

BC Communities Reducing Poverty CoP

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

10:00 – 11:00 am PST



Technical Considerations

- **Visuals:** You must be connected through the meeting URL to see our slideshow.
- **Audio Options** - please select the appropriate setting via your GoTo Meeting control panel and **please mute your own line when not in use.**
 - **Computer:** You may connect your audio using your computer's speakers.
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- **Tech Support:** If you are not connected by computer speakers or phone please type any questions or comments into the chat box.

Our Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, and check-ins

- Welcome and introduction to new co-chair Don Kattler
- Roundtable of member updates

2. Presentation

- Glenna Harris, Prosper Canada: Overview of successful on-the-ground approaches to utilizing financial empowerment as a poverty reduction tool (+ questions and discussion)

3. CRP update

- Alison Homer – CRP West summit

4. Upcoming learning opportunities

Presentation

Presentation

FINANCIAL
EMPOWERMENT
IN CANADA

Glenna Harris & Ana Fremont

Greetings and good morning



Glenna Harris
*Manager, Learning &
Training*



Ana Fremont
Program Manager

Our agenda

- **Prosper Canada**
 - Who we are and what we do
- **Financial Empowerment**
 - What is it and why do we need it?
- **Program examples in the field**
- **Prosper Canada program examples**
 - National Financial Empowerment Champions project
- **Discussion / Q&A**

1. Prosper Canada: Who we are and what we do

Meet Prosper Canada

Founded in 1986, Prosper Canada is a national charity dedicated to expanding economic opportunity for Canadians living in poverty through program and policy innovation.

As **Canada's leading champion of financial empowerment**, we work with government, business and community partners to develop and promote financial policies, programs and resources that transform lives and foster the prosperity of all Canadians

We help service systems and organizations in all sectors to build proven financial empowerment approaches into their businesses



ABLE conference: Vancouver May 2018

- Bi-annual conference for the ABLE financial empowerment community of practice in Canada
- Vancouver May 7-9, 2018 (registration is filling up)
- <https://ablefinancialemPOWERMENT.org/>
- Conference agenda will include key speakers
 - The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos (Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development)
 - Sheila Reghr (Basic Income Network)
 - Dr. Rachel Schneider (US Financial Diaries)



2. Financial empowerment: What it is and why we need it

People in poverty face many financial barriers

Typical **financial barriers** include:

- Limited access to relevant financial information, counselling and advice
- Lack of awareness of or access to government benefits
- Low or non-existent savings
- Limited access to mainstream financial services
- Low credit scores
- Reliance on fringe financial services
- Inability to weather financial shocks
- Low financial literacy
- High household debt
- Not filing taxes

14% of Canadians are living on a low income

4.7 Million people living below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO)

Vulnerable Canadians at higher risk include: Lone parents, Aboriginal people, newcomers, people with disabilities

Research shows worrying about money can perpetuate poverty



“This vicious cycle – that people are poor because they are stressed and stressed because they are poor—can easily last for generations without appropriate interventions.”

**- Sendhil Mullainathan and Eldar Shafir.
Scarcity: Why Having Too Little Means So Much. New York, NY: Henry Holt, 2013.**

Financial empowerment framework



Where can financial empowerment take place?

- ✓ Governments
- ✓ Community service agencies
- ✓ Collaborative partnerships
- ✓ Integration into existing support services

FE facilitates wealth building – a critical gap in our current social support systems

- 1. FE solutions enable low-income people to measurably improve their financial outcomes** – incomes, credit scores, savings and debt levels.
- 2. This, in turn, enhances their access to proven routes out of poverty** – education/training, employment, entrepreneurship, asset building and home-ownership.
- 3. FE focuses on strengthening low-income people's *financial inclusion, knowledge, behaviours, and opportunities***, unlike many other poverty reduction approaches.
- 4. These are key determinants of economic security and a critical gap in our current social support systems**, because organizations lack the mandate, resources and capacity.

