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Engage!

The Promise of Investment *Community-led Renewal in Canada*

Communities across Canada face serious challenges. Toronto's recent spate of gun violence is making national headlines, while Vancouver's Downtown Eastside continues to garner its fair share of the spotlight. Winnipeg too, has its own challenges, particularly in the inner city. And when trouble in Winnipeg's inner city makes the news, people often expect residents to do all the heavy lifting to turn the situation around.

But a new two-part study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Manitoba indicates there are other, more positive and effective approaches to encourage change.

State of the Inner City Report: The Promise of Investment in Community-Led Renewal shows that where strong and effective community-based and community-controlled organizations emerge, positive change begins to occur.

Part II of the report, *A View from the Neighbourhoods*, examines three inner-city neighbourhoods. Each profile underscores the benefits that arise from the presence of community-based organizations and the problems that remain unresolved in their absence.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the report concludes that community-based solutions work best when people in the community are involved in creating the solutions for their neighbourhoods, and provides a series of recommendations for community-led renewal.



[Read the summary of the report.](#)

Related Links:

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- [Part I: Policy Considerations](#)
- [Part II: A View From the Neighbourhoods](#)

By: Louise Kearney with files from CCPA

Home for the Holidays

Since its creation in Quebec City in 1984, Opération Nez Rouge (Operation Red Nose), a unique volunteer driving service, has provided more than 1,205,894 rides to those who have been drinking or do not feel fit to drive their own vehicle home.

Opération Nez Rouge was created when swim coach and mathematics professor Jean-Marie De Koninck was looking for an original way to fund the university swim club. After hearing that more than 50% of road fatalities were caused by impaired motorists, and that most motorists didn't like to take a cab and leave their car behind, De Koninck put the 25 swimmers on his team to work as chauffeurs.



From this modest beginning, Opération Nez Rouge has evolved into a comprehensive road safety and educational campaign.

Now in its 22nd annual campaign, Opération Nez Rouge volunteers, active in more than 90 organizations across Canada, 20 in Switzerland, two in France and one in Portugal, make sure everyone has a safe and accessible way to get home for the holidays.

 [Visit Opération Nez Rouge!](#)

Related Links:

- [How Opération Nez Rouge works](#)
- [Magnitude of the Alcohol/Drug-Related Crash Problem in Canada \(from MADD Canada\)](#)

By: Louise Kearney

Poverty and Plenty

One in four Greater Saint John citizens lives in a vulnerable neighbourhood. Now is the time to re-invest in these neighbourhoods.

This is the recommendation of *Poverty and Plenty: A Statistical Snapshot of the Quality of Life in Greater Saint John*. Prepared by Vibrant Communities Saint John and the Human Development Council, in co-operation with the Industrial City in Transition Community University Research Alliance Project, the report aims to guide public discussion on poverty and inclusion in the Saint John community in the coming years.

"We want this report to launch a healthy discussion about how we will reduce poverty in Saint John," noted Tom Gribbons, Chair of Vibrant Communities Saint John.

Poverty and Plenty was written to help policy-makers and governments better understand Greater Saint John, recognizing both the community's strengths and weaknesses.

The report, which will be updated when new census data and other information becomes available, will provide all stakeholders with the information they need before they make targeted investments in the community to help all Saint John residents achieve a better quality of life.



[Read the report!](#)

Related Links:

- [Vibrant Communities Saint John is involved in a broad-based partnership to revitalize Crescent Valley Neighbourhood over the next five years. Read more here.](#)
- [More on Saint John's Vibrant Communities initiative](#)

By: Sharalynn Krahn

Vibrant Communities Update

Victoria, B.C. - The Victoria Women's Housing Action Team has completed and released the report, *Housing Thousands of Women* which provides first hand accounts of womens' struggles to find affordable housing and how they are helping to change that around. Access the report [here](#).

Trois-Rivières, QC - ECOF has developed an electronic newsletter and internet portal for the "Original Neighborhoods" in Trois-Rivières. Check it out [here](#).

Waterloo, ON - Opportunities Waterloo Region is proud to announce the launch of its new website: www.owr.ca.

Living Out a Legacy

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream of a different world, and he also had a concrete approach to realize that dream. He believed that a critical mass of people committed to and trained in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence would lead to the creation of a global Beloved Community in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth.



The King Center is dedicated to building a nonviolent movement for justice, equality and peace and its website is a rich learning resource for others working towards fostering a global Beloved Community.

Amongst the site's many treasures is an online nonviolence workshop, Nonviolence or Nonexistence. This series of teachings, audio clips, and papers outlines what the King Center calls their most powerful tool for creating social change around the world.

Dr. King's vision was bold, his words were powerful, and through organizations such as the King Center, his legacy is brought to life.

[More...](#) [Visit the King Center website!](#)

Related Links:

- [Nonviolence or Nonexistence](#)
- [The King Papers Project](#)
- [Beloved Communities](#)

By: Chris Cowperthwaite

Seasonal Stories from Tamarack

With the holiday season quickly approaching, we asked Tamarack staff to share their favourite holiday activity or memory. Their stories and memories were touching, wacky, and fun – just like the folks who work here!

Susan shares her special holiday tradition, Laura knows exactly what's on everyone's Christmas list and Sharalynn can't wait to hit the slopes with her family this holiday season while Paul's favourite memory involves the kindness of community. We also share how we spend time with our loved ones to commemorate the holidays.

We hope you'll enjoy reading about how we spend our holidays. We wish you the very best of the holiday season and a happy new year!



Seasonal stories from Tamarack

By: Louise Kearney