



View Engage online at: <http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/newsletter/engage.htm>!

## Engage!

### **Liberty, Fraternity, Equality:**

#### *Engaging youth in a conversation about the future*

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As riots, arson and violence escalate with each passing night in France and move across a country that boldly espouses democratic ideals of liberty, fraternity and equality, one wonders how could such large numbers of youth become so disenfranchised and furious.

Most commentators have pointed to the marginalization of second and third generation immigrant families as a key cause of the discontent. Parisian suburbs bear the telltale signs of poverty. High unemployment combined with ethnic concentration and a lack of social mobility has fostered a sense of racism, discrimination and isolation.

Could the same happen in Canada? Roughly one third of our total population is under 25 years of age and the fastest growing contingent of the youth population is Aboriginal.

How then can we ensure that they remain engaged; that they can contribute to the conversation that shapes our common future?

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, CPRN is bringing 160 young people together from across the country for a three-day national dialogue on the broad theme: "What kind of Canada do we want? What do we and others have to do to make our vision a reality?"

Engaging youth in a conversation about the future might be one way to harness, and protect, the power of liberty, fraternity and equality.

 [Learn more about CPRN's National Dialogue for Young Canadians](#)

### Related Links:

- [CBC News Indepth: Riots in France](#)
- [Statistics on Young Canadians](#)

By: Louise Kearney

## Museums Engage!

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Museums and art galleries are traditionally seen as dusty, occasionally vibrant, places filled with significant displays. They are rarely perceived as community building institutions - but times are changing and so are museums.

Imagine a museum partnering with a literacy organization to promote reading – is there a better place to bridge pictures, ideas and words? Imagine an art gallery working with poverty groups to host an art exhibit for “starving artists” or a museum tackling the issue of racism or violence through exhibits and public learning forums.

“Redefining the Museum”, a recent conference hosted by the Ontario Museum Association, focused on the museum as a community builder.

Participants were asked to consider their role in building strong and vibrant communities and were further encouraged to engage community residents, collaborate on projects and promote community well being. Many techniques and stories were shared.

Next time you are launching a community collaboration, or want to promote a community idea, consider partnering with your local museum or art gallery. The benefits for your organization, according to Chris Walker of the Wallace Foundation, will be better programs and a reputation for being more effective in your community work.

For museums such partnerships provide an opportunity to carry out creative work, build connections to new communities of potential participants and grow a reputation for community involvement - important factors for many funders today.

**Related Links:**

- [Ontario Museum Association](#)
  - [Redefining the Museum](#)
- [Not Your Average Workplace](#)
- [AGO and massive change exhibit](#)

By: Paul Born

## **Fair Fares Instituted in Calgary!**

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For the first time ever, some 2,000 Calgary residents whose income is derived from Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) benefits were issued reduced rate monthly transit passes on August 1, 2005.

In September, Calgary City Council broadened this offering by agreeing to issue reduced rate monthly transit passes to all of the city's low-income residents, beginning in January 2006. Vibrant Communities Calgary celebrates this significant step taken by the City of Calgary and is optimistic that a long-term funding solution to this initiative will be found.

Although the struggle to have discounted transit passes offered to low income residents or those with a disability has been active since the late 1990s, VC Calgary only joined the Calgary Committee for Discounted Transit Passes in 2004. Their arrival brought enthusiasm and commitment to the process and acted as an accelerant to the Committee's work of establishing low-income transit passes.

Fair Fares co-chair Bonnie Pacaud says, "When we joined with VCC, the campaign took off. They gave us access to good administrative support when we needed it and they brought in fresh people and fresh ideas."

Congratulations to all key players in this initiative, and hats off to Vibrant Communities Calgary for the instrumental role they were able to play in moving this important initiative forward!

## Related Links:

- [Calgary in Vibrant Communities](#)
- [Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Public Policy Initiative \(Caledon Community Story\)](#)

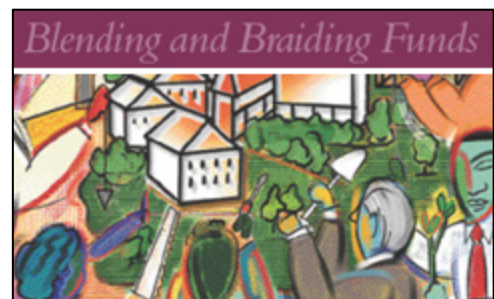
By: Sharalynn Krahn

## Funding Complex Initiatives

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Communities that embark on ambitious community ventures often face a resource challenge.

While many complex community issues require integrated, flexible strategies, a large percentage of the available government, philanthropic and corporate funding is focused on more precise pieces of the problem and come with strict criteria on how these funds should be used.



Policy and program leaders trying to create more integrated and coordinated supports and services often struggle to align funding sources with varying regulations and requirements from the patchwork of different funding programs. Yet increasingly, many are using existing resources in more flexible and integrated ways.

Members of the Finance Project have released *Blending and Braiding Funding*, a report that identifies three distinct strategies policy makers and communities can use to weave together separate funding streams in support of comprehensive approaches to community issues.

In the coordination, or *braiding*, strategy, funders and communities work to weave together funding from different sources to finance a comprehensive initiative. In the *pooling* strategy, funders pool their piecemeal funds into a flexible pot of funds. And in the *decategorization* strategy, funders make funding streams less "categorical" by removing, reducing or aligning requirements and regulations, and blending funds from more than one program into a unified funding stream.

 [Read \*Blending & Braiding Funds\*](#)

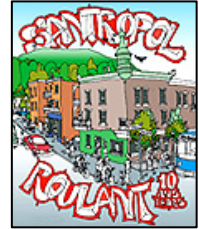
## Related Links:

- [The Finance Project](#)
- [Comprehensive Grant Making](#)

By: Mark Cabaj

## Organic Community Building

Since 1995, building healthy communities has been at the core of Santropol Roulant's work in the Montreal area. Their staff and volunteers are taking action to realize their vision of a vibrant intergenerational community and the result is a refreshingly unconventional approach to providing social services.



At Santropol Roulant, a huge amount of thought, learning, and reflection is involved in the growth of new initiatives. The programs that emerge are as nuanced and interwoven as the communities they serve.

Developing intergenerational bonds, respecting diversity, and improving food security are the types of goals that lie at the heart of Santropol Roulant's initiatives, which include a Meal on Wheels program, a food security knowledge and action network, a rooftop garden partnership, and a youth employment program.

 [Visit Santropol Roulant's website to learn more about this vibrant organization!](#)

## Related Links:

- [Check out Santropol Roulant's Meals on Wheels service organized by young people](#)
- [The Rooftop Garden Project creates liberating spaces for healthy cities](#)

By: Chris Cowperthwaite