

CASE STUDIES | USING ABCD IN DIFFERENT SETTINGS

Using ABCD to put a Community Plan together

In traditional models of housing services, responsibilities typically include social housing programs and property management of houses. But what if we changed the purpose of housing services so that they build a sense of community and support the development of neighbourhood plans? This is what coordinators at the Lakeview Harbourside neighbourhood have been working on for the past year as members of Cities Deepening Community. This case study explores the role of the coordinators and how they shifted away from *doing for* residents to supporting residents to *do for themselves*.

CASE STUDY | [Using ABCD to put a community plan together](#)

ABCD and systemic shift from a needs-based to a strengths-focused poverty reduction initiative

New Brunswick is Canada's largest Maritime province by area; boasts a population of 760,000; and is Canada's only officially bilingual province, with 30% of residents identifying French as a first language. It is known for its laid-back and friendly culture, strong sense of community, lush natural spaces, and large fishing and agricultural industries. With only three urban centres (Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton), it is also amongst Canada's highest rural non-farm populations.

New Brunswick's study highlights the benefits of a systemic shift from a needs-based framework to a strengths-focused, asset-based approach to poverty reduction. When governments align with and resource communities to identify the unique strengths and aspirations that exist in each unique community, building capacity to support the gaps, it creates a stronger foundation from which to foster prosperity for all.

CASE STUDY | [Shifting From Needs to Assets in New Brunswick](#)

Becoming an Asset Based Community Development City

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) is a theory that looks at the gifts and assets of people that exist within a neighbourhood allowing them to respond to, and create local opportunities. ABCD's emphasis is on strengths, connections, citizen leadership, and the recognition that individual gifts become powerful when they are connected. This case study

outlines the collaboration between neighbours and the City of Edmonton in the development of an Asset-Based Community Development initiative.

CASE STUDY | [Becoming an Asset Based Community Development City](#)

Evaluating Community Efforts: A Vivo Story

There are several organizations and municipalities who are focusing their efforts on neighbourhoods. But how do they know their efforts are making a difference when there are many factors, people and programs involved? How do they show funders what they have done is making a difference? Vivo has spent time looking at their own evaluation efforts and have come up with some great ways to evaluate their community change work.

This case study is an example of how an organization evaluated their community efforts. It demonstrates that evaluation does not have to be complex, and that systematic observation is an example of a simple and easy way to evaluate community change efforts.

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