

# Community

## PROGRAMS AND POLICIES


KITCHENER ONTARIO CANADA | JUNE 23-26, 2014

“Community has a job to do,” says Peter Block, and it is up to us, as caring and committed citizens, to create the conditions for our communities to thrive. Join John McKnight, Peter Block, Sherri Torjman, Vickie Cammack, Al Etmanski and Paul Born as we explore and create programs and policies that build up our communities. Making community the point is a major undertaking. It requires us to make the common good a priority again. It calls for cooperation and collaboration. It asks that we place the well-being of all of us higher than the well-being of any single one of us. If we take community seriously, we must be willing to give up some control; listen to each other more; and, work together to move beyond simple Band-Aid solutions to shared concerns.

Community: Programs and Policies is a Gathering of community-builders from a diversity of sectors throughout North America who will be part of an essential dialogue about how to encourage innovations that place community at the center of our thinking, rather than an assumed ingredient. Together, we will fuel a social movement that has already begun – a movement of tremendous importance – that offers an alternative to the dominant belief in competition, consumerism, and individualism. Community: Programs and Policies hopes to be a catalyst for this movement. Join us in Kitchener from June 23-26 as we advance a movement to make community the centre of our collective thinking and a driving force of positive social change.



Learn more at <http://events.tamarackcommunity.org/community-programs-policies>

A group of diverse people are seated in a circle on folding chairs, engaged in a discussion. The setting appears to be an indoor event or meeting. The lighting is warm, and the atmosphere is collaborative. The text is overlaid on the image, with large quotation marks framing the quote.

“ There is no power greater than a community  
discovering what it cares about... ”

MEG WHEATLEY

# Learning Together

Participants at the Gathering will explore the emerging patterns, innovative programs and policy priorities that are needed to enable community leaders to become catalysts for system-wide innovation.

Each day will include a presentation by one or more of our thought leaders who will animate their ideas and explore the implications for citizens and communities. Participants will then be encouraged to engage with these ideas, enrich them with their own experiences, and consider how these ideas help to shape our shared agenda of making community the point. Each learner will also participate in small group dialogues to further explore what they have heard and the implications this offers to their own thinking and practice. This Gathering will be a time of learning, connection and celebration – we hope you can join us!

## **This Gathering is for you if...**

- You are a community builder seeking to enhance your knowledge of policies, programs and practices that can advance neighbourhoods and quality of life in your community
- You are a staff member or volunteer in a neighbourhood association
- You are a policy maker in government, a city employee, or elected official committed to advancing positive neighbourhood change
- You are a curious thinker, planner, or advocate who intuitively knows that innovation is needed to realize the full potential of our neighbourhoods
- You are a leader in a non-profit organization or charity working to mobilize action for positive community change

If you see yourself in any of the above statements, this is an event you cannot miss. Join us for this national gathering, June 23-26, 2014 in Kitchener, Ontario.



# Meet Our Speakers



Peter Block



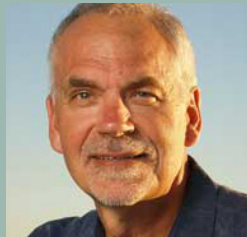
John McKnight



Vickie Cammack



Sherri Torjman



Al Etmansk



Paul Born

## A dynamic array of some of North America's most renowned and respected authorities on community will guide us through this dynamic learning experience.

Peter Block

We will be joined by legendary author **Peter Block** who will invite us to define the essential role that communities – and neighbors – play in advancing positive social change. Peter has co-designed this gathering with us through countless conversations with Paul Born about how to design this event to advance the work of community. Peter's best-selling books: *Community: The Structure of Belonging* and *Abundant Communities* have served as inspirations in organizing this Gathering.

John McKnight

In 1995, inspired by a famous interview on the CBC Radio show *Ideas*, **John McKnight** wrote a seminal book, *The Careless Society, Community and It's Counterparts*. As the world's most recognized community-builder, John McKnight provided a radical new framework for how we think about care and community. Care, he writes, "is the consenting commitment of citizens to one another. Care cannot be produced, provided, managed, organized, administered, or commodified. Every institutional effort to replace real caring is a counterfeit. Care is indeed, the manifestation of a community." Join us as we re-visit that famous three-hour interview with John McKnight and reflect on this timeless dialogue that is more relevant now than ever.

Vickie Cammack

**Vickie Cammack** decided that we could make caring and building a sense of community easier through technology. She also decided to use market forces to bring this technology to the world. She is the Founder and CEO of **Tyze Personal Networks**, a social innovation success story. Vickie is someone who finds and implements innovative solutions in the social sector – a distinction that has earned her recognition by Canada's Women's Executive Council as one of Canada's top 100 most powerful women.

Sherri Torjman

**Sherri Torjman** is Canada's most prolific and important social policy visionary. Her work on issues of community is legendary with seminal works like *Reclaiming our Humanity, Caring for the Caregivers, The Social Role of Local Government* and her critically acclaimed book *Shared Space: The Communities Agenda*.

Al Etmanski

**Al Etmanski** is an author, advocate, and one of Canada's most important social entrepreneurs embracing the power of belonging and the importance of innovating together. He is the author of two best-selling books: *A Good Life and Safe and Secure*. Al will bring us daily reflections, tie the week together and provide us with a path forward challenge on the final day of the gathering.

Paul Born

**Paul Born**, bestselling author and President of Tamarack, will share stories and insights from his just-released book *Deepening Community* to illustrate how the ideas of caring, empathy and shared responsibility can be translated into community action using a four-step framework that maps the journey to deep, authentic community.

