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Engage!

Unleashing the Power of Place

Building resilient communities requires a local response. A recent report suggests we start by adopting a place-based approach and delegating resources and responsibilities at the local level.

From Restless Communities to Resilient Places, from the External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities, offers recommendations to help Canada prepare for global realities.


According to the Committee, no single order of government can resolve the challenges affecting Canadian communities. That's because most challenges, like sustainability or economic development, are unique from community to community. They defy cookie cutter solutions.

The committee calls for all levels of government to clarify their roles on various issues facing communities and to improve their collaborative governance arrangements.

They further recommend that the federal leadership role become one of facilitation and partnership with lower orders of government.

These recommendations are designed to enable governments to craft more locally appropriate or "place-based" solutions.

The report offers hope for communities and governments across the country. In the next issue of Engage, Paul Born will examine what it takes to make this happen in Canada.

 [Read the full report here](#)

Related Links:

- [Read Part One of our review](#)
- [The External Advisory Committee](#)
- [The Committee's Mandate](#)

By: Mark Cabaj

Recognizing Community Assets

How we choose to see our communities is important. It shapes how we get involved, it shapes our understanding of what is possible, it shapes our dreams and how we fulfill them.

Very few institutions are a greater asset to communities than libraries. Libraries enjoy one of the highest per capita usage rates of nearly any facility in the community. Public libraries help foster creativity while academic libraries support some of the best minds in the country.

Tamarack has identified some key ideas to help transform the way we think about our communities and how we can effectively collaborate, as individuals, groups or libraries, to build great communities.

With a strong volunteer base, resources and networking capabilities, libraries can play a part in transforming our communities and providing a foundation for change.

 [Read Paul Born's full article here!](#)

By: Rachel Veira

Catalyzing Change in Niagara

Opportunities Niagara is working with all sectors of the community and across municipalities to coordinate the Region's systems into multisectoral initiatives.

Providing brokering, social marketing and technical assistance, as well as access to resources, Opportunities Niagara is working diligently to prove that they are not just another service provider.

Opportunities Niagara brokered a partnership between Canadian Auto Workers 199 and a local non-profit to build 40 units of affordable housing.

In a separate effort, Opportunities Niagara united employers and community organizations in the Job Bus initiative that has allowed more than 100 individuals to access employment.

And a living wage is in the works for the Region, as Opportunities Niagara is bringing the private, public and non-profit sectors together in discussion.

"Too often, things don't happen because groups are isolated from each other," says Malcolm Allen of CAW 199. "Opportunities Niagara is helping people work together to make projects like this happen."

 [Opportunities Niagara – Untying the Knots, Connecting the Dots](#)

Related Links:

- [Local Heroes: CAW 199 and Community Partners](#)
- [Niagara's Intermunicipal Transportation Strategy](#)
- [Vibrant Communities Niagara](#)

By: Susan Eckerle Curwood

Vibrant Communities Update

Niagara Region, ON – Opportunities Niagara has begun publishing a quarterly newsletter about their work. To subscribe, e-mail Dianne McLaren [here](#).

B.C.'s Capital Region – 58 businesses have reported the value in using information from either the Employer CHALLENGE newsletter, the HR Options for Action, or employer presentations to change their HR practices. Access these resources for employers [here](#).

Saskatoon, SK – The Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition and the Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence have created the photovoice project, "Looking Out/Looking In – Women, Poverty and Public Policy," to enable low-income women to speak out about the issues that affect them. View the powerpoint presentation [here](#).

Podcasting 101

An exciting new technology is spreading like wildfire across the online community. Today's internet users are creating and subscribing to podcasts in record numbers, as they are excited by the promise of free, personalized audio content delivered instantly to their computers.

At Tamarack, we are no exception, recently launching our *Engage to go!* podcasts.

To take advantage of this new technology, it helps to understand how it works. Podcasts are short, web-based audio shows or episodes that are downloadable to your computer or MP3 player. Podcasting is the act of making/distributing these shows.

If you have a computer with speakers, you can listen to a podcast. Add a microphone to the mix and you can create your own podcasts.

By subscribing to the podcasts of your choice, new episodes are automatically downloaded to their computer. Listen to them on the go by simply downloading the files to your MP3 player.

 Take *Engage to go!*

Related Links:

- [Podcasting FAQ](#)
- [Podcast Instructions - How to subscribe to Tamarack's podcasts](#)

By: Matt Gordon

A Summer of Growth

The sun is shining, the bees are buzzing and Tamarack is flourishing! This summer has been one of growth for us, with the addition of four vibrant new team members.

Anne Blayney has joined us to coordinate Tamarack's custom services, providing support to our coaches and partners. Anne's love for baking means we will all soon be indulging in some tasty treats!



Angela Chin will use her management and organizational skills to coordinate community relations. Angela lives in Heidelberg where she shares her love for Volkswagens with her husband Tom.

Leisa Nichol joins us with a wealth of experience in finance and administration. Leisa's stint as a cook several years ago means we're really looking forward to our next staff potluck!

Rachel Veira brings her energy to Tamarack as our writer and editor. Her passion for writing, community and global issues is evident both in and outside of Tamarack.

We're delighted to welcome each new member to Tamarack!

 [Learn more about these four energetic women, and meet the rest of the Tamarack team!](#)

By: Louise Kearney

Featured Resources

Communities Under Pressure: The Role of Co-operatives and the Social Economy - How can organizations help individuals and communities respond to and benefit from globalization? Why should governments support some organizations but not others? How can research inform the development of best practices? This synthesis report provides some answers and suggestions for future research. Download the report [here](#). [Source: Public Research Initiative]

Low-Income Women Speak Out - Public policies have a big impact on the lives and health of women living in poverty. Yet low-income women are rarely given a voice in shaping these policies. In the fall of 2005, Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence began working on two projects to address this situation, in partnership with two community-based organizations, the Winnipeg North End Women's Centre and the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition. Together they initiated photovoice projects with small groups of low-income women in Winnipeg and Saskatoon. Learn more [here](#). [Source: CSRL-news]