



Engage!

## Pushing for labour market systems reform

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There are many local initiatives that help people secure higher wages, retain their jobs and advance more quickly and farther in their work and career.


Yet, these initiatives alone have not been able to help many underemployed or unemployed people who want better jobs to get them.

In an effort to solve this problem the Annie E. Casey Foundation has developed a program called the Jobs Initiative, which uses a labour market system reform framework to generate employment opportunities for low-income residents.

The framework encourages local collaborations to focus on reforming workforce development systems – rather than focus on isolated programs.

The six communities participating in the program have boosted the coordination of training organizations, strengthened the links between job sites and job seekers and actively engaged employers in helping shape productive public policy for low-income residents.

As a result, thousands of struggling families have improved economic prospects and Jobs Initiatives communities are expanding their efforts.

 The [Sustainable Incomes Learning Initiative](#) in Vibrant Communities is also exploring options for labour market systems reform. Check it out [HERE](#).

### Related Links:

- [The Framework for Labor Market Systems Reform for Jobs Initiative Sites](#)
- [Pushing Workforce Systems to Help Participants](#)
- [St. Louis Jobs Initiative Site](#)

## **Integrating immigrants into the labour market**

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An exciting new multi-stakeholder model for integrating immigrants into the labour market has been developed in Toronto.

Through a series of events stemming from the Toronto City Summit in June 2002, the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) was launched in September 2003.



TRIEC's primary goal is to find and implement local solutions that lead to more effective and efficient labour market integration of immigrants in the Toronto Region.

TRIEC has already made progress in changing the way the labour market works with new immigrants. For example, the internship program that TRIEC helped develop, Career Bridge, was officially launched on June 17 and has already partnered with 41 organizations who will host 153 internships to help internationally trained professionals gain Canadian work experience.

In the fall TRIEC will launch a mentoring program that will match 1000 immigrant professionals with their Canadian counterparts in York, Peel and Toronto.

 [Visit the TRIEC website](#)

### **Related Links**

[TRIEC's new report - Immigration Works: The GTA Weighs in on Skilled Immigrants and the Workforce](#)

## **The cost of poverty in Calgary**

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There is no question that poverty, particularly sustained poverty, imposes loss of well-being on those who experience it. In addition, poverty also imposes costs on members of society beyond those deemed "poor."

Poverty has been associated with increased spending resulting from greater need for health care, reduced high school completion rates, the need for more early childhood and special education services, additional demands on the criminal justice system, and costs associated with the provision of income and social support.

In an effort to determine these "external" costs of poverty in the city of Calgary, and use this information to help build a compelling case for sustained poverty reduction, United Way of Calgary and Area commissioned a report by the Centre for Health and Policy Studies at the University of Calgary.

The external costs of poverty represent the potential savings that could be realized were Calgarians to implement an effective and sustained programme of poverty reduction in the city. They are just one component of the social benefits of poverty reduction. The existence of these costs provides one component of a case for a programme of poverty reduction, even if one is not convinced of the need for such a programme on the grounds of social justice alone.



The report's findings suggest:

- Increased costs of health care in Calgary of at least \$3.35 million per year and possibly as much as \$16.3 million
- Increased costs associated with the schools system of at least \$4.9 million and perhaps as much as \$7.9 million
- Costs elsewhere in the economy could amount to as much as \$32.6 million per year

 [Read the report here!](#)

### **Related Links:**

- [Calgary in Vibrant Communities](#)
- [United Way of Calgary and Area](#)

## **Community foundations engage communities!**

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Community foundations are one of the fastest-growing and dynamic networks dedicated to building and engaging communities in Canada.

By their nature, these foundations can be flexible and responsive to the values, traditions and needs of a community. They build common cause, connecting resources and needs at a community level.

Tamarack has devoted a section of our [website](#) to this important area of community engagement in action.

A community foundation is a charitable organization that's been created by and for the people of a community. It operates as a permanent collection of endowed funds for the long-term benefit of a defined geographic area.

By aggregating donor contributions to support a range of charitable activities, community foundations provide a way for people to come together, give direction to their charitable impulses and work together to do good work in their community.

On this [section of our website](#), you'll find resources, great stories, innovative ideas and further readings on the topic including links that challenge our conventional thinking about community foundations.

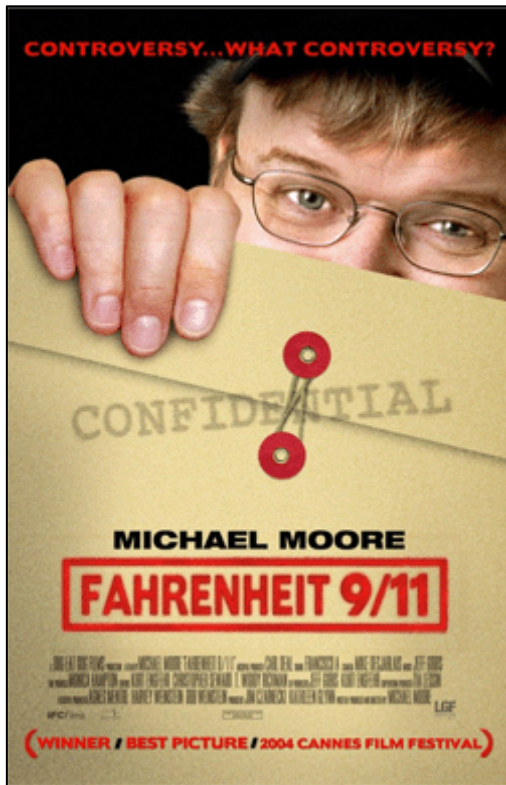


[on community foundations in action.](#)

### **Related Links:**

- [Community Foundations of Canada](#)
- [Council on Foundations \(US\)](#)
- [GrantBenefit](#)

## Fahrenheit 9/11: Turning up the heat on political debate



Fahrenheit 9/11, Michael Moore's film about September 11, 2001 and the Iraq war, has generated a tremendous amount of press, as well as impressive ticket sales, becoming the first documentary to surpass the magic \$100 million revenue threshold.

The film has provoked very strong reactions from those critical of President Bush's administration and handling of the post September 11 period, as well as those who defend the President.

And then there's the criticism of the film for betraying the documentary art form – being strongly opinionated, one-sided and relying on cinematic tricks rather than letting the footage speak for itself. In short, being propaganda not art.

But Mr. Moore has never made documentaries without a strong narrative opinion shaping them. For better or worse, it's his oeuvre and viewers of a Michael Moore film should know to expect this.

 [Read the full review. Click HERE!](#)

### Related Links

- [Michael Moore's website](#)
- [More reviews from Tamarack](#)



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