



SUMMARY

A COLLECTION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGIES

Special thanks to Delburne, Edmonton, Lakeside, London,
Kitchener, Waterloo, and Hamilton

May 2019

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INTRODUCTION

Vibrant Communities, Cities Deepening Community (CDC) is a network of people who are partnering with Tamarack Institute to explore the unique role that neighbours, neighbourhoods and communities play in creating positive futures. This collection of neighbourhood strategies provides a glimpse into the work of seven cities involved in solutions to enhance community well-being.

SUMMARY TABLE

City	Province	Size*	Led By
Delburne	Alberta	892	Nora Smith
Edmonton	Alberta	932,550	
Hamilton	Ontario	520,000	Al Flectcher
Kitchener	Ontario	225,000	Jenna Van Klaveren
Lakeside Residences	Ontario	97 apartments	Heather Tillock
London	Ontario	366,000	Karen Oldham
Waterloo	Ontario	104,985	Amy Ross

***Small** - 1,000 and 29,999

Medium - 30,000 and 99,999

Large urban - 100,000 and over (based on classifications by [Statistics Canada](#))

DELBURNE, ALBERTA

POPULATION: 892

Belonging Delburne is a photo project in the Town of Delburne AB, where community members were invited to sit for portraits with items they felt represented belonging. The portraits were then pasted to historic town buildings.

BACKGROUND

The Village of Delburne, located half way between Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta, provides a case study that demonstrates what's possible when citizens collaborate with government and organizations united by a commitment to create positive change. Over the course of four months, in partnership with Tamarack, a local leadership team in Delburne convened over 400 people (48% of the town's population) to participate in conversations about their strengths, challenges and hopes for their community. A related survey and a photo project – Belonging Delburne – contributed to this effort to strengthen the community's sense of connection.

THEMES

1. Stronger community connections

- Identifying new members of the community and teaching them about Delburne's history, and what the town has to offer

2. Community Pride

- Residents want everyone to take pride in their home, from the people, to the assets, to the Main street

3. Hoping to grow

- Community members want to share their town with newcomers, to bring in new businesses, and

LEARN MORE

- [The Town of Delburne website](#)
- [Belonging Delburne: A Local Deepening Community Initiative case study](#)
- [Belonging Delburne mural](#)

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

POPULATION: 932,550

Abundant Community Edmonton (ACE) is a neighbourhood engagement and community organizing approach that provides tools for neighbours to get to know each other on a block level.

BACKGROUND

In 2013, Howard Lawrence, a Highlands resident, went door-to-door on his own block, introduced himself to all his neighbours, and simply talked with them. He asked them about their vision for their neighbourhood, about their hobbies, about the way they like to spend their time, and about their skills, gifts and abilities like carpentry or gardening. He logged all of that information in a database, and became the Neighbourhood Connector. The Highlands program was such a success that Community Services took up the program, facilitated by Howard Lawrence and Anne Harvey, spreading throughout the city.

THEMES

1. The Significance of the Neighbourhood Connector

- Abundant Community Initiative (ACI) began when one neighbor decided he wanted to know what other members in the community had to offer, and has highlighted the importance of that connector since

2. The Process at the Neighbourhood Level

- ACI highlights the importance of identifying Block Connectors, encourage the conversation process, and collate the information from those conversations

3. The Benefits of an Abundant Community

- Helps to shape neighbourhood life, facilitates neighbourliness, enables care by linking skills, gifts and experiences of residents to their neighbours, among other things.

LEARN MORE

- [Abundant Community Initiative website](#)
- [Guiding a Place Together, One Neighbour at a Time](#)
- [How Edmonton became an Asset-Based Community Development City](#)
- [A video overview of the Abundant Community Initiative in Highlands](#)
- [ACE Neighbour Conversation Guide](#)
- [CASE STUDY | Becoming an Asset-Based Community Development City](#)

HAMILTON, ONTARIO

POPULATION: 520,000

Hamilton's Neighbourhood Action Strategy (NAS) is focused on helping neighbourhoods be great places to live, work, play and learn. NAS supports community planning teams as they develop and implement action plans that build healthier communities.

BACKGROUND

The NAS is a partnership between the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF). It was launched in 2011 as a response to the social, economic and health concerns of specific neighbourhoods in the City. It supports residents in 11 neighbourhoods as they work toward building healthier communities.

THEMES

1. Enhancing Community Development Work

- Providing professional community developers to assist residents and support them in existing initiatives.

2. Developing Resident-led Neighbourhood Plans

- Assisting residents to create a Neighbourhood Action Plans

3. Increasing Investment in Neighbourhoods

- Ensuring Neighbourhood Action Plans have funding provided by both the city and community-based partners in order to support the activities identified in the plan

4. Building New Partnerships to Support healthy neighbourhoods

- Bringing together diverse partners helps to bring unique assets at the table, especially from residents and other community-based partners.

LEARN MORE

- [WEBINAR: Evaluating Hamilton's Neighbourhood Action Strategy](#)
- [CASE STUDY | Neighbourhood Action Strategy](#)
- [CASE STUDY | Evaluating Hamilton's Neighbourhood Action Strategy](#)
- [History of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy](#)

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

POPULATION: 225,000

Love My Hood is a neighbour strategy for the City of Kitchener and a resident-led movement. Love My Hood encourages residents to shape their neighbourhoods with support from the City.

