

The Journey to Community

About Tamarack A Letter from Tamarack

The Learning Centre

Vibrant Communities Operations and Finance



Tamarack Institute

Working with you to accelerate community impact and build vibrant communities.

The Tamarack Institute develops and supports collaborative strategies that engage citizens and institutions to solve major community issues across Canada and beyond. Our belief is that when we are effective in strengthening community capacity to engage citizens, lead collaboratively, deepen community and reduce poverty, our work contributes to the building of peace and a more equitable society. Tamarack's work is comprised of two key areas of impact:

The Learning Centre

Tamarack's Learning Centre exists to empower community changemakers to achieve greater impact. We draw upon our 16 years of experience leading community change and advancing practice to support municipalities, funders, non-profits, and community leaders through on-demand coaching and consulting, in-person and digital training, and publications that guide change efforts.

We support the 23,277 individuals in our learning network in developing five interconnected practices that lead to community change:

- Collective Impact: How can we mobilize collaboration across sectors for systems change?
- Community Engagement: How can we engage residents to create and realize bold visions for the future?
- <u>Collaborative Leadership</u>: How can we bring the right people together in constructive ways?
- Community Innovation: How can we create, test, and scale new approaches?
- Evaluating Impact: How can we identify and amplify what works?

Vibrant Communities

In Vibrant Communities we support cities and local leaders to develop and implement large-scale change initiatives through two learning networks:

- Cities Reducing Poverty is a network of 344 municipalities represented by 70 regional partners who are working collaboratively to end poverty in their communities.
- Cities Deepening Community is a learning community dedicated to strengthening communities, neighbourhoods and citizen connections.
 We are working with 74 neighbourhood strategy leaders in 32 cities, 54 practitioners promoting the citizens role in emergency preparedness, and are dedicated to completing 25 local deepening community initiatives in different cities over the next 5 years.

A Letter from Tamarack

This Annual Report reflects Tamarack's journey through 2018 and our growth along the way. We are incredibly thankful to the 23,277 learning partners in over 2,300 cities across Canada and beyond for being a part of this journey with us over the past year. We cherish the opportunity to work together to navigate community change and to build vibrant places to live and grow.

Last year we moved forward with an ambitious project to re-organize how we work. We developed a Co-CEO model, where we each lead a team to better serve our learners in the Learning Centre and enhance our supports for members in Vibrant Communities – Cities Reducing Poverty and Cities Deepening Community. As we look back on 2018, we are proud of what our teams have accomplished, and we are excited about where we are headed in 2019. We are especially excited about our new 4-year, \$2 million partnership agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada, which will support cities to develop Collective Impact skills, address issues of deepening community and align efforts towards poverty reduction in Canada.

In the Learning Centre, we crystalized our focus across our five interconnected practices, which community changemakers need to be skilled in to take on the challenges facing their communities.

In Vibrant Communities our increased capacity allowed us to strengthen our relationship with

members across Cities Reducing Poverty and Cities Deepening Community to provide learning opportunities based on member needs.

In this report, we have decided to focus our attention not just on what we accomplished at Tamarack this year, but also on the impact our network of learners, partners and members have had in their communities. Our Stories of Impact throughout reflect the different journeys our learners in the Learning Centre take to advance community change and the ways our members in Vibrant Communities are reducing poverty and deepening connection. Combined, these Stories of Impact provide an understanding of the incredible landscape of community change that make up our networks.

At Tamarack, we document stories and create resources to help community changemakers. This growing knowledge base would not be possible without the 874 organizations who supported our work as learners, donors, members and consulting clients over the past year. We value the ideas and contributions that you make to our work, as it shapes our growth and impact. We look forward to seeing how far we can go together in 2019.

Much Joy,



Liz Weaver
Co-CEO, Tamarack,
Learning Centre



Paul BornCo-CEO, Tamarack,
Vibrant Communities

Highlights:

- 23,277 members of the Tamarack learning community from 973 cities in Canada, 898 cities in the US and 433 cities in rest of the world
- 70 member regions reducing poverty in 344 cities
- 130 local initiatives impacted by consulting and coaching services
- Over 874 donors, learners and partners invested
 \$2.4M in our work
- Tamarack published 228
 new publications and
 blogs this year all
 available open source to
 our learning community
 that garnered nearly
 112,000 views
- 23 learning events across the country were offered with 1,860 learners attending
- Vibrant Communites
 held 33 community
 conversations in 9
 provinces that supported
 the development of
 Canada's first national
 poverty reduction
 strategy
- **40** free online webinars were hosted across Tamarack with over **15,600** participants
- Suncor Energy Foundation invested **\$1M** over **5** years in Cities Deepening Community Employment and Social Development Canada partnered with Tamarack through a **4** year **\$2M** grant

The Tamarack Learning Centre

The Tamarack Learning Centre had a busy, but invigorating year.

