

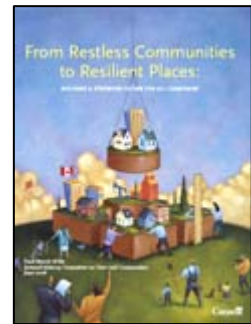
View Engage online at: <http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/newsletter/engage.htm>!

Engage!

Urban Wisdom

It took two years, but 11 of Canada's wisest urban leaders have developed a broad set of recommendations for shaping Canada and its communities in their report, *From Restless Communities to Resilient Places*.

Dedicated to the memory of Jane Jacobs, the report's recommendations reflect the same kind of practical wisdom of the urban guru. This document is a must read for those who are concerned about Canadian communities, as it is jam packed with inspirational facts, great ideas and useful recommendations.



Canadian communities are diverse places that require individual responses to challenges and opportunities. Together, creativity and innovation will be overarching elements that will propel Canada from good to great.

Community cohesion is a key to long-term success. Local, integrated and sustainable planning is a fundamental tool to guide the future of our communities.

Tamarack fully endorses this report and supports the implementation of its recommendations.



[Read the full review here.](#)

Related Links:

- [Read *From Restless Communities to Resilient Places*.](#)

By: Paul Born

Assembling a Voice

Citizens unite on electoral reform

For the first time in history, Ontarians will have the opportunity to participate in a full, open debate on our electoral system.

This September, the 103 randomly selected members of the Citizens' Assembly will examine Ontario's electoral system to determine the best method to elect Members of Provincial Parliament.

Supported by an independent, non-partisan team, members will undergo intense learning, consultation and deliberation to recommend whether Ontario should keep its current electoral system or adopt a new one – a recommendation that carries real weight.

If the Assembly recommends a new electoral system, the government has promised to put the question to all voters in a province-wide referendum in October 2007.

George Thomson, Chair, believes that this experience is fundamental to our democratic process. Ultimately, the Citizens' Assembly seeks to demonstrate the value of citizen engagement to all levels of government.

"These citizens are guaranteed to be heard. This truly is a worthy investment," believes Thomson.



To learn more about the Citizens' Assembly, [click here](#).

Related Links:

- [Get Involved in our democratic system](#)
- [Follow along with the Citizens' Assembly](#)
- [About Ontario provincial elections](#)

By: Rachel Veira

Mentorship to Reduce Poverty

B.C.'s programs for change

In 2003, B.C.'s Capital Region's Quality of Life CHALLENGE convened a Mentorship Task Force to explore the role of mentoring in moving people out of poverty. The Task Force held a visioning session, which identified the need for an umbrella mentorship organization to support existing programs in the Region.



Established in 2005, this new organization, Mentorship Victoria, focuses on sharing information with member groups, organizing training and raising public awareness of the value of mentorship.

Just six months after the first training sponsored by Mentorship Victoria, five of the seven participating agencies reported improvements in their mentorship programs. One agency stated that the training had helped them to better match mentors and clients, resulting in three clients securing employment.

Building an effective mentoring relationship can be time-consuming, but evidence shows that positive effects on both the mentors and those mentored endure long after the relationship ended.



[B.C.'s Capital Region's Mentorship Task Force](#)

Related Links:

- [B.C.'s Capital Region's Quality of Life CHALLENGE](#)
- [Mentoring Canada Resource Centre](#)

By: Susan Eckerle Curwood

Vibrant Communities Update

Saint John, NB – The Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative has just released two new reports: *Influencing Healthy Public Policy for Pregnant and Parenting Young Women* and *Closing the Gaps: Ensuring Pregnant and Parenting Young Women Succeed*.

Calgary, AB – Vibrant Communities Calgary is hiring a Living Wage Coordinator. The deadline to apply is September 10. Access the job posting [here](#).

What you're reading!

You know how *you* engage with us, but have you ever wondered how *others* do?

Each time a web page is viewed or a document is downloaded, our website statistics package takes note.

One of my functions at Tamarack is to keep a keen eye on our website statistics and report on, among other things, the top downloads on our site. These statistics help us understand what is important to you, how you learn, and what documents are hot-to-trot on a weekly, monthly, and yearly basis.

Statistics are great for uncovering common trends and themes that grab your attention, and they help us to understand what ideas we should be continuing to explore based on your interest.

We thought it would be helpful to share with you our top 5 downloads each month in our new "What You're Reading" section on the Tamarack homepage. Check it out to see what others are reading on a regular basis!

To see 'what you're reading', look at the left side of our home page. [Click here to go there now!](#)

By: Laura Antal

Working with Faith

Engaging faith in your community

Most religions have a profound sense of responsibility to assist others. As our cities become increasingly diverse, faith communities have developed into major resources for building community and addressing social issues.

By increasing dialogue between different faiths, we can learn more about what motivates us and what we have in common. Integrating faith communities can be beneficial for a number of reasons:

- Community issues are often grounded in moral and philosophical traditions.
- Faith communities often network with other local organizations and congregations, or are connected to regional, provincial, national and worldwide associations.
- Faith communities can enhance the volunteer base.
- Faith communities have valuable resources, as well as positive relationships with community leaders.
- Faith communities can bring legitimacy to a new coalition, idea or organization.

With a sense of responsibility and the desire to help others, faith communities have the power to bring individuals and groups together for the greater good.



[Visit our web section on engaging faith communities.](#)

By: Susan Eckerle Curwood & Rachel Veira

Featured Resources

Donors as Learners - The June issue of the international magazine Alliance features a special section called Seeing Differently? Donors as learning organizations. Guest editors Jenny Hyatt and Allan Kaplan set out their ideal of a learning organization and suggest that many funders are failing to live up to it. Access the full issue [here](#) and the article [here](#). [Source: PFC Newsletter]

What Business Execs Don't Know — but Should — About Nonprofits - Business leaders play vital roles in the nonprofit sector — as board members, donors, partners, and executives. Yet all too often they underestimate the unique challenges of nonprofits. In this article from the Stanford Social Innovation Review, 11 executives who have played leadership roles in both for-profits and nonprofits reveal the critical differences between the two, and suggest ways that business and nonprofit leaders can use this information to create a more effective social sector. Learn more [here](#) or download the full article [here](#). [Source: SSIR Update]