

Social Enterprise Network of Central Ontario (SENCO) coming to a Neighbourhood near You

Starting last fall (2015), [Georgian College's Centre for Social Entrepreneurship](#) (CSE) began engaging non-profit organizations as well as other interested stakeholders through the Social Enterprise Network of Central Ontario (SENCO). The network is open to individuals and organizations who are thinking of developing, in the midst of developing or are currently running a social enterprise to come together to foster collaboration, networking and innovative problem-solving at the local level.

“The response has been exceptional and there is tremendous interest in social enterprise in this under-served region,” says Suzanne Addison-Toor, Director of the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship (CSE) at Georgian College. “This is an important first step in starting the conversations as well as an opportunity for us, at the CSE, to assess the needs of individuals and organizations located across central Ontario in order to determine next steps for needed supports”.

Through *Localized Coffee Conversations* at each of the seven Georgian College campus locations located in Barrie, Midland, Muskoka, Orillia, South Georgian Bay, Orangeville and Owen Sound CSE staff are facilitating SENCO meetings in order to better gauge what the local issues facing social enterprise are. CSE staff Dominika Zapolnik, Social Entrepreneurship Liaison and Jacqueline Bayley, RECODE Special Projects Liaison are also facilitating a workshop, **An Introduction: Social Enterprise and Changemaking** which focuses on how social enterprises address the most pressing problems faced by society by employing scalable, self-sustaining and innovative social business models. It touches on how social enterprise can be used as a tool for creating social change as well as diversifying and creating sustainability in non-profit operations.

It is our belief that the entire social enterprise sector can be strengthened through an environment of collaboration and partnership, networking and co-creation within an organized network structure such as SENSC. For more information on SENSC please contact Dominika Zapolnik, Centre for Social Entrepreneurship Liaison, Centre for Social Entrepreneurship Georgian College, Orillia Campus.

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The Georgian College Centre for Social Entrepreneurship (CSE) brings together faculty, students and non-profit organizations to respond to complex issues and effect positive social change. Through student-led projects, scholarly research, workshops and innovative curriculum, the CSE is inspiring the next generation of changemakers to use social entrepreneurial skills and mindsets to transform their community.

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