

*A Tamarack Institute webinar*

# EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF CITIZENS SHARING THEIR GIFTS

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM ABUNDANT COMMUNITIES EDMONTON



**TAMARACK**  
INSTITUTE



# 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 Indigenous Peoples.

# 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



**Howard Lawrence**



**Jean-Marie Chapeau**

Setting the stage for participatory evaluation

**What is participatory evaluation and why do people working at the neighbourhood level need to know about it?**



# PARTICIPATORY EVALUATION

The COMMUNITY is the  
EVALUATOR  
The EVALUATOR is the  
COMMUNITY



## WHO PARTICIPATES?

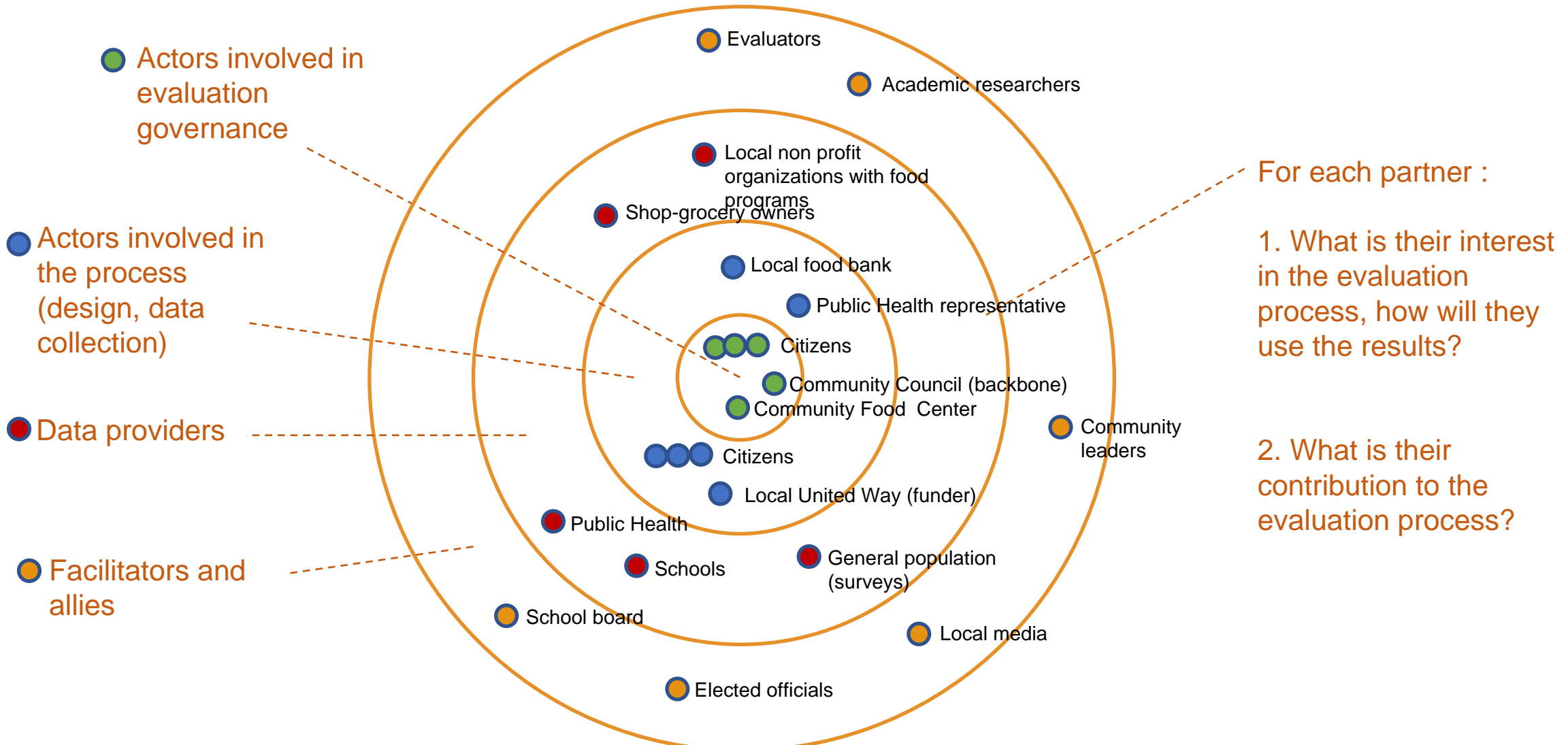
Anyone who will have impact on, or be affected by, the project, issue or initiative.