We are excited to have focused our learning across five interconnected practices that are vital to getting to impact when tackling complex community challenges – Collective Impact, Community Engagement, Collaborative Leadership, Community Innovation and Evaluating Impact. We believe it is these five practices that community changemakers need to be equipped with to take on the challenges we face in our communities today.

These five practices framed our learning schedule in 2018 and as a result we offered learning events, hosted webinars, provided consulting and created publications in each. In 2018 we had the pleasure of visiting 12 cities across the country to deliver workshops, welcoming over 1,000 participants.

A few highlights included offering two new Masterclasses that featured guest Thought Leaders in Principles-Focused Evaluation and Adaptive Leadership respectively; launching a new workshop showcasing the interconnected areas of Developmental Evaluation and Design Thinking; and bringing together over 170 people from six different countries for our four-day Community Change Festival in Toronto. We continued to advance the field of community change by offering 22 webinars and disseminating over 31 publications to our online learning community; and built capacity in the sector by providing custom coaching and consulting to 112 client organizations engaging more than 5,700 individuals.



5 Interconnected Practices

Highlights:

- More than **1,000** learners participated in Learning Centre workshops
- 22 webinars were hosted with nearly
 9,000 registrants
- 31 publications shared with our learning network
- The Community Change Festival showcased 5 interconnected practices with 174 learners from 6 different countries
- 700 learners joined us for 2 new Masterclass Series on Evaluation and Collaborative Leadership in 7 cities
- The Learning Centre worked with 112 consulting client organizations, impacting over 5,700 individuals
- Partnered with Ontario Trillium Foundation to build capacity through 5 webinars, 9 workshops and 33 coaching sessions in Collective Impact
- 150 learning partners assisted in the co-design and delivery of Tamarack workshops, webinars and learning events

Stories of Impact

The Learning Centre was fortunate to work deeply with community groups across the country and beyond in their unique journeys to creating positive community change for their fellow citizens.

The Stories of Impact featured below showcase some of the incredible work these community partners have contributed over the past year.





Rise Asset Development, a Canadian charity providing training, mentorship, and over \$1 million in small business loans to entrepreneurs with a history of mental health or addiction challenges, launched a free online entrepreneurship course for youth. This course has made it possible for youth across Canada to get easy access to their world-class training and supports.





Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers convened a group of 80 residents from across sectors in the Kingsville-Leamington area. Together, they built a shared vision of a community where all residents and international workers feel connected and valued. Volunteer translator programs, resources and supports for new workers, and cultural awareness training, are just some of the 13 community-wide initiatives that have been started by this growing movement of engaged residents.



A Journey in Collaborative
Leadership: The Ripple Effect of a
Learner's Journey

In 2011, Elayne Greeley attended her first
Tamarack learning workshop, the
Communities Collaborating Institute, which
changed her personal and professional life
forever. The knowledge Elayne continually
brings back to her community has had
ripple effects across her collaboration
members and many other organizations
regionally and nationally.

Read her story





Highlights:

70
members are part of the Cities
Reducing Poverty network
representing 344 municipalities in
Canada and the USA

378 poverty reduction professionals from across Canada attended one of our Poverty Reduction Summits

Cities Deepening
Community grew its
learning network by nearly
1,500 people
this year and supported
5 Local Deepening
Community Initiatives

182 learners

attended our Asset-Based Community Development Summit

18 webinars

were hosted across Vibrant Communities which attracted 3,800 registrants

1st

State of Cities Reducing Poverty paper was released and we worked with 15 communities throughout Canada to showcase examples of their poverty reduction and neighbourhood work.

Vibrant Communities

Vibrant Communities supports two Learning Communities: Cities Reducing Poverty and Cities Deepening Community. These communities support changemakers to regularly interact with and learn from their peers to end poverty in their communities and strengthen connections between citizens. In 2018, Vibrant Communities expanded its capacity to help communities traverse the landscape of poverty reduction and deepen community through the establishment of City Managers who work as champions to support the learning needs of each member.

