



IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF HOW LEADERS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE EMERGE AND HAVE IMPACT AT LOCAL LEVELS

Dr. Jonathan Langdon, an associate professor in StFX's Development Studies Program and Adult Education Department, has been awarded a five-year renewable Canada Research Chair (CRC Tier 2) in Sustainability and Social Change Leadership, as well as a Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) infrastructure grant through its John R. Evans Leaders Fund, to launch major new research efforts on social change leadership. Dr. Langdon's research seeks to improve the understanding of how leaders for social change in support of sustainability emerge and how they learn from each other to magnify the impact of their work at a local level. Leaders are emerging in localities throughout the world to face climate change impacts, cultural homogenization through globalization, and other locally defined sustainability and social challenges. There is much that these leaders and the local efforts, communities and social movements from which they emerge, can learn from each other, whether they be in Africa, Latin America or in Canada. As Canada Research Chair in Sustainability and Social Change Leadership, Dr. Langdon will focus new research on efforts to understand how local leaders emerge, how they learn from one another, how they exchange knowledge in order to share what they know to improve local efforts, and how they work to build trans-local collaborative networks that generate local action where other forms of leadership have failed. The first five years of this research will link with already established connections in two contexts in Ghana (Ada in the south, and Tongo in the north), with an emerging connection in Guatemala (Rabinal), and then with three contexts in Canada, including one First Nation community (Paq'tnkek). The other Canadian contexts are Tatamagouche, NS, which has a strong link to Rabinal through its Breaking the Silence (BTS) network, and Antigonish, NS, which has already connected to Ada through a joint radio program focused on community resiliency.