

## 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 5,700 learners and more than 330 municipalities represented by 84 regional partners who are working collaboratively to end poverty in their communities.
- [Cities Deepening Community](#): is a network of over 6,000 learners in cities seeking to strengthen neighbourhoods and 25 cities developing community plans to grow citizen engagement, civic leadership and a sense of belonging.

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, citizenship and a more equitable society.

### Vibrant Communities: Cities Reducing Poverty

Vibrant Communities - [Cities Reducing Poverty](#) (VC-CRP) is a Collective Impact movement and network aimed at reducing poverty through the place-based efforts of multi-sector roundtables and the alignment of strategies at the municipal, provincial/territorial, and federal levels. Every year more cities join our growing movement, thereby strengthening our ability to collectively learn from one another and effectively reduce and eradicate systemic poverty in our communities.

Currently, 84 regions ([members](#)) representing more than 330 local municipalities belong to the network, and have committed to:

- Focusing on poverty reduction and elimination over poverty alleviation;
- The idea of Collective Impact and using a multi-stakeholder approach to lead change;
- An understanding that poverty is complex and that it has multiple causes and solutions;
- Leveraging the assets of their whole communities to drive long-term change;
- Engaging individuals with lived and living experience in their planning efforts; and,
- Doing learning and evaluation every step of the way.

Learn More:

[Cities Reducing Poverty – Ten Guide](#): Written by our very own board member Brock Carlton

David Brooks, Opinion Writer for the New York Times recently published the following [article](#) about Cities Reducing Poverty

### Vibrant Communities: Cities Deepening Community

Cities Deepening Community (CDC) (proudly supported through a \$1 million gift from Suncor) is dedicated to developing our collective understanding about the power of citizens and to mobilize citizen

leadership. As a learning community we are supporting programs, policies and practices that strengthen communities, neighbourhoods and to build social capital.

The Deepening Community learning community is a network of more than 6,000 learners who are partnering with Tamarack to explore the unique role that neighbours, neighbourhoods and communities play in creating positive futures. Our communities of practice include: 1) Neighbours – Developing neighbourhood plans to strengthen citizen action 2) Disaster Preparedness – the Citizen role 3) ABCD - Asset Based Community Development. In addition to building a large body of practice we are organizing professionals and interested citizens from across the country. We have built a strong momentum for this work and are now building a [membership](#) network very similar to our Cities Reducing Poverty network. Our goal is that 100 cities will have Deepening community strategies in the next 5 years. Our audacious goal is that Canada and every Province might have such a strategy for deepening community as well. To date just over 20 cities have joined as members.

The most creative and lasting solutions to enhance community well-being depend upon citizens, government, and a diversity of organizations that unite around a common vision—a vision to work in collaboration on initiatives that make solutions a reality. We are discovering the power of community as an essential driver of effective community change and compiling a body of knowledge – including research, tools and practices – that make the work of creating strong communities and neighbourhoods easier and more effective. We are inspired by Meg Wheatley’s wise words: “Whatever the problem, community is the answer.”

Learn more at <http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/citiesdeepeningcommunity>

## To Consider

5 Risks facing Vibrant Communities	5 Opportunities for Vibrant Communities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>National and Provincial Priorities</b> shift away from poverty reduction due to Covid 19 recovery.</li> <li>2. <b>Leadership changes</b> at the city level, at the federals, provincial levels, within VC as a network means shifting priorities and capacity.</li> <li>3. <b>Decreased money</b> available from foundations to support the work of our learning communities</li> <li>4. <b>City Fatigue</b> due to COVID 19 and massive immediate issues facing them take the focus away from long term issues.</li> <li>5. <b>Overshadowing interest in Climate Change and Pandemic's</b> creates a “some need to be left behind” mentality.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Growth in B.C.</b> where the Province has invested \$5 million to help cities develop poverty reduction strategies.</li> <li>2. <b>Growth in the U.S.A.</b> where Cities Reducing Poverty has formed a 10-city learning community.</li> <li>3. <b>A National Deepening Community Strategy</b> that will replicate the federal poverty strategy – possibly as a resiliency measure to combat future pandemics.</li> <li>4. <b>Building Youth Futures</b> is a five-year initiative that will help us develop a large new learning community.</li> <li>5. <b>Transition Places and Pathways</b> with McConnell could allow us the opportunity to grow a collective impact learning community to address climate change.</li> </ol>