
Planning*

September 30, 2008
11:00 – 12:30 am CT



Assembled by the CSIN Secretariat
www.csin-rcid.ca

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**The following summary, while by no means complete, offers a snapshot of the Learning Event presentation & discussion which took place on September 30, 2008.*

1. About CSIN Learning Events

The Canadian Sustainability Indicators Network is now a network of over 600 indicator practitioners from across Canada and around the world working in a variety of governmental and non-governmental contexts. Practitioners share resources over a listserv and website, and participate in regular knowledge sharing opportunities, called “Learning Events”. CSIN’s unique approach in engaging practitioners is reflective of a larger goal to forward the discourse and practice of sustainability indicator development in Canada.

A CSIN Learning Event is an online virtual meeting powered by *Elluminate Live!*® 8.0. Use of the virtual meeting room is donated to CSIN by Thompson Rivers University. Relevant topics related to sustainability indicator development are explored using a presentation with discussion format. Participants from all levels of government, academia, NGOs, consultants and business bring perspectives and knowledge resources.

Participating in the network is free and easy; simply request to be placed on CSIN’s listserv and you will receive notices of upcoming events, along with news, reports and announcements. Past event summaries and presentations, as well as listserv archives are available from CSIN’s website: www.csin-rcid.ca

More information about CSIN is available on our website www.csin-rcid.ca or by contacting the CSIN Coordinator Christa Rust by email: crust@iisd.ca or telephone #204-958-7719.

2. Snapshot

The 28th CSIN Learning Event occurred on Wednesday September 30, 2008 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm central time. The event was well attended and brought together a diverse group of participants from across Canada. There were a total of 27 participants registered for the event, not including presenters and moderator. It must be noted that the actual number of participants is unknown since some people may not have logged-in and others many have been participating in groups and were otherwise unidentified. Participants for this event were made up of the following sectors: academia, Canadian federal and provincial governments, non-governmental organizations and private organizations (Annex A: Learning Event Participants).

About the Presenters:

Alaya Boisvert was born in Sechelt, British Columbia, Canada. She recently graduated with an MSc in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability at the Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden. Prior to her Masters studies, Alaya was employed in the Marine Conservation Program at the David Suzuki Foundation. She has worked in both corporate and non-profit sectors and has amassed extensive experience in overseas project implementation. Her interests in human rights advocacy led her to Guatemala where she worked with a local grassroots organization supporting indigenous community leaders. In 2003, Alaya received a first class honours degree in International Development Studies and Environmental Studies from McGill University. A results-driven social entrepreneur, her diverse skills include marketing, communications, public engagement, curriculum development, and community economic development. A natural leader with an adventurous spirit, Alaya looks forward to employing her management and strategic organization skills to help facilitate sustainable community development around the world.

Sarah Cheevers was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. She graduated with distinction from the University of Victoria with a double major in Geography and Environmental Studies. She received her Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia and has taught high school for two years. She has worked at all levels of government on a variety of planning, policy, inventory and communications projects. She has written First Nations water rights reports for the Ministry of Environment as well as worked on strategic land use plans and was the public communications contact for Vancouver Island Resource Targets Report. The diversity of her work and educational experience is a result of her curiosity and care for both social and environmental issues and their interrelationship. Sarah intends to combine her skills as a facilitator, artist and educator with her expertise of the Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development to facilitate partnerships in co-creating a dynamic and healthy environment with a shared vision of sustainability.

Erin Romanchuk has a strong desire to influence the direction our world takes on sustainability issues. Her undergraduate degree is in Communication Studies with a minor in Sociology from the

University of Calgary. Prior to studying in Sweden, Erin worked for a small municipality in southern Alberta, Canada. She began as a part-time Community Education Assistant with the Environmental Services Division and quickly worked her way to become the Environmental Services Coordinator. Erin has hands on experience with community-based social marketing, program development, and project management. She has also gained experience with policy development and public consultation. Erin has been an active member of grass roots environmental groups, and has a deep appreciation for active community members who engage locally in a constructive and productive capacity. Erin plans to work in Europe to influence real change for sustainability. Specifically her interests lie in sustainable community development, and public engagement in both the private and public sectors.

Karen Stroebel was born in South Africa, but spent most of her life as a Canadian citizen living on the vibrant Canadian west coast. In completing her Master's in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability, Karen specialized in Community-Based Social Marketing, community planning, and process indicators. She is currently based out of Fredericton, New Brunswick, as a sustainability consultant with a leading environmental consulting company, Jacques Whitford. In this role, she works with communities and organizations to help them design and monitor sustainability initiatives. A dynamic member of the Jacques Whitford sustainability practice, Karen has also been involved with the internal development of the organization's national sustainability initiative. This has involved contribution to the development and implementation of a comprehensive GHG emissions inventory and reduction plan, to strategic planning, and to designing indicators for measuring movement towards sustainability goals.

3. Measuring Success - Indicators for Strategic Approaches to Sustainable Community Planning

About the Presentation:

The 28th CSIN Learning Event was an opportunity for four recent Canadian graduates – Alaya Boisvert, Sarah Cheevers, Karen Stroebel and Erin Romanchuk – from the Blekinge Institute of Technology's Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability program to share their research on community sustainability indicators. The Learning Event featured a detailed presentation on the framework and the key findings of this leading sustainability indicators research which was conducted in early 2008. A brief overview of the Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development (FSSD), the foundation upon which the research was built, was provided at the beginning of the presentation to offer a science-based and principled definition of sustainability as well as a method for structuring, evaluating and informing the design of indicators. A presentation of the key findings of the research followed in addition to discussion with participants.

An archived recording of Learning Event #28 and the corresponding power point presentation can be accessed online at: http://www.csin-rcid.ca/learning_events.aspx.

A downloadable copy of project poster is also available at the link mentioned above.

4. Suggested Links

Researchers' Email:

- indicators4success@gmail.com

Noted Website:

- Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability – <http://www.bth.se/tmslm>
- Natural Step Canada – www.naturalstep.ca
- Whistler 2020 – www.whistler2020.ca
- Sustainable Calgary – www.sustainablecalgary.ca

Noted Documents:

- **Sustainable Development Indicators: Proposals for a Way Forward**, László Pintér, Peter Hardi, and Peter Bartelmus
- **The Natural Step for Communities**, Sarah James and Torbjorn Lahti

5. Annex A: Learning Event Participants

(Includes those who signed up for the call and were unable to attend)

1. Wendy Kalkan, Director of Planning & Development at MD of Pincher Creek
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2. Dan Wilson, Monitoring and Reporting Consultant Resort Municipality of Whistler,
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