



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

## Engage!

### **A Tipping Point in Montreal?**

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Could the idea of community mobilization (collaboration) be at a tipping point?

If Lyse Brunet, one of Canada's most outstanding community builders, has her way, a critical mass of ideas and actors will work together to bring about a fundamental change to the way that services are delivered in Montreal.

Nearly 150 community leaders and practitioners met recently at *Joint Action? Doable. Being Done.* to explore the work of community mobilization.

The premise of the gathering was that while there is agreement on the fundamentals of mobilization, there is a need for communities to fully commit to their development. Though communities require help to undertake mobilization efforts, there is convergence around the features and nuances of the work to be done.

Community mobilization (collaboration) is becoming the preferred method of community wide change in Montreal. There was clear consensus that this work is emerging rapidly and may even be at a tipping point. *Joint Action? Doable. Being Done.*



[Read the full article!](#)

#### **Related Links:**

- [Giving Root to Collective Action – a presentation by Paul Born](#)
- [Programme from the Forum](#)

By: Paul Born

## ***Habitat JAM - Global problem-solving session launched***

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Imagine tens of thousands of people around the world just like you connecting in real time over the internet to discuss and debate some of the most urgent and controversial issues that face a rapidly urbanizing planet. Imagine world-class thinkers leading the discussions.

It's all happening December 1-3, 2005 at Habitat JAM, an unprecedented online global dialogue on urban sustainability.

Billed as a 72-hour global problem-solving session, Habitat JAM serves as part of the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum that will be held in Vancouver in June 2006.

The global dialogue will focus on six key themes: sustainable access to water, improving the lives of slum dwellers, environmental sustainability, safety and security, finance and governance, and the future of cities.

Our world. Our future. Our voice. Habitat JAM offers a unique opportunity to problem-solve together. Imagine the results that could be achieved by this unprecedented global conversation and collaboration.



[Visit Habitat JAM today!](#)

### **Related Links:**

- [World Urban Forum](#)
- [UN-Habitat](#)

By: Louise Kearney

## Changing Community Culture

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The people involved in the Quality of Life CHALLENGE in British Columbia's Capital Region are working to shift the culture of their community.



Recognizing that durable improvements in quality of life cannot be achieved through a series of programs or short-lived campaigns, the CHALLENGE is guided by a unique strategy for change that seeks to:

- Raise public awareness and understanding of issues affecting quality of life.
- Find and create opportunities for leadership and relationships across sectors.
- Challenge the community to contribute to achieving tangible targets.
- Support the spontaneous efforts of residents and organizations to come up with their own solutions.
- Acknowledge and celebrate success.
- Measure, and broadly report on, the evolving quality of life in the community.

These principles and levers are simply the starting point for a variety of CHALLENGE enabled initiatives that seek to increase the supply of affordable housing, expand employment and income opportunities and improve social connections throughout the community over the next few years.

**More...** [Learn about the CHALLENGE's change efforts in the recently released Caledon paper - \*\*The Quality of Life CHALLENGE: Fostering Engagement, Collaboration and Inclusion\*\*](#)

### Related Links:

- [The CHALLENGE in Vibrant Communities.](#)
- [QOL CHALLENGE website](#)
- [Quality of Life CHALLENGE in Victoria Invites Low-income Canadians to Speak for Themselves](#)

By: Mark Cabaj

## Celebrating Women in Canada

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On December 6 each year Canadians pause to remember the 14 women murdered at Montreal's École Polytechnique in 1989.

Women continue to make up the vast majority of victims of violent crimes against individuals, face discrimination in the workplace, and experience a poverty rate 20% higher than men. Remembering, and working to change, these indicators are essential parts of building stronger communities and a stronger country.

Coolwomen.ca is a website and learning resource dedicated to celebrating women's history and showcasing Canadian women making change. The site includes an extensive listing of national and international women's resources and a "Cool Chronology" of the achievements of women in Canada.

Coolwomen.ca is one "cool" way to remember and celebrate the contributions women have made in Canada.



[Visit CoolWomen.ca](#)

### Related Links:

- [Vibrant Communities Gender and Poverty Project](#)
- [Read CoolWomen.ca's feature on memorializing December 6](#)

By: Chris Cowperthwaite

## The Proverbial Potluck

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If you've ever attended a church potluck, the scene of young children racing in the hallways and aging seniors carefully carrying their plates full of small servings of a variety of dishes may sound familiar to you. Perhaps you've been distracted from the service by the savory smells wafting up from the church kitchen.

At church potlucks all are welcome to stay for the meal, including any visitors - or those who forgot that they were supposed to be bringing food that day! There's always more than enough to eat.

Whether this has been part of your tradition or not, potlucks with your church, a community group, or family and friends are a great way to enjoy each other's company and taste some delicious food!

Next time you're invited to such an event, or choose to host one yourself, try this recipe for a Crusty Bean Bake, which is definitely a potluck hit!

 [Get Sharalynn's Crusty Bean Bake recipe!](#)

### Related Links:

- [Other Tamarack Recipes](#)

By: Sharalynn Krahn