Cities Deepening Community paved a path of growth and refinement in 2018. In April, we worked with the City of Kitchener to host Asset-Based Community Development for Healthy Neighbourhoods. This three-day learning event brought together 182 changemakers to learn from experts like John McKnight, Cormac Russell, Donna Thomson, Al Etmanski and Howard Lawrence. This meeting led to the development of a new community of practice to support Asset-Based Community Development in Canada which has grown to 67 members. Additionally, we saw continued growth in our Neighbourhood Strategy Leaders Community of Practice which now has 74 members and our Citizens & Emergency Preparedness Community of Practice, which grew from 28 members to 54 members over the year.

The Cities Reducing Poverty network also saw impressive forward movement this year including the growth of our network from 61 to 70 members that serve 344 municipalities. We hosted two Cities Innovating to Reduce Poverty regional summits. Combined, these events brought together 378 individuals including local government leaders, Provincial and Federal employees and 104 representatives from our member network. Generous support from donors allowed us to support 31 individuals with lived experience of poverty to participate in our summits. Beyond our summits, we supported our members through coaching, refined communities of practices, and the development of a multi-year Getting to Impact plan, which will help members to plan for and report on the impact they have in their communities.

Stories of Impact

The Vibrant Communities team works closely with its members to support, share and leverage the knowledge and impact that is being built across the country in the areas of poverty reduction and neighbourhood development so that as a learning community we can each be stronger in our approaches to creating positive community change.

The Stories of Impact featured below showcase the amazing work of cities and organizations that are contributing to this powerful movement.

A Journey in Poverty Reduction: OpportUNITY Plan leads to more Financially Self-Sufficient Central **Iowans**

In December of 2018, the United Way of Central Iowa did something remarkable. For the second time in two years, they announced that 25,000 more individuals were financially self-sufficient than the year before. Central Iowa's success has come from their community plan OpportUNITY which applies a Collective Impact Strategy. The United Way of Central Iowa has been working with Tamarack's Paul Born as a coach since 2014.

Read their story

A Journey in Cultivating the Power of Residents: Lessons from Kitchener

Early in 2018 Tamarack partnered with the City of Kitchener to tell their story about their first neighbourhood strategy, Love my Hood, and how they engaged with over 5,000 residents to develop it. A year into the strategy the results show that residents are willing and able to take the lead in shaping their neighbourhood.

Read their story

A Journey in Asset-Based **Community Development:** Learning from New Brunswick's Strategy

From 2009-2015, poverty decreased in New Brunswick by at least 5% in 9 of 12 regions. Using an ABCD approach, the province brings residents together to define their own local goals and strategies for creating inclusive communities. Vibrant Communities has supported local Community Inclusion Networks since 2004 by connecting them with thought leaders, peers, innovative ideas and resources in ABCD and poverty reduction.

Read their story

A Journey in Financial **Empowerment:** Enough for All - Canada's First Financial Empowerment Model

Calgary's Financial Empowerment Collaborative supports Calgarians to have the income and assets needed to thrive. By the end of 2017, the Collaborative had supported more than 20,000 Calgarians to see a positive change in their net worth. Tamarack has supported Calgary since 2002 as one of Vibrant Communities' initial 13 'Trail Builders'.

Read their story

A Journey to an Accessible Inclusive City: Transforming

The City of Kamloops partnered with the Tamarack Institute to implement a Local Deepening Community Initiative along with staff and the community to help shape the development of an accessibility and inclusion policy for the city. The results from the conversations allowed the community to shape the collective action the City should take to promote and transform Kamloops into a more inclusive and accessible community.

STAFF

Paul Born - Co-CEO, Vibrant Communities

Liz Weaver - Co-CEO, Learning Centre

Jane Humphries – Director of Operations, Learning Centre

Sylvia Cheuy - Consulting Director, Collective Impact

Lisa Attygalle – Consulting Director, Community Engagement

Galen MacLusky – Consulting Director, Community Innovation

Kirsti Battista – Senior Manager, Cities Reducing Poverty

Justin Williams – Managing Assistant, Vibrant Communities

Heather Keam – Manager of Cities, Cities Deepening Community

Glenda Cooper - Manager of Cities, Cities Deepening Community

Alison Homer – Manager of Cities, Cities Reducing Poverty

Natasha Pei – Manager of Cities, Cities Reducing Poverty

Elle Richards – Manager of Cities, Cities Reducing Poverty

Ruté Ojigbo – Community Animator, Vibrant Communities

Hannah MacDonald – Community Animator, Vibrant Communities

Stephanie Murray – Manager of Events, Learning Centre

Duncan Field – Community Animator, Learning Centre

Jack Gibbings - Community Animator, Learning Centre

Megan Wanless - Senior Community Animator, Marketing & Communications

Jana Harris – Manager, Finance and Administration

Hannah Cowan – Community Animator, Finance & Administration

Our Partners

Thank you to our most generous funders and partners who make our work possible



















In-kind contributions:











