

**CHECK UP**

**November 29, 2013**



Bundle up those you love and head to the Ladysmith Light Up Thursday November 28th! It is magical and festive and is worth the drive! Be sure to attend the Duncan City Centre Light Up on Friday November 29th... Both are wonderful ways to welcome the Holiday Season.

**Today’s Check up Includes:**

* Meeting Schedules
* Community meetings and Events
* CDH Site Selection Forums
* Cowichan Mental Health News Letter
* Tamarack’s Champion of Change

Conference

* Votes are needed for the Mount Prevost Neighbourhood and School Project!
* BC Worst for Child Poverty

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**CCHN Network Member Meetings-**

**Next CCHN Meeting Thursday December 12,** Dinner at 5:30 Meeting starts at 6:00 pm CVRD Board Room

**Communications Committee meeting** Tuesday December 3rd at 3:00 pm Committee Room 2 CVRD

**Asset Mapping and Research Committee Meeting** Friday Dec 6, 2:00 pm Committee Room 2 CVRD

**Admin Committee Meeting Wednesday December 18**, 5:30, Location to be announced- Contact Cindy for more information.

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**Upcoming Events/ Workshops/ Community Meetings**

**Community Forums for future Cowichan District Hospital Site Selection**

November 30, 10 am to 12 noon, Ladysmith Seniors Hall

November 30, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Cowichan Lake Arena Multi Purpose Hall

December 7, 10 am to 12 noon Kerry Park Arena Mill Bay

December 7, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Vancouver Island University

Ladysmith Light Up Thursday November 28

City of Duncan Light Up Friday November 29

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**PROJECT MOUNT PREVOST “Let’s Get Moving” Needs your help to vote daily starting DECEMBER 2 and ending December 11 (See attachment for more information)**

Thank you for your support of "Project Mt. Prevost: Let's Get Moving" the intergenerational community playground we are proposing for Mt. Prevost Elementary. The Elementary kids were relocated from their beloved school at Duncan Elementary to a middle school built for teenagers. Our first priority to was to build a playground, but given the very large playing fields now available to us at the new site, we thought we could do much more, and were keen to try something that would benefit the entire community. I used to sit on North Cowichan's Parks & Recreation Commission, and during that time, this particular neighbourhood was one identified as in need of attention. With that in mind, we have applied for a large [AvivaCommunityFund.org](http://AvivaCommunityFund.org) grant ($100,000-$150,000) to build a playground for all: play structures for students, an outdoor classroom for teachers, an outdoor exercise circuit for seniors, a community garden for neighbours, a natural play area for toddlers and a picnic space for everyone. We like to think of it as a great use of public resources, but also as just plain fun.

Please find attached our media kit which gives details of our plan, along with photos and sketches. Please call if you need further information or background material.

The final stage of our Aviva grant competition begins on Monday. We finished the qualifying rounds within the top 5 of 1000+ applications Canada-wide, and 3rd place in our division (large projects $100,000-$150,000). We have to maintain our position within the top 10 through the next and final round of online voting. **If you can, please log on and vote for us daily Dec. 2-11 at:** [**avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf17520**](http://avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf17520)**.**

With sincere thanks,

Mona Kaiser

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**Tamarack Champions of Change Conference**

As a community leader and member of Tamarack’s Learning Community, you are among the first to receive an invitation to **Champions for Change: Leading a Backbone Organization for Collective Impact,** an exclusive learning opportunity for collaborative leaders happening in Vancouver, British Columbia April 1-3, 2014. This advanced training is offered by the [Tamarack Institute](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?Tamarack/1aada9368c/9e11db1d4a/ba75baaa96) in collaboration with [FSG](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?Tamarack/1aada9368c/9e11db1d4a/0894e2369d) and will be delivered by John Kania, Fay Hanleybrown, Liz Weaver, and Paul Born.  
  
[Register](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?Tamarack/1aada9368c/9e11db1d4a/68544c0039) early as this event was oversubscribed in Cincinnati and Toronto in 2013.  
  
**For more information about this unique learning please visit our website:** [**here**](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?Tamarack/1aada9368c/9e11db1d4a/cdb2a6a0db)**.**   
  
We have designed this multi-day workshop for leaders like you, who are working to guide collective impact initiatives towards positive social change. As a member of a backbone organization – dedicated to guiding a cross-sector group of stakeholders toward a common goal – you play a critical role in collective impact. We invite you to join other backbone leaders in person to share learning and experiences as peers.   
  
In this workshop you will:

* **Strengthen** your ability to guide your collective impact initiative toward results
* **Learn** from, and build connections with, other experienced leaders of backbone organizations
* **Participate** in creating new resources and tools for the field of community collaborative and collective impact

**Join us from April 1 – 3, 2014 in Vancouver, British Columbia.**  
  
Workshop sessions will include topics such as:

* Deeply understanding the roles and impact strategies of the backbone organization
* Developing and learning from shared measurement
* Community engagement to build the will of your community
* Making collaborative governance effective
* Sustaining funding for collective impact over the long term
* Working in complexity and the importance of adaptive leadership
* Getting to true impact and systems change

Special rates are available for teams registering three or more people. For more information about event costs and logistics, please click [here](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?Tamarack/1aada9368c/9e11db1d4a/17af18b2b2).  
  
