

CURRICULUM VITAE

Mark Cabaj

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EDUCATION

M.A. Urban & Regional Planning

(Not Yet Awarded: Thesis Pending February 2011)

University of Waterloo, Ontario

Diploma in Polish & Culture. 1990.

The Polonia Institute, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland

B.A. Honours (with Honours) in Political Science. 1985-1990.

University of Alberta, Edmonton

WORK HISTORY

- 2011** **Principal, From Here to There**
Edmonton, Alberta
A consulting company providing strategic planning, research and evaluation and facilitation to collaborations, restructuring organizations, policy agencies, and innovation initiatives.
- 2002** **Vice President, Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement; Executive Director, Vibrant Communities Canada, Edmonton, Alberta**
Co-stewarded the start-up and development of a national institute for community engagement. Managed a 10 year action-research and evaluation of initiative involving 3 national sponsors and 15 urban collaborations and from across Canada employing a collaborative, comprehensive approach to reducing poverty.

- 2001** **Executive Director, Canadian Community Economic Development Network**
Waterloo, Ontario
Managed strategic planning, fundraising, member services, practitioner development and policy advocacy to a membership of 180 community economic development organizations and pan-Canadian board of directors.
- 1997-2000** **Coordinator, Opportunities 2000**
Kitchener, Ontario
Provided strategic and operational leadership for an award winning multisectoral leadership group, staff team and network of 87 local organizations working to reduce poverty in Waterloo Region.
- 1995-1997** **Cabaj & Associates**
Waterloo, Ontario
Provided public, non-profit and private economic development organizations in Ontario and Canada with technical assistance, training and consulting in the area of planning and evaluation.
- 1993** **Foreign Assistance Coordinator, Ministry of Privatization**
Warsaw, Poland
Coordinated the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of bilateral and international grants to the Ministry for use in projects related to privatization, economic development and market economy institutions.
- 1992** **Mission Coordinator, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**
Warsaw, Poland
Coordinated the efforts of an international team of investment bankers, senior civil servants to develop the UNDP's first program in post-Soviet Eastern Europe to strengthen regional market economy institutions in Poland.
- 1991** **Foreign Investment Advisor**
Warsaw, Poland
Assisted prospective foreign investors understand the Polish business environment and investment opportunities, prepared portfolio of prospective investments, produced communication and guides for investors.

RECENT EXPERIENCE

Evaluation & Research

- Coach, Community of Practice on Developmental Evaluation, with Michael Quinn Patton, Social Innovation at Waterloo University (2010-2011)
- Consultant, Developmental Evaluation Support to Pan-American Health Organization & Office for American States Meeting in Washington, DC (May 2010)
- Evaluator, Pohna Gang Prevention Initiative, Native Counseling Services of Alberta, Edmonton, (2010-2011)
- Evaluation Administrator, Vibrant Communities Initiative (2002-2010)
http://tamarackcommunity.ca/g2_VC_Evaluation.html
- Evaluator, Partner for Kids Group Collaboration, Edmonton (2009-2011)
- Developmental Evaluation: Reflection and Learning of 18 Early Adopters, Presentation to Canadian Evaluation Society Meeting, May 2011, Edmonton
- Researcher, Edmonton Public School Board on Social Innovation and Collaboration, Edmonton (2009-2010)
- Evaluator, Social Innovation Generation Group Canada, Vancouver, Montreal, Waterloo (2008)
- Community Development Options, Suncorp Energy Foundation, Calgary (2008)

Planning & Program Design

- Consultant, Collaborative Regional Service Delivery Model, Ministries of Education, Health, Children & Youth, Cross Ministry Branches, Alberta Education (2011)
- Consultant, Options for Better Access to Better Food in Edmonton's Inner City, Edmonton (2011)
- Consultant, Options for Renewal, Vibrant Communities Edmonton Collaborative, Edmonton (2011)
- Consultant, Five Year Plan for Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Strathcona County (2010-2011)
- Consultant, Five Year After School Strategy for Immigrants & New Canadians, Edmonton (2010)
- Consultant, Wicahitowin First Nations Collaborative Granting Process, Edmonton
- Consultant, Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, City of Red Deer (2008)
- Consultant, Three Year Plan Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative, Calgary (2008, 2011)
- Advisor, Vision 2015 Strategy, Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, Edmonton (2008-2009)

