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Engage!

The Only Way Forward...



The world's first national leadership centre dedicated to the education sector, the National College for School Leadership (NCSL), is based in the UK.

Launched in 2000, NCSL runs 22 programs that focus on developing the potential of school leaders at every level and enable schools to work collaboratively.

The College recently introduced a community leadership strategy that puts community at the heart of school improvement.

"The only way forward, if we are to break the pervasive and debilitating link between poverty and under-achievement and give every child the best possible chance of achieving their potential is for schools to work with a range of services, as well as other schools, to effect improvements across the whole community," says Maggie Farrar, Assistant Director of the College's Community Leadership Strategy.

The NCSL's understanding of collaboration (in schools, between schools, between schools & communities, and in multi-agency settings) is closely aligned to Tamarack's model for collaboration.

Recognizing this, NCSL asked Paul Born to speak at its National Community Leadership Conference in April on the theme of collaboration and community.

Paul says the experience was an eye opener. "The innovation and excitement around collaboration that's being generated in the UK is inspirational. While they see us as a model to emulate, there's so much we can learn from the work NCSL is doing."

 Visit NCSL's website!

Related Links:

- [Community Leadership Strategy](#)
- [Approach & Collaboration](#)

By: Louise Kearney

Building a Movement

Canada has a rich history of local residents and organizations coming together to ensure that all citizens – not just a privileged few – are able to fully participate and enjoy the economic and social opportunities our communities have to offer.

All too often, however, the people driving these efforts do so in isolation from each other, caught up in the intensity of the day to day work of building communities, separated by great distances and limited by scarce time and energy. They rarely have the chance to share their experiences, learn from others, and celebrate collective accomplishments.

That's why opportunities to gather, like this week's 2005 National Conference on CED and the Social Economy, are so valuable.

The theme for the event is "building an inclusive movement" and there is indeed more than a whisper of a "movement" in the air. Supported by new national intermediary organizations, such as the Canadian CED Network and the CED Technical Assistance Program, and buoyed by small but important shifts in public policy at provincial and senior levels of government in support of CED and the social economy, there is a growing confidence among many Canadian activists that their collective capacity to build healthy communities is increasing by the day.

 [on the national conference](#)

Related Links:

- [Canadian CED Network](#)
- [CEDTAP](#)

By: Mark Cabaj

The Faces of the Vibrant Communities

In Vibrant Communities across the country, community leaders are driving the agenda for poverty reduction. Here's a peak at just four of the individuals playing a key role in their local initiative.



Bill is a retired bank executive and one of the founders of the award winning Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative in Saint John, New Brunswick. *"It's a shame, really, that so many people are doing well and yet so many other people struggle to get by...[Vibrant Communities] is a first rate way for us to learn how to solve this problem."* - **Bill Gale**



Lyse has extensive experience in the private and public sector and is currently Vice President of Centraide du Grand Montreal. She is a very strong supporter of the community revitalization work taking place in the St. Michel neighbourhood of Montreal , and of its participation in the national initiative. *"We have a long history of working together here in Montreal and Quebec - the Vibrant Communities initiative is an excellent way for us to learn about new ideas and strategies used by other communities across Canada and to share some possibly interesting approaches in exchange."* - **Lyse Brunet**



Formerly a senior civil servant in the Regional Municipality of Niagara and now an elected regional councillor, Peter Papp understands government in his role as Coordinator of Opportunities Niagara. *"I think we have the beginnings of a great story here with Opportunities Niagara – a new way of doing business - and it's possible in part because of our participation in the national Vibrant Communities initiative."* - **Peter Papp**



Mathilde is the co-chair of the Vibrant Communities Edmonton collaboration. She brings a passion for getting local residents – particularly people working but struggling to make ends meet – involved in developing solutions to poverty. *“I believe in the potential of Vibrant Communities to help build family economic success!”* - **Mathilde Balu**

We would like to extend our thanks to Bill, Lyse, Peter and Mathilde and leaders like them across the country who are so giving of their time and energy. You inspire us every day with your commitment to change the face of poverty in Canada!

Find out more about...

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

Social Inclusion: A New Vision

Social inclusion seems to be on everyone’s agenda. A relatively recent term, “social inclusion” reflects a strategy for change and a vision for improving the condition of those who are marginalized and/or disadvantaged.

Tamarack has had the opportunity in the last few months to meet and speak with people from across the country about their social inclusion initiatives and their concerns and suggestions about funding placed-based approaches to community development.

Some key learnings that have emerged for us as we have engaged with people working at social inclusion include:

- Groups identified as most affected by issues of social inclusion include persons with disabilities, visible minorities, disadvantaged youth (e.g. children in low-income households, children with learning difficulties) and Aboriginal peoples
- Funding needs to be provided for long-term projects, core operating costs and qualitative projects

- Social inclusion can be more effectively addressed on an issues basis rather than a place-based approach
- Some suggest that a place-based funding approach should not be launched at the expense of established national associations and networks

We're not alone in our effort to learn more about social inclusion and develop an understanding of the needs of vulnerable or excluded populations in Canada.

Several departments within the Government of Canada are interested in the topic, while the Laidlaw Foundation, CCEDNet, the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, the Maytree Foundation and York University are all currently pursuing social inclusion-related projects.

Stay tuned for more in the coming months!

Related Links:

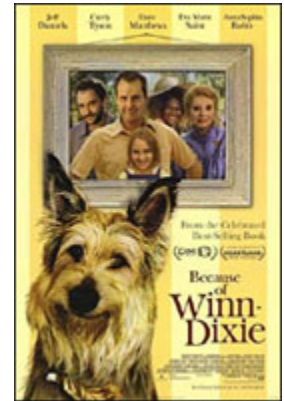
- [The Laidlaw Foundation Working Paper Series on Social Inclusion](#)
- [CCEDNet literature review on Social Inclusion](#)
- [CEDNet's Pan Canadian Community Development Learning Network](#)
- [Social Inclusion: A New Vision of Immigrant Settlement in Canada](#)
- [Rethinking The Very Essence of Social Inclusion and Things Private](#)

By: Kerrie Skillen

Because of Winn Dixie

Because of Winn Dixie is a story about loneliness, separation, neighbours and community. A stray dog changes the life of a young girl who, in turn, forever changes the community in which she lives. Based on the best selling novel by Kate DiCamillo the movie is memorable, heartfelt, and earns a “worth seeing” rating from my family and I.

Based on a great story, with well-developed characters and surprising cinematography, *Because of Winn Dixie* focuses on the character India Opal Buloni – a preacher’s daughter forced to move from town to town with a grieving father.



In one of the funniest scenes of the movie Opal meets and adopts a stray dog.

You might guess how the story evolves – girl finds dog, family objects and dog wins over family’s heart. That is the base storyline, but the movie has many twists and turns, and what emerges is a myriad of stories of loneliness, finding hope, friendship and community.

[More...](#) [Read the rest of Paul’s review!](#)

Related Links:

- [Movie website](#)
- [More reviews from Tamarack!](#)

By: Paul Born