

Vibrant COMMUNITIES

Working Together to Reduce Poverty

Poverty is a serious problem in Canada. Despite significant economic progress, government programs and the market place have not been able to eliminate poverty. An estimated 2,908,000 people (9.5%) live below Statistics Canada's after-tax low income cut-offs, representing a significant number of Canadians who are not realizing their full potential.

The Vibrant Communities partnership is a unique and innovative response to this problem.

Vibrant Communities was initiated in 2002 and is sponsored by Tamarack - An Institute for Community Engagement, the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation and the Caledon Institute of Social Policy.

The partnership believes that strategic collaboration at the community level can be a catalyst for the development of innovative ideas, and the effective use of existing supports and programs, for poverty reduction. Communities across Canada have enthusiastically adopted the Vibrant Communities approach and together we are making significant progress.

Committed to sharing experiences from innovative approaches already taking place at the community-level across the country, we are developing tools, resources and processes that will support these community organizers' daily work at the local level.



At the heart of the initiative is the **Pan-Canadian Learning Community (PCLC)**, comprised of 15 participating communities plus project sponsors. The PCLC holds tele-learning sessions and regional and national forums to discuss poverty reduction issues and to develop solutions based on their collective experiences.

Currently, five member communities of the PCLC, known as **Trail Builders**, have developed comprehensive, collaborative initiatives aimed at reducing poverty in their home communities. Trail Builders receive extra financial and coaching support to implement a well-developed community plan, rooted in extensive partnership-building at the local level.

The people involved in Vibrant Communities are developing a working prototype of collaborative action across sectors and at national local levels of activity.

Related Links:

- [About Vibrant Communities](#)
- [Community Updates](#)
- [Highlights](#)



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