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Engage!

Capturing Neighbourhood Revitalization

Film and media are effective tools that allow Canadians to share their experiences and trigger dialogue.

Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC) recently released a video showcasing the successes of this exiting action research project that is exploring place-based revitalization across five Canadian neighbourhoods.

The video shows the unique way each neighbourhood builds capacity and mobilizes resources to help governments, service agencies and businesses work better, together, to create a more stable and robust system of community support.

Audio and video resources are being captured in ANC to share with community organizers and neighbourhoods across the country. Ultimately, ANC's media resources aim to allow Canadians to share the experiences and realities of neighbourhood revitalization.

ANC is an initiative of the United Ways of Lower Mainland; Surrey, British Columbia; Regina, Saskatchewan; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Greater Toronto, Ontario; and Halifax Region, Nova Scotia and is funded by the federal government.



To view ANC's video (in 7 easy-to-download sections), [click here](#).

Related Links:

- [Visit the ANC website](#)
- [Learn about the five communities involved in ANC](#)
- ANC involves a unique partnership between national organizations, the federal government and five communities. [Learn more here!](#)

By: Susan Taylor Simpson

A Journey of Collaboration

Sylvia Cheuy is a great example of a pioneering collaborative leader doing amazing work in comprehensive community initiatives. As Project Manager of Headwaters Communities in Action, Sylvia has experienced challenges and successes, but feels that her passion for learning keeps her on track.



"People are hungry for a new way of doing things," says Sylvia. "The challenge is to find a balance between quick progress and establishing fundamental changes."

Sylvia describes her journey in collaboration as similar to the way progress occurs in communities – it's always a growing and learning process. "We are committed to supporting and respecting one another as an organization, and we are equally as committed to doing the same for our community," Sylvia informs.

Surrounded by what she calls a "community of practice," Sylvia relies on the strength of relationships, commitment and processes to progress her work in communities. "Sometimes you can lose perspective," she says. "Seeing and learning from other communities also helps me keep focused."

As a participant of the Communities Collaborating Institute, Sylvia looks forward to receiving guidance from the wisdom of others in attendance. "I want to be challenged in my work," she says, "And this is a great opportunity to do just that."



To read more about *Headwaters Communities in Action*, [click here](#).

Related Links:

- [The Communities Collaborating Institute](#)
- [Headwaters' report on Building Momentum](#)

By: Rachel Veira

A Survey for Change ***Housing priorities in Saint John***

In early 2006, Vibrant Communities Saint John assisted the residents of Crescent Valley – a 388-unit public housing development with deep and persistent poverty – to design and carry out an extensive community survey.

Residents participated in survey design and facilitation, with an impressive result – 54% of the community responded with their vision for improving the neighbourhood.

The top three priorities identified by neighbourhood residents were:

- Services for children and youth
- Improvement of the neighbourhood's appearance, including renovating buildings, sidewalks and streets and adding green space
- Crime prevention and community safety

Identifying and communicating these needs has already paid off for Crescent Valley residents. On August 16, \$523,000 in funding was announced, including funding for a new community police office, a new multi-purpose community centre and the renovation of three subsidized housing buildings in the neighbourhood. As residents of Crescent Valley have demonstrated, community involvement truly does pay off!



[View the complete results of the Crescent Valley Community Survey here.](#)

Related Links:

- [Read more about Neighbourhood Development Initiatives in Saint John](#)
- [Vibrant Communities Saint John](#)

By: Susan Eckerle Curwood

Vibrant Communities Update

B.C.'s Capital Region – The Community Council is pleased to welcome Sherri Torjman as guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting on September 26th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Learn more about membership in the Community Council [here](#).

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

Catalytic Leadership

Defining 21st century leaders

When facing complex problems in today's society, traditional command and control leadership styles will not work. So, what kind of leadership is required?

This is the question that Jeffrey Luke seeks to answer in his book *Catalytic Leadership: Strategies for an Interconnected World*. Today's most pressing issues, such as teen pregnancy, public health, violence and economic development, are interconnected, spanning the mandate and control of multiple organizations.

In order to address such challenges, leaders need to put aside their traditional hierarchical authority and reach out to adopt a new leadership paradigm – a catalytic leadership paradigm.

According to Luke, catalytic leaders convene multiple stakeholder groups, facilitate and mediate agreements around tough issues, and think systematically and strategically about sustainable actions. Such leaders are passionate about reaching outcomes, but they remain flexible and inclusive to reach the desired results.

As I put the book down last night, I was left with the simple but very happy thought that maybe, just maybe, our current efforts to develop new capacities and approaches to the growing volume of interconnected, messy and dynamic community challenges has turned an important corner.



To read Mark Cabaj's full review, [click here](#).

Related Links:

- [Exploring leadership at Tamarack](#)

By: Mark Cabaj

A Classroom Community

The bright side of back-to-school

For some, this time of year is dreaded most. Sleeping in turns to early mornings, lunch-making becomes a task, lazy summer days vanish, and playtime turns into homework. It's time to go back to school.

For others, returning to school means returning to friends, teachers, and routine. Families feel a sense of anticipation, igniting a communal feeling of excitement as members of the academic world set new goals.

School brings people together in a number of ways. For Leisa Nichol and Susan Damiao at Tamarack, September means reconnecting with teachers and parents to ensure each child receives the care and support they need. For their school-aged children, September means reconnecting with friends they've lost touch with over the summer.

School also develops a new community for some, particularly those entering post-secondary studies. Whether through alumni associations, peers, professors, teams and more, school opens doors to communities and resources that students will keep with them for the rest of their lives.



[Read more about school and community here.](#)

Related Links:

- [Education in Action](#)
- [Include this yummy treat in your child's lunchbox](#)

By: Rachel Veira

Featured Resources

The Leadership Deficit - One of the biggest challenges facing non-profits today is their dearth of strong leaders – a problem that's only going to get worse as the sector expands and baby boomer executives retire. Over the next decade, non-profits will need to find some 640,000 new executives, nearly two and a half times the number currently employed. To meet the growing demand for talent, Thomas J. Tierney offers creative ways of finding and recruiting new leaders from a wide range of groups, including business, the military, and the growing pool of retirees. Read more [here](#) or download the full Stanford Social Innovation Review article [here](#). [Source: SSIR Update]

Skills and Knowledge for Canada's Future - A new volume of papers - the product of a research program managed by CPRN, the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University [SPS], and Statistics Canada - provides a synthesis of recent research on human capital development in seven different academic disciplines [economics, sociology, psychology, education, public health, economic geography and political science]. The authors identify areas for new research that would cross disciplinary boundaries. Learn more [here](#). [Source: CPRN]