



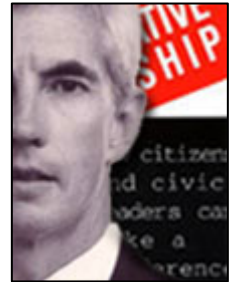
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Engage!

Collaboration: The New Leadership

To truly make a difference in our communities we need to abandon our traditional models of leadership and instead embrace leadership that is rooted in collaboration.

That's according to David D. Chrislip, principal of Skillful Means and co-author of *Collaborative Leadership: How Citizens and Civic Leaders Can Make a Difference*.



Chrislip has spent twenty-five years helping people develop their leadership capacities and create visions and strategies for their organizations and communities. His work focuses on civic leadership development and collaboratively addressing complex community issues to build civil society.

Collaboration is more than just a tool in our community toolbox; successful collaboration helps to build the "civic community" by:

- Enhancing the capacity of the community to deal with issues by creating networks of trust and respect.
- Building the strategies and experience needed to identify the appropriate people who must be involved.
- Creating norms of reciprocity, the feeling that "we are all in this together."

Though collaboration we can achieve things that are simply not possible by traditional methods.

On October 18, we invite you to participate in a special tele-learning session featuring David Chrislip. David will share his thoughts and learnings on collaboration and leadership in Tamarack's popular tele-learning seminar series.

Related Links:

- [The New Civic Leadership](#)
- [Communities Collaborating](#)

“We Know What to Do”

In September 2000 the leaders of the 191 nations represented in the United Nations agreed that together they have the resources and the political will to eradicate the extreme poverty, hunger and disease that kills millions of people each year in the poorest parts of the world.

They developed the [Millennium Development Goals](#) - eight strategic goals and 18 targeted objectives to address extreme poverty in its many dimensions by the year 2015.

But without an action plan, little progress has been made.

“We know what to do,” said John McArthur, at a [recent community lecture](#). “But we don’t do it at a scale that makes an impact.”

McArthur is Deputy Director of the UN Millennium Project. Recognizing that urgent action is required in order to meet the Development Goals, the Project has set forth a plan of action that first asks member states to take the Goals seriously and then focuses on what’s required at the ground level to achieve each of the Goals.

We are the first generation that can afford to end poverty in our lifetime. All we need to do is agree on the plan to get us there.

Related Links:

- [More on the UN Millennium Goals](#)
- [UN Millennium Project](#)
- [How You Can Help – The Millennium Promise](#)

Raising the poverty profile

The media can play a key role in profiling local efforts to reduce poverty.

Waterloo Region's newspaper, *The Record*, is currently writing a 15-week series on the more than 47,000 people in Waterloo Region who struggle to get the basic necessities. As part of the series, they've engaged with Opportunities Waterloo Region to learn more about that group's Working Poor Initiative.

Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC) has also benefited recently from local media attention.

In an effort to dispel the myth that only teenagers make a minimum wage, VCC released [Statistics Canada data](#) that shows 49% of working Calgarians earning less than \$10/hour are over the age of 25. Effectively, 54,000 people 25 and older are working poor in Calgary and 34,000 of them are women.

The VCC release has sparked lively discussion in the media, prompting articles, editorials, and letters in the Calgary Herald, Dose magazine, and Fast Forward weekly. Not all of it has been complimentary; an editorial in the Calgary Herald debated the measures of poverty VCC uses. But the editorial succeeded in raising Calgary's poverty profile. A number of community members responded to the editorial in support of VCC.

Ramona Johnston, VCC Manager is pleased with the recent public and media attention and doesn't mind the public debate. "It doesn't matter whether there are 100,000 Calgarians living in poverty, or "only" 1,000. It's intolerable for anyone, teen, middle-aged, or senior, to live in fear and uncertainty."



[Read the coverage of VCC Calgary in local media!](#)

Related Links:

- Community response to VCC coverage: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)
- [Employees in Calgary by Age, Sex and Hourly Wage, 2002-2004](#)
- Read the Record's "Below the Line" series: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)

By: Louise Kearney

Save the Mothers

1,600 pregnant women – or three jumbo jets full - die each day around the world.

“What is the value of a mother’s life?” asks Dr. Jean Chamberlain, Executive Director of *Save the Mothers*. “What if a mother lives on the other side of the world? Is she worth as much as my mother?”

Women in developing nations have poor access to proper prenatal and delivery care, or delay seeking care because of social and cultural concerns or lack of transportation. Often when they do get to a medical facility there is no trained surgeon onsite or the required medication.

The solution to this tolerated tragedy of 585,000 annual deaths is a commitment to women’s health.

Save the Mothers, a public health leadership training program, mobilizes professionals within their sphere of influence to create an infrastructure that will address the problem. This seamless, multi-disciplinary approach sees professionals receive training at the university masters degree level. Students are then expected to develop projects in their communities to reduce maternal mortality.

These champions will be from all spheres of work and influence including policy makers, government officials, lawyers, medical staff, media personnel, agriculturists and educators.

Graduates will form an organized network of committed individuals who will improve the health of mothers. Each one will be able to initiate positive change within their area of expertise in order to save mothers.



Visit *Save the Mothers*' website!

By: Louise Kearney

Get LOST!

A polar bear on a tropical island. Mysterious voices in the jungle. A band of threatening "others." LOST has it all – Twilight Zone fantasy, reality t.v. intimacy, strong character actors, and lots to teach us about building community.



LOST, the television show about airplane crash survivors on a Pacific Island, has proven to be a ratings monster. Fans are completely immersed in the plot's twists, turns and intricacies. But what pulls me back to the couch every Wednesday night are the characters and their struggle to work together to find solutions to the problems they face, not least of which are the inter-personal dynamics of their group.

"If we can't live together, we're going to die alone," one of the main characters says in the first season.

The living together part isn't easy. But this band of family, friends, strangers and survivors have to learn how to accept their differences, find each other's strengths, shore up their weaknesses, and work together if they want to stay alive.

That's what makes it compelling t.v.

 [on LOST](#)

Related Links:

- [More reviews](#)
- [LOST online](#)

By: Louise Kearney