

NEIGHBOURS

policies
&
programs

HAMILTON, ON | JUNE 8-10, 2015

RE-IMAGINING CITIES ~ RE-ENGAGING CITIZENS



events.tamarackcommunity.org/neighbours

NEIGHBOURS | policies & programs

Dynamic neighbourhoods are the foundation of strong cities and municipalities. Engaged citizens and residents are essential in the creation of strong neighbourhoods. Community-based organizations play an important, catalytic role in making positive community change possible.

The most creative and lasting solutions for translating community hopes and dreams into realities depend upon citizens, organizations and government working together towards a common vision. No matter what the issue or desired result, the benefits are greater -- and the results are more powerful -- when we can work effectively together.

“ The evidence is clear: people in communities with active residents, diverse and vibrant institutions, live longer, are better off economically, are healthier and safer. ”

- Robert Putnam

Across Canada and beyond there are inspiring examples of what can be achieved when neighbours work with community organizations, associations and governments. There are also inspiring examples of how policies can support and encourage neighbourhoods to build, strength and foster creativity. Today, our shared challenge is to learn about -- and from -- these innovative examples so that they become the reality in every community.

Programs that support neighbourhoods to do what they are meant to do -- support one another, work and have fun together -- need to be documented and promoted so that their successes, challenges and learnings are easily shared and can be adapted to other neighbourhoods. This is how we will build a movement for neighbourhood-led change that will be a source of leadership for advancing positive community change on a range of issues affecting our well-being.

We need to think deliberately about how to invest in deepening our understanding of people-power -- the greatest resource of our neighbourhoods and communities -- so that it is central to our thinking and at the heart of creating our shared future.

Together, we want to continue to grow a social movement that offers an alternative to the dominant paradigm of competition, consumerism, and individualism. We want to build a bridge between the people, the programs and the policies that build healthy, vibrant, and strong neighbourhoods.

Join us in **Hamilton from June 8th – 10th, 2015** as we think and act together and advance the discipline of neighbourhood-building that is at the centre of this desired shift in our collective thinking.

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 neighbourhoods. 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 creating healthy, caring neighbourhoods. 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

- A neighbourhood leader wanting to find new ideas to inspire you and further your work
- A staff member or volunteer in a neighbourhood association
- A policy-maker in government, a city employee, or elected official involved in positive neighbourhood change
- A member of a community organization who intuitively knows that strengthened engagement with residents is essential in creating effective programs;
- A planner or researcher who recognizes that that innovation is needed in how we plan and design our neighbourhoods
- A leader in a non-profit organization who is 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 8-10, 2015 in Hamilton, Ontario.**



The Gathering Speakers

Engage and be inspired by these renowned thought-leaders in neighbourhood and community innovation.



John McKnight is a founder and co-director of Asset-Based Community Development Institute, whose graduates -- including both Michelle and Barack Obama -- continue to have impact strengthening communities and neighbourhoods around the world. In 2013, John was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Waterloo in recognition of his innovative work. For three decades John has researched social service delivery systems, health policy, community organizations and neighbourhood policy. He is the author of *The Careless Society* and co-author of *Building Communities from the Inside Out* and *The Abundant Community*. John serves on the Boards of several national organizations that support neighbourhood development and he remains tireless in his recognition and championing of citizens -- and their capacity to care for one another -- as an essential resource in the work of building better communities and neighbourhoods.



Jim Diers has a passion for getting people engaged with their communities and in the decisions that affect their lives. His work in the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods was recognized with an Innovations Award from the Kennedy School of Government. In 1988, he was appointed the first director of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods where he served under three mayors over the next 14 years and created what some would say is a miracle of neighbors. Harnessing his own personal passion, this work resulted in: a direct-action neighborhood association; a community development corporation; a community foundation; and, the nation's largest health care cooperative. Jim now teaches courses at the University of Washington and serves on the faculty of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute. He also travels internationally delivering keynotes and workshops on neighbors and neighbourhoods. His book, *Neighbor Power: Building Community the Seattle Way*, is available in both English and Chinese editions.



Vickie Cammack is the Founding Director of Tyze Personal Networks, a pioneering Canadian social innovation that delivers online networks of care for people facing life challenges. She is a social entrepreneur who has established many organizations dedicated to strengthening community and addressing isolation including Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN) and the Family Support Institute of British Columbia. Vickie's unique response to the isolation and loneliness that underpins some of our most intractable social problems - a network model of care, has been adopted internationally. The Women's Executive Network named Vickie one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women and she is the recipient of Meritorious Service Medal of Canada, the BC Community Achievement Award, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work in the field.



Milton Friesen is a Senior Fellow and Program Director of Social Cities at Cardus, a North American think tank. He has served as an elected municipal official and his current work at the University of Waterloo School Of Planning involves a new proposal for measuring social impact. His work on network science applications for planning includes participation in the Waterloo Institute on Complexity and Innovation. His paper Social Infrastructure: Underpinning the Success of Cities, explores the “patterns of relationships we have with each other as individuals and groups” and suggests that these will determine the long-term viability where we live. This paper was recently published in Municipal World.



