



LOCAL LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS Learning Plan (July 2005)

As part of our commitment to the Vibrant Communities Pan Canadian Learning Community, Vibrant Communities Edmonton signed an agreement with Tamarack, the lead sponsor of the national initiative, to develop a learning strategy for Edmonton.

Under this agreement, VCE will develop a strategy and work plan to increase knowledge about building family economic success and increase the effectiveness of our efforts.

Further, VCE committed to participating in the Pan Canadian Learning Community by appointing local learning leads to co-ordinate learning activities and liaise with Tamarack on Vibrant Communities related activities such as the learning teleforums .

This Learning Plan is the starting point of our commitment under the agreement with Tamarack and acts as a guide to focus efforts on building an action and learning community based on the Vibrant Communities Edmonton initiative. The “**activities**” will assist with shaping existing activities and disseminating results. The “**learning**” includes increased knowledge and insight gained through VCE efforts to build family economic success. The “**community**” represents a range of networks that begins with the Leadership Council and extends through the circles of influence of its members.

While the agreement called for the appointment of “local learning leads” to co-ordinate learning activities and liaise with Tamarack staff on Vibrant Communities related learning activities, we believe our strategy will be more effective if we leave the co-ordination and liaison activities to the staff of VCE. Our foundational learning partners are the Edmonton Community Foundation and the Canadian Centre for Social Entrepreneurship. These partners will then help with brokering the relationships and resources necessary to help us implement the learning plan. With their assistance, we have drafted this learning plan which details how VCE staff, the VCE Leadership Council and additional partners will be involved in the development of a local action and learning community that helps Vibrant Communities Edmonton achieve its goals.

The **GOALS** of the Local Learning Partnerships are to:

- Facilitate a community of learning in support of VCE goals
- Facilitate dialogue that could motivate others to take action
- Increase knowledge regarding alternative solutions/strategies that focus on assets to build family economic success
- Influence change in policy, practice and beliefs at the individual, organizational and systemic level
- Meet our commitments as part of the Pan Canadian Learning Community (PCLC)

The **PROCESS GUIDELINES** for the Local Learning Partnerships are:

- Learning events encourage multi sectoral participation
- Information is shared through creative and diverse mediums
- Learning events have an action component wherein participants brainstorm ways that they are able to implement what they have learned
- Local knowledge/resources/learning is shared with PCLC

The **Key Activities** of the Local Learning Partnerships are to:

- be connected with *Vibrant Communities Edmonton subcommittees* including:
 - Evaluation Committee, because evaluation informs learning;
 - Communications Committee, because we want to share what we are learning with the community.
- help facilitate the development of a “data warehouse” that is a database of reports/resources that we use to inform the work of *Vibrant Communities Edmonton*, which we can then share with the community.
- assist with the dissemination of what we have learned in creative and diverse ways.
- create opportunities for local community members to participate in the national Vibrant Community teleforums that are identified as priority learning opportunities in Edmonton, including proposed topics such as: Roles/Options for Business in Reducing Poverty, Living Wage Learning Initiative, Funders Network, Communities and Income Support Policies, Multisectoral Leadership Development
- create opportunities for local community members to participate in discussions that inform the three key strategies of Vibrant Communities Edmonton: Family Economic Supports, Workforce Development, Community Investment

LEARNING PLAN (July 2005)

Key Activity 1

Be connected with *Vibrant Communities Edmonton* subcommittees including: Evaluation Committee, because evaluation informs learning; Communications Committee, because we want to share what we are learning with the community.

Action – identify learning partners and establish a liaison between learning partners, Evaluation Committee and Communication Committee

Key Activity 2

Help facilitate the development of a “data warehouse” that is a database of reports/resources that we use to inform the work of *Vibrant Communities Edmonton* which we can then share with the local community and the PCLC.

