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We Are Spryfield

"I don't usually come out to meetings and I was hesitant about how I would feel about today. But now that I've had a chance to chat with other residents around the theme of Spryfield's image, I'm keen to do more." - Resident

The Spryfield community meeting on January 21st was a great success! Action for Neighbourhood Change staff reported back to the community on what has been learned and heard over the past 6 months.

The meeting also marked the beginning of the next stage for Action: creating interest and enthusiasm with the residents to start crafting a vision for their community.



Over 50 residents participated in the meeting. Predominately from Spryfield, they brought energy and many creative ideas to the process.

The meeting focused on seven key themes:

- Recreation & Leisure
- Income & Employment
- Education & Literacy
- Culture & Image
- Community Network
- Housing & Development
- Natural Environment

25 people indicated their interest in future meetings on one of the chosen themes. ANC staff will provide support to these 25 residents over the next three months as they start meeting as a team to craft a vision for their theme of interest. Residents will re-convene in the spring to formalize their vision for the community.



[Read a full account of the meeting!](#)

Related Links

- [We are Spryfield](#)
- [The 7 Spryfield Themes](#)
- [Our Community is on the Go! - A Community Forum](#)

Resources

Not Quite Chaos - This report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation is intended as an aid to thinking more concretely and uniformly about features that can be modeled and understood in ways that make the "art" of community building more like a disciplined field of study and practice. The report addresses two questions: What is community building and how do we model it as a sustainable community change process? What might a community-building effort look like on the ground? Access the report [here](#).

CITIZENShift - This National Film Board of Canada web site initiative is dedicated to citizen engagement and social change. Get unique content from active citizens, independent filmmakers and multimedia artists. Voice your opinion, or contribute creatively! Visit the CITIZENShift website [here](#).

ANC Updates – What's New

ANC Films now online!

Check out some of the incredible work the National Film Board has been doing in ANC neighbourhoods! In partnership with each ANC neighbourhood, the NFB is using video as a tool to train youth, crystallize and visualize the challenges identified by the communities themselves as well as providing a method to engage you, the web-visitor, to share in the excitement of this project. Now online you'll find a fantastic video of residents from the five cities describing their neighbourhood, a profile of ANC in Thunder Bay, and two incredible videos featuring the youth of Scarborough Village. Check them all out [here](#)!

Learning about what works south of the Border

In late January, ANC representatives from Halifax, Scarborough Village, and the national office, had the opportunity to visit [Lawrence CommunityWorks](#), a non-profit community development corporation dedicated to the sustained economic and physical revitalization of the city of Lawrence, Massachusetts, for some peer exchange and learning. The group spent time with Bill Traynor, the Executive Director of CommunityWorks and a recognized expert in community development and neighbourhood planning, as well as Ira Barbell and Garland Yates of the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#).