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Engage!

Working to Be Poor


Imagine receiving a regular pay cheque but being unable to pay your bills. Imagine being a young graduate facing the prospect of paying back your student loans on an entry-level salary. Or being a single mother working two jobs and struggling to find adequate daycare for your child.

Unfortunately, these are everyday problems for a surprisingly high number of Canadians. According to the 2001 census data, the average income for a Canadian working all year at a full-time job is \$43,231. According to that same data there are 1.4 million Canadians working full-time jobs who make less than \$20,000 a year. The number of working poor Canadians is on the rise.

The working poor aren't nameless or faceless, as CBC Radio's Working to be Poor Series shows. They're your next door neighbour, your nephew who's just started his first job, the new Canadian working at a call center.

 [Check out the *Working to be Poor* Series!](#)

Related Links:

- [Paul Born's interview on the working poor](#)  (requires Real Player)
- [Paid to be Poor](#)

By: Louise Kearney

Achieving Impact

Hiring new people to support collaboration is no easy task. The skills that bring people together and, more importantly, keep people focused and productive, are in high demand.

A good collaborative leader embraces paradox and has an almost ambidextrous ability to hold opposites in tension. That is, they have the ability to be both creative and focused. Many collaborative leaders have extensive experience in managing organizations and can easily leap from functional activities like managing staff and budgets to creative pursuits such as impacting systems.

There is no simple formula for successful collaboration, but some key aptitudes of an effective collaborative leader include:

- Ability to unite people, evoke their creativity and keep them focused
- Willingness to serve (servant leadership)
- Operate with a spirit of generosity
- Ability to simultaneously build an organization and a movement
- Ability to see systems and patterns
- Easily work with and within different sectors

The Leader-to-Leader Institute has many excellent articles that can help you to define the kind of leadership you might want to consider. We've linked to some of our favorites below.

- [The Challenge of Leadership Transition](#)
- [Goodbye, Command and Control](#)
- [The Enduring Skills of Change Leaders](#)
- [Is the Social Entrepreneur a New Type of Leader?](#)
- [Creative Leadership](#)
- [How to Lower the Risk in CEO Succession](#)
- [The Discipline of Collaboration](#)

By: Paul Born

Meet the Trailbuilders!

Trail Builders are the living laboratory of Vibrant Communities, where new ideas about poverty reduction are put to the test.

Currently, six communities have pursued Trail Builder status. They have developed strategic, well-planned poverty-reduction initiatives that will effectively pave the way for community-based poverty reduction in Canada.

Active Trail Builder communities have committed to reducing poverty for 5,500 households and their work is beginning to unfold. They're pursuing diverse strategies, ones that meet the needs of their local community.

All are acutely aware of the enormity of the task before them, but as one resident in Montreal noted, "There is much to be done ... but we know it can be done!"



Related Links:

- [Saint John](#)
- [Montreal](#)
- [Niagara](#)
- [Calgary](#)
- [Edmonton](#)
- [Victoria](#)

By: Louise Kearney

Business & Community in the 21st Century

In late March 2005, a group of partners gathered in Halifax to discuss various issues that face businesses and communities in the 21st century.

A total of 192 partners took part in a series of discussions on the most crucial issues affecting life and business in Nova Scotia today: keeping their young people, attracting skilled immigrants, enhancing business opportunities and innovation, developing the social economy.



The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) Partners' Forum 2005 was an opportunity for the partners to learn together about collaboration and community change and featured a variety of speakers including Paul Born of Tamarack who provided the keynote presentation on collaboration.

Collaboration is considered an important ingredient in the effort to enhance the well being of communities and is seen as imperative to economic development in the region.

ACOA is the federal government department responsible for helping to build economic capacity in the Atlantic Provinces by working with the people of the region – in their communities, through their institutions and with their local and provincial governments and businesses – to create jobs and enhance earned incomes.

 [from the Partners' Forum](#)

Related Links:

- [ACOA website](#)
- [Partners' Forum 2005 Presentations](#)

By: Paul Born

A Meal without Wine

David Pell recently returned from a trip to Portugal and shares this thought piece on his drink of choice.

“ A meal without wine is like a day without sunshine”

Andre Brillant-Savarin - French author, gourmet and lawyer (1755-1826)

I remember the look on Sarah's (age 10) and Rachel's (age 6) faces, on a family trip some years ago, when the waiter asked if they would like a glass of wine with their meal. Their expression was a mixture of surprise, “Are you kidding?” and mischief, “You bet!”

Welcome to Portugal where families enjoy time together with good food and a drink that is as old as Europe itself. Portugal has more indigenous grape varieties (over 200) than any other country. And although the average citizen has reduced his consumption from 130 liters to just 55 liters per year, wine remains the unquestionable drink of conviviality. Visit any home and the *garrafao*, a 5-liter bottle wrapped in straw or plastic, is never far away.

Wine in Portugal is identified with specific regions and the communities within them rather than by the type of grape. The wine produced in a specific region is viewed with great pride by the people who live there. Some of these wines have developed international reputations but most Portuguese wines are familiar only to the people who live in the region or to those who have left but continue to call it home.

Related Links:

- [Vini Portugal](#)
- [The Spirituality of Wine](#)

By: David Pell