Facilitation

- Annual Retreat, YMCA of Edmonton, Edmonton (2011)
- Divisional Restructuring Process, Northlands School Division, Edmonton (2011)
- Development Community Engagement Policy Development, City of Red Deer Community Services Department, Red Deer (2010)
- Strategic Reflection, Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council, Winnipeg (2010)
- Funded Partners Retreat, United Way of Alberta's Capital and Area, Edmonton (2009, 2011)
- Community Review, Community Development Framework, City of Ottawa, Ottawa (2009)
- Member Retreat, Inspiring Communities Network Retreat, New Zealand, (2009)
- Early Childhood Development Discussion Paper for Alberta, The Muttart Foundation Early Childhood Development Discussion Paper (Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge) (2010-2011)
- Annual Retreat, Edmonton High School Principals, Edmonton (2010)
- National meetings, Aboriginal Caucus, Urban Aboriginal Strategy, Saskatoon, Edmonton (2008, 2009)

Workshops

- The Dynamics of "Creative Destruction" in the Non-Profit Sector, Funders' Collaborative, Waterloo Region (2011)
- More Learning on Collaboration, Saskatchewan Health, Regina (2011)
- The Story on Service Integration, Children and Family Services Authority, Region 6, Edmonton (2011)
- Developmental Evaluation, Tamarack's Communities Collaborating Institute, Kitchener (2006, 2007, 2008, 2010)
- Complex Social Issues, Executive Team, Alberta Education, Edmonton (2010)
- Organizational Innovation, Curriculum Branch, Alberta Education, Edmonton (2010)
- The Eco-Cycle of Collaborative Initiatives, Alberta Mental Health Services, Edmonton (2010)
- Complex Social Issues, Westwind School Division, Medicine Hat (2010)
- Complex Social Issues, Aspen View School Division, Athabasca (2010)
- Organizational Innovation, Big Brothers & Big Sisters Conference, Edmonton (2010)
- Integrated Strategies, Community Foundations of Canada, International Exchange, Red Deer (2010)
- Scaling Up Social Innovations, Family Children's Social Services of Alberta, Red Deer (2010)

- Organizational Innovation, Aspen Family Services, Calgary (2010)
- Collaboration 101, Alberta Association of Services for Children and Families, Edmonton and Calgary (2010)
- Complex Social Issues, High School Completion Group, Alberta Education, Edmonton (2009)
- Community Impact, United Way National Conference, Quebec City (2008)

Keynote Presentations

- Collaborating on Complex Issues, Coalitions Connect Conference, Alberta Health Services, Edmonton (2011)
- A Clearing in the Forest, Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Forum, Winnipeg (2010)
- Resiliency Through Hope, College of Alberta School Superintendents, Edmonton (2010)
- Community Resiliency in Single Industry Towns, Unwrap the Research, Fort McMurray (2010)
- Social Innovation and Change, Alberta Council of Disability Services, Edmonton (2010)
- Accelerating Our Impact: Funding, Philanthropy and Social Change, Excellence in Grantmaking Workshop, Calgary (2009)
- The Value Proposition for Philanthropy, Plenary Session, Philanthropy New Zealand, Wellington (2009)
- What We Know About Neighborhood Change, Inspiring Communities Network, Auckland (2009)
- Collaborating for Impact: Ten Things I Wish I Knew. Driving Home Safety Conference, Edmonton (2009)
- Capturing and Making Sense of Unintended Outcomes, Outcomes and Evaluation: Advancing Social Change, Calgary (2009)
- Outcomes and Best Practice in Creating Social Change, Calgary (2007)

PUBLICATIONS

- 2010 **Understanding Poverty as a Complex Issue and Why That Matters**
Public Government Digest. February.
- 2010 **Make Tax Time Pay: Program & Systems Change Successes**
With Anne Makhoul Caledon Institute for Social Policy. December.
- 2010 **Balwin School: Striving for Intercultural Understanding**
With Anne Makhoul, Caledon Institute for Social Policy, June.

- 2010 **Abbot School's Cree Extended Learning Program**
With Anne Makhoul, Caledon Institute for Social Policy, June.
- 2006 **Wicked: What We Are Learning About the Nature of Complex Community Problems.** Making Waves. Volume 17, Number 3.
- 2005 **The Poverty Matrix**
Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement
- 2004 **CED and the Social Economy: A People's History**
Making Waves. Volume 15, Number 1. Spring.
- 2004 **Comprehensive Community Initiatives: Who Does What?**
With Sherri Torjman and Eric Leviten-Reid
Caledon Institute of Social Policy. February 2004.
- 2003 **Raising the Bar**
With Colleen Brydon
Making Waves. Volume 13, Number 4. Winter
- 2000 **How Do You Evaluate This Stuff?**
Making Waves. Volume 11, Number 2. Summer
- 2000 **Social Return on Investment**
With Jed Emerson
Making Waves. Volume 11, Number 2. Summer

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Canadian Evaluation Society (Current)
- Board, Canadian Community Economic Development (2002-2004)
- Advisory Committee, Community Economic Development Technical Assistance Program (1999 to 2001)