



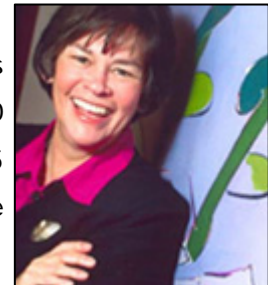
View Engage online at: [http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/newsletter/engage.htm!](http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/newsletter/engage.htm)

Engage!

Real Power is Local


As President and Chief Executive Officer of Community Foundations of Canada, Monica Patten has presided over a period of unprecedented growth in Canada's community foundation movement.

When she took the helm of the fledgling organization for Canada's community foundations in 1992, it had 28 members with assets of \$500 million. Today, those numbers have exploded to include more than 155 community foundations in cities, towns and rural areas all across the country, and \$2 billion in assets.



"Real power," says Monica, "Is at the local level, so it makes sense to operate there – where people are committed to each other and want what's best for their communities."

Community foundations are uniquely positioned to influence the capacity of communities to face present and future challenges – not only in their role of building financial assets and creative grantmaking, but also by offering leadership and building bridges between the diverse groups that give communities life.

 Join us on April 25 when Monica will share her experience with, and thinking about, movements for change. [Register now!](#)

Related Links:

- [Principles for Community Foundations](#)
- [Community Foundations & Community Engagement](#)

By: Louise Kearney

Everyone can play in Edmonton

As a child of immigrant parents, my family couldn't afford sports, arts or dance lessons, but every summer I attended "free" playground programs in my neighbourhood. Those programs not only gave me recreation opportunities that I wouldn't have had otherwise, they launched me on my leadership journey.

Sadly, public recreation programs lost their focus on youth-at-risk and other disadvantaged groups as priorities shifted towards making revenues and cost recovery. User fees have become a barrier to participation for low-income and other vulnerable families yet research increasingly proves that participation in recreation programs leads to substantial benefits in health and well-being, skill development and social inclusion.

Edmonton's Community Services department's recently launched *Leisure Access Program* removes the barrier of user fees for low-income Edmontonians. The program offers unlimited, free admission to participating facilities and four registered programs per year for children and youth at a quarter of the cost. It's an important step in supporting access to recreation programs so that kids and families gain the positive social, physical and psychological outcomes associated with participation.



[Read the full article here!](#)

Related Links:

- [The Leisure Access Program](#)
- [Logic Model, Literature Review and Research Report](#)
- [Everybody Gets to Play](#)

By: Susan Taylor Simpson

Dismantling Poverty in Saint John

Greater Saint John has the highest rate of single-parent poverty in Canada, and a full 25% of its low-income residents live in high poverty neighbourhoods, where the housing stock is poor and the economic opportunities limited. Vibrant Communities Saint John's (VCSJ) theory of change, therefore, focuses on creating impact at the neighbourhood level, tackling the interlocking issues keeping single parents and other residents in poverty.

VCSJ's long-term goal is to bring the city's poverty rate in line with the national average. The shorter-term objective is to assist 800 households in their journeys out of poverty by 2008.

VCSJ focuses on creating safe and affordable housing, investing in children and youth, and improving access to education and employment. Initiatives in progress include establishing an early learning and family centre in an inner-city neighbourhood, establishing a community-based education and job placement program, and developing a campaign to combat energy poverty in low-income neighbourhoods.



Vibrant Communities Saint John: Dismantling the Poverty Traps

Related Links:

- [Vibrant Communities Saint John](#)
- [Literature review on poverty, homelessness, and teenage pregnancy](#)
- [Connections Create Vibrant Communities](#)

By: Susan Curwood

Vibrant Communities Update

Edmonton, AB – Vibrant Communities Edmonton is proud to announce the launch of a new quarterly newsletter. See the first issue [here](#) and visit VCE's [website](#) to subscribe.

Waterloo Region, ON – The Waterloo Region Social Purchasing Portal has launched a new website. Check it out [here](#).

Niagara Region, ON – On April 3, 2006, the Fort Erie Job Bus began transporting employees from Fort Erie to work at the Hilton Hotel in Niagara Falls. Learn more [here](#).

High Five!

Fired! It burned in his brain. Alan Foster, a star performer in a growing company lost his job for not being a team player.

His journey to learn about what it takes to build, and be part of, a team makes for fun and soul-searching reading in *High Five* by Ken Blanchard (The One Minute Manager) and Sheldon Bowles.

The story focuses on four key team-building principles:

1. **Provide** clear purpose and values - A compelling reason for being.
2. **Unleash** and develop skills - Develop core skills of team members.
3. **Create** team power - None of us are as smart as all of us. Create synergistic harmony.
4. **Keep** the accent on the positive - Repeated reward and recognition.

A fascinating and revealing read, High Five is recommended for anyone wanting to improve their performance in building teams and for those wanting to strengthen their team performance.



[Read the full review of this book here.](#)

Related Links:

- [Visit Ken Blanchard's home page](#)
- [Peter Drucker on Teams](#)
- [Meg Wheatley on Servant Leadership](#)

By: Paul Born

Pay It Forward

Can a movement start with one person? The proposed experiment: do a really big favor for someone and instead of the recipient paying you back, they pay it *forward*. That is, they repay the good deed with good deeds to three new people and thus the cycle begins.



The *Pay It Forward* concept was first articulated in Catherine Ryan Hyde's novel, but it has since taken on a life of its own since hitting the big screen. In the 2000 film, the *Pay It Forward* concept originates when Eugene Simonet (Kevin Space) challenges his seventh grade class to come up with an assignment to change the world. Trevor (Haley Joel Osment) rises to the challenge and formulates a plan that extends beyond the classroom walls and into the hearts and souls of those affected.

What I find so compelling about this movie is not that it kept me entertained on a rainy Sunday afternoon (which has become increasingly harder these days), but that it has the power to speak to every one of us. It actually asks something of us and makes us consider what role we play in the larger picture.

Today I'm doing you a favor by saying this is a must-see movie. Will you pay the favor forward?



on the *Pay it Forward* movement!

Related Links:

- [Check out the *Pay it Forward* movie website](#)
- [Go to the *Pay it Forward* foundation website](#)
- [Read more Tamarack reviews!](#)

By: Laura Antal