Operations and Finance

The Finance and Operations team develops and maintains systems to ensure Tamarack is efficient and well run, and that the staff are happy and productive. The Tamarack Institute is a registered charity supported by member contributions, foundations, business and government, as well as through revenue generated from consulting, coaching, and workshops. The Tamarack team and our Treasurer follow best practices in all our accounting procedures and we are audited annually. Tamarack's full audited statements are available upon request. Please email paul@tamarackcommunity.ca to request a copy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Broadbent - Chairman of the Board

Nathan Gilbert - Vice Chair

Colin Robertson - Treasurer

Vali Bennett – Corporate Secretary

Paul Born - Co-CEO, Vibrant Communities

Liz Weaver - Co-CEO, Learning Centre

FELLOWS AND ASSOCIATES

Vickie Cammack - Senior Fellow, Cities Deepening Community

Al Etmanski – Senior Fellow, Cities Deepening Community

Mark Cabaj – Senior Fellow, Tamarack Learning Centre

Tom Klaus – Tamarack Associate, Tamarack Learning Centre



Highlights:

\$806,020 provided by Donors and Grantors

\$802,691 provided by Learners and Members

\$782,838 provided by Consulting Clients

\$2.4M
Operating Budget

21 staff positions located across Canada

Donors and Contributors

In 2018, 874 donors, learners, and partners contributed \$2.4 million to support the work of the Tamarack Institute. We consider each of these contributors to be partners who provide financial support, new ideas, and stories that make our work more impactful. Below we have highlighted those who have contributed over \$1,000 in 2018. You can view a full list of our contributors <a href="https://example.com/here/below/

Over \$100,000

Anonymous Donor
Employment and Social Development Canada
Maytree Foundation
McConnell Foundation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Suncor Energy Foundation

\$100,000 to \$10,000

Alberta Health Services City of Edmonton

Futureworx

Greater Vancouver Foodbank

Hamilton Community Foundation The Young Fund

Howard County Multiservice Centre

JSI Research & Training Institute

Kahnawake Economic Development

MaRS Discovery District

Mental Health Commission of Canada

Nectar Creative Communications

Northern Illinois Center for Nonprofit Excellence

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

Pathways to Education Canada

Science World BC

Toronto Community Housing Corporation

United Way of Greater Atlanta

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Vancouver Foundation

Zero to Three

\$10,000 to \$5,000

Bertelsmann Stiftung

City of Grande Prairie

City of Kitchener

City of Prince George

City of Vancouver

Collaboration for Impact

Columbia Basin Trust

Deltager Danmark

End Poverty Edmonton

Environmental Appeals Board with the Dispute Resolution Network

FuseSocial

Government of Nova Scotia

Langley Association for Community Living

L'Arche Stratford

National Coucil of the United States Society of St Vincent de Paul, Inc

New Brunswick Women's Council

Parkinson Association of Alberta

Peel Children's Centre

Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy

Pictou County United Way

Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

REACH Edmonton Council

Region of Peel

Strathcona County Family and Community Services

The Sinneave Family Foundation

The Winnipeg Boldness Project

Trinity Place Foundation of Alberta United Way of Central and Northern Vancouver Island Westcoast Family Centres

\$5,000 to \$1,000

Adoption Council of Ontario

Alameda County Office of Education

Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation

Alberta Disabilities Forum

Alberta Medical Association

Alberta Museums Association

Alberta Parenting for the Future Association

Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research

Aspen Family and Community Network Society

BDACI

Boise State University

Bow Valley College

Caislyn Consulting Inc

Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement

Canadian Mental Health Association - Calgary Region

Canadian Patient Safety Institute

Canadian Poverty Institute

Care Compass Network

Carleton Victoria Community Inclusion Network

Centennial College

Centretown United Church

Chebucto Connections

Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin/Institute for Child

City of Aurora

City of Guelph

City of Halifax

City of Kamloops

City of Kawartha Lakes

Canadian Patient Safety Institute

Canadian Poverty Institute

Care Compass Network

Carleton Victoria Community Inclusion Network

Centennial College

Centretown United Church

Chebucto Connections

Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin/Institute for Child

City of Aurora

City of Guelph

City of Halifax

City of Kamloops

City of Kawartha Lakes

City of Lethbridge

City of London

City of Oshawa

City of Spruce Grove

City of St. Catharines

City of Toronto

City of Victoria

City of Windsor

CityMatCH

CityStudio and Simon Fraser University

Collaborative for Health and Home

Collaborative for Neighbourhood Transformation

\$5,000 to \$1,000 (cont.)