# Programs and Policies to Fuel a Social Movement

## Our Learning Community

Join together with community builders, civic leaders, academics, neighbourhood residents, politicians, and other passionate learners to explore ideas that will accelerate the communities' agenda.

Topics we will explore:

- When we say, "Community has a job to do," what do we mean?
- How might we support overburdened citizen care-givers?
- Capturing the "going local" and Transition Town momentum
- Understanding the value of the collaborative and sharing economies
- What causes us to stay away from the central value of community?
- Why is asset-based thinking so critical?
- How do we decentralize city services?
- Can neighbourhoods be the centre of community life?
- What are we learning about how to create places of belonging?
- Why and how do we build a culture of caring?
- Can we "formalize" the role of neighbourhoods and deliver services there?
- What is the importance of social capital and how do we build it?
- What local, provincial/state and federal policies can advance the communities agenda?

## Daily Agenda

Each day, our learning journey will include opportunities to:

- Be inspired by the ideas and insights of one of our keynote speakers
- Learn from local examples that further illustrate these ideas into action
- Deepen your individual and collective learning through small group dialogues with peers (pods)
- Enhance your professional practice through highly participatory workshops that share practices and tools that can be immediately apply in your own community-building work
- Participate in experiential learning activities such as neighbourhood walkabouts and resource sharing roundtables to learn from others
- Celebrate the joy of being together through music, dancing, sharing stories and great food.

As a Learning Community, we will co-create a learning wall to share and reflect key ideas for policies and programs that emerge through these conversations. A daily learning summary will be generated and shared along with links to the various resources and presentations that are part of this dynamic learning experience.

## Workshops

Workshops led by thought leaders, community-building practitioners and policy makers will be presented daily and will provide an opportunity to engage in leading-edge ideas and offer practical resources that are useful to "real people doing real work." Topics include:

- Transforming City Culture for Neighbourhoods
- Safe Neighbourhoods: Turning Things Around
- Building a Healthy Community: The Role of Determinants of Health
- Practices for Community Building
- The Caring Society: John McKnight
- The Essential Role of Social Capital
- Citizen Care Givers: Policies to Shape our Future
- Taking Care of Each Other
- Telling our Stories: First Results from Community Conversations
- Policies for Cities
- Policies for Provincial and State Governments

## ABCD Walkabouts

Each day, learners will join together to visit a neighbourhood, community program or policy in action where a local resident and a national thought leader will take you on a walk to explore an idea. You will visit neighbourhoods that fought crime and won, built leading health services, are creating places of belonging, are implementing city programs, caring for culturally diverse populations, building community with low-income populations, and that have embraced the arts. On these walks we plan to have fun, sit and reflect in parks, and converse at local gatherings into the evening.

# Registration Details

Tamarack has secured contributions from our sponsors to help us support this learning community at a reduced cost. Tamarack is a charitable organization and, as such, we do this work within our means. The development of the learning community represents our hope that this Gathering will be a mutual experience shared by both the learner and the sponsors. The cost for participation is, therefore, also shared.

In our experience, learning opportunities are better translated into action when committed groups of learners attend together. Therefore we are offering subsidies for colleagues who enroll together.

The registration rates (in Canadian dollars) are as follows:

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**\$495** /person for 3 or more colleagues from the same collaborative attending together

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**\$595** /person for 2 people from the same collaborative attending together

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**\$695** /for single registration

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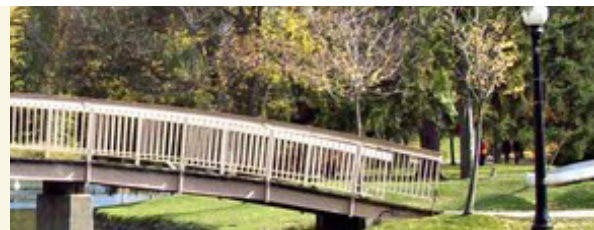
*Fee includes: three days of onsite learning with world renowned trainers, all lunches, gourmet breaks, evening events, one celebration dinner, and urban retreat opportunities.*

## **Everyone Is Invited!**

A limited number of half-tuition subsidies are available. We also have some full-tuition subsidies available for organizations or neighbourhoods registering three or more participants, to enable a low-income volunteer to attend as well. To discuss eligibility for these options, contact Rachel at [rachel@tamarackcommunity.ca](mailto:rachel@tamarackcommunity.ca)

## **Register now!**

Register early to ensure your place as space is limited. Tamarack events fill very quickly and most are oversubscribed. Priority will be given to organizations and neighbourhoods that send multiple participants. Once your completed registration is received, you will receive additional information about workshop options and pre-event learning opportunities.



## Having Fun Together and Building Community

### **Victoria Park**

This gathering will be held in Victoria Park, one of the most beautiful green spaces in the city of Kitchener. This neighbourhood will be our host. Workshops will be held in unique places, such as a gazebo. Take a walk around the lake during breaks; enjoy the fresh air.

### **Queen St. Commons**

This remarkable neighbourhood restaurant and community space will be the official gathering place and caterer of the event. Fresh, in-house roasted coffee is served alongside delicious food that is homemade by loving hands and spontaneous activities often occur in this warm setting. Make sure to meet the town piano player – he lives on the street, but comes daily to this remarkable place to share his musical gift.

### **Nightly Entertainment**

Every night join us for live music and a celebration of community. Sing together, dance together, celebrate community and practice neighbourliness.

# Register Today to Ensure Your Place!

**Online:** <http://events.tamarackcommunity.org/community-programs-policies>

**Email:** [rachel@tamarackcommunity.ca](mailto:rachel@tamarackcommunity.ca) **Phone:** (519) 885-5155

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