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Celebrating Success

If there's one thing that Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC) sites have learned, it's that nothing brings people together like a party, with plenty of food and lots to celebrate. What could be more appropriate to conclude ANC's two-year run than a celebratory gathering with representatives from all the sites and national partners?



Residents, site staff, and national partners came together in Ottawa February 28-March 1 to reflect on their ANC experiences and to commemorate the many, many success stories that have emerged through the project.

Project managers, United Way staff, and residents each had "unplugged" reflection sessions. Residents also toured Parliament Hill and spoke with their Members of Parliament, before everyone joined for dinner in the Byward Market.

On February 28, Brian Strom from the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution led neighbourhood residents through a seminar on community conflict resolution.

An afternoon celebration featured an awards ceremony in which groups created wild and wonderful awards for aspects of the ANC experience they felt were worth celebrating. (Check out the *Sunflowers Growing Across Canada* update for more on this event!)

An evening reception was more formal but no less celebratory. Residents from each of the five sites gave presentations about the ongoing work in their neighbourhoods, highlighting their many successful initiatives. Al Hatton, President and CEO of United Way of Canada/Centraide Canada, also spoke, promising to incorporate the learnings from ANC into the future direction of the entire organization.

Related Links:

- [Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution](#)
- [United Way of Canada](#)

Resources

Easy to Use Community Level Data - The first in a series of products from the 2007 edition of the Urban Poverty Project is now on-line. Community Profiles includes national, provincial, and community statistics about population, households, labour force activity, and education levels. More [here](#). [Source: CCSD]

What Motivates Low-Income Volunteers? - Vibrant Abbotsford is engaged in actively learning about what motivates low-income volunteers. Learn more about the volunteer work being done by residents in British Columbia [here](#).

ANC Updates – What’s New

Policy and Place now online

In ANC’s latest tele-learning seminar Neil Bradford from the University of Western Ontario/Canadian Policy Research Networks engaged in a conversation with Paul Born of Tamarack, entitled “Place-Based Policy and the Communities Agenda: Taking Stock, Moving Forward.” They discussed the current state of research and learning about place-based community building initiatives. Read more and listen to the conversation [here](#).

Sunflowers growing across Canada

What would a final project meeting be without a little celebration among participants? Up to this point our reflections have been gathered in thoughtful and serious meetings. Now it was time to do some right brain reflection and have some fun at the same time. Project partners gathered in small teams to create an award that they would like to present to the ANC project as a whole. Using glitter glue, balloons, pipe cleaners, and an assortment of material suitable for summer camp craft time, partners created a physical ‘trophy’ for the award ceremony. Laughter filled the room as people whipped up ANC cakes and ‘sewed’ trousers that would rival those in the *Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants*.

As each award was presented, stories explaining the trophies reflected an amazing depth of learning and emotion. With the stage set for celebration, partners were presented with a package of sunflower seeds to remind them of how many seeds have been sown across the country through ANC and to encourage them to keep turning to the sun as our neighbourhood revitalization work continues. As each team member came up to receive their seeds, we paused to honour their unique contributions to the ‘art of the possible.’



National Neighbourhood Network

A National Symposium on Neighbourhood Level Indicators was held in Ottawa, March 19-20, 2007. The Symposium was coordinated by Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC), and co-sponsored by the Centre on Governance (University of Ottawa) and The City of Ottawa.

After two days of introductions and discussion, participants agreed to form a National Neighbourhoods Network (Triple N, N?, or 3N) that will facilitate sharing experience and comparing research findings on place-based neighbourhood work. In turn, this will enable community development practitioners, municipal planners, researchers and service providers to work toward a body of knowledge and practice that will significantly improve their capacity to improve neighbourhood wellbeing.

Participants—including academics, practitioners, researchers, data providers, front-line community workers and included policy-makers—will work to raise the visibility of place-based neighbourhood revitalization and demonstrate why it is a highly effective way to address complex societal issues. The objective will be to combine the voices of many different sectors and organizations to develop a coherent collective “neighbourhood agenda” and make the case for long term investment by all levels of governments.