

# Tamarack Institute 2020

Source: <https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/whoweare>

## 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.

## Our Story

Tamarack was founded in 2002 by Alan Broadbent of the Avana Capital Corporation and Maytree (Foundation) and Paul Born, President of Tamarack. Their hope was to create an institute that would deeply understand community change and would help organizations and citizens work better together for a collective impact.

As a small organization, Tamarack had two big goals. The first was to establish a learning centre that would provide research and document real stories, exemplary practice and effective applications for community change. Today more than 20,000 members participate in the Tamarack learning community and we provide nearly 14,000 people days of training a year. Our learning community members support our work by co-generating knowledge and they contribute more than \$2 million annually to sustain this activity.

Our second big goal was to apply what we learned to end poverty. Since then, we have effectively helped more than 200,000 households rise out of poverty and have engaged more than 70 cities as partners as we continue pressing toward our goal of changing cities into places that work for all. As communities everywhere face increasingly complex challenges – from climate change to economic inequality to disruptive technologies – Tamarack’s expertise is more relevant than ever. We will continue to grow our learning community to engage citizens in working together to deepen community, rebuild neighbourhoods, make it easier for us to care for each other, and improve our cities.

We embrace the words of Margaret Wheatley, that “all change, even very large and powerful change, starts from very small conversations held among people who care.” We welcome you to the conversation.

## Our Work

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: Tamarack Learning Centre and Vibrant Communities.

Our **Learning Centre** exists to empower community changemakers to achieve greater impact. We draw upon our 18 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 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 the community to create and realize bold visions for the future?
- **Collaborative Leadership**: 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?

As a registered charity, all your investments as clients and learners goes back into providing content and tools on an open-source platform to build the capacity in the field. By working with us, you help support the efforts of changemakers in your community and worldwide.

Vibrant Communities

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

- **Cities Reducing Poverty**: is a network of more than 330 municipalities represented by 80 regional partners who are working collaboratively to end poverty in their communities.
- **Cities Deepening Community**: is a network of 67 cities seeking to strengthen neighbourhoods and 25 cities developing community plans to grow citizen engagement, civic leadership and a sense of belonging.
- **Communities Building Youth Futures**: is a network aimed at developing Collective Impact Strategies with up to 13 communities to engage young people in their communities and successfully navigate transitions from youth to adulthood.

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