

Governance Structure Provides Leadership Stability

Vibrant Abbotsford Leadership Table (VALT) recently adopted a comprehensive terms of reference, which includes the parameters of their governance and action structure. Each member of the VALT has a dedicated role on at least one of 5 Action Teams that were strategically created in alignment with the goals VA Learning and Exploration Plan developed and adopted earlier in 2007.

The purpose of the Learning and Exploration plan is to increase understanding of the causes, conditions, and consequences of poverty in Abbotsford, and to analyze the effectiveness of both past and current poverty reduction efforts. This learning and research will help the group to determine the most appropriate strategic approaches to reduce poverty in Abbotsford.

As part of their community engagement efforts, the VALT is currently preparing to convene a cross-Sectoral community forum to broaden engagement of influential leadership for action; to map existing “poverty-related” assets and initiatives, and explore potential efficiencies through leverage points; to inform the learning and exploration process and; to create a community-owned aspiration for Abbotsford as a community that is resilient and responsive to the causes and consequences of poverty. As well, VALT (in partnership with United Way of the Fraser Valley and with the Quality of Life Challenge in BC’s Capital Region) is engaging in finding ways to affect positive attitudinal shifts about the realities of poverty, through a “Poverty Experience” forum and “Seeing is Believing” tour in Spring 2008.

Vibrant Abbotsford has also been working in collaboration with members of the Fraser Valley Housing Network on a number of outcomes, including:

- Increasing affordable housing stock;
- Increasing safe & affordable housing stock for low-income tenants;
- Stabilizing existing low-income market rentals;
- Developing relationships, understanding & partnerships;
- Promoting public awareness;
- Supporting effective regional and municipal responses;
- 10-Year plan to house all Fraser Valley residents in need.



[Read Vibrant Abbotsford’s Local Learning Plan](#)

Related Links:

- [Vibrant Abbotsford](#)
- [Vibrant Abbotsford Blog Spot](#)
- [Vibrant Abbotsford Terms of Reference](#)

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