

08
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Welcoming and Inclusive Communities

October 1, 2008



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Welcoming and Inclusive Communities

Outline

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of AUMA's WIC Initiative
- The Brooks Experience
- What does "Welcome" mean?
- Resources for Becoming Welcoming and Inclusive
- The Innisfail Experience



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AUMA's WIC Initiative

- Fort McMurray, Calgary, Edmonton, Brooks, Drayton Valley, and Lethbridge have signed the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD)



- Expressed the desire for assistance in implementing the commitments of CMARD and meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse population.

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AUMA's WIC Initiative

- AUMA Received a grant from the Human Rights Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund to develop a toolkit on creating welcoming and inclusive communities
 - Assist those who sign on to CMARD as well as those who want to become proactive in attracting and retaining newcomers



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AUMA's WIC Initiative

- It's about social sustainability
 - Building a positive community reputation
 - Preventing violence and conflict
 - Creating a vibrant and diverse community where all citizens can contribute to all dimensions of municipal sustainability



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AUMA's WIC Initiative

- The Toolkit provides ideas municipalities can adapt to the unique circumstances of their communities including:



- Key ingredients for success
- Planning and implementation mechanisms
- Municipal Illustrations
- Resources



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AUMA's WIC Initiative

- Available on the AUMA website under Toolkits
- Toolkit will be updated as municipalities in Alberta and across the country take on initiatives which can be used as models for other communities.
- New resources will also be added as they become available.

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COMMUNITIES TOOLKIT

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AUMA's WIC Initiative

- AUMA and Alberta Human Rights have embarked on a new partnership to further build municipal capacity
 - Build networks of municipalities, government departments and organizations that are working on these issues
 - Share information and resources and through expanding on tools and educational resources

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AUMA's WIC Initiative

- Support of Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship has allowed AUMA to contract a Senior Project Coordinator to work on WIC for the next three years
- Please welcome Marc Colbourne!
- Contact Marc at mcolbourne@auma.ca or 780-288-5803



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AUMA's WIC Initiative

- One of Marc's first priorities will to facilitate the sharing of experiencing between Alberta Municipalities that are engaged in becoming WIC.
 - Including sharing lessons learned by the CMARD community members who travelled to the Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Tolerance Training.



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Examples of Lessons Learned

- Racial violence starts with words.
- Prevention. Have your solutions ready for the right moment
- Need to start discussions on racism with an understanding that even if we have never experiences racism it is not all about “them”. It is about “we”

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Examples of Lessons Learned

- Leaders have to do their own work first
 - In municipalities Mayors and CAOs need to demonstrate leadership
- Build trust. A great deal happens at the relationship level
- Recognize self-interest. Realize what someone wants to get out of the process and then take them to higher ground

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Brooks

The Brooks Experience



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Thank you!