For more information, please see our [Financial Empowerment Brief](#)
This provides examples of diverse FE interventions and their impact

REACH

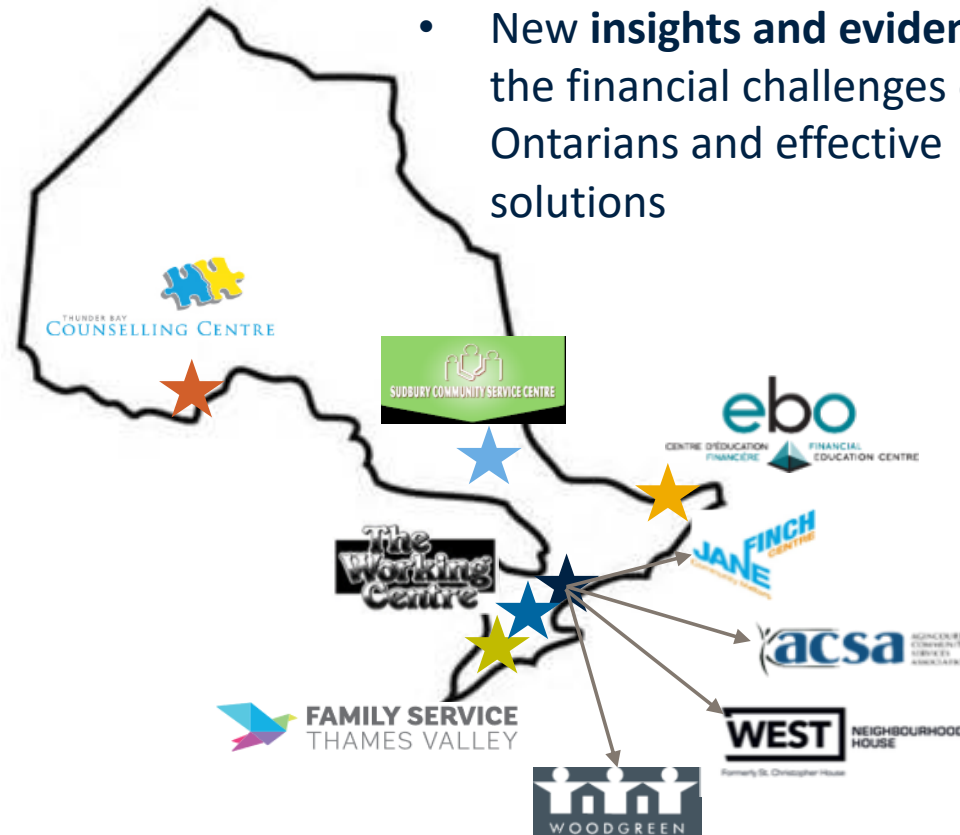
- Services in every **region**
- French (Ottawa) & English
- Experience working with newcomers, Indigenous Peoples & people with disabilities

EXPERTISE

- Tested **program** tools and resources
- Ongoing **training** and technical assistance
- **Community** of practice to share learning
- **Evaluation** frameworks, tools and metrics

IMPACT AND EVIDENCE

- Measurable **results**
- Reduced poverty & increased financial **resilience**
- New **insights and evidence** on the financial challenges of Ontarians and effective solutions



3. Program examples in the field

Evidence suggests financial empowerment approaches can help advance many provincial government goals

Employment

- Remove **barriers to employment** for the most vulnerable
 - Increase effectiveness of current **employment and training programs**
 - Improve **employment opportunities** for people with disabilities
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 - Improve **access to postsecondary education**
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Income security

- Facilitate successful **economic integration of newcomers and refugees**
- Enable persons to move toward **employment and income security**.
- Improve **socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples** living in urban communities
- **Break the cycle of poverty** for children and youth

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Homelessness

- Work toward long-term goal of **ending homelessness**
 - **Improve housing stability** and **reduce homeless recidivism**
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Health

- Expand **access to health benefits** for children in low-income families
- Improve **access to income benefits** more generally to reduce poverty – a key determinant of health

Enrolled by Six: Peel Children and Youth Initiative (PCYI)



