

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS: a contribution to the social and economic development of Montreal

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INTRODUCTION

Community economic development,
a local development strategy based on:

- ◆ Civic participation
- ◆ Community partnerships
- ◆ Civic and democratic governance
- ◆ Social innovation
- ◆ Individual and organisational empowerment

The SouthWest borough



The SouthWest borough

From industrial cradle to poorest urban area in Canada

A sharp decline of jobs and population

■ Job losses:

- ◆ 1961 – Over 30 000 industrial jobs
- ◆ 1986 – 7 000 industrial jobs

■ Population decrease:

- ◆ 1961 – 120 000
- ◆ 1986 – 68 000

The SouthWest borough

- In the 70's: numerous community initiatives take place to alleviate the crisis
 - ◆ Community health clinics
 - ◆ Social and community housing
 - ◆ Food coops and community kitchens
 - ◆ Legal services
 - ◆ Popular education

The SouthWest borough

In the early 80's, the community empowerment process takes a further step:

- A strategic decision of community organizations to take part in economic development

The SouthWest borough

- 1984: Programme économique de Pointe Saint-Charles
- 1987: Urgence Sud-Ouest
 - ◆ a massive mobilisation asking for action from the governments
- 1987-1989: Comité pour la relance de l'économie et de l'emploi du Sud-Ouest de Montréal (CREESOM)

RESO's MISSION

1. Provide assistance to the unemployed of the Southwest and promote a socio-economic revitalisation of the area.
2. Consolidate the economic activity, particularly by maintaining and creating jobs for the local population.

RESO's MISSION

3. Improve the quality of life and the image of the Southwest
4. Help the local community to take the greatest possible control over its future.

RESO's STRUCTURE

RESO's VALUES AND APPROACH

- ◆ Community partnerships
- ◆ Innovation and experimentation
- ◆ Democracy
- ◆ Civic participation
- ◆ Government and private partnerships
- ◆ Entrepreneurship
- ◆ Sharing and solidarity

RESO's SERVICES

- ◆ Employment assistance and training
- ◆ Technical and financial assistance for business development including the social economy and community groups
- ◆ Assistance to large scale projects and community partnerships

RESO's INNOVATIONS

In labor development

- ◆ RESO's employment services are based on a voluntary participation of unemployed people
- ◆ Innovation fund for labor development
- ◆ On the job literacy training
- ◆ VIV : virtual visit of enterprises
- ◆ Parents' school

FROM PILOT PROJECT TO PERMANENT COMMUNITY ASSET

- ◆ **1990:** Labor development innovation fund
- ◆ **1994:** Local development experimental project
- ◆ **1996:** Québec socioeconomic summit
- ◆ **1997:** Osons la solidarité! Creation of the Chantier de l'économie sociale
- ◆ **1998:** Creation of Local development centres (CLD)
- ◆ **1998:** Creation of Emploi Québec

FROM PILOT PROJECT TO PERMANENT COMMUNITY ASSET

- ◆ **2001: creation of Carrefour jeunesse Emploi du Sud-Ouest**
- ◆ **2003: RESO is recognized as a CLD**
- ◆ **2003: BILL 34: delegation of the CLD responsibility to the municipalities**
- ◆ **2005: first CLD agreement with the City of Montreal**
- ◆ **2005: renewal of the agreement with Développement économique Canada for 4 years**
- ◆ **2008 : Renegotiation of the CLD agreement with the City (in process)**

THE ROLE OF CEDC IN A CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

Now that the economy is getting better, what is the use of an organisation created to implement measures of economic and social revitalisation?