

## Activity Update 2004

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Edmonton's Vibrant Communities initiative is co-sponsored by the Edmonton Community Loan Fund, the City of Edmonton Community Services Department, and the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region

In January 2003, the Edmonton Vibrant Communities Steering Committee received Phase 2 approval and is now working to develop a community plan that focuses on learning, action, and how the community can view and respond to poverty, moving from alleviating the effects of poverty to poverty reduction.

After a strong first phase of work, Edmonton saw the creation of a working group, the identification of various sectors and a series of nine focus group sessions to determine the community's interest in pursuing poverty reduction.

From the themes identified through consultation, the Steering Committee determined there are five key areas of community engagement required to create the community plan. They include:

1. Research and Analysis
2. Community Awareness/Education
3. Partnerships/Community Engagement
4. Leadership/Governance
5. Fund & Resource Development

In preparation for Phase III, a Leadership Council was recruited. The Leadership Council is comprised of representatives from the municipal government, provincial government, funders, voluntary sector, faith community, aboriginal community, business, labour, capital health authority and local interested citizens. They are in the process of constituting their terms of reference and operations. Initially, their focus will be assisting people who are employed part time or full time and live in poverty.

Upon completion of the evaluation framework, the community plan will be finalized for the approval of the Leadership Council and subsequent submission to Tamarack.

