

WHERE
CHANGE
HAPPENS

CENTRE FOR
SOCIAL
INNOVATION





WHEN YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE HOME

For nearly five years we have been trying to explain what the Centre for Social Innovation (CSI) does and what social innovation is. We are officially giving up! Sure, we have created a dynamic shared workspace for people with world-changing ideas. And yes, we are home to some amazing incubated projects and an incredibly diverse community of change-makers; the energy is infectious as social innovators come together under one roof. We are pushing new ideas, new models, and new policies to reinvent the way things work. It is all true! But this just doesn't begin to get at it.

What we are really about is possibility. We are creating a vision of how the world could be and we're working every day to bring it into reality. We are building new models, new initiatives and new ideas. We are hybrids. We are inter-sections. We are solutions. We are the inventors of new ideas that are resonating across sectors. We are social entrepreneurs, artists, activists, idealists and pragmatists. We are transforming the marketplace and finding ways to live in harmony with each other and the planet. We are about creating the world that we want, together.

What is social innovation? It's about ideas that are changing the world to make it better for all of us. It is about working together to create the models and systems that will define our future. And for us, that means prioritizing projects that are collaborative, entrepreneurial and systems changing.

Here is just a taste of what we have been up to for the last five years. We hope this inspires you to be a part of our shared journey.



Tonya Surman
Executive Director


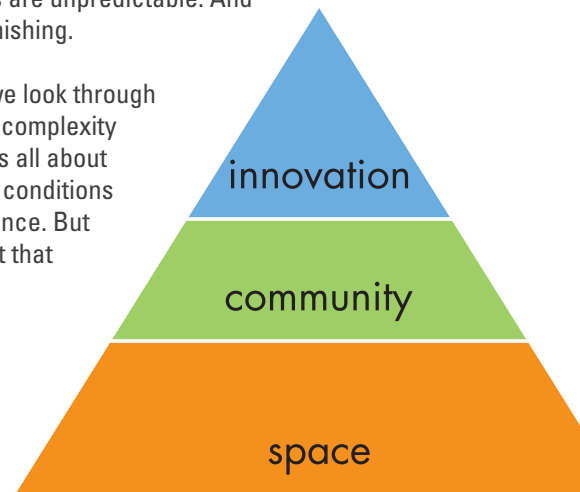


OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Imagine Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Now apply it to social innovation. Voila! The CSI innovation triangle.

We start by creating the physical space. And we do this carefully, designing a space that's functional, whimsical, inviting and energizing. The next step is community. What begins as a group of people looking for a place to work becomes a community through conscious and careful animation. These layers form the basis for innovation – the serendipity that happens when you mix the right people, the right values and the right environment. Just add a little intentionality and you are on your way. The results are unpredictable. And often astonishing.

Or, when we look through the lens of complexity science, it's all about setting the conditions for emergence. But more about that later...



Salad Club » Every Tuesday and Thursday we have an exclusive club open to absolutely anyone working for a better world! The one simple rule is to bring two items that could conceivably go into a salad and then we share: food, ideas and cleanup. It's a simple recipe: bring a dash from Column A (a vegetable or fruit), a sprinkle from Column B (protein or grain) and a dollop from Column C (humour, passion, hunger etc.).

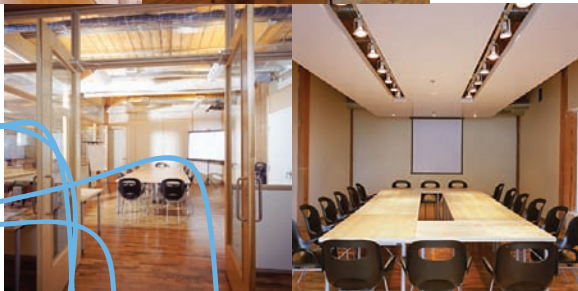
CHANGE AGENTS HAVE A HOME @ CSI

The Centre for Social Innovation has created the space for world-changing ideas.

Over the past five years we have developed unique expertise in the design, creation, and management of community workspaces. Our flagship initiative – located in the Robertson Building at 215 Spadina Avenue in downtown Toronto – is a 23,000-square-foot facility whose tenants include artists, nonprofit organizations, social entrepreneurs, grassroots community groups, and social purpose businesses. Over 150 social mission groups call CSI their home.

Our shared workspace model offers office amenities to initiatives that are typically under-resourced. Once here, members can connect with a powerful and exciting network of social change makers. The Centre for Social Innovation is an inspiring space that increases profile, provides mountains of social capital and offers an upbeat working environment. By bringing together these diverse organizations, CSI increases their efficiency, effectiveness, and impact.

