

Ethno cultural Organizational capacity building support “Working Group”



Goal:

to deliver participatory and experiential organizational capacity building learning opportunities for members of emerging ethno-cultural groups.

“If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an Idea and I have and idea and we exchange these ideas. Then each of us will have two ideas” –

George Bernard Shaw

Partners in this collaboration

- The partnership is made up of
 - Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN)
 - Action For Healthy Communities (AHC)
 - The Multicultural Coalition and
 - Alberta Culture (AC).



Community volunteers are largest and most important partner

The project



Working Group

The project

Ethno cultural Organizational Capacity Building Support Project

Project activities:

- Organize and conduct a dialogue with ethno-cultural groups using the World Café Model to obtain topics of interest
- Based on the topics identified in the dialogue, design a curriculum and train nine community leaders/Animators on facilitation skills
- Organize and conduct a big Dialogue using the World Café Model as the last big community event, this will act as a learning experience for all the stakeholders.
- Ongoing Community Animation supports over the year as participants apply and adapt learning in their own community organization.
- Support of the working group to intentional collaboration building will include: regular meetings, planning, reflection and reporting on the process of building an intentional collaboration.

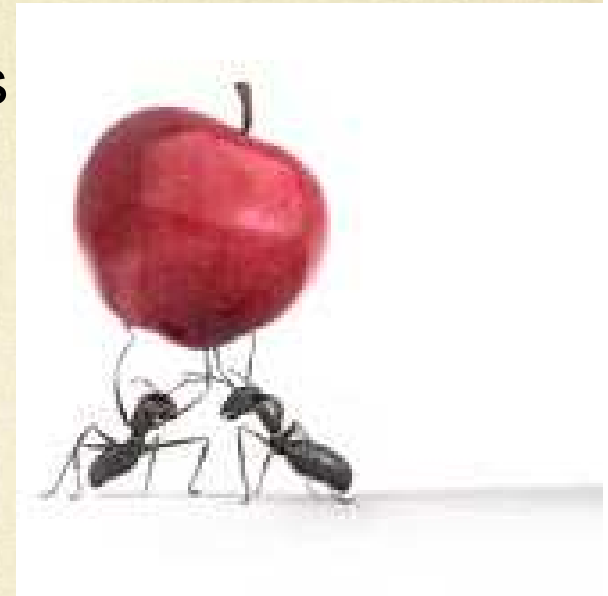
The project

Project outcomes:

- Increased comfort and knowledge of techniques for ethno cultural communities to approach mainstream agencies
- Increased knowledge and experience in a variety of topic areas identified by the communities themselves
- Strengthened relationships among partnering organizations through this partnership
- Increased awareness in community of partnership potential through the role model of AHC, EMCN, the Multicultural Coalitions' collaboration
- Increased ability of staff at Alberta Culture to support new and emerging ethno cultural groups.

Why Collaboration

- Common purpose of serving immigrant and refugee communities
- Common strategy – Community development approach
- Support of the funder (city of Edmonton) on collaboration



Objectives of the collaboration

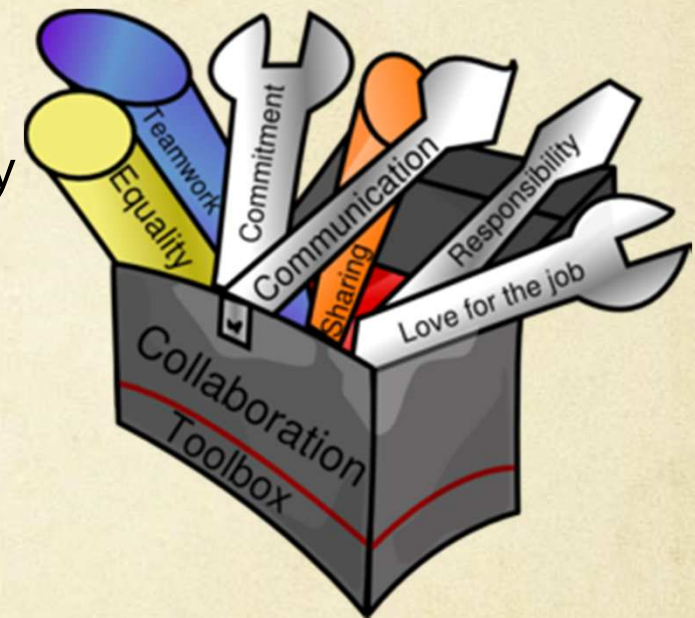
- To include emerging ethno-cultural communities that face barriers to participate in the existing programs and/or services in the community.
- To explore new and innovative ways for organizations from emerging ethno-cultural communities and established service providers to work together in partnership to adapt existing services and programs to more fully meet community needs

Why it worked well

- Focussed Coordination
- Resource sharing
- Amplification of impact – multidirectional approach to common goals
- Share information and processes – helps to improve each others' processes
- Standardization of our approaches and tools
- Potential for other projects to stem from the partnership

Success factors of the collaboration process

- Common purpose of the three organizations
- Continual coordination mechanisms
 - Monthly meeting that is rotationally hosted by each partner
- Open and frequent communication throughout
- Memorandum of understanding
- The role of Alberta Culture as neutral partner that brings supportive role on the table



What outcome ?



Working Group

Outcomes of the collaboration

- Individual Level:
 - Enhanced individual willingness to work with individuals from other organizations
- Group level:
 - New relationship and trust formed among the group
- Organizational level:
 - Enhanced organizational capacity to work with one another for mutual benefit
- Community level:
 - Community capacity enhanced through increased organizational networking

Impact of the collaboration

- Third year of this partnership
- Partners consider this collaboration as a “success”
- Other partnerships emerged between two of this collaborating partners
- Due to the success of this partnership EMC entered other additional collaborative projects
- The partnership is proving to be model for the community groups that we work with



Thank you !

Working Group