

Five Good Ideas® for building a sustainable and resilient collaboration

Liz Weaver and Mike Des Jardins

Tamarack Institute

Monday, May 8, 2023 – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

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It can be hard sustaining a collaboration, because tackling community issues together creates challenges to partnership and momentum. But you can set up a collaboration for success. Focus on four areas—people, resources, process, and impact—and the factors that determine their quality, like leadership, funding, community engagement, and the ability to influence policy and systems that lead to collective change. When things do get hard (and they will), the collaboration's resilience will be proven by its overall health and well-being, as well as its ability to adapt, shift, and change. Join Liz Weaver and Mike Des Jardins of the Tamarack Institute as they share stories and provide helpful ideas about how to make a collaboration more sustainable, resilient, and impactful. They will discuss how collaborations can develop a sustainable approach during the early phases of their work. They will also pose the question: What really needs to be sustained and how might this work?



Liz Weaver is the Co-CEO of the Tamarack Institute where she is leading the Tamarack Learning Centre which is focused on advancing community change leadership. The Tamarack Learning Centre promotes five strategic interconnected practices including collective impact, collaborative leadership, community engagement, community innovation, and evaluating community impact. Liz is well known for her thought leadership on collective impact and is the author of several popular and academic papers on the topic. She is a co-catalyst partner with the Collective Impact Forum. Liz is passionate about the power and potential of communities getting to impact on complex issues.



Mike Des Jardins is the Manager of Sustainability & Development for Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF), Tamarack Institute. In this role, Mike is responsible for sustainability planning, researching, and sharing best practices related to the sustainability and resilience of youth collective impact work, coaching CBYF communities on developing and implementing sustainability strategies, and telling the story of impact. Mike is a certified teacher in the province of Ontario and has worked directly with youth through program and service delivery and indirectly supporting youth by creating the system conditions to support their learning, development, and well-being.



Five Good Ideas

1. Get agreement on how you define sustainability and what it is you are seeking to sustain.
2. Consider the ten factors of sustainability with four core areas of people, process, resources, and impact.
3. Focus on centering equity in the design, process, and impact of collaborative work to build sustainability.
4. Be adaptable and resilient because collaboration and communities are changing every day.
5. Include funders in the conversation about sustainability – what are your shared and mutual goals.

Resources

- [10: A Guide for Building a Sustainable and Resilient Collaboration](#)
[10 – Un guide pour bâtir une initiative collaborative pérenne et résiliente](#)
- [Tool – Sustainability Self-Assessment](#)
[Outil - Auto-évaluation de la pérennité](#)
- [Tool – Eco-Cycle Mapping](#)
- [Racial Equity Toolkit](#)
- [How to Build Nonprofit Resilience: Three Strategies to Strengthen Organizations](#)



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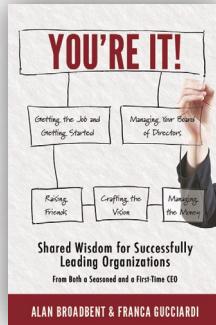
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