**Context Experts** are residents with lived experience, including children and youth. They are the people who experientially know about the issue.

**Content Experts** are professionals, staff in your organization, service providers, and leaders with formal power who have knowledge, tools, and resources to address the issue.



# MAPPING YOUR EVALUATION ECOSYSTEM







# WHY PARTICIPATORY EVALUATION?

- Empowers informants/participants
  - Encourages meaningful engagement practices
  - Builds capacity of citizens and local actors
  - Strengthens connections among citizens and build and strengthen relationships overall
- Questions and data stay locally & culturally relevant leading to higher value among community members
- Greater accuracy & relevance of findings
- Encourages locally ownership of outcomes and findings
- Improves program performance - community actions
- Sustain organizational/community learning and growth
- Greater opportunity to scale learning and practices



# HOW TO ENGAGE IN PARTICIPATORY EVALUATION?

- Early reflections on objectives and project planning
- Evaluation governance (evaluation committee...)
- Evaluation questions: what do we want to measure AND Learn
- Indicators design
- Data collection
- Collective analysis
- Sharing and using results and learnings

## Setting the stage for Asset-Based Community Development

What is Asset-Based Community Development and what value does it bring when engaging residents at the neighbourhood level?

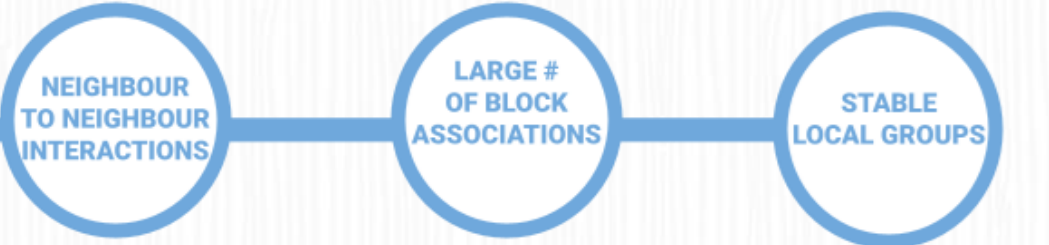
## Diving into the Block Connector Program

Could you walk us through Block Connector's Theory of Change, just to provide some context for those on the call perhaps unfamiliar with the block connector program.



**THEORY OF CHANGE 1.0:**

The type of civic participation we need...



- Discover - Gifts & Groups
- Welcome - Inclusive Conversations
- Portray - Neighbourhood Asset Map
- Share - Connection, Collaboration & Resources
- Celebrate - Identity & Belonging
- Vision - Functions for a Healthy Neighbourhood

