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Engage!

Building Canada's Future - A local response to the challenge

Global challenges need local responses.

That's the key message in *From Restless Communities to Resilient Places: Building a Stronger Future for all Canadians* – a recent report by the federal government.

The report was prepared by the External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities, which was established in February 2004 under the Chairmanship of the Honorable Mike Harcourt.

Over two years, the Committee met with local leaders, community agencies, stakeholders and experts on issues that exist every day in Canadian cities and communities.



The report makes three major recommendations:

1. All governments should adopt a place-based approach to policy-making.
2. Responsibilities and resources for communities should be delegated at the local level.
3. All orders of governments should work together to support community efforts in order to pursue their long term visions.

In the coming weeks, *Engage!* will explore these recommendations in greater depth to learn more about addressing global challenges at the local level.

 Read the full article here!

Related Links:

- [Read the report](#)
- [The External Advisory Committee](#)
- [The Committee's mandate](#)
- [Sustainable Canadian Communities Roundtable](#)

By: Susan Taylor Simpson

Engaging Faith Communities

Community is about place, spirit, belonging and connection.

When communities and faith groups work together, the results can be positive, as faith communities have the power to join individuals and groups for the greater good.

That's why we are expanding the Community Life section of our website to include *Engaging Faith Communities* – a useful space with valuable information and resources on faith and faith communities.

As our society becomes increasingly culturally diverse, we need to increase dialogue between faith groups. Faith communities are a major resource for building community, and addressing social and systemic issues.

In an effort to assist organizations with bringing people and groups together, *Engaging Faith Communities* offers brief introductions to various faith traditions, as well as tips on establishing interfaith dialogues and working with faith communities.

 Visit *Engaging Faith Communities*

By: Rachel Veira

Raising a Child in Hamilton - *A city's vision for youth*

The Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Prevention has released a new report called, "Making Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child: A Change Framework for Poverty Reduction."

The vision described in this report reaches beyond traditional silos to encourage multisectoral collaboration, inspiring all citizens to contribute to the overarching goal – poverty reduction. Business, education, voluntary and government sectors have all been active in shaping this vision for Hamilton.

Research by the Roundtable assures us of the strong link between investing in childhood development and battling poverty. Early intervention pays off, as more and more studies show that a child's trajectory for life is set during the earliest years.

Children who thrive grow into teens who exhibit higher academic achievement, and into adults with higher lifetime earnings.

Thriving children, adults and community. All of these are part of Hamilton's vision as it works towards becoming "the best place to raise a child."



[Read the full report here](#)

Related Links:

- [Tackling Poverty in Hamilton](#)
- [Vibrant Communities Hamilton](#)
- [Quick facts about poverty in Hamilton](#)

By: Susan Eckerle Curwood

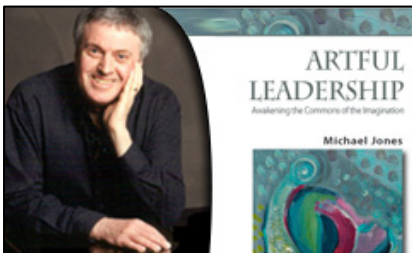
Vibrant Communities Update

Saint John, NB – The June 19 Public Utilities Board Report demonstrated some of the great progress that has been made in Vibrant Communities Saint John's fight against energy poverty. The biggest win? No increase in the monthly service charge. Read highlights of the report [here](#).

Waterloo, ON – Waterloo Region continues to gear up for the July launch of its Social Purchasing Portal. See the latest media coverage [here](#).

B.C.'s Capital Region – The CHALLENGE has announced the recipients of the 2006 Quality of Life Awards. SPUD, artsReach, Victoria Street Newz, the Moms and Mentors Society, Beacon Hill Children's Farm and the United Way's Youth Advisory Committee have been recognized as outstanding examples of people who are working together in the community. To learn more, click [here](#).

Artful Leadership - *Reading for the imagination*



"We are entering a time when the primary leadership challenges will not be technical, but transformational. It is a time when leaders will fail, not because of a lack of strategy or resources, but from a failure of the imagination."

Michael Jones is an artist who brings this unique and profound understanding to the study of leadership in his recent book, *Artful Leadership: Awakening the Commons of the Imagination*.

Michael believes the foundation for learning and working together can be found in universal principles – noticing, listening, speaking and improvising – which he defines as "aesthetic disciplines."

For those who are developing their own leadership journey, this book is an important read, as it captures the personal conversations of the author and a corporate leader while discussing life's challenges and dreams.

Michael brings a unique perspective to the invisible spaces that lie between our actions, thoughts and concepts.

 [Visit Michael Jones online](#)

Related Links:

- [About Michael Jones](#)
- [About *Artful Leadership*](#)
- [Michael's piano recordings](#)

By: Paul Born

Canada 2020 - *Sherri Torjman reports*



Here, before my eyes, were two eloquent individuals, both with very powerful and urgent messages. I felt overwhelmed.

On June 15, Al Gore and Jeffrey Sachs explored progressive policy options at the Canada 2020 Conference in Mont Tremblant, Quebec.

Gore spoke passionately about the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change. His presentation pointed to the dire health, social, environmental and economic consequences of complacency.

Sachs is the Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, author of *The End of Poverty* and advisor on the UN Millennium Development Goals. He urged wealthy nations to get serious about reducing poverty and eradicating diseases like malaria, the scourge of the developing world.

The bad news: we are in a world with dark challenges – climate change and extreme poverty.

The good news: Gore and Sachs look to Canada as a beacon of light, with clear solutions that are within our fiscal, social and scientific reach.

 [Visit the Canada 2020 website](#)

Related Links:

- [Canada 2020 Conference Highlights](#)
- [Canada 2020 Blog](#)
- [About the author, Sherri Torjman](#)

By: Sherri Torjman

Featured Resources

Towards a New Architecture for Canada's Adult Benefits - This paper from the Caledon Institute of Social Policy advocates for the modernization of income security programs and supportive services for working-age adults, or, 'adult benefits.' Download the paper [here](#). [Source: The Caledon Institute of Social Policy]

Our Diverse Cities: Challenges and Opportunities - The Canadian Journal of Urban Research, Vol. 15, Issue 2 includes two important articles that use Statistics Canada's Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada to examine housing needs during the first six months after arriving in Canada. Learn more about these articles [here](#). [Source: CHRA Underlines]