

Food Security - Animating Multicultural Communities Towards Food Security *(in partnership with Multicultural Family Resource Society)*

Presented by:
Yodit Tesfamicael
Project Coordinator
yodit@emcoalition.ca
780-760-1973
www.emcoalition.ca



Edmonton
Community
Foundation



Edmonton
Multicultural
Coalition

Outline

- Background – *Edmonton Multicultural Coalition and ‘All Together Now’ Program*
- Why Food Security? – *Food Security in Ethno-cultural Communities*
- What is Food Security? – *How do ethno-cultural communities define Food Security*
- Food Security Project Objectives
 - Connecting ethno-cultural communities to food relief services
 - Food Security Capacity Building – *Kilkenny Community Garden*
 - Recipe Sharing
 - Food Security Research - *Participatory Action Research (PAR)*

Outline

- Food Security Project Engagement Model
- Collaboration:
 - Collaborating with Animators
 - Collaborating with Coalition members and Ethno-cultural community members
 - Collaborating with Partners and Funders
- West End Food Hub Alliance (WEFHA)
- Questions

Edmonton Multicultural Coalition

- Edmonton Multicultural Coalition (the ‘Coalition’)
 - Started as a project under the Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative in 2002
 - Project objective:
 - *To develop civic spaces and engagement for ethno-cultural communities in the City of Edmonton*
 - Outcome of Project
 - *Formation of a Coalition to advocate for health and well being of ethno-cultural communities.*
 - The Coalition is now a membership based organization of culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Edmonton.

All Together Now Program - Community Animation Model

Program Goal

- Strengthen the capacities of immigrant and refugee groups and organizations to participate actively and meaningfully in active life in their neighborhoods and communities using the community animation model (CAM).

Animators

- A community animator is someone who comes from the community; knows the culture and the language of his/her community; has time to commit to the program; willing to learn and most importantly, dedicated to serve the best interest of the community.



Family and Community
Support Services
Association of Alberta

Why Food Security?

Edmonton Community Foundation: Vital Signs Report (2013)

- Edmonton's population is growing fast
- Edmonton settles many new comer and refugees populations each year
- Edmonton is becoming much more expensive to live in
- Unemployment rate and low wage work
- Edmonton residents report that food insecurity is a problem

Why Food Security in Ethno-cultural Communities?

Edmonton Multicultural Coalition Proposal 2014

- Multicultural communities access to food hampers
- Limited access to food security capacity building initiatives
- Knowledge gap on cultural issues that hinder access to food security services

What is Food Security? (Food Security meeting notes, August 2014)

Dialogue

Diversity

Accessibility

Availability

Sustainability

Knowing where
are food comes
from

Healthy and
nutritious

Food Security Project Objectives

- Creating awareness around food security among ethno-cultural communities
- Building capacity of ethno-cultural communities (animators)
- Promote healthy eating in ethno-cultural communities
- Understand cultural sensitivity of the food security initiatives through Participatory Action Research (PAR)

Connecting ethno-cultural communities to the existing food relief services

Food Relief Services

Training and connecting animators to Food Security Services:

- *Edmonton Food Bank*
- *WeCan Food Basket*
- *Mustard Seed Church*
- *Hope Mission*
- *Bissell Centre*

Other types of training:

- Tomato Preservation
- Jamming

Visit to the Food Bank December 2014



Food Security Capacity Building

Community Garden Potluck (August 2015)



Kilkenny Community Garden

- *Connecting community members with gardening opportunities*
- *Ensuring inclusion of all interested community members*
- *Working with Kilkenny community animator to undertake community gardening engagement*

Recipe Sharing

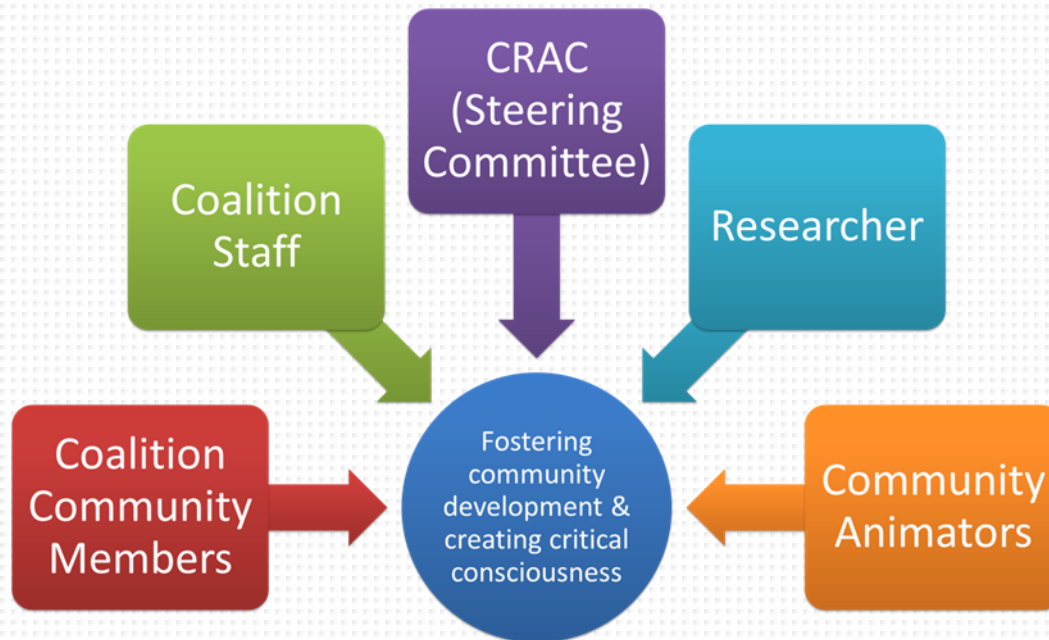
Sharing Cultural Foods and Healthy Eating

