



# Membership Brochure 2016



# Our Members

(2015)

Banff, AB  
**Town of Banff FCSS**

Calgary, AB  
**Vibrant Communities Calgary**

Edmonton, AB  
**End Poverty Edmonton**

Grande Prairie, AB  
**Community Action to End Poverty in Grande Prairie**

Medicine Hat, AB  
**Medicine Hat Poverty Reduction Coalition**

Red Deer, AB  
**Central Alberta Poverty Reduction Alliance**

Strathcona County, AB  
**Strathcona County FCS**

Abbotsford, BC  
**Vibrant Abbotsford**

Cranbrook, BC  
**Cranbrook Poverty Reduction Committee**

Nelson, BC  
**Nelson at Its Best**

Revelstoke, BC  
**Revelstoke Poverty Reduction Working Group**

Surrey, BC  
**Surrey Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Trail, BC  
**Greater Trail Lower Columbia Region**

Brant County and City of Brantford, ON  
**Brantford/Brant Roundtable on Poverty**

Chatham-Kent, ON  
**Prosperity Roundtable**

City of Kingston and area  
**Poverty Reduction Initiative**

City of Peterborough and County  
**Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network**

County of Simcoe  
**County of Simcoe Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Wellington, ON  
**Guelph Wellington Taskforce to End Poverty Guelph-**

Haldimand and Norfolk Counties, ON  
**Poverty Action Partnership of Haldimand and Norfolk**

Halton Region, ON  
**Halton Poverty Roundtable**

Hamilton, ON  
**Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction**

Huron County, ON  
**Poverty to Prosperity in Huron**

Leeds and Grenville Counties, ON  
**From Poverty to Possibility**

London, ON  
**London Child and Youth Network**

Niagara Region, ON  
**Niagara Poverty Reduction Network**

Ottawa, ON  
**Ottawa Poverty Reduction Network**

Peel Region, ON  
**Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Waterloo Region, ON  
**Building Resilient Communities**

St. Thomas and Elgin, ON  
**St. Thomas/Elgin Bridges out of Poverty**

Thunder Bay, ON  
**Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Toronto, ON  
**Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Windsor-Essex County, ON  
**Pathway to Potential**

Winnipeg, MB  
**Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council**

Charlotte County, NB  
**Vibrant Communities Charlotte County**



Fredericton, NB  
**Greater Fredericton Social Innovation**

Saint John, NB  
**Living 5J**

Westmorland Albert, NB  
**Westmorland Albert Community Inclusion Network**

St. John's, NL  
**Vibrant Communities St. John's**

Yellowknife, NWT  
**No Place for Poverty Coalition**

Nunavut  
**Nunavut Poverty Reduction Roundtable**

Iqaluit, NU  
**Sustainable Iqaluit**

Across Quebec  
**Le Réseau Québécois de Revitalisation Intégrée (RQRI Network),**



Saskatoon, SK  
**Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership**

Whitehorse, YT  
**Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition**



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# About Vibrant Communities

**Vibrant Communities - Cities Reducing Poverty** is a collective impact movement aimed at reducing poverty for 1 million Canadians through poverty reduction strategies at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. Every year, more cities join this pan-Canadian initiative, helping to strengthen a learning community of over 100 cities working on local poverty reduction.

While we use the word “cities” to describe our focus, it is recognized that the aspiration and action plan is applicable to communities and regions of all sizes interested in moving the needle on poverty. The communities engaged in this effort share the following characteristics:

- *Focus on poverty reduction;*
- *Embrace the idea of a collective impact*
- *Engage and are led by a Multi-sector community roundtable;*
- *View the issue of poverty from a comprehensive lens recognizing that there are multiple causes and solutions;*
- *Leverage the assets of the whole community to drive change; and,*
- *Are committed to ensuring that the process includes learning and evaluation at every step*

**Outcomes:**

Vibrant Communities - Cities Reducing Poverty is a network that wants to reduce poverty. **“We want less poor not better poor”**, says Paul Born, founder of the Tamarack Institute. In doing, so we are committed to:

- *Measuring outcomes and tracking data*
- *Learning together to understand what works*
- *Sharing our successes and failures widely*
- *Harnessing the unique attributes of place in achieving outcomes*

## Imagine...100 Cities Reducing Poverty...Together

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# Our Story

The Tamarack Institute has led Vibrant Communities Canada, which has been building a network of cities across the country that are focused on place-based poverty reduction. In our first decade, we built the technology and ideas around Vibrant Communities and place-based poverty reduction. We worked with leaders from business, government, the voluntary sector, and citizens living in poverty and, in turn, have effectively reduced poverty for more than 200,000 Canadians.

These local community efforts have been bolstered by the leadership of provincial and territorial governments as they adopt or renew their own poverty reduction strategies. Several books have been written to document this period of learning, including Opportunities 2000, Creating Vibrant Communities, Cities Reducing Poverty and Evaluating Vibrant Communities. All of these can be downloaded at [www.vibrantcommunities.ca](http://www.vibrantcommunities.ca).

Today, over 50 cities are partnering to advance the work of cities reducing poverty and nearly every province and territory has a poverty reduction strategy. For a complete listing, go to [www.vibrantcommunities.ca](http://www.vibrantcommunities.ca).

## Our Members

The Vibrant Communities - Cities Reducing Poverty network is primarily made up of citizen-led coalitions and some municipally-led strategies from all across Canada. Our members represent cities, counties, regions, rural towns and even provinces/territories.