We have created a space for social innovation to thrive!



HOT DESKS ARE SO HOT

Get out of your pyjamas and into the CSI! We've created a number of Hot Desk packages tailored for those who just need an occasional place to work, meet and connect. Hot Desk members benefit from a permanent mailing address and full office facilities, including high-speed wireless internet access, fax machines, meeting rooms and photocopiers. Membership links you to our growing community, sparking new ideas and bringing your project to realization. Hot Desk packages range from \$75 – 250 / month. Visit www.socialinnovation.ca for more info!



A COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

CSI is home to hundreds of meetings, capacity-building workshops, information sessions and community events every year. Over 10,000 people come through the Centre annually! They're gathering to grow their networks, build their skills, and hatch new ideas for positive change in our city and around the world.

To learn more about events @ CSI or to host your own, visit www.socialinnovation.ca.

Dig our model? Contact us to learn more about our consulting services and our plans for replication – info@socialinnovation.ca

INSPIRED BY THE STARS: A CONSTELLATION MODEL OF GOVERNANCE

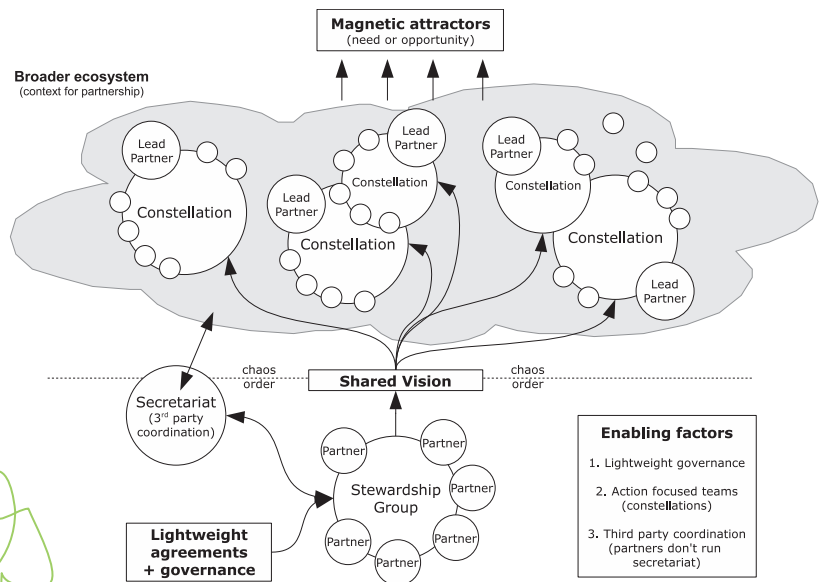
Collaboration has been a buzzword for years. We've seen the increasing formation of partnerships, coalitions and strategic alliances. But we've also seen an astonishing lack of imagination. Surely there are better ways of coordinating movements and activities. Our idea? A constellation model of governance!

Inspired by complexity theory and systems thinking, the Constellation Model strikes a balance between self-interest and shared interest to make social change possible. We know that individual organizations and actors have their own motivations and interests. When groups begin working together, we end up adding layers of protocol and bureaucracy to manage differences. Pretty soon we are bogged down in the process and distracted from our goals – the original reason we came together.

The Constellation Model takes a different approach, emphasizing the role of small, self-selecting action teams that work together on a particular task or issue within a broader framework and under a shared vision. These teams – or “constellations” – operate interdependently, supported by a Stewardship Group but working in ways that serve the interests of the individual constellation members. Leadership rotates fluidly among partners, where each partner has the freedom to lead a constellation that matches its profile and skills, and to sit back from activities that are of peripheral interest. The result is a shift from strained partnerships to open and effective collaborations.

This organizing model is a true social innovation. Initially created, tested and refined with the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment, the Constellation Model has been replicated and adapted to support the Ontario Literacy Coalition, the Frontline Partners with Youth Network, telecentre.org and the Ontario Nonprofit Network. The model's transferability, scalability and adaptability give it resilience and relevance.

To find out more about the Constellation Model, check out www.socialinnovation.ca.



THE ONTARIO NONPROFIT SECTOR GETS ORGANIZED

The Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) is a network of networks with a mission to build communication and coordination among nonprofit organizations working for the public good in Ontario. CSI is incubating and co-chairing this initiative to strengthen the efficiencies and voices of the nonprofit sector. ONN is like collaboration on steroids... and with no side effects!

