

A Vibrant Communities Webinar

MAKING COMMUNITY ESSENTIAL

SEVEN IMPACTS FOR COMMUNITIES AND THE POLICY SHIFTS TO GET THERE

With Muhammad Raza and Justin Williams

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Gratitude & Acknowledgement

We begin this webinar by acknowledging that we are meeting on Indigenous land. As settlers, this recognition of the contributions and historic importance of Indigenous peoples must be clearly and overtly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities.

As part of our commitment to Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Process, we recognize the importance of land recognitions as one small way of honouring and demonstrating respect for the diverse histories and cultures of all First Nations people.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **We've got you covered** - You will receive a full recording of the call, the slides as well as a collection of links & resources
- **Join the conversation** - Use the Q&A panel or chat box on your Zoom client to submit and up-vote for questions you'd like us to discuss
- **Technical Support** - You can use the chat panel to ask for technical support throughout the webinar



Muhammad Raza



Justin Williams

Making Community Essential: Seven Areas of Impacts for Communities and the Policy Shifts to Get There

Muhammad Bilal Raza

Social
Connectedness
Fellowship 2022



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The Topic/Issue

Covid-19 has changed the way we look at the importance of Community. Months of social isolation and loneliness has made us realize that we can not live a healthy and fulfilling life without a strong community and support system.

Working with the Tamarack Institute this summer, I decided to explore their model of community development:

Asset-Based Community Development.

Certain groups and communities have suffered the most due to social isolation and lack of community. Immigrants, marginalised and racizlaised groups etc.

Throughout my report I have used an approach of using democratised language so that this report can be used by my community members and leaders and not just for academia.



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The 7 areas of Impact

We explored the working of ABCD through seven areas of impact:

- (1) Sense of belonging
- (2) Equity and Inclusion
- (3) Civic Engagement (enabling care / acting together)
- (4) Strengthen Resilience
- (5) Community Safety
- (6) Community Health / Wellness
- (7) Empowered Local Economies



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KEY QUESTIONS:

- Who does not have a seat at the table?
- How can we increase peoples participation in ABCD?
- How can we make ABCD more inclusive
- What can be done to gain most amount of traction and results through the areas of impact.
- How can the areas of impact translate into policy recommendations



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Findings

There is a lack of immigrant perspective in the discourse surrounding ABCD.

The health and well being of a community is dependant on that communities ability to form social connections and combat social isolation.

Many communities practice ABCD without knowing it. They need government and organisational formal support.

Governments need to take input from residents to build better cities and communities



Small Community led initiatives can lead to real change



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Inclusive Community parks
Food security - Neighbourhood vegetable gardens and breakfast kitchens
Increased funding for community projects
Use of social media to garner youth interest in ABCD
Making sidewalks pedestrian friendly

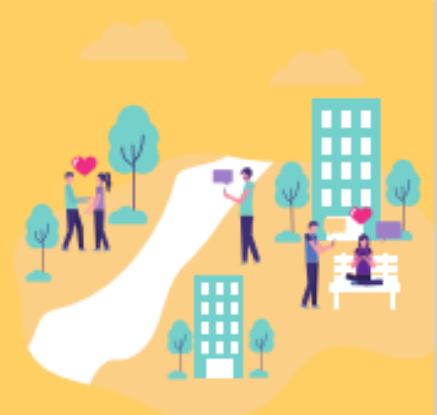


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Recommendations



1

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Representation is paramount for the practice of ABCD, and Community Development in general, to be equitable.

2

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Outreach and garnering interest and awareness in the cause of community building is an issue that needs to be tackled using innovative ideas.

3

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To increase said engagement, the interests and grievances of all communities, especially immigrant communities, need to be catered to by the government and Canadian-born folks.

RECOMMEND



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THANK YOU!

I would like to thank Olivia Smith for her unwavering support and empathy throughout the process and Justin Williams from Tamarack for his amazing ideas.