✓ CLB uptake increased from 29% to 40% of eligible children in Peel Region

✓ Increase of \$49M in RESP savings for children's post-secondary education

✓ Increased likelihood that more children from low-income families will access post-secondary education

For more information: <http://pcyi.org/our-work/success-by-6-peel/enrolled-by-six/>

Financial Empowerment and Problem Solving (FEPS)



NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Formerly St. Christopher House



Jane/Finch
Community and Family
Centre



Project start: 2015-2017
Current project: 2018-2021
4 Ontario sites

- ✓ One-on-one financial problem-solving
 - ✓ Community tax clinics
 - ✓ Workshops and outreach

- ✓ Over 20,000 Ontarians supported
- ✓ \$55M in income tax refunds and benefits accessed

More info: <http://http://prosperscanada.org/Our-Work/Centre-for-Financial-Literacy/Financial-Coaching.aspx#feps>

Benefits Screening Tool (BST): Prosper Canada and St. Michael's Hospital

St. Michael's
Inspired Care.
Inspiring Science.

Prosper Canada

Home About

Benefits Screening Tool

Supporting primary health-care providers in improving the health and income security of patients living in poverty



The Benefits Screening Tool can help you as a health-care provider in recommending income assistance benefits to your patients living on a low income. By asking a series of questions, the tool will generate a list of benefits and resources that your patient might be eligible for but may not yet be receiving including more information about how they can qualify and apply.

This is the testing version of the Benefits Screening Tool and may not contain the most recent updates. If you would like to learn more about this project, please contact Prosper Canada via email: aummejjihad@prospercanada.org

Let's get started

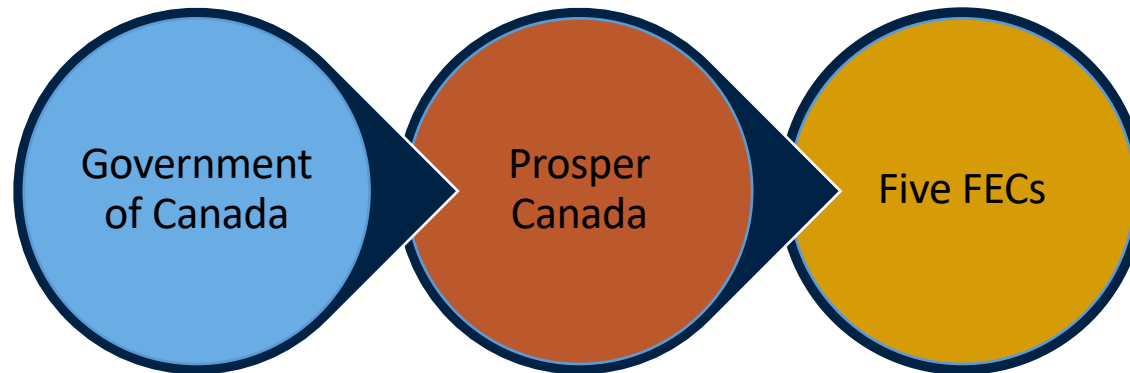
We have 13 questions for you to ask your patient. This will help us build our recommendations based on your patient's situation. If you don't have enough time to complete the entire questionnaire, not to worry, just answer the three questions on this page, click on the 'Finish' button below and we will provide you with a quick 'Patient Income Benefit Handout'. Please note that this Tool presently includes federal benefits as well as provincial benefits for Ontario and Manitoba only.

✓ Increased access to benefits and credits available through tax filing

✓ Increased incomes and improved health for patients living in poverty

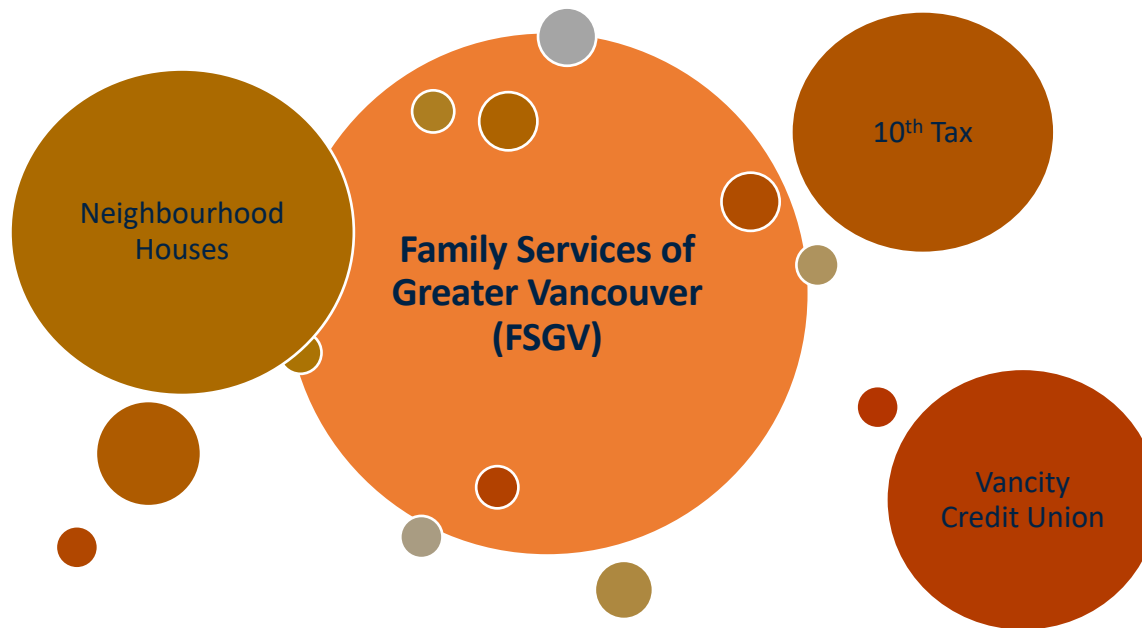
National Financial Empowerment Champions (FEC) project

Objective: FECs implement and expand financial empowerment interventions to reach 175,000 Canadians living on low incomes.

