

CIVIC PARTNER 2017 ANNUAL REPORT SNAPSHOT- VCC INITIATIVES LTD (VIBRANT COMMUNITIES CALGARY)

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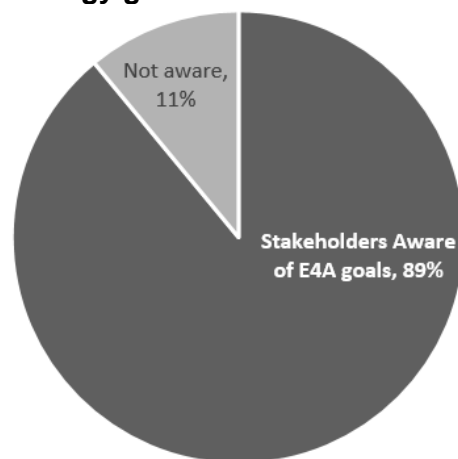
Mandate: VCC works to achieve a substantial and sustained reduction in the number of Calgarians living in poverty.

2017 City Investment

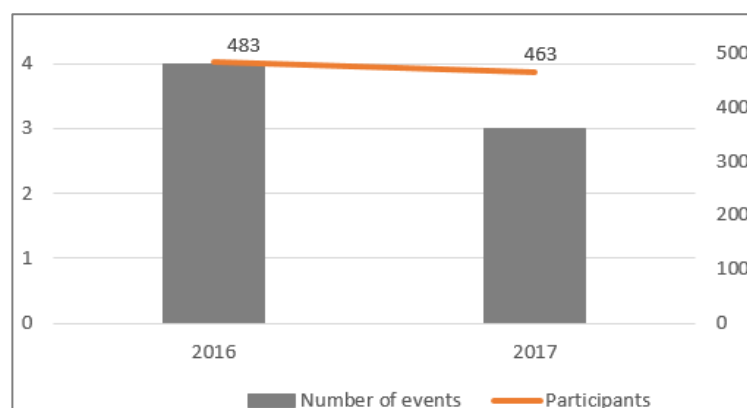
Operating Grant:\$500,000
City owned asset? No

How did they do in 2017?

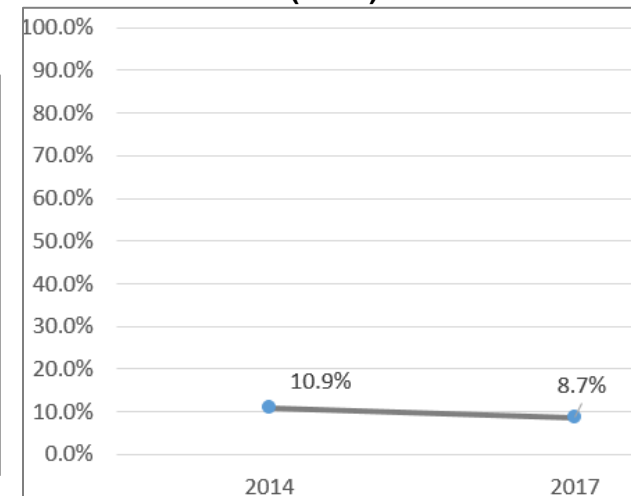
Awareness of Enough for All Strategy goals



Number of events & participants



Calgarians below the Low Income Cut-off (LICO)



The story behind the numbers

- VCC stewards the Enough for All Strategy through a collective impact model that brings together stakeholders to work together towards shared goals.
- Convening stakeholders is a key part of VCC's work.
- Despite the challenging economic conditions, programs and services that support low income Calgarians have helped support economic resilience of individuals and families.

Snapshot of 2018-19 priorities

- Advance truth, reconciliation and healing
- Increase financial empowerment
- Increase economic participation
- Increase social inclusion
- Improve access to services that meet basic needs
- Increase access to supports and services



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Organizational Structure: Independent External Organization

Fiscal Year: Ended December 31, 2017

Related Subsidiaries or Foundation: No

City 2017 Operating Grant: \$500,000

1. Current Vision, Mission and Mandate:

Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC) is a non-profit organization seeking to engage Calgarians in advocating long-term strategies that address the root causes of poverty in Calgary.

