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## Engage!

### From Landscapes to Skyscrapers

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The Canada we grew up with is no longer the Canada we live in today. Nearly 80 percent of us now live in cities and, despite our country's steadfast economic engine, our urban centres may not be equipped to sustain this growth.



Alan Broadbent, Chairman of the Maytree Foundation, recently joined us to talk about his new book *Urban Nation* and why he thinks powerful cities will strengthen Canada.

He believes we must adopt a new way of thinking in order to sustain our nation's largest cities. "Cities need to be able to have a vision of their future, to create a credible plan to get there, and to implement the policies and programs that make that future vision a reality."



As a champion of the "cities" agenda in Canadian politics and public discourse for the past 15 years, Alan unveils his thinking about the role and challenges of Canadian cities in *Urban Nation*.

These thoughts have already started to inspire community thinkers, fuel discussion amongst politicians and ignite the kind of controversy that leads to action.

The discourse emerging about the future of Canada and its cities is one you won't want to miss.

 [on \*Urban Nation\*](#)

#### Learn More:

- [Purchase your copy of \*Urban Nation\*](#)
- [The Leadership Challenge](#)
- [The Maytree Foundation](#)

By: Rachel Gainer

## Are you a collaborative leader?

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What are the required skills of a collaborative leader?

In May 2008, the participants of Collaborative Leadership, a three-day learning event in Kitchener, Ontario, deliberated and agreed on the core competencies, capacities and behaviours of a collaborative leader.



It's the first time that these requirements for collaborative leadership have been identified and recorded in Canada.

The group worked from four key capacities of collaborative leadership David Chrislip identified in advance of the event. They included:

- Manage yourself in ways that support civic work
- Initiate and facilitate civic work
- Mobilize, energize and engage others in the work
- Diagnose the situation and choose the appropriate interventions

Chrislip also articulated several competencies related to each capacity. Examples include: influence others beyond their own position and authority, be aware of and knowledgeable about alternative ways to intervene, and communicate an optimistic, compelling shared vision.

The participants at Collaborative Leadership then worked to develop mind maps of behaviours related to each capacity and competency.

We captured the mind maps and are releasing them for the first time.

Now, collaborative leaders will have a set of attributes by which they can assess their personal leadership.

[!\[\]\(6a9b39b98eb945faa14c645ec99e4eaa\_img.jpg\) Download the mind maps!](#)

By: Louise Kearney

## Faster Alone, Farther Together

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This May, over 40 representatives from 14 urban communities in Ontario met at Niagara College to explore the important role that bottom-up, collaborative and comprehensive efforts can play in creating significant reductions in poverty.

The agenda included updates on the outcomes and lessons learned from Vibrant Communities in Niagara, Hamilton, Waterloo, Saint John and Saint Michel before everyone boarded a bus to tour several of the innovative local initiatives supported by Opportunities Niagara.



Participants also had a chance to explore the “how” of working collaboratively and comprehensively to reduce poverty before moving into an exercise to map current poverty reduction efforts in Ontario.

Our time together also included an update from Minister Deb Matthews about the provincial government’s progress on shaping a poverty reduction strategy, as well as a series of presentations and interviews with communities and business, education, non-profit, and government leaders doing the work “on the ground.”

With all of the efforts currently underway to reduce poverty across Canada, staying connected through events like this is important.

As a colleague from Saint Michel said, “We will go faster alone, but farther together.”

### Learn More:

- [Growing Stronger Together: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)
- The Ontario event was organized by Vibrant Communities in [Niagara](#), [Hamilton](#) and [Waterloo Region](#)

By: Mark Cabaj

## Vibrant Communities Updates

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**BC's Capital Region** - The [Quality of Life CHALLENGE](#) started Phase Two of their poverty reduction plan in May 2008, including the launch of their [2008 Living Wage dialogue](#). The CHALLENGE calculates that a family of four requires an hourly wage of \$16.39 for two people, each working 35 hours a week, to live above the poverty line in Victoria, BC and its environs.