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Getting to know our speakers

Muhammad, as a student of public policy, what interested you about Asset Based Community Development and the need to advance public policy to support communities to have an impact?

Presenting Findings

Can you tell us a bit about your research? Did you see any gaps within the current conversation & research that you think still needs to be conducted to support advancing public policy for making community essential and allowing communities to come together for impact?

Building belonging into policy

In your report, you highlight that the sense of belonging might be the hardest to codify for policy development. Given the growth in social isolation across the population, & especially for youth, do you have advice for how policymakers can support communities to dive into this work?

Community for all Canadians

Your report highlights the need for community-based organizations and strategies to welcome in and advance the voices of New Canadians (for both their plan development & public policy efforts). Do you have recommendations for how community collaboratives can do this better?

Honing in on impact

Within the seven areas of impact, where do you see the greatest opportunities right now? Is there a difference between municipal, provincial / territorial, and federal governments?

QUESTIONS?

Join us on September 14th at 11:00 am ET

Upcoming webinar

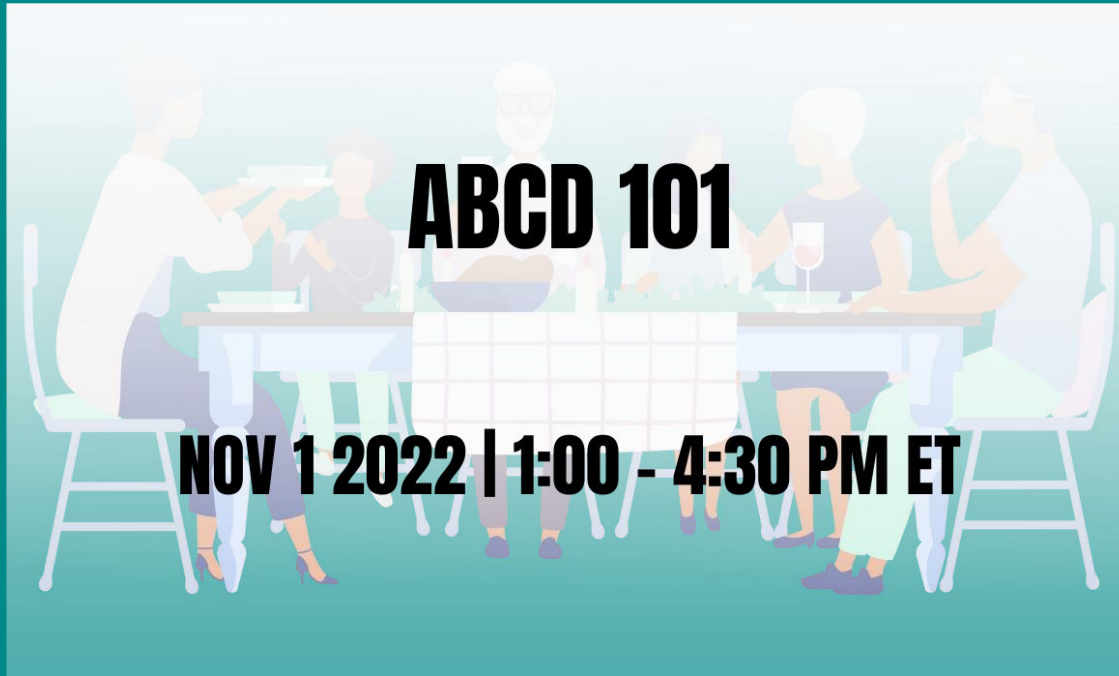
EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF CITIZENS SHARING THEIR GIFTS
LESSONS LEARNED FROM ABUNDANT
COMMUNITIES EDMONTON



To register visit: <https://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/evaluating-the-impact-of-citizens-sharing-their-gifts-lessons-learned-from-abundant-community-edmonton>



BUILD YOUR ABCD SKILLS THIS FALL



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THE ONLINE COURSE



To learn more, visit: <https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/eventlisting>



THANK YOU