ONN has been working on changes to the Provincial Corporations Act, proposing an economic stimulus package, responding to the new fundraising guidelines for charities, creating an enabling environment for social enterprise and social finance and much more. To learn how you can be involved in ONN, visit www.ontariononprofitnetwork.ca.



ENTERPRISING NONPROFITS

For the past twenty years nonprofit organizations across the country have been struggling with ongoing capacity constraints due to changing funding practices, cutbacks in government service delivery, and increasing demand from citizens and communities.

Social enterprise has emerged as a key innovation to address these challenges. Social enterprise blends the community-oriented values of the nonprofit sector with the market-place strategies of the for-profit sector. The result: stronger nonprofits and healthier communities.

At the Centre for Social Innovation we had been wondering why Toronto was so far behind in developing a vibrant social enterprise sector. So when we discovered the Enterprising Non-Profits (enp) social enterprise funding program in British Columbia, we knew we needed to adapt the model to our city.

In 2008 we partnered with enp-BC and twelve progressive funders to deliver a pilot of the enp program in Toronto. Together, we held five sold-out social enterprise training workshops and awarded \$100,000 in grants to sixteen successful applicants. Now we're turning our attention to an ongoing enp program in the Greater Toronto Area.

CSI is a thought leader in moving social enterprise forward in Ontario and Canada. Our roles as co-chairs of the Social Enterprise Council of Canada and as co-founders of Social Enterprise Ontario are just part of our commitment to this important social innovation.

To learn more about the enp program visit www.socialinnovation.ca/enp.

LOCAL LIVING ECONOMIES

Green Enterprise Toronto (GET) is a movement of 400 locally owned businesses dedicated to the principles of a local living economy: strong communities, a healthy environment, and meaningful employment. GET believes that Toronto can become a sustainable world-class city by supporting its local, green businesses. Through market research, consumer awareness campaigns and building the capacity of locally owned and operated businesses, GET turns this vision into reality.

One of CSI's first incubated projects, GET is adopting an entrepreneurial approach to the market transformation that is key to our survival. Visit www.greenenterprise.net for more.



MARKET TRANSFORMATION



TOOKER GOMBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY

SYSTEMS CHANGE»



HUGE WINS ON TOXICS AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

In 2007, CSI was hired to facilitate a national, multi-stakeholder policy consultation on toxics and children's health for the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE). The six-city consultation process culminated with an appeal to Health Canada to integrate a "children's health lens" into bio-monitoring and to strengthen the federal government's Chemicals Management Plan.

The government responded by allocating \$25 million to environmental health research. On April 20, 2008, Health Minister Tony Clement declared a ban on bisphenol A in baby bottles. The federal government set a powerful precedent by demonstrating that the precautionary principle can be put into legislative action.

CPCHE is a partnership of eleven leading environmental and health organizations. CSI has helped CPCHE to adopt an "constellation" approach to their work, leading to significant systems change across the country. To learn more about the incredible work of the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment check out www.healthyenvironmentforkids.ca.

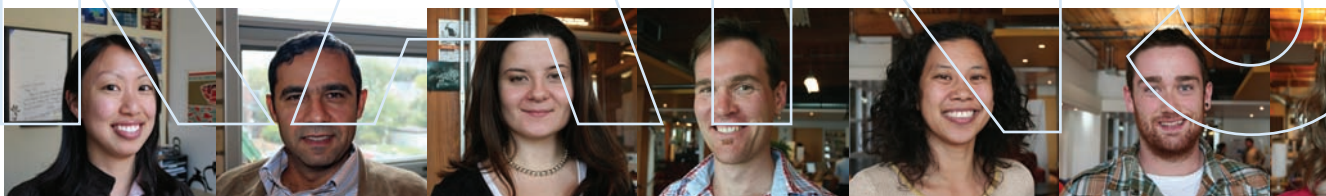


OPEN EVERYTHING

Who knew that the Centre for Social Innovation would have something in common with Linux, Mozilla and Wikipedia? Open source began as a movement to share and co-create programming code. But we wanted to see whether this same philosophy could be applied to cities, to our Centre, and to social innovation itself. The result? Open Everything!

On June 4, 2008, the Centre for Social Innovation hosted the first Open Everything event – a day-long conversation about the art, science and spirit of 'open'. The conversation explored how openness, participation and self-organization facilitate positive social change. We've learned that open source isn't just for the tech sector – it is an integral part of the social innovation scene.