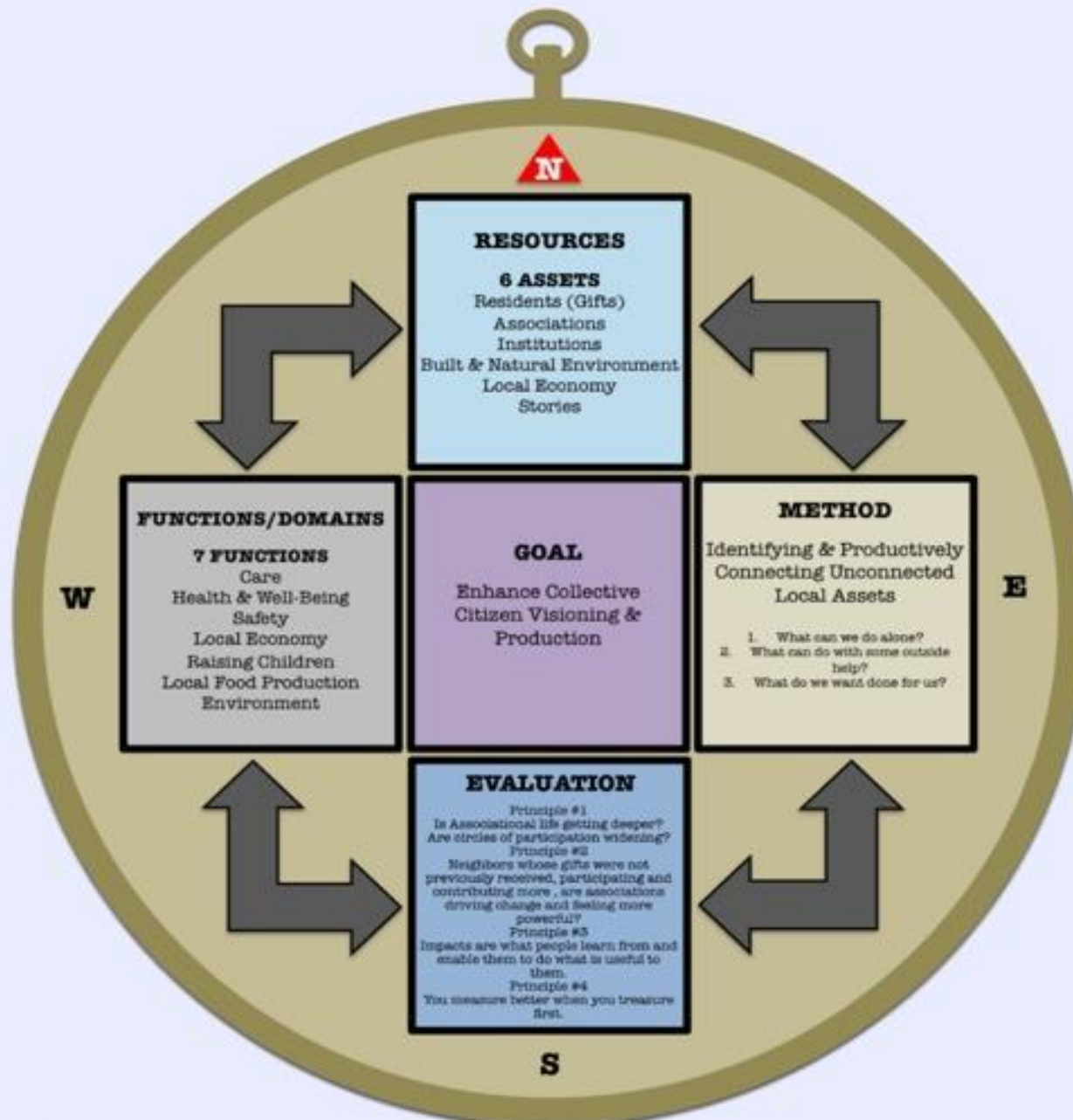


**GREATER SOCIAL CAPITAL & HEALTHY RESILIENT CITY**

**OUR IMPACT: A NEIGHBOURLY CITY**

**ABUNDANT COMMUNITY**





This is not a map, but a compass. Start with any element, but go to every element.

## 4. Evaluation

The fourth question to consider relates to how we evaluate an ABCD process.

The authenticity of everything we do in such a process is evaluated against the primary goal:  
“enhance collective citizen visioning and production”.



## Evaluating the impact of citizens sharing gifts

Thinking about participatory evaluation, how do we evaluate gift sharing and how do we tease out outputs? How could we approach this?

The role of relationship building in evaluation

**Relationships seem to be a key piece of both ABCD and participatory evaluation. Howard, do you have any stories of how the relationships that were created between residents from the Block Connector Program were used to inform evaluation?**

## Lessons learned

Did ACE experience any challenges during the evaluation?

What would you do different for the next impact report?

Placing community at the centre of evaluation

**How can we continue to centre our communities while evaluating asset-based community development programs such as the Block Connector Program?**

**Do you have any concrete examples we can explore?**

**QUESTIONS?**

# BUILD YOUR ABCD SKILLS THIS FALL



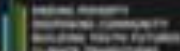
## ABCD 101

NOV 1 2022 | 1:00 - 4:30 PM ET

## FOUNDATIONS FOR BUILDING A NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGY

THE ONLINE COURSE

Vibrant Communities  
FORREST INSTITUTE



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

The image features a teal background with a white border. In the top right corner, there is a yellow L-shaped graphic element. The text "THANK YOU" is centered in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**THANK YOU**