



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

Engage!

Communities for the future *A global forum for sustainability*

The simple truth is, great cities don't just happen – we have to work hard to create them.

Urban sustainability is one of the most complex and important issues of this era.

That's why 8,000 global delegates are convening in Vancouver next week at the Third Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF3). They hope to spark action among governments, academia, industries, civil society and the public.

Urban sustainability means different things around the world, but one thing remains the same – the urgent need for all communities to adopt best practices. Building sustainable cities goes beyond physical infrastructure to involve human and social dimensions like engagement and the elimination of urban poverty.

WUF3 aims to provide practical solutions, allowing communities to connect with citizens and build on their assets.

Changing the way we think about cities will bring our communities another step closer to a more sustainable future.



[Read the full article here!](#)

Related Links:

- [Visit the WUF3 website](#)
- [UN Human Settlements Program](#)
- [Western Economic Diversification of Canada](#)
- [More about Urban Development Agreements](#)

By: Rachel Veira

Collaborative Learning *Coming together for poverty reduction*

A new Vibrant Communities learning initiative, the Government Learning Circle (GLC) brings government learners together to explore the possibilities of reducing poverty through the collaboration of businesses, voluntary organizations and citizens.

The first GLC tele-learning series took place in May and June of this year, with more than 100 participants from all government levels and sectors coming together to learn about "*Serving the Communities' Agenda*." Participants heard the perspectives of Vibrant Communities leaders, as well as retired civil servant, Arthur Kroeger, and Sherri Torjman of the Caledon Institute.

One inspired participant said, "It's important to create spaces where public servants from different orders can come together to collectively reflect on the challenges communities are addressing and the ways we can be of service. The GLC reminds me that each of us is part of the same puzzle."



[on this learning initiative here!](#)

Related Links:

- [Capacity Building: Linking Community Experience to Public Policy](#)
- [Policy Development and Implementation in Complex Files: Lessons from Vibrant Communities](#)

By: Susan Eckerle Curwood

Buy Good, Do Good, Feel Good

What do Surrey, Waterloo Region, and Vancouver Island have in common?

They are all places where Vibrant Communities are blending business and social responsibility through Social Purchasing Portals (SPPs). SPPs are unique web based business-to-business services that put local purchasing dollars to work to expand local businesses, create employment opportunities and contribute to the economy.

SPPs allow registered purchasers and suppliers to blend corporate and social values into everyday business transactions without additional cost. With SPPs, purchasers meet their needs for value, price and quality while practicing social responsibility. For their part, suppliers gain access to new and expanding markets.

SPPs are taking off! Surrey's portal, launched in September 2005, has nearly 100 participating purchasers, while Vancouver Island's portal, launched in May 2006, already has more than 25 purchasers on board. And in Waterloo Region, working groups of purchasers, suppliers, and employment service providers are eagerly gearing up for a July launch.

Everybody wins with SPPs and Vibrant Communities!



[Click here for more info on SPPs in Canada](#)

Related Links:

- [Waterloo Region SPP](#)
- [Surrey SPP](#)
- [Vancouver Island SPP](#)
- [More SPP info](#)

By: Susan Eckerle Curwood

Vibrant Communities Update

Calgary, AB – Fair Fares has been awarded the *2006 Community Spirit Award of Distinction* from the Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary. This award recognizes organizations that have come together to create approaches to community development and inclusion that none could have accomplished alone. Read the latest on Fair Fares [here](#).

Edmonton, AB – As part of its learning strategy, Vibrant Communities Edmonton has compiled a great collection of knowledge, learning, and resources on family economic success, community development, and workforce development. Access their data warehouse [here](#).

Me to We

I've been getting a lot of funny looks at the gym recently. As I glide along on the elliptical trainer, moving a lot but getting nowhere, I've been reading a book that turns self-help on its head.

Me to We, written by Craig Kielburger and Marc Kielburger, Founder and Chief Executive Director, respectively, of Free the Children, sheds light on the remarkable personal and community benefits of the philosophy that redefines success, happiness and community.

The book outlines a simple truth - by helping others you help yourself.



Me to We shares stories of people the Kielburgers have met through their work with Free the Children, stories of personal and social change from folks as famous as Oprah Winfrey and Jane Goodall, to former child soldiers in Sierra Leone and aid workers in Nicaragua.

Though it's a truth we all acknowledge, incorporating the *Me to We* philosophy into our lives may not always seem natural in our modern world – but, it's achievable. *Me to We* provides the inspiration. It's up to each of us to adopt the practice.

 [Visit the Me to We website](#)

Related Links:

- [Learn more about the Me to We philosophy](#)
- [Free the Children](#)

By: Louise Kearney

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

The signs are there - twilight comes later each evening, sunglasses are permanently perched on noses across the country, and the smells of barbeques fill the weekend air. It's official. Summer is here!

In an effort to get the summer rolling, we asked members of the Tamarack team to share stories of their favourite summer vacations.

Paul walks along the beach, Louise rock n' rolls for famine relief and Matt fires up the barbeque with some friends while Laura and Susan soak up the sun. Summer may be short, but we all make sure to bask in the warmth and spend time with family and friends.

We hope you'll enjoy reading about our favourite summer vacations and wish you safe travels as you plan for your own!

 [Click here to read more!](#)