

## City program helps turn strangers into neighbours

June 7, 2016

The City of Edmonton and the Tamarack Institute have teamed up to launch Abundant Community Edmonton (ACE) and kick off the Tamarack Institute's conference, Deepening Community: Resilient Neighbours, When People Care.

Edmonton City Councillor Tony Caterina and special guests joined Edmontonians from neighbourhoods involved in ACE, to hear stories about neighbourliness and connection along with learning from people who are passionate about community building.



"Building a strong city takes a collective effort to help reduce urban isolation and increase connections, which are vital to sustained health and happiness" said Councillor Caterina. "Abundant Community Edmonton is a special program that truly involves and engages neighbours in creating the types of neighbourhoods they envision, now and for the future."

Abundant Community Edmonton is part of a large grassroots movement that facilitates connection right where people live. The concept was developed by John McKnight and Peter Block in their book, *The Abundant Community*. Howard Lawrence, who lives in Highlands, approached the City about turning the authors' concept into practice by piloting it in various Edmonton neighbourhoods. Lawrence and City staff collaborated to develop the Abundant Community program in Edmonton.

"Neighbours can be some of the most significant people in our lives; watching out for us and caring for us," said Lawrence, Abundant Community Edmonton Consultant. "Much like family, often like friends, always in walking distance, this is why developing great neighbourhoods is high on our agenda."

ACE is now ready to be implemented in any Edmonton neighbourhood. Edmonton leads the country in Abundant Communities with 22 participating neighbourhoods.

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### For more information:

[edmonton.ca/abundantcommunity](http://edmonton.ca/abundantcommunity)

[Tamarack Institute Deepening Community conference](#)

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