

RECLAIM COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE DESIGN ORGANIZATION (CDO)

<https://www.reclaim-cdo.org/>

Portugal Cove - St. Philip's, NL

Turning citizens into developers through co-creating and co-designing housing solutions.

Organizational type: Non-profit

Mission: To inspire and empower local people, Citizen Developers, to make big social and environmental impact in their communities through connection and collaboration.

Vision: To make the community-led housing sector a key part of the nationwide housing solution.



ACTIVITIES

Reclaim Community Collaborative Design Organization (CDO) operates as a resource and connection hub, filling gaps that Community-Led Housing projects face at each stage of development. Evolving out of a single initiative, Killick Ecovillage cohousing community, which is aimed at increasing affordability for its residents - Reclaim supports the development of community-led housing (CLH) projects; hosts an open source knowledge sharing platform called CLH Ecosystem Support Network (CLHESN) and runs a community-led project funding pilot, managing \$65,000 to support 8 other diverse community projects across Canada.



EXPERIENCE WITH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Reclaim's financial situation is mainly client-service driven, predominantly reliant on grant funding Killick has received from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), through the Housing Supply Challenge, as well as Career Launcher funding to support the hiring of employees. The organization is applying for subsequent rounds of funding from CMHC, while also exploring opportunities from funding through the Community Housing Transformation Centre. This situation underpins the lack of consistent, core funding to support their ongoing operations and growth. The co-founders acknowledge a need for social finance education among their board members and internal teams and to develop connections with social finance professionals. Access to expert advice and a more in-depth understanding of social finance models would give Reclaim more confidence to explore and adopt innovative financing models.



EXPERIENCE WITH SOCIAL FINANCE

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

Added to the complexity of finding the right fit for each organization, **"one of the biggest barriers to adopting social finance models is the overwhelming capacity constraints faced by community groups."**

Reclaim Community CDO proposes mentorship and specialized education for board members to demystify financial models like community bonds, easing stress and risk aversion. The emphasis is on connecting with professionals who can provide practical guidance and hands-on experience to execute successful social finance strategies.



Mapping Financing Opportunities and Experience Among Community Organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador