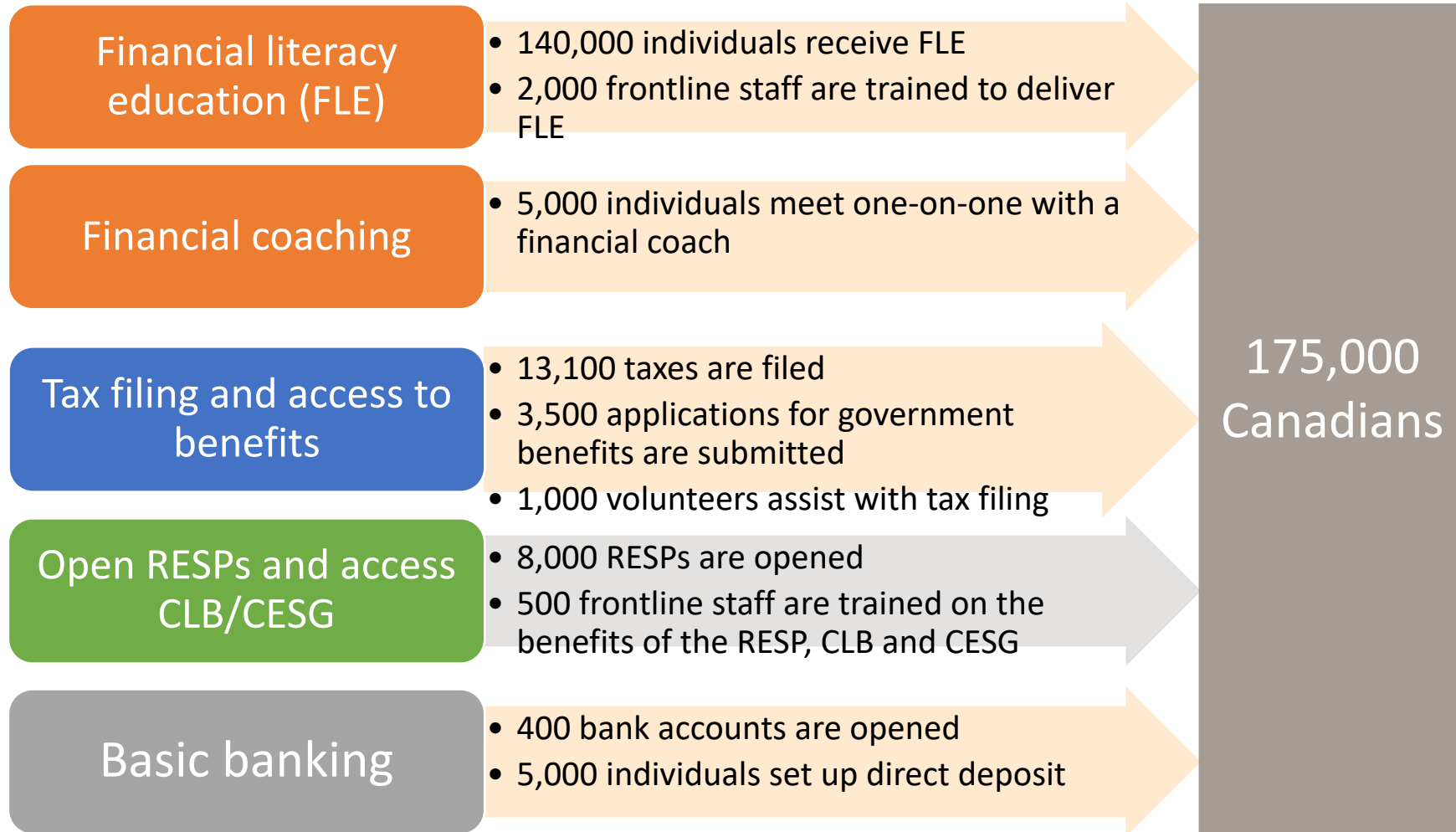


Role of each FEC

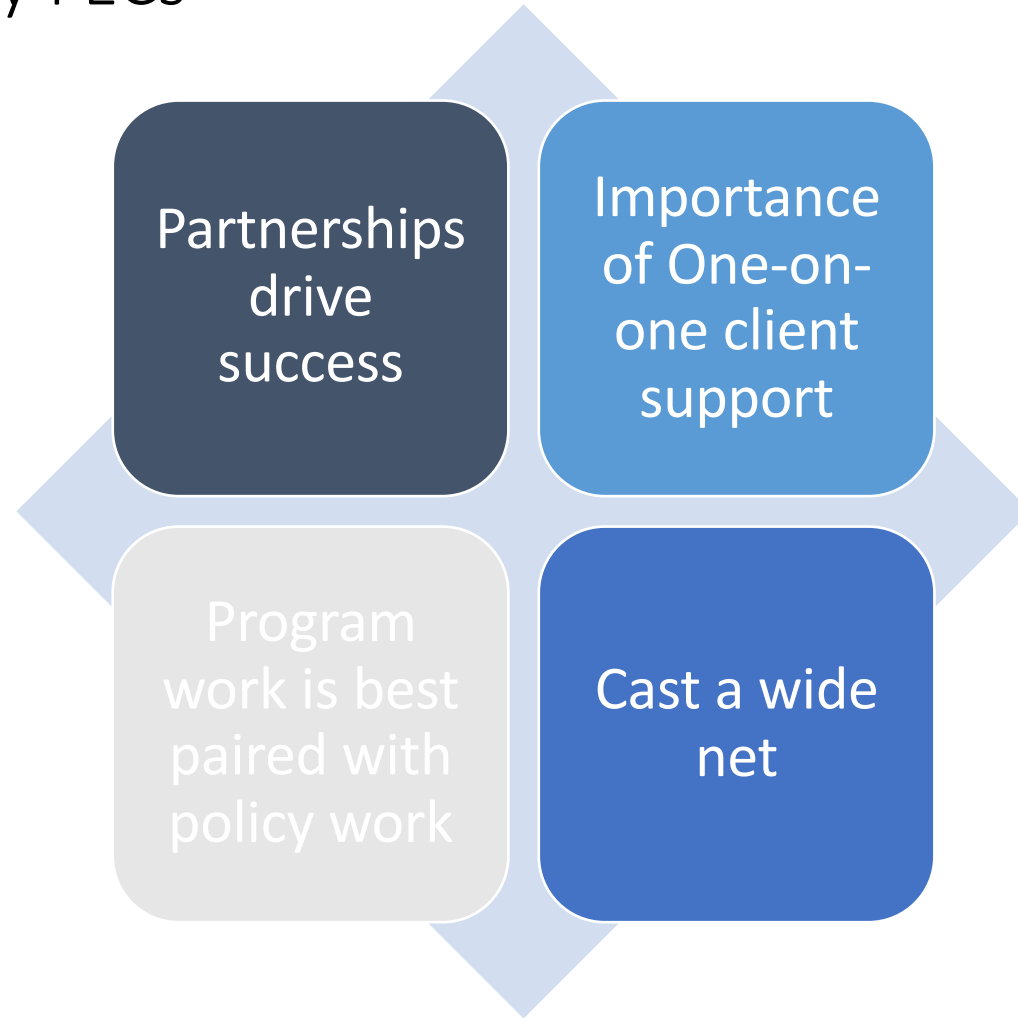
- Implement and expand FE interventions
- Build the capacity of other organizations to deliver FE interventions
- With Prosper Canada, contribute to the development of toolkits for each intervention



