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Sustaining Neighbourhood Revitalization

With Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC) expected to wind down in March 2007, participants at October's National Project Meeting held in Halifax were keen to address the sustainability of their community efforts.



Residents and staff from the five ANC neighbourhoods, as well as representatives from the national project office, Tamarack and Caledon gathered for this face-to-face meeting to take part in learning and reflection sessions that addressed ANC's next steps.

Participants engaged in a number of collaborative and informative sessions, including a World Café, hosted by Cheryl Gorman of Caledon, and a remote presentation by the Honourable Michael Harcourt, Chair of the former Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities, about his committee's report, *From Restless Communities to Resilient Places*.

Susan Taylor Simpson led a workshop about strengthening relationships with local government. The Simpson-Ogden and Spryfield neighbourhoods enriched this session by sharing their valuable experiences.

Everyone left the meeting with a high level of energy and commitment to make the most of the next few months.



[Read a full review of the National Project Meeting here](#)

Related Links:

- [From Restless Communities to Resilient Places](#)
- [Strengthening Links with Local Government](#)

Resources

End Games: The Challenge of Sustainability – This resource by the Annie E. Casey Foundation is designed for both funders and grantees. It addresses the specific challenges of sustainability that comprehensive community initiatives face. Its 12 “Suggestions from the Field” consider how to deal with sustainability and develop a theory of sustainability. To read this resource, click [here](#).

Sustaining Comprehensive Community Initiatives: Key Elements for Success – This guide, composed by the Finance Project, explores eight elements that are critical to achieving sustainability for comprehensive community initiatives. Access the guide [here](#).

ANC Updates – What’s New

ANC updates local government tool

Susan Taylor Simpson continues to work on ANC’s latest tool, *Strengthening Links with Local Government*. The tool was distributed at the National Project Meeting and includes notes from Susan about providing valuable feedback. *Strengthening Links with Local Government* will be updated and distributed in its final form in early January 2007. Interested in providing your own feedback? Read the tool [here](#) and contact Susan Taylor Simpson at susant@tamarackcommunity.ca with your comments and suggestions.

Tele-learning events rescheduled

The tele-learning events originally scheduled for November have been rescheduled. A new series on place-based neighbourhood revitalization is under development for December/January, featuring Anne Kubisch of the Aspen Institute. Anne will engage in a conversation about neighbourhood revitalization strategies, including vertical collaboration and working across neighbourhoods. For more information about this series, please contact Anne Blayney at anne@tamarackcommunity.ca or (519) 885-5155 ext. 109.

New paper focuses on the communities agenda

An important goal for year two at ANC is to demonstrate the link between neighbourhood revitalization and the communities agenda. Sherri Torjman sets the context for this work with *Shared Space: The Communities Agenda*, the first paper of a series. The paper defines the communities agenda and develops it within the context of theories on resilience, innovation and its application as cluster-based economic development. The goal of the communities agenda is to promote resilience in order to build strong, vibrant communities. To access the paper, click [here](#).

ANC sketches a new tool

Caledon, Tamarack and United Way of Canada-Centraide Canada are close to completing *ANC Sketches: Building a Neighbourhood Renewal Process*, a tool for neighbourhood and community planners to use when engaging in renewal work. This tool is designed to stimulate thinking about the process of change and provide examples of revitalization. *ANC Sketches* opens by describing how neighbourhood change happens using a 'theory of change' refined from *Orienteering Over New Ground: A Neighbourhood Theory of Change*. This theory is demonstrated by 12 sketches of revitalization efforts currently underway in the five ANC neighbourhoods. The tool also considers the sketches collectively, analyzing the types of work done and how they exemplify, enrich and refine the way we think about neighbourhood renewal.

Caledon incorporates learning into speaker series

Caledon has worked actively with ANC's federal government sponsors and partners to incorporate learning into their Collaborative Community Initiatives Speaker Series. ANC's second presentation was given in September, with Diane Dyson of the United Way of Greater Toronto and Sean Meagher of ANC Scarborough Village as part of a panel presenting community-based evaluation work. The October session featured Michael Harcourt, Chair of the Prime Minister's External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities. Residents from ANC sites were able to send pre-taped questions to Michael Harcourt, and both Caledon and Tamarack were invited to a meeting with Mr. Harcourt to talk about community-based approaches.

Fine-tuning the next steps

The fourth National Project Meeting opened with a reflection day hosted by Caledon. Residents, site managers, local United Way staff and national project partners held a lively World Café where participants identified six themes for important learning – sustainability, measuring impact and outcomes, nurturing environment, change process, relationships and communication. Smaller groups convened to discuss details for each theme. This knowledge will be used to adjust plans for the balance of the project.

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](#).