**Calgary** - [Vibrant Communities Calgary](#) (VCC) was recently honoured by [Public Interest Alberta](#), which "exists to foster an understanding of the importance of public services, institutions and spaces in Albertans' lives, and to build a network of organizations and individuals committed to advancing the public interest." VCC was one of two recipients to receive Public Interest Alberta's annual award. [Click here](#) to see VCC Director Salima Stanley-Bhanji accept the award.

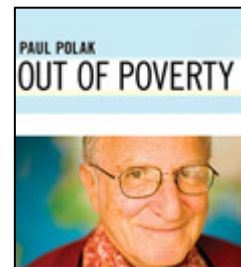
**Montreal** - Twenty-seven of the forty-two projects in [Vivre Saint-Michel en Santé's](#) action plan are currently underway. The projects work on housing, employment and income support, sports and leisure opportunities, commercial development, neighbourhood safety, citizen participation and more. For example, six citizen's networks, including two citizens' networks specifically for youth, called "Espaces Citoyens," have resulted in the participation of over 1000 people in neighbourhood and youth activities.

## Out of Poverty

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Earlier this year, I met Paul Polak while on retreat at the Fetzer Institute. I quickly realized the extent of his energy and passion. He is one of the most innovative thinkers, doers and designers I have ever met.

For the past 25 years, Paul has worked in countries around the world to help design and produce low cost, income-generating products that have already moved 17 million people out of poverty.



In his latest book *Out of Poverty*, Paul tells us why traditional poverty eradication programs have fallen so short. *Out of Poverty* describes what he calls the "Three Great Poverty Eradication Myths," which are:

1. We can donate people out of poverty.
2. National economic growth will end poverty.
3. Big Business, operating as it does now, will end poverty.

He shows that programs based on these ideas have failed. In fact, when tried in sub-Saharan Africa, poverty rates have actually gone up. These failed top-down efforts contrast sharply with the grassroots approach Polak has championed: helping the dollar-a-day poor earn more money through their own efforts.

Paul's writing is as engaging as his personality. Not only does he talk the talk, he walks the walk. Based on his real-life experience, he writes about practical ideas to improve or replace the approaches international development that have already failed.



[Read and comment on Paul Born's full article.](#)

**Learn More:**

- [About Paul Polak and \*Out of Poverty\*.](#)
- [Paul was recently featured on CBC's \*The Hour\*. View the video here.](#)

By: Paul Born

## **Finding the Meaning of Community**

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Community means different things to different people.

Now you have the opportunity to help shape the collective meaning of community that is emerging out of Tamarack's learning community.

Paul Born is trying to better understand what community means and how we can build more into our chaotic lives for his forthcoming book *Seeking Community - Finding Belonging in Chaotic Times*.



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Over the past several weeks we have asked our *Eunoia* subscribers to complete a Community Meaning Survey to share what community means to them and how they most profoundly experience community.

More than 400 people have completed the survey thus far. Help us get to 500!

Survey results will provide valuable input for Paul Born as he begins to write this new book that will focus on the importance of community. The pooled results will be posted for your review and use.

Perhaps taking the survey will remind you of the importance of community in your life and renew your energy for the important work you are doing.



[Take the survey!](#)

**Learn More:**

- [Read the survey results to date.](#)

By: Paul Born

## Featured Resources

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**Focus on Poverty in Canada** - The latest issue of CCSD's *Perception* focuses on poverty in Canada, with articles about national and provincial anti-poverty strategies, an opinion piece by Rob Rainer imagining a poverty-free Canada by the year 2020, a synthesis of a report by John Stapleton on why it's so tough to get ahead, an article by Alanna Petroff on using social data for success, and much more. [Learn more here.](#)

**Achieving Breakthrough Performance** - From the Girl Scouts, to Partners In Health, to the city of Providence, R.I., great organizations have one thing in common: great managers. These managers, in turn, share four simple management principles that they use to guide organizations from mere mediocrity to stand-out stardom. [Learn more here.](#)