VCC works to achieve a substantial and sustained reduction in the number of Calgarians living in poverty.

VCC works to grow the social, economic and political engagement of Calgarians in their community. Vibrant Communities Calgary believes that everyone has a right to fully participate in their communities.

VCC believes that there are important systemic factors that contribute to poverty and that the whole community has a vital role to play in changing these conditions. Change occurs through engagement, inspiration and action. VCC values leadership, collaboration social justice and pragmatism.

As of January 1, 2015 VCC stewards Calgary's community-driven poverty reduction strategy: Enough for All.

2. What key results did your organization achieve in 2017 that contributed to one or more of the Council Priorities in Action Plan 2015-2018? (A Prosperous City, A City of Inspiring Neighbourhoods, or A Healthy and Green City?)

A Prosperous City

The **Financial Empowerment Collaborative** (focused in supporting low income Calgarians in reducing debt, growing savings and building assets) supported tax filing clinics in which 857 volunteers filed 8,445 returns that resulted in \$3.72 million in refunds. Furthermore, the collaborative's work resulted in 160 individuals in financial stress accessing financial coaching and 311 individuals graduating from Matched Saving programs (resulting in over \$400 thousand saved for assets building). Lastly, the program (through 17 partner agencies) supported families to open 961 Registered Educational Savings Plan accounts.

VCC also supports **Basic Income Calgary**, a collaborative focused in implementing a robust community engagement plan to continue building public will and support from key stakeholders for guaranteed basic income.

A City of Inspiring Neighbourhoods

The United Way and the City of Calgary in partnership with Rotary launched **the Community Hubs Initiative** in June. The Hubs have undertaken several initiatives to increase the social inclusion and economic participation of residents, including leading the Better Together campaign, launching microgrants for resident projects.

VCC led the **Community Hubs Collaborative** that jointly designed, drafted and published Community Hubs by Design, a printed and online toolkit for grassroots organizations to organize around community development, stronger communities and poverty reduction.

3. What challenges affected your operations in 2017? How did you transform your operations to respond and adapt?

Overall Challenges

The general state of Alberta's economy posed challenges for all organizations involved in Poverty Reduction:

- Overall, low income rates have not changed significantly since 2005.
- Provincial employment rates increased by less than one percent in 2017.
- Engaging the business community has been slow.
- Shared measurement is moving forward but very slowly.

E4A Implementation Challenges

- E4A stakeholders believe the current strategy is too broad and existing resources are inadequate to meet the goals and outcomes.
- The roles of key E4A stakeholders remain somewhat unclear, including how to leverage and align large funding bodies and organizations within the E4A strategy.
- The Catalyst Fund is an important achievement, however could benefit from changes to oversight and more integration within VCC.
- Some of the E4A goals and outcomes remain unmeasurable, or not reflective of best practices for poverty reduction.

4. Using the chart below, please report your 2017 performance measures that demonstrate; where possible; how much you did, how well you did it, and how Calgarians are better off. Please identify through **BOLD font, 1-2 measures that are most significant and could be presented in a chart.**

Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC) is the Steward of the Enough for All (Poverty Reduction) strategy. Stewards the implementation through a Collective Impact model in the role of Backbone Organization. As such, VCC's work is mostly focuses in convening and assisting organizations and individuals that work on poverty reduction by supporting their activities aligned with the strategy, foster continuous communication, enabling shared measurement and mobilizing resources. Therefore, most of the performance measures reflect the work of a plethora of individuals and organizations, not just the activities of VCC.

	Performance Measure	2015 results	2016 results	2017 results	What story does this measure tell about your work? Why is it meaningful?
How much did you do?	Number of events		4	3	
	Participants at events		483	463	
How well did you do it?	E4A Stakeholders that are aware of the E4A goals	NA	NA	89%	



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How are Calgarians better off?	The percentage of Calgarians living below the Low-income Cut-offs (LICO-AT)	(2014) 10.9% Calgary CMA		8.7% Calgarians live below LICO-AT	Despite the undeniable impact of the economic downturn on individuals, families and business the programs and services that provide support to low income Calgarians have helped strengthening the economic resilience of individuals and families.
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5. What resources were leveraged to support operational activities in 2017?

