



Building a Creative Community

David Hay

Director, Family Network

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Background

- This presentation was to the *In a Perfect World* Community Forum, organized by the *Moving Forward Together Project*. The forum was held in Cambridge, Ontario, on February 26, 2005.
- The goal of the day-long meeting was to share information on building creative communities in Canada and to update residents on the progress of the community project.
- This presentation was the keynote address to set the context on the day's discussion.



Canadian Policy Research Networks

- Who are we?
- What do we do?
 - Networks: Family, Work, Health, Public Involvement
 - Family Network
 - *Research*: Cities and Communities, Family Policy, Governance and Accountability
 - *Resources*: Diversity Gateway, Kids Canada, Urban Nexus, E-Network
 - *Public Affairs and Outreach*

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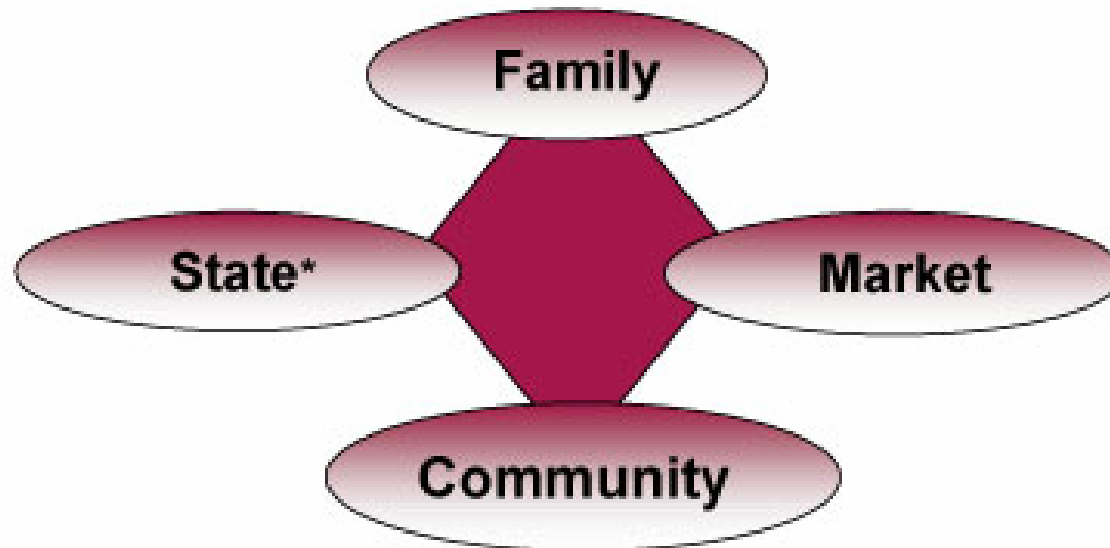
Community Well-Being

- What do we know about achieving community well-being?
 - WHO: Well-Being and the Responsibility Mix
 - WHAT: Determinants of Population Health
 - WHERE: Place Matters
 - WHEN: All the Time
 - WHY: Canadian Values
 - HOW: Governance Matters



Well-Being and the Responsibility Mix

The Well-being Diamond



*State includes governments (federal, provincial, territorial and municipal) and core public services such as education and health care.

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Determinants of Population Health

- Romanow's Tips

- Don't be poor
- Get an education
- Pick your community
- Be active
- Get a good start in life
- Get a job
- Live in good quality housing
- Eat well

- And more

- Culture
- Peace
- Environment
- Safety



Place Matters

- Access to local knowledge and networks
- Where problems, and innovations, originate
- Variations of local experience means one-size *doesn't* fit all
- Policy and programs have to be responsive to a community's character



Foundation of Canadian Values

- Sharing
- Caring
- Respect
- Accountability
- Truth (and its plurality)
- Fairness
- Responsibility
- Engagement
- Diversity (e.g., culture, religion, lifestyle)

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A Challenging Process

- Achieving well-being involves an ongoing, very dynamic and very challenging process of knowledge development, understanding and implementation
- In other words: We have to keep working on attaining well-being, all the time ...



Governance Matters

- Working together
- Ensuring coherence in policy and programs
- Centralized *and* decentralized government doesn't work – collaborative governance is required
- Enhanced governance necessary to foster dialogue and build trust



Challenges We Face

- Life is changing
 - Changing demographics (kids, seniors, immigrants)
 - Women's labour force participation
 - Work / life balance
 - Family instability
- Where's the money?
 - Globalization and competition
 - Knowledge- and service-based economy
 - Vulnerable workers and inequality



Opportunities

- Tremendous learning from abundant community social and economic development activities
- Power of information sharing and information management
- Federal government
- Provincial government
- Municipal government
- Markets



Creative Communities

- Harnessing the flows
 - People
 - Investment
 - Ideas
 - Policy
 - Security
- Making it work
 - Collaboration

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Creative Communities

- Who does what?
- How will we know?
 - Measuring Progress
- Are we there yet?
 - Indicators of Success



So, What Do We Know?

- A solid understanding of community well-being – what it is and how to achieve it
- But, challenges abound
- As do opportunities

What Don't We Know?

- Who we're going to meet tomorrow
- What we're going to do



What to Do?

- Finding the balance, the resources and the supports for dynamic community engagement, shared learning and a commitment and ability to change



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For additional information:

<http://www.cprn.org>

e-mail: family@cprn.org

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