Paul Johnson is a community innovator and newly appointed Director of Corporate Initiatives with the City of Hamilton. Prior to that Paul was the Director of Neighbourhood Development Strategies which is well-recognized for its success in supporting citizen leadership and establishing strong citizen-municipal partnerships initially within 10 Hamilton neighbourhoods. Paul has worked in the private sector with Compaq Computer Limited and in the not-for-profit sector as Executive Director of Wesley Urban Ministries. Paul is a member of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction and served as its founding Director. He is also the Chair of Hamilton’s Best Start Network and played an important role in developing a framework for service planning as the Chair of the City of Hamilton’s Human Services Planning Initiative. Paul has been named a Paul Harris Fellow by two Rotary Clubs in Hamilton and in 2007 served as the Honourary Chairperson for the Week of the Child and Youth.



Paul Born is a bestselling author, community builder and the President of Tamarack. He will share stories and insights from his newest book, Deepening Community to illustrate how the ideas of caring, empathy and shared responsibility can be translated to build strong communities using a four-step framework that maps the journey to deep, authentic community. He will share inspiring highlights about how people throughout the world are using this framework to advance positive change within their neighbourhoods, their communities and the world.



Sylvia Cheuy is the Director of Tamarack’s Deepening Community Learning Community at Tamarack. She is also the Editor for Tamarack’s e-magazine Engage! Sylvia is a community builder with her background in community and neighbourhood development. Her experience as the founding Executive Director of Headwaters Communities in Action (HCIA), a grassroots citizen initiative that fosters collaborative leadership and action in support of a long-term vision of well-being for Ontario’s Headwaters region has given her first-hand experience in the joys, challenges and unique opportunities that are possible through multi-sector collaboration. While serving as a Board Member of Community Living Dufferin, she was instrumental in securing \$2.8 million in funding for a unique partnership that created a shared home for CLD and Theatre Orangeville. Sylvia holds a Masters Diploma in Social Innovation from the University of Waterloo where she explored opportunities to create change within regional food systems.

Our Learning Community

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

Topics we will explore:

- Why working at the neighbourhood-level makes sense to address many quality-of-life issues
- How do formal systems connect and effectively collaborate with informal citizen networks?
- What municipal infrastructure is needed to spark and sustain citizen leadership and promote effective citizen/municipal collaboration?
- Why is asset-based thinking so critical?
- Can neighbourhoods be the centre of community life?
- The benefits and value of social connection and belonging -- to individuals and communities
- What programs and initiatives are demonstrating success in the building of vibrant neighbourhoods?
- Can we "formalize" the role of neighbourhoods and deliver services there?
- What local and state policies can advance the communities agenda?

This gathering will provide you with inspiration, connections, knowledge and specific tools to offer the leadership required to connect, engage and mobilize citizens in your community and beyond to generate a shared vision and action plan; in turn, developing programs and policies for change.

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 back to capture 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."

ABCD Walkabouts

As part of the curriculum for our Gathering, we want to provide learners with an option to visit a Hamilton neighbourhood and learn more about initiatives that are successfully reconnecting neighbours and building community. A local leader will lead the walk through and provide an opportunity for you to view community building in action. together and advance the discipline of neighbourhood-building that is at the centre of this desired shift in our collective thinking.



Programs and Policies to Fuel a Social Movement of Neighbourhood Leadership

Having Fun Together and Building Community

Dr. John M. Perkins Centre

The home-base for this gathering is the Dr. John M Perkins Centre, a recently renovated building in the Crown Point Neighbourhood in Hamilton, ON., which is one of the neighbourhoods actively involved in the Hamilton Neighbourhood Action Plan. This space is ideally situated to take walk-about to see some of the latest innovative ideas in action.

The Centre is managed by Indwell, which is a Christian charity that creates affordable housing communities to support people seeking health, wellness and belonging.

Mes Amis

This remarkable social enterprise will be the official caterer of the event. Centred around wellness, Mes Amis food is lovingly made from local, healthy ingredients. They strive to care for the environment in all their methods and focus on creating a supportive, accessible work environment.

Nightly Entertainment

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



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:

- \$555 per person for three or more colleagues from the same collaborative attending together
- \$625 per person for two people from the same collaborative attending together
- \$695 for single registration

*Large group pricing is available for groups of 5 or more. Please reach out to **Christie** at christie@tamarackcommunity.ca to coordinate.*

Your 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 your eligibility for these options, please contact **Christie** at christie@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.

Registration is available:



Online:

<http://events.tamarackcommunity.org/neighbours-registration>



By Email: christie@tamarackcommunity.ca



By Phone: (705) 761-4078

Once your completed registration is received, you will receive additional information about workshop options and pre-event learning opportunities.

Register Today



Online | <http://events.tamarackcommunity.org/neighbours-registration>



By Email | christie@tamarackcommunity.ca



By Phone | (705) 761-4078

Learn more at <http://events.tamarackcommunity.org/neighbours>

Local Sponsors