Donations of \$16,725
Calgary Foundation \$3,586
United Way of Calgary and Area \$490,497
Other \$7,080

6. Please estimate how The City's operating funding was allocated in 2017. Mark all areas that apply by approximate percentage. For example, 45% allocated to staffing costs, 10% to evaluation or research, etc.

1.4%	Advertising and promotion
11.4%	Programs or services
1.6%	Office supplies and expenses
1.0%	Professional and consulting fees
73.6%	Staff compensation, development and training
%	Fund development
%	Purchased supplies and assets
3.6%	Facility maintenance
7.4%	Evaluation or Research
%	Other, please name:

7. Did volunteers support your operations in 2017? If yes,

How many volunteers?	15
Estimated total hours provided by volunteers:	300

8. What are your key priorities and deliverables for 2018-2019?

1. Advance truth, reconciliation and healing
2. Increase financial empowerment
3. Increase economic participation
4. Increase social inclusion
5. Improve access to services that meet basic needs
6. Increase access to supports and services

NOT APPLICABLE FOR VCC
CAPITAL AND ASSET MANAGEMENT (for applicable partners)

Asset: Name of City owned asset managed or operated

9. Provide a summary of your organization's 2017 capital development, including specific lifecycle/maintenance projects.

N/A

10. What funding was leveraged to support capital activities in 2017?

N/A

STRATEGY DELIVERY – Enough for All Poverty Reduction Strategy

11. What key results were achieved in 2017 for the Council-approved strategy you steward?

Systems Changes

- The child tax benefit included \$106 million to support over 205,000 children in Alberta.
- 45% of Canada learning Bond Families have opened RESP's.
- The Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit provided \$138 million in benefits.

Changes for People Living with Low Income

- 961 RESP's were opened. This represents a 35% increase from 2016. Since 2015, the minimum amount put towards further education was \$553,500.
- 311 people completed the matched saving program. There was a total amount of \$403,542 in assets purchased. Since 2015, there have been 796 people enrolled in the matched savings programs.
- A total of 8,445 people with low incomes participated in tax clinics. This is 84% higher than 2016.
- 48,000 unique people purchased at least one low-income transit pass in 2017. A survey of program participants revealed that this enabled people with low incomes to use this 'extra' money for necessities and supported their ability to seek employment, created access to medical and health appointments and supported ease of access to social and family networks.

Reconciliation and Healing

In 2017, partnerships and Reconciliation were increasingly recognized as essential to reducing poverty because they increased understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous service providers, policy makers and social agencies about the root causes of poverty and how to address them. The focus on Reconciliation and healing advanced the necessity of weaving Reconciliation through all of the E4A work. The events within the Reconciliation Journey: Walking a Path Together also increased awareness of and progress towards the Indigenous Gathering Place.

Changes in Collective Impact

- Alignment and orientation to the E4A goals are being demonstrated throughout the E4A collaboratives and stakeholders, as evidenced by the consistent evaluative result indicating strong support for E4A as the common agenda.

- Stakeholders believed that VCC as backbone has led to several initiatives in 2017 that progressed the E4A strategy:
 - authentic engagement with people with lived experience
 - community engagement that supported collaboratives and networks to align to E4A
 - building capacity to influence policy
 - integrating Reconciliation and healing throughout the E4A work
 - stewardship and implementation of the Catalyst fund meant to support innovative work in poverty reduction and collective impact
- Financial Empowerment, Justice Sector Constellation, Peer Support Working Group and Basic Income collaborative either have or are developing measurable outcomes that align with E4A goals.

Advancement of 2016 Recommendations

Several of the recommendations from the 2016 evaluation report have been implemented or are underway:

- Updated Implementation Plan is aligned with the evaluation framework.
- Strengthened partnership between VCC and the Indigenous Advisory Committee.
- New Senior Policy Analyst position was added to VCC.
- Enhanced support for several collaboratives to develop measurable outcomes that align with E4A goals.
- Progress towards a shared measurement pilot.