- *Provide opportunities for ethno-cultural community members to socialize and share cultural foods*
- *Promote nutritious food and healthy eating*

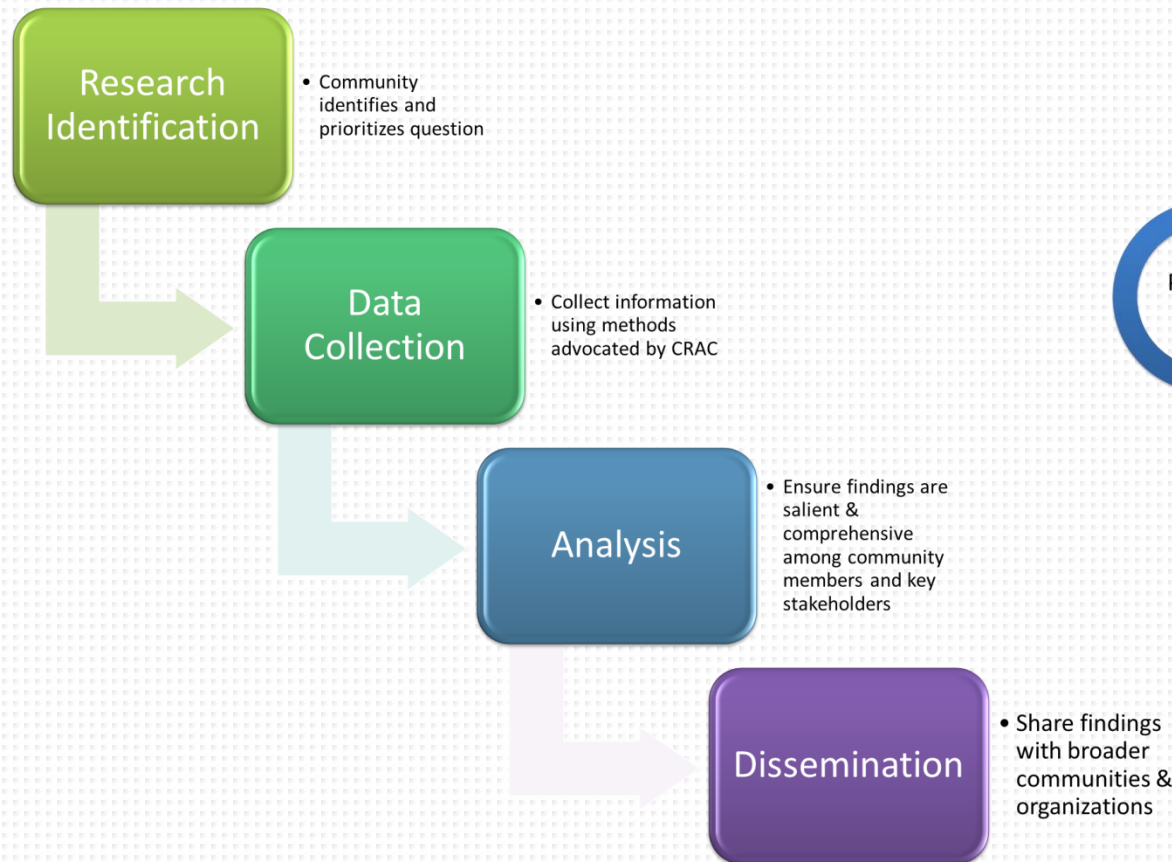
Recipe Sharing Potluck (December 2014)



What is Participatory Action Research (PAR) and who is involved? (Edmonton Multicultural Coalition Community Research Handbook, December 2013)



Food Security Research - Participatory Action Research (PAR)



Food Security Project Engagement Model



- **Food Security Team:** 3 Food Security Animators from 3 different communities, Research Facilitator, and Food Security Project Coordinator.
- **Coalition members and ethno-cultural community members:** Members that compose the Edmonton Multicultural Coalition and individuals or groups from ethnic communities connected to our animators or members.
- **Stakeholders:** Funders, partners, members of the community who share a common vision or goal.

Collaborating with Animators

- *Identify and define community issues*
- *Plan and coordinate activities*
- *Design and implement activities*
- *Share resources/information*
- *Train other animators/community members*
- *Develop relationships with multicultural communities and mainstream organizations*
- *Participate in PAR*

Collaborating with Coalition members and Ethno-cultural communities

- *Identify community issues*
- *Connect with potential animators and ethno-cultural communities*
- *Disseminate research findings to ethno-cultural communities*
- *Provide overall direction to the Coalition*

Collaborating with Partners and Funders

- *Sharing of program resources/information/experiences*
- *Coordinate on program activities to compliment each other's skills and assets*
- *Develop program activities based on common goals and vision.*

West End Food Hub Alliance (WEFHA)

- How did WEFHA form and which organizations make up WEFHA?
- What is WEFHA organizational structure? How are decisions made?
- How does WEFHA define Food Security?
- What activities is WEFHA involved in to address food insecurity?
- What types of collaboration is used to achieve project goals?
- What have been some of the challenges?

Questions?