



Edmonton



St Albert



Burlington

 TAMARACK
INSTITUTE

LOCAL LESSONS LEARNED

When Community and City Meet in the Middle

CONNECTED IN ST ALBERT

Building a “sense of community and connectedness” is an important goal for the City of St. Albert. The City recognizes that “residents who live in a connected neighbourhood have an overall sense of belonging which leads to feelings of safety, security and better health.”



ST ALBERT KEY TAKEAWAYS

NEIGHBOURS AS FIRST RESPONDERS

Connected neighbourhoods are more resilient and able to respond more quickly during emergencies. Cultivating social capital prior to emergencies is a critical strategy to ensure there are strong community networks to draw on when a crisis emerges.

SUPPORT FROM THE CITY

Cities can support and amplify resident-led solutions. When a local Neighbourhood Connector decided to create a Facebook group to connect residents during the pandemic, the City supported the idea and promoted the group via its Neighbourhood News newsletter.

MODIFICATION OVER CANCELLATION

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[READ THE FULL CASE STUDY](#)

JOIN DEEPENING COMMUNITY'S

ABCD EVENT

IN ST ALBERT ON JUNE 6-7

ABUNDANCE IN EDMONTON

The City of Edmonton supports an initiative called "Abundant Community Edmonton" (ACE), born to create more connections among neighbours through shared activities and interests. ACE supports residents to recognize the power of neighbouring and experience the richness of sharing their gifts, knowledge, skills and abilities to improve their neighbourhood.



EDMONTON KEY TAKEAWAYS

ELECTED OFFICIAL SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL

The support of elected officials and senior administration is instrumental to success.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Keep it simple. The vision is connected and caring neighbours, the mission is block leadership, the values are inclusion, sharing of gifts, leadership and block socials for everyone!

MIXING IT UP FOR INCLUSION

Combining ABCD with a place-based (neighbourhood) approach is an excellent way to increase inclusion. Everyone belongs simply because they live in the neighbourhood. This includes people living in care homes, institutions or who are experiencing homelessness.

Save the date

ABCD EVENT

June 6th to 7th



**READ THE FULL
CASE STUDY**

THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF BURLINGTON

With the growing sense of disconnection and social isolation, the city of Burlington realized that the existing top-down approaches for engaging with the community were not working. This sparked the desire to test out a new way of a new way for community development work with a focus on using an Asset Based Community Development approach instead of deficit-based approach.



BURLINGTON KEY TAKEAWAYS

TRUST IS KEY

Building connections and trusting relationships both internally and externally will create the necessary pre-conditions for meaningful community engagement and ultimately leading to long-term ownership.

FOCUS ON STRENGTH

A strength-based lens vs deficit-based lens helps to create municipal programming done WITH and BY the community for matters they care about.

WORK BOTTOM-UP

Working in a bottom-up and top-down community way means that there is a level of control that the city had to give to the community as they took the lead, and staff had to learn to be patient and embrace uncertainty.

Save the date

ABCD EVENT

June 6th to 7th



[READ THE FULL
CASE STUDY](#)



As we have seen in St. Albert, Edmonton, and Burlington, beautiful things happen when communities and Cities meet in the middle.

If you, too, strive to strengthen the social fabric of your community, our Asset Based Community Development gathering is for you.

[LEARN MORE](#)