Interventions and targets



Lessons learned by FECs



Questions?

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Cities Reducing Poverty Update

Alison Homer

Manager of Learning and Western Cities

Tamarack Institute

Cities Innovating to Reduce Poverty

June 12-14, 2018 in Vancouver BC

<http://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/crp-west>



CITIES INNOVATING TO REDUCE POVERTY

**June 12-13, 2018
Vancouver, BC**

Join Tamarack in Vancouver, BC and meet allies, access new tools, and discover emerging and innovative practices with leaders from across the nation. Together, we will celebrate our successes and will co-generate impactful solutions to eliminating poverty nationwide.

Registration and Event Info:

<http://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/crp-west>

**Redeem
Your 2 Free
Seats Now!**

Upcoming Learning Opportunities



ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP MASTERCLASS:

Learn the art and practice of Adaptive Leadership
for working with Turf, Trust & Collaboration

Join experts Liz Skelton and Liz Weaver for this one-day masterclass and learn how to apply adaptive leadership principles and practices to your collaborative initiative while demonstrating its relevance and application to system, organizational, community and personal challenges.

Vancouver, BC - May 23

Edmonton, AB - May 24

Calgary, AB - May 25

Toronto, ON - May 28

Ottawa, ON - May 29

Registration and Event Info:

<http://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/adaptive-leadership-masterclass>

Upcoming Webinar

Business and the Minimum Wage

Speakers: Catherine Ludgate and Greg Durocher, with Paul Born
Date: April 23rd from 12:00 – 1:00 pm EDT

Two business leaders from B.C. and Ontario – Living Wage Advocate, Catherine Ludgate; and Greg Durocher, Advocate for small business and President and CEO of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce - will share with us two very different views on the \$15 per hour wage increases and challenge our assumptions about what the new minimum means for us and our economies. They will share insights based on their business experience, and suggest how employers and employees can prepare for the upcoming changes.



Register Now: <http://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/webinar-business-minimum-wage>

UPCOMING WEBINAR

When Collective Impact Has Impact

Session 1: The Collective Impact Fieldwide Evaluation

Date: April 24th | 1:00 – 2:00 pm EDT

Session 2: Canadian Collective Impact Case Studies

Date: May 8th | 1:00 – 2:00 pm EDT

Session 3: Lessons Learned from Vibrant Communities Canada

Date: June 7th | 1:00 – 2:00 pm EDT



The registration link will be sent to you with the follow-up email

Next BC CoP Call

- June 2018 – TBD – Stay tuned for an invitation to RSVP



www.vibrantcanada.ca