Action – discuss the online database requirements with technical experts (such as employees at the Business Link) including maintenance, costs, and time commitment

Action – develop a “data warehouse” on VCE web page that includes:

reports that we have used to inform our work

resources that provide statistical information about the city of Edmonton

lists of existing programs, committees or initiatives that VCE has participated in or is aware of that are relevant to building family economic success

SUBACTION– create a template for input from community organizations and departments that will assist in obtaining relevant information regarding existing programs, committees, initiatives

Key Activity 3

Assist with the dissemination of learning in creative and diverse ways.

Action – include a brief note in the monthly Leadership Council newsletter that covers any issues or successes that we have experienced as we initiate the strategies

**Action – increase the circulation of national e newsletter by:
Ensuring all VCE Council members receive the national e newsletters**

Encouraging VCE Council members to recruit people in their circle of influence to receive national e newsletters.

Action – determine unique and diverse ways to update the various sectors about what we are learning as part of each key strategy

SUBACTION - increase circulation of VCE newsletter (which will be developed as part of our marketing materials)

SUBACTION – provide short articles for insert into the newsletters of businesses/organizations/departments of Leadership Council members

SUBACTION - contact Chamber of Commerce, AHRE (which is working with certain industry sectors) and Canadian Federation of Independent Business to determine communication methods favoured by these sectors

- contact partner organizations such as On R Own Grow Society and members of previous focus groups to determine effective methods of communication

- obtain input from Leadership Council members regarding innovative approaches to sharing knowledge gained from key strategies in their sectors.

SUB ACTION 1 – develop communication tools based on input from various sectors identified above. This may include working with artists, communication consultants, government departments and sector councils.

SUB ACTION 2 – contact businesses such as Enbridge to encourage community of learning in corporate sector.

Action – develop a media plan with assistance from Communications committee that focuses on sharing learning/results

Action – ensure the website includes a “story” page that relates personal stories of people involved with VCE and a page dedicated to examples of how people in various sectors can incorporate activities that help build family economic success into their places of work or circles of influence

Key Activity 4

Create opportunities for local community members to participate in the national Vibrant Community teleforums that are identified as priority learning opportunities in Edmonton. These topics may include the following: Roles/Options for Business in Reducing Poverty, Living Wage Learning Initiative, Funders Network, Communities and Income Support Policies, Multi-sectoral Leadership Development.

Action – obtain additional information regarding teleforums from Tamarack

Action – obtain tools from Tamarack that will assist with partner organizations that will host learning events in their efforts to recruit participants and co-ordinate the events, such as e-newsletter with dates, times, outline of teleforum, agenda, facilitation guide to pre and post discussions.

Action - develop electronic mailing list with RSVP to send to local people

Action - determine which Leadership Council members would be interested in hosting a teleforum(s) and which teleforums and what incentives would be required to recruit participants

Action – recruit additional potential hosting sites such as Leadership Edmonton, Business Link, ECVO (community service learning)

SUB ACTION: develop and provide orientation to hosts regarding teleforums

Key Activity 5

Create opportunities for local community members to participate in discussions that inform any of the three key strategies of Vibrant Communities Edmonton: Family Economic Supports, Workforce Development, Community Investment.

Action – co-ordinate a learning event with human resource practitioners and researchers (eg. Audrey Luft) to discuss trends in Human Resource practices (Workforce Development)

Action – co-ordinate a learning event with people living with low income regarding human resource practices that would help them obtain/retain employment (Workforce Development)

Action – co-ordinate a learning event that acts as a community update forum at halfway point and at conclusion of VCE initiative (Collaboration)

Action – co-ordinate a learning events that are identified as a need in particular communities which could include forums that bring people who have businesses and people who want to start businesses together with representatives from financial institutions to discuss needs and opportunities. (Community Investment)

TIMELINE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A draft timeline has been completed. However, we have yet to include teleforums in the timeline. Teleforums will be included in the timeline as well as responsible personnel upon receipt of learning event details from Tamarack.