Our members are volunteer leaders and paid staff who share their tools, resources, and lessons learned through an interactive website, [www.vibrantcanada.ca](http://www.vibrantcanada.ca) and through online and face to face seminars, practice calls and workshops.

## How We Work

Vibrant Communities helps deepen the connections between municipalities, provinces, territories, and citizen-led coalitions that are actively working to reduce poverty in Canada. Our aim is to promote the co-generation of knowledge and shared learning across the network and in the learning community. We support the work of our city members through providing them with:

- *A Common Evaluation Framework*
- *An online learning community at [www.vibrantcanada.ca](http://www.vibrantcanada.ca)*
- *Web and in person seminars, including an annual national gathering*
- *Communities of practice, practical tools and resources*
- *Cities Connect - a monthly e-newsletter*
- *Peer-to-peer and expert coaching and funding support*



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## What Our Members are Saying

"Membership has opened up our thinking and will hopefully lead to a multi-sector Roundtable approach to poverty reduction in Whitehorse. We're not there yet, but being a part of the CRP learning network has certainly helped us along by providing support, knowledge and tools we can use in our work."

- Kristina Craig, Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, Whitehorse, YT

"Cities Reducing Poverty provides us with the opportunity to join professionals and colleagues from across Canada through regular tele-learning events and an annual Summit, where the experience of coming together around a common goal is deeply motivational and inspiring. It has helped our Poverty Reduction Initiative move forward in a thoughtful, collaborative and strategic way."

- Bhavana Varma, Kingston Poverty Initiative, ON

**"Belonging to a national network positions us with one voice and reinforces the urgency to work differently and improve the quality of life for individuals and families dealing with poverty. It adds credibility to our work at the local level and connects us to many innovative and inspiring poverty reduction efforts."**

-Cathy Wright, Living SJ, Saint John, NB

**"Cities Reducing Poverty has facilitated new connections with other communities and has provided important learnings on a wide range of topics, from evaluation to living wage. It's exciting to be part of such a vibrant and growing movement."**

-Adam Vasey, Pathway to Potential, Windsor-Essex, ON

"Cities Reducing Poverty has been instrumental to anti-poverty efforts in the Northwest Territories by providing connections to your knowledgeable staff, connections to people with other places working on the same issues and written resources. In our time with Cities Reducing Poverty we have worked with partners to create an anti-poverty strategy and action plan."

-Julie Green, No Place for Poverty Coalition, Yellowknife, NT

"The connections and support that I have received from VC over the past two years have been invaluable, including access to professional development that is second to none, and resources and relationships that are rooted in reciprocity. It is a membership and connection that I look forward to building over the future."

-Colleen Christopherson-Cote, Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership, Saskatoon, SK

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# Membership Commitments

Most often members of the Cities Reducing Poverty Learning Community agree to:

- Actively participate in and contribute to the Vibrant Communities Learning Community by regularly sharing knowledge, resources and progress with their peers
- Agree to be publically recognized as a member of the Vibrant Communities – Cities Reducing Poverty Network

- Advance the vision, mission and aspiration of the Cities Reducing Poverty Learning Community
- Participate in the development of issue papers and other knowledge products for public dissemination
- Agree to participate in a Common Evaluation Framework and collect data on an annual basis to help demonstrate outputs and impacts both at a local level and as a national network
- Identify three primary contacts who will serve as the communication bridge between their initiative and Vibrant Communities Canada
- Share a list of their roundtable members and their email addresses with Vibrant Communities Canada for the purpose of receiving Cities Connect, monthly e-news for poverty reduction practitioners.
- Agree that Vibrant Communities can monitor your engagement with our online and face to face learning opportunities for the purpose of demonstrating the usage and return on your annual membership
- Annually provide \$1500 toward the operation of the Cities Reducing Poverty Learning Community



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# Rewards of Membership

## The tangible benefits of renewing or joining the Cities Reducing Poverty Network in 2016 include:

- 1 A \$1000 matching coaching credit to hire professional or peer coaches who come recommended by Tamarack
- 2 Two passes to attend the Mayors Gathering in Edmonton in April 2016 (*value of \$1250*)
- 3 Discounts for roundtable members to attend Tamarack face to face learning events (*2 for 1 pricing*)
- 4 Discounts on books and other resources (*at cost and most often free*)
- 5 Access to local poverty data from the Community Data Program (*value of \$500+*)
- 6 Annual subscription to Cities Connect monthly e-magazine for poverty reduction practitioners
- 7 Access to evaluation tools and implementation support
- 8 Access to fundraising tools and implementation support
- 9 Access to Communities of Practice for roundtable conveners, planning for poverty reduction, living wage, provincial and municipal representatives working on poverty reduction and more
- 10 Unlimited access to [www.vibrantcanada.ca](http://www.vibrantcanada.ca), an interactive learning website where cities and members are profiled, ideas are shared and groups can communicate online

# Join Vibrant Communities - Cities Reducing Poverty!

- Join more than **50 communities** and become part of an incredible learning community of peers
- Receive more than **\$5,000** worth of tangible **annual benefits**
- Let us help you tell your story and **document your outcomes** – we have top evaluators on staff
- The Tamarack Team is here to support your success! **Our success is your success!**
- Be part of an exciting movement for change – to **reduce poverty for 1 million Canadians**

**For more information,  
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