Community Action to End Poverty in Grande Prairie

Community Engaged Scholarship Institute Community Foundation for Kingston & Area

community Living Ontario

Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Community Living York South
Community Service Council of Tulsa

County of Oxford

County of Simcoe Poverty Reduction Partnership, Barrie, Orillia, Midland

CUPS Calgary DC Moves Doctors of BC

Durham Workforce Authority

Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers Edmonton Southside Primary Care Network

Elections Ontario Emmanuel United Church Engineering Change Lab

Family Day

Family League of Baltimore City

Family Services Kent

FCSS Outcome Measures Trainer Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Future Oxford Partnership Government of Alberta Government of New Brunswick Government of Northwest Territories Government of Ontario

Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Services, Inc.

Greater Fredericton Community Inclusion Network

Greater Sudbury Police Service Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit Halton Poverty Roundtable

Halton Region

Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

Hawai'i Community College

Healthier Jupiter

Healthier Lake Worth/Healthier Together Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association

Huron County Health Unit Immigrant Services Calgary

Inclusion Alberta

Independent Electricity Systems Operator

IndigoBlue Consult Innisfil ideaLAB Inspiring Communities Institute for Better Health Joachim Herz Stiftung

Kenora Association for Community Living KFLA Public Health

Kids' Brain Health Network Körber-Stiftung Lakehead University

Leeds Grenville Poverty Reduction Alliance Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit

LiveWorkPlay Living SJ

Malton Neighbourhood Services Mental Health Corporations of America

Ministry of Education

Momentum Community Economic Development

More Than a Roof Housing Mount Forest Family Health Team Mount Royal University

Niagara Region

Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health

Ottawa Child and Youth Initiative - Growing Great

Ottawa Community Housing

Our High River

PACT

Palm Healthcare Foundation Inc.

Parkdale Food Centre

Poverty Roundtable Hastings Prince Edward

PREP Community Programs

Prince Edward County Community Foundation

Prosper Canada

R. Keith Jones & Associates

Raising the Roof

Redwood Park Communities Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry

Region of Waterloo

Regional Municipality of Durham

Richmond Children First Robin Hood Association Ryerson University

Salvation Army

Sarnia-Lambton Rebound

Saskatchewan Association of Architects

Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres

Service Coordination for People with Developmental Disabilities

Services and Housing In the Province (SHIP)

Shorefast

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Simon Fraser University

SmartSAVER

Social Development Council of Cornwall and Area South Central Community Family Service Centre

Southwestern Public Health - Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit

Sparkrock Stacy Giroux STADD

Stony Plain Family and Community Support Services

Strathcona Refinery - Imperial Oil Street Culture Project Inc.

Stuart Foundation

Te Tihi o Ruahine Whanau Ora Alliance

The Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario - AFHTO

The Atmospheric Fund The Change Foundation The Denise House

The District Municipality of Muskoka The Ford Family Foundation The Regional Municipality of York

The Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre

The United Church of Canada The Wheelhouse Of Waterloo Village THRIVE Medicine Hat

Timiskaming Health Unit Toronto Public Health Toronto Public Library Town of Oakville

Townshippers' Association

TRRUST

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

United Way Cape Breton

United Way Greater Moncton and Southeastern New Brunswick

United Way Greater Toronto United Way Halifax United Way KFL&A

United Way of Calgary and Area United Way of Central Iowa

United Way of Southeastern Connecticut

United Way of the Southern Tier

United Way Sault Ste. Marie & Algoma District United Way Waterloo Region Communities

United Way Winnipeg
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary
University of Saskatchewan
University of Toronto
University of Waterloo
Vancouver School Board

viaSport

Vibrant Abbotsford

Vibrant Communities Calgary
Vibrant Communities Charlotte County

Wellbeing Waterloo Region

Wellington County Rural Health Alliance Wellington County Rural Health Alliance West Island Community Resource Centre

Westmorland Albert Community Inclusion Network Co-operative

Wiarton Salvation Army Winnipeg Boldness

Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council Winnipeg

Wood Buffalo Food Bank YMCA of Greater Toronto Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition



Find Us:

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for Peace Advancement
Conrad Grebel University College
University of Waterloo
140 Westmount Road North
Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G6

Charitable Registration Number:

862808615RR0001

Our Vision:

Building a connected force for community change.

Our Mission:

Collaboratively create vibrant communities by engaging learning leaders. When we are effective in strengthening community capacity to engage citizens, lead collaboratively, deepen community and reduce poverty, our work will contribute to the building of a more equitable, prosperous, and peaceful society.

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