



Safe Communities in the 21st Century **ACE Communities** ...active, creative, engaged

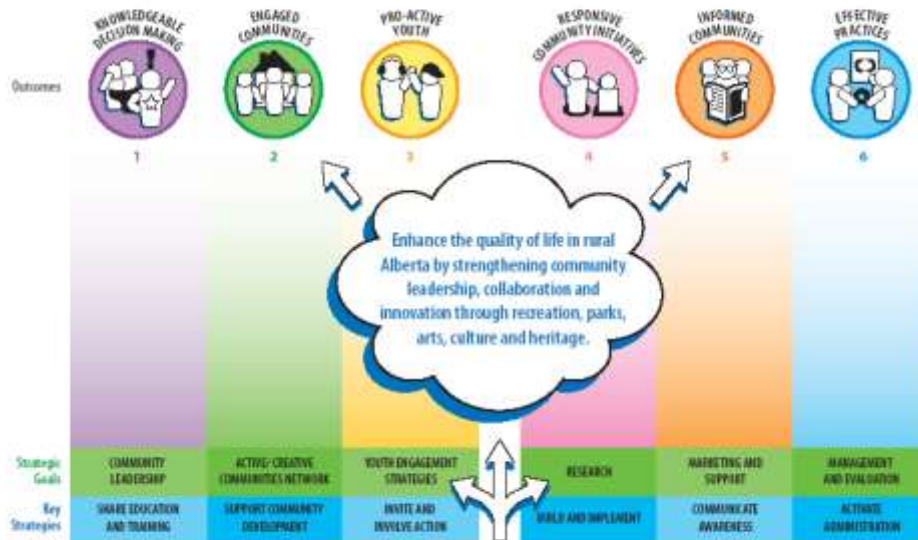


ELEVATOR PITCH

- **Communities get better when their leaders do**...local leaders get stronger when business, government, and non-profits are supported to work together for collective impact.
- ACE Communities serves as a **catalyst for collective impact** by providing a framework and support for community change. This community building equips local leaders to impact and innovate for individual, social, economic, and environmental development. **2**



ACE Communities



What's an ACE Community?

- High levels of citizens who are physically and socially active and involved
- Emphasis is placed on creativity, social capital and social cohesion... *quality of life*
- Communities where people want to live, work, play and visit

Characteristics of an ACE Community

- diverse recreation and active living opportunities
- citizens involved in decision making
- strong volunteer involvement
- inviting, sustainable design
- a high *quality of life* available and accessible to all
- a *feeling* of belonging

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Background

1. An initiative of Alberta Recreation and Parks Association:
 - Built on “Foundations for Action: Enhancing the Quality of Life in Alberta”
2. Funding
 - RADF, Encana, Cenovus Energy, Canwest Media
3. Governance
 - Governed by ARPA & Oversight Committee

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Core Beliefs

- Many **good things** are already happening
- Many of the issues in Alberta communities are the same but the solutions must be **community-controlled** and driven
- Community building is a crucial **foundation** for change and growth
- Receptiveness to change, and commitment to ideas and plans are greater **when people are involved** in their development
- Trusted **relationships**, interdisciplinary webs, and networks are key



13 Key Learnings

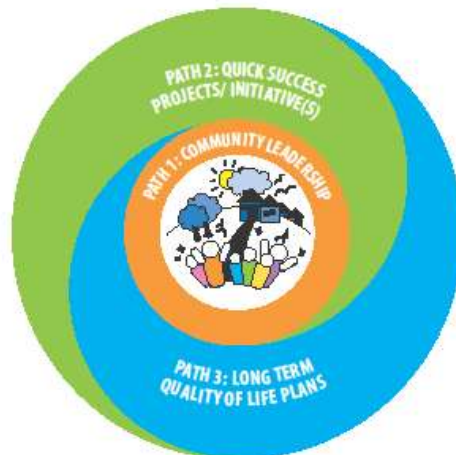


**1. There's a
"hunger" for
information,
connections,
and
community**



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**2. The "3 Paths" are a
transferable change "process"**



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3. The common values of successful communities are emerging

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Values of ACE Communities

1. Citizen engagement
2. Collective responsibility for community building
3. Integrated delivery systems
4. Diversity
5. Creativity
6. Sustainability
7. Recreation, parks, arts, culture and heritage are seen as important to quality of life
8. Community brand/personality
9. Strong communication
10. Status quo is not okay

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***4. Technology & social media
are essential for
knowledge management and
effective communication***

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***5. Community capacity
building requires ongoing
nurturing and support***

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***6. In an era of data overload,
“stories” and “passion”
resonate and reach***

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***7. Open-mindedness about
“spanning our boundaries”
needs to be encouraged and
supported***

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8. Need to move beyond traditional leadership and problem-solving models

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9. Forest vs tree thinking – greatest source of conflict

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***10. Recreation, parks, arts,
culture, and heritage
play a key role in
community building and
citizen engagement***

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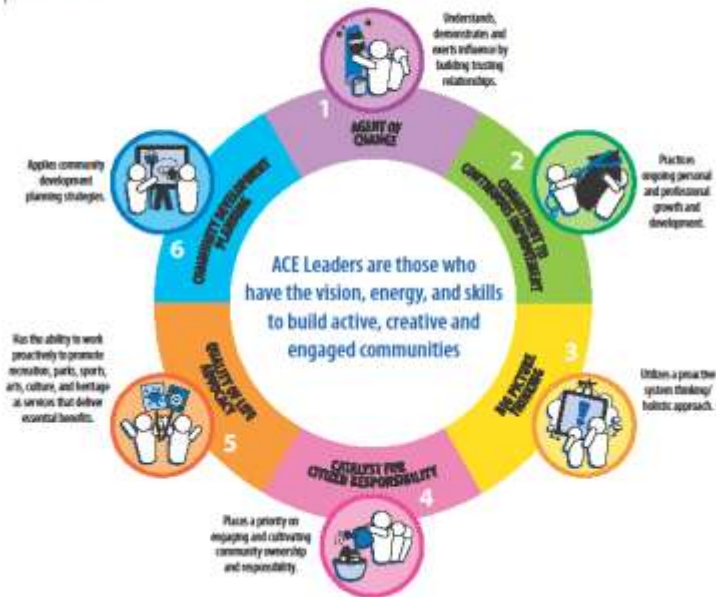


***11. Need for trusted
community leadership
training...
delivered first face to face,
then online***

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Six Competencies Required for ACE Community Leaders



12. Community building delivers a significant Return on Investment (ROI)



***13. Innovation requires support
by courageous/
unobtrusive funders***

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**More information:
Sign up for a free webinar
on October 14th 10:00 am**

<http://recc.arpahub.ca/>

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For more information or to sign up for our monthly newsletter see www.acecommunities.ca.

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