

Evolving Leadership

Saint John is renowned for its innovative approaches to community issues.

Vibrant Communities Saint John's (VCSJ) goal is to assist 800 households and reduce the region's poverty rate from 27 percent to 16 percent by 2010.

Among many successes, VCSJ has assisted 1,715 households with access to education and 502 with help in keeping the heat on.



In November 2007, I was privileged to witness the evolution of leadership at the strategic planning session of VCSJ.

Women who were previously quiet have become willing to speak out and to be heard. Relationships in the community have shifted from distrusting and skeptical to open and compassionate.

Profound transformations in Saint John neighbourhoods occurred through courageous local leadership, along with the stewardship of Gail Taylor.

Thus far, 113 households have become involved and are orchestrating needed innovations, establishing priorities and setting homegrown solutions in motion.

With this growing leadership there is not a challenge that the citizens of Saint John cannot tackle together!

Related Links:

- [Learn more about VCSJ's efforts to enable strong neighbourhoods](#)
- [Crescent Valley: A Community in Motion](#)
- [Read how VCSJ is keeping the lights and heat on in Saint John!](#)

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