

PROFILE of Enhancing Services North of 153 Ave

Vision:

- Communities North of 153 Ave are healthy, active, and engaged with services that support their sense of community.

Goals:

- Enhance the awareness and accessibility of existing resources and supports to residents.
- Identify existing / emerging community issues and concerns through community consultations.
- Facilitate community events to engage residents to meet and know their neighbours and create a sense of community.
- Empower communities to be self-determined – to define what they want their geographic community to look like and what services and resources they need to make their community healthy, active, and engaged.

Desired Outcomes:

For Residents:

- Have an increased awareness of the current services and programs available to them
- Knowledge to know where to advocate to get their needs met
- Are engaged in identifying their needs to create a healthy and vibrant community
- Able to create & lead community events that will develop and promote a sense of community.
- Build relationships to enhance a strong sense of community between neighbours.

For Community Services & Agencies:

- Support communities who are engaged and have identified issues and needs that impact their community and as a whole are working towards a positive solution
- Internal discussions between city departments and provincial ministries to include social impact studies when determining the design and zoning of communities.
- Increased partnerships between social service agencies/organizations, Community Services and the community at large.
- Facilitate activities and events that bring neighbours together.
- Engage multicultural communities in where they are.

History:

- Jan 08': Mapping program family postal code locations as well as waitlisted families.
- Demographic maps updated with latest census information (presented Feb 2009).

Advocacy

- To raise the profile of the importance of a social infrastructure in the overall design of communities in a geographic area within the civic and provincial levels of government.

Community Engagement:

- Dec 07- Spring 08: Community Questionnaire developed and given out.
- Jan-Apr '09: University Student engaging with Youth with the Photo Voice Project.
- Jun-Dec '09: Facilitate community events that will engage residents to have input into a healthy “community” and services needed.

Based on the maps and observations, assumptions were made about what is “community” and gaps in services that prevent a community from Testing Assumptions – questionnaire – what residents are actually experiencing.

Background Research

To capture “snapshots” of the communities North of 153 Ave maps of the following areas were created:

- Demographically – maps by age, ethnicity, socio-economic etc.
- “Calls for service” – maps reflect the need for social and community services.
- To conduct a Literature Review – research to support “what is community and why it is important”.
- Photovoice – depicting “What is Community from a Youth Perspective”

Members & Organizations Represented:

- ABC Head Start
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Capital Health – Collective Kitchens
- Child and Family Services
- City of Edmonton Community Services
- CPEF – Community Partnership Enhancement Forum
- Dickensfield Amity House
- Edmonton Police Service – NET Team
- Edmonton Public Library - Londonderry
- Edmonton Public School Board
- EYOC
- Faith-based Organizations
- Health For Two
- Interagency Head Start Network
- KARA Family Resource Centre
- Kids Kottage
- M.A.P.S. Alberta Capital Region
- Multi-Culture Representatives
- North Edmonton Christian Fellowship Church
- University of Alberta – Human Ecology Department
- YMCA

Updated: March, 2010