We're adapting the principles of "open" to the Centre for Social Innovation, from our physical design to programming and community engagement. Open thinking is changing the way that we organize, empowering people to actively co-create the world we imagine. This is a social innovation that will empower many other innovations to come.



INCUBATION»



TECHSOUP CANADA

How can the nonprofit sector be better at delivering messages, engaging constituencies and using IT tools to be more effective? TechSoup Canada!

For years, Canada's nonprofits and charities have been forced to route through the United States to take advantage of the TechSoup project. Through a unique partnership between the Centre for Social Innovation, TechSoup Global, the Information Technology Association of Canada, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation, TechSoup has come to Canada!

TechSoup Canada offers donated software from providers such as Microsoft, Adobe, Cisco Systems, Symantec, and Intuit, to eligible nonprofits and charities. TechSoup Canada will also offer a dynamic community for sharing ideas and strategies to support the sector.

Check out www.techsoupcanada.ca to take advantage of the new program and to get involved with Toronto's *Net Tuesday* learning events.



frontline partners w/ youth network

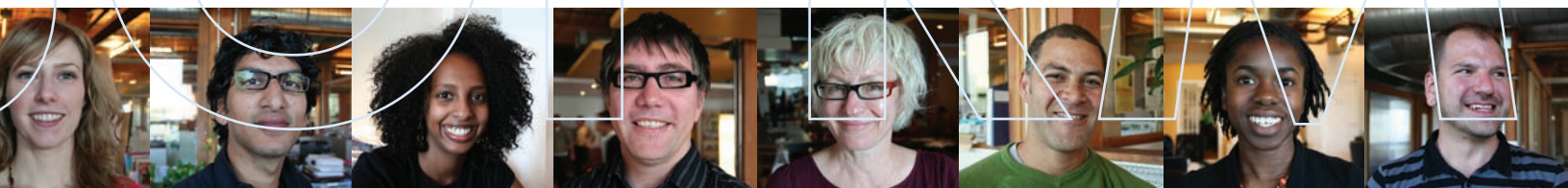
FRONTLINE PARTNERS WITH YOUTH NETWORK

In December 2005 a group of people working directly with youth came together to support each other in dealing with the effects of gun violence. It soon became clear that although they were traumatized and heart-broken, frontline youth workers were also fiercely determined to make things right for youth, for themselves and for their communities. But they were struggling to find their feet and fulfill their potential.

Over the past two years CSI has been working with the Frontline Partners with Youth Network (FPYN) to develop a governance structure based on the constellation model. We've helped define leadership for the group and we've helped secure funding for the network to continue, expand and deepen its work. FPYN now comprises close to 700 people working across the city and across sectors.

FPYN reminds us that social innovation – when it really matters – directly supports the people who need it most. We are honoured to be associated with the project and we'll continue to work with FPYN to make a difference in our city.

To find out more information about Frontline Partners with Youth Network, please see www.fpyn.ca.



STATS



25% CHARITY
33% SOCIAL PURPOSE BUSINESS
35% NONPROFIT

23% ARTS FOCUSED TENANTS
23% ENVIRONMENT FOCUSED TENANTS

80% TENANTS WITH <3 STAFF
4% DRIVE TO WORK, **37%** BIKE, **41%** TRANSIT, **8%** NEVER LEAVE

MAMMALIAN DIVING REFLEX MOST INTERESTING TENANT NAME

DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION MOST FAMOUS TENANT

SALAD CLUB TUESDAYS BUSIEST DAY AT CSI

MARGIE ZEIDLER OF URBANSAPCE FAVOURITE LANDLORD

GET TO KNOW YOUR CSI STAFF

**Camila Bonifaz » Mike Brcic » Colleen Diamond »
Getnet Ejigu » Yumi Hotta » Eli Malinsky » Tonya Surman**



BOARD MEMBERS

Sandy Crawley, Actor, composer, musician, writer, teacher and director » **Brian Iler**, Iler Campbell » **Alice Klein**, NOW Magazine » **Eric Meerkamper**, DECODE » **Andre Sorensen**, University of Toronto, Urban Planning » **Jini Stolk**, Creative Trust » **Margaret Zeidler**, Urbanspace Property Group

INSPIRED TO CONNECT?

Join our mailing list at www.socialinnovation.ca.

Or come for a visit

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FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

The success of the Centre for Social Innovation would not have been possible without the funders and supporters that have played a vital role in helping the Centre to develop a good idea into a thriving social enterprise.

