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Building on Success

The Spryfield Action Project ("Action") in Halifax moved into its second year of operations with renewed energy.

About the time Action released *We Are Spryfield, Our Community Profile 2006*, the Spryfield Action Grant Review Committee sent out a call for proposals, which resulted in a flurry of neighbourhood and community activities by residents and local groups.



Building on the success of April's community workshop and on resident's ideas for the future of their community, the Spryfield Community Action Coalition was formed by people who want to make a difference.

In another step forward, the Spryfield Resource/Advisory Committee held its first meeting in August with membership that includes the local MLA, MP, a school board representative, a member of the local Business Commission and a local business person.

The Committee's Co-chairs are Stephen Adams, local Municipal Councillor, and Stephen Dempsey, a UW board member and CEO of the Greater Halifax Partnership.



The Spryfield Community

Related Links:

- [ANC in Spryfield](#)
- [Read the Spryfield Community Profile](#)

Resources

ANC Tools Updated - *A Guide for Neighbourhood Planning and Community Capacity Building and Community Capacity Building Planning Resources for Neighbourhood Renewal* have now been updated, with input from the ANC sites. To access the final versions, visit the *Tools* page [here](#).

Community Building: Coming of Age - This report from the Urban Institute provides an excellent 'where are we now' summary of community building initiatives, with a focus on major emergent themes and strategies. It focuses on a new, non-uniform approach to helping address the problems and opportunities of both impoverished inner-city neighbourhoods and rural areas. This approach focuses on replacing feelings of dependency with attitudes of self-reliance, confidence and responsibility. To read the report, click [here](#).

ANC Updates – What's New

Tamarack launches new season of tele-learnings

Each of the ANC sites, along with members of Vibrant Communities initiatives and United Ways across Canada, are participating in a series of tele-learning sessions on Community Building and Neighbourhood Revitalization. The result will be a dynamic conversation which we will capture and animate online, with speakers and participants alike sharing their rich depth of experience in neighbourhood revitalization.

In the first series of calls, Paul Born of Tamarack interviewed Ira Barbell, Senior Associate with the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), about the Foundation and its work, especially the [Making Connections Initiative](#). Ira shared some excellent insights on neighbourhood revitalization. Check out the webpage we've created on this [here](#).

Key collaborators at the United Way will join us in a series of calls with the United Way and the Aspen Institute on November 1, January 17, February 14 and March 14.

We will also be hosting four peer-to-peer tele-learnings for ANC sites on October 18, November 8, February 7 and February 21. These are scheduled to coincide with and complement the Face-to-Face National Meeting.

For more information on any of these events, please contact Anne Blayney of Tamarack at (519) 885-5155 ext. 109 or anne@tamarackcommunity.ca.

Face-to-face national meeting

ANC project staff, volunteers and residents are gathering in Halifax from October 25 to 27. This will be a wonderful chance for residents, site managers and staff, and all of the national partners to get together to discuss progress and to make plans for the future! Plans are well underway for a day of reflection, planning and face-to-face learning.

ANC Year 1 tools upgraded and released

A Guide for Neighbourhood Planning has undergone an edit and review process, with input from the ANC sites, and now the final version is available online. This tool outlines a comprehensive approach to neighbourhood planning, focusing on multisectoral collaboration, comprehensive thinking and action, community learning and change, and community asset building. Download this tool [here](#).

Similarly, *Community Capacity Building Planning Resources for Neighbourhood Renewal* has also been upgraded. This tool includes a theoretical framework for ANC's approach to planning, as well as an overview of the process, a glossary of terms and extensive relative resources. Download this tool [here](#).

New ANC tool launched

A brand new tool, *Strengthening Links with Local Government*, is now available! This tool explores the wide variety of interactions that determine the nature of the relationship between local governments and a resident-led, community-based initiative such as ANC. It also offers practical suggestions for improving interactions and strengthening relationships. While the tool is primarily intended for ANC staff and volunteer residents, it will also be a valuable resource for municipal governments who have an interest in neighbourhood vitality. Download this tool [here](#).

Caledon's path forward

Lazy days of summer can give the appearance that things are slowing down. In projects like ANC, the pace shifts towards individual and small group efforts that are integrated in the Fall. At Caledon, work continues on the development of tools and community stories.

Caledon was active in a small group that undertook a major revision of the Neighbourhood Vitality Index drafted by United Way Greater Toronto. As well, Tamarack is collaborating with Caledon to prepare one of its two ANC tools. This document, recently named *ANC Sketches: Building a Neighbourhood Renewal Process*, will frame successful site projects within the context set by the ANC theory of change that was developed in Year 1. Similar, well-received tools were created by the Vibrant Communities project and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The plan for Caledon's final series of five community stories is to consult with site managers near to the end of the project to begin the process of defining what elements of their work they wish to highlight. The stories will likely feature actions taken and lessons learned, and will identify – from the neighbourhood perspective – what elements of ANC need to be embedded into local structures in order for neighbourhood revitalization to continue.

The government learning agenda was also developed over the summer. The next activity will be a presentation in September to the Collaborative Community Initiatives Speakers Series by United Way Greater Toronto on the Neighbourhood Vitality Index. In addition, plans are already underway for the first national project meeting where Tamarack will connect ANC participants in Halifax to the Speakers Series in Ottawa. This special component will take advantage of linking neighbourhood resident leaders directly with policy and program staff.

One of the great strengths of ANC has been the ability to track, document and analyze our story and learnings. For this reason, reflection sessions have been both a learning opportunity and a snapshot in time. Caledon Institute is organizing these sessions on behalf of the project, the first of which is being planned as part of the National Project Meeting in October.