BACKGROUND

In 2017, the City of Kitchener, adopted their first neighbourhood strategy, Love My Hood Kitchener's Guide to Great Neighbourhoods. The strategy emerged out of the participation of over 5,000 people, 3,842 hours of conversations, and the effort of volunteers and City staff who worked through nearly 1,000 hours of project meetings. The movement is driving positive neighbourhood actions with many resident using the #LoveMyHood hashtag on social media to showcase things they love about their neighbourhood.

THEMES

1. Actions to make Great Places

- Creating a variety of spaces and things to do to attract people to spend time together.

2. Actions to support Connected People

- Involves strengthening the relationships between neighbours by creating more ways for them to connect with each other.

3. Actions to encourage Working Together

- Involves assisting residents lead positive change in their neighbourhoods through cooperation with neighbours, organizations and the City.

LEARN MORE

- [The City of Kitchener's Love My Hood website](#)
- [Love My Hood: Kitchener's Guide to Great Neighbourhoods](#)
- [Kitchener's Neighbourhood Strategy: How Did We Make It?](#)
- [Kitchener's Neighbourhood Strategy: What the Community Tell Us?](#)
- [CASE STUDY | Love My Hood: Kitchener's Neighbourhood Strategy](#)
- [WEBINAR | Kitchener Neighbourhood Strategy](#)

LAKESIDE - YORK REGION, ONTARIO

POPULATION: 97 apartments

The conversations hosted as part of the Connecting Lakeside Initiative helped neighbours get to know one another; discover their shared hopes for the building that they call home; and, discover the gifts, knowledge and talents they each have to share.

BACKGROUND

Working in partnership with Tamarack Institute, The Regional Municipality of York launched its Connecting Lakeside Initiative in late summer 2016 by hosting a series of conversations with different individuals and residents. These conversations explored: the meaning of community; community gifts & assets; challenges, future hopes; and, priorities for shared action.

THEMES

1. The Purpose of Community

- Tenants of Lakeside residences determined that the purposes of community are defining a safe and secure physical space; to gather people together; and to provide members with a sense of cooperation and accomplishment.

2. The Benefits of Community

- Lakeside residents determined that the benefits of community include reciprocity, a sense of trust, working towards common goals, and health and wellbeing.

3. The Challenges of Community

- Some challenges identified in community were differences that can create divides, low engagement, negativity, and lack of empathy

LEARN MORE

- [CASE STUDY | Connecting Lakeside](#)
- [Lakeside Residences Website](#)

LONDON, ONTARIO

POPULATION: 366,000

London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy is fundamentally a resident driven strategy that encourages resident participation and engagement to help make all of London's neighbourhoods stronger.

BACKGROUND

In 2009, London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy (2010-2015) was developed by a resident task force with more than 100 participants representing all of London's 42 neighbourhoods. With the support of City staff, a detailed strategy and 5 year implementation plan was developed to move all of London's neighbourhoods toward the vision.

THEMES

1. Engagement in Neighbourhoods

- Increase awareness of resident-identified neighbourhoods, encourage and support collaboration and creation and sustainability of neighbourhood associations.

2. Communication

- Improve communication within and amongst neighbourhoods, between the City and residents and between the City and neighbourhood associations.

3. Tools and Resources to Support Neighbourhood

- a. Improve funding programs and financial supports to neighbourhoods and decrease barriers

4. Overarching Strategies

- a. Develop a community engagement plan, evaluate Neighbourhood strategy and report annually on progress.

LEARN MORE

- [Strategic Plan For the City of London 2015 - 2019](#)
- [London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy 2017 - 2020](#)
- [CASE STUDY | Strengthening Neighbourhood Strategy](#)

WATERLOO, ONTARIO

POPULATION: 104,985

The City has been partnering with the community to define a vision for resident-led neighbourhood community building in Waterloo and the City's role in striving for that vision.

BACKGROUND

Since early 2016, the City has been partnering with the community to define a vision for resident-led neighbourhood community building in Waterloo and the City's role in striving for that vision. The Waterloo's Neighbourhood Strategy: Supporting Resident-led Neighbourhood Community Building is the result of this collaborative process. It builds on the long standing and successful city initiatives currently in place to support neighbourhoods, by outlining a plan to provide neighbourhoods city-wide with additional tools to build stronger communities.

THEMES

1. Encourage neighbourhood interactions

- Involves encouraging neighbourliness, supporting neighbourhoods to build stronger relationships and emphasize the supports available to homes associations and residents in these areas.

2. Empower neighbours to lead

- Building resident capacity to organize and lead neighbourhood initiatives, and providing the support and resources needed to do so.

3. Commit to a corporate City culture that supports neighbourhood-led and delivered initiative

- Requires a shift to become more neighbourhood-focused and could involve revising or developing better communication methods, better processes, policy changes, or new approaches to working with residents that are focused on supporting neighbourhood-led initiatives.

LEARN MORE

- [Waterloo's Neighbourhood Strategy: Supporting Resident-led Neighbourhood Community Building](#)
- [Waterloo's Neighbourhood Strategy: Implementation Plan, 2018/2019 to 2023](#)
- [CASE STUDY | Waterloo's Neighbourhood Strategy](#)
- [City of Waterloo Neighbourhood Strategy Website](#)

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