If you are part of a Leadership Roundtable or Backbone Support Organization – or are planning to build one – you won’t want to miss this essential learning opportunity. The event is sure to be in demand and space is limited so be sure to [register](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?Tamarack/1aada9368c/9e11db1d4a/c10b89f5c6) as early as possible. Please visit the [event webpage](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?Tamarack/1aada9368c/9e11db1d4a/f48229a681) for more details and contact [Kirsti](mailto:kirsti@tamarackcommunity.ca) if you have any questions or suggestions for additional attendees.  
  
Sincerely,  
  
The Tamarack Team

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**BC has worst Child Poverty Rate in the Country (First Call)**

Yesterday we released our annual report card on child poverty in BC, which found that once again BC is the worst in Canada when it comes to child poverty rates.  
  
You can download a copy from our special report card website: [www.worstincanada.org](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FirstCallBCChildandY/fbfede9775/321050fb30/b12c8236c2)  
  
While the statistics in the report are dismal, the incredible amount of attention the report has received is a hopeful sign that British Columbians care about the issue of child poverty and are ready for their government to take action.   
  
Read on below for more information about the report card, media coverage, and ways to take action. We will also be doing an in-depth overview of the report card at our next Coalition meeting on [Dec 11th](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FirstCallBCChildandY/fbfede9775/321050fb30/ee7ca22784).  
  
**The Facts: 2013 BC Child Poverty Report Card Highlights**  
  
BC’s child poverty rate increased again in 2011 to 18.6 per cent, using the LICO before tax measure. This again makes BC’s rate the highest of any province, and higher than the Canadian average of 13.3 per cent, according to the latest figures published by Statistics Canada.   
  
The number of poor children was 153,000 - or about one of every five BC children. About half, or 77,000, of these children lived in Metro Vancouver.  
  
The dramatic rise in the rate for children in female lone parent families from 21.5 per cent in 2010 to 50% in 2011 is particularly alarming.  
  
BC also had the most unequal distribution of income among rich and poor families with children. The ratio of the average incomes of the richest ten percent compared to the poorest ten percent was the largest of any province at 12.6 to one.  
  
Other key findings in the report include:

* BC also had the worst poverty rate at 14 per cent of any province for children living in two-parent families.
* In 2011, 32 per cent of the poor children in BC – 44,500 children – lived in families with at least one adult working full-time, full-year, exposing the problem of low-wage jobs.
* Most poor families with children live many thousands of dollars below the poverty line. In 2011, poor two-parent families had incomes $14,000 below the poverty line on average and poor single mother families were $9,000 below the line on average.
* For BC families, government transfers reduced the poverty rate using only market income from 27.1 per cent to 18.6 per cent, a decrease of 31 per cent. Other provinces accomplished larger percentage reductions.

The report proposes a range of solutions that fall within the scope of both provincial and federal government policies. These are all proposals that have strong support within our broad, cross-sectoral coalition and among the general public. Chief among them is the call for BC to adopt a comprehensive poverty reduction plan with specific targets and timelines for their achievement.  
  
**Media Coverage**

* Read our media release [here](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FirstCallBCChildandY/fbfede9775/321050fb30/ffba274c9f/p=84)
* Read Adrienne Montani and Dr. John Millar’s Op Ed in The Province [here](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FirstCallBCChildandY/fbfede9775/321050fb30/09e1abead6)
* Watch Adrienne Montani and Dr. John Millar’s interview on GlobalBC News [here](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FirstCallBCChildandY/fbfede9775/321050fb30/5c6b605560)
* Check out the wealth of other news coverage [here](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FirstCallBCChildandY/fbfede9775/321050fb30/e154ce222d/page_id=13)

**Take Action: Help us mobilize to end child poverty in BC!**

* Show you want action by [endorsing](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FirstCallBCChildandY/fbfede9775/321050fb30/d2e20c3311/page_id=150) the recommendations in the report card
* Write to your MLA and the Premier letting them know that you support First Call’s recommendations
* Share the report card with your family, friends and co-workers, and ask them to [endorse](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FirstCallBCChildandY/fbfede9775/321050fb30/1a898dd7de/page_id=150) the recommendations
* Share the report card and infographics with your networks on Facebook and Twitter (the news is already spreading, yesterday @FirstCallBC was trending in Canada and #worstinca was trending in Vancouver!)
* Help us mobilize support for a poverty reduction plan for BC by [joining the call by the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FirstCallBCChildandY/fbfede9775/321050fb30/f9ae3fcdd0) for a legislated BC poverty reduction plan
* Support certified [Living Wage Employers](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?FirstCallBCChildandY/fbfede9775/321050fb30/58288757a5) who are committed to ensuring their employees are paid living wages

**And finally, thank you for your support, we couldn’t have had such a successful report card launch without you. Together we are making a positive difference in the lives of BC’s children and youth!**

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Do you have a resource, event or information you would like to share?

Send it to [cindylisecchn@shaw.ca](mailto:cindylisecchn@shaw.ca) and it will be included in the weekly Check UP Newsletter