



**Grand River Healthy Communities
Prosperity Forum
Summary Report**

September 22, 2017

Over the course of the day, smaller groups explored three different areas:

1. Secure income
2. Affordable housing
3. Safe neighbourhoods

After a presentation including current data in each of these areas, tables discussed two questions:

- What are you learning about our community?
- What do you want to know more about?

The following table outlines the responses to these questions.

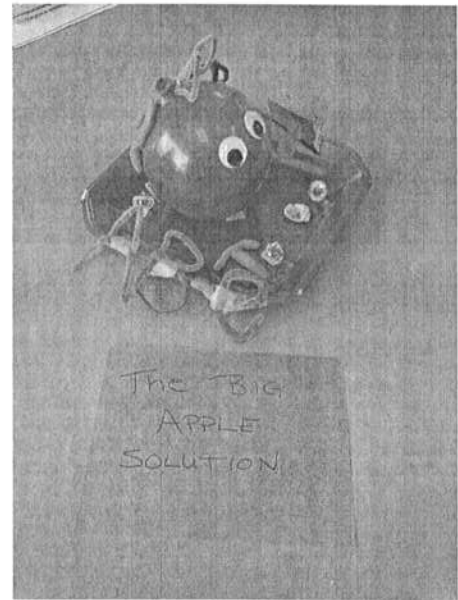
What are you learning about our community?	What do you want to know more about?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people in our community are not satisfied with their lives (13% vs. 9%) • Surprised at % of teen mothers • Average household income – lower by that much than the provincial average • How interwoven societal issues are • Stats come from different years • Average income • Seniors living on \$13,000 pensions • Data is limited and time dated • Positive data would give positive roadmap to solutions (see what is working) • Too many are struggling • Missing Indigenous data • Significant info: teen pregnancy (we need more partnering) • We are working in silos • Confirms impression that Brantford/Brant lags on so many health/wellbeing indicators – some are extremely “off” i.e. teen moms • Disheartening – all negative (balance with community strengths) • Hundreds of community people ready to take action • Lack of 211 knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does labour market information tie in? • Precarious employment – reality or myth? • Learn more about what each area is doing i.e. education, employment, housing • Youth data – specifically youth homelessness – a hard to reach/engage group • Programs/services – how are they being communicated to the community? • Evaluating the success of multi-sector partnerships • Bring more people into the conversation • Home share program • Statistics on 55+ years (different ages) • Safety within social housing • Why is waiting list for social housing long? • Plans in place for supporting young parents? • Why do people need to connect to social service through police? • More positive data to help guide some local solutions

What are you learning about our community?	What do you want to know more about?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brantford/Brant County plan for affordable housing • We are finding that this community is finally coming together to work on positive solutions for prosperity • But still barriers • Doing worse than Ontario • Housing waitlist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need further data around biggest issues so funders can allocate to biggest need with biggest potential outcomes/impact • Which point of “cycle” is critical to create a positive change • How do people end up where they are? • Increased newcomer data/Indigenous data and different marginalized people • Break it down – more demographics i.e. age • Why – teen pregnancy • More on history of Brantford – why/what decisions were made 50/70 years ago • Indigenous data • Community strengths • Aboriginal community indicators • How and where do we access Community Response Team • Difference between CRT and crisis table • How do we keep dignity for the clients that access services and keeping the focus on client. Hand up not hand out • Domestic violence • Indigenous people • Gender stats

Visioning Activity

Small groups built a model/physical structure of their five to ten year vision for their topic area, and then participated in a reflection activity about their model. The models and responses to the reflection activity are provided below.

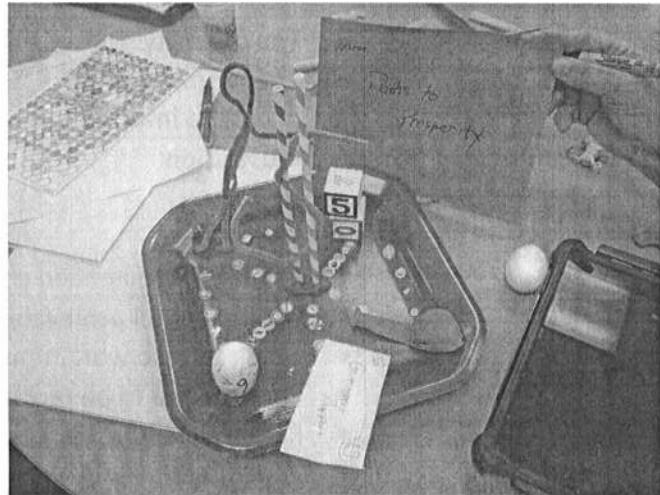
Area of Focus: Secure Income
Name of the Model: The Big Apple Solution
Visual of the Model:



Questions	Responses
<p>What are the key concepts?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge • Knowledge and awareness of issues • Opportunity • Sharing of wealth/funding plan • Diversity of jobs • Education (targeted), training • Tapping into existing knowledge and resources • Clear pathways • Technology • Skills • Quality of life - balance
<p>What needs to end?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steep climb • The disparity of wealth • Apathy • Insufficient funding • Lack of access to government ministries
<p>What is emerging?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New areas of opportunity • More collaboration • More awareness • Time to discuss these issues • Concept of career laddering
<p>What do you love about it?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collaboration to create it • The opportunity (education, training available) • The variety (materials, thing)

Questions	Responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The diversity • The “computer” • Access to information
<p>What other emotions come up?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frustration • Hope • Excitement • Resistance to needed changes
<p>What are the hard truths?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe not all achievable • Going to take work, time, energy • People have to be receptive • Requires policy changes that may not be forthcoming • Super politically driven – so we have to be adaptable to the political will • Those affected are not sitting at the table • How do we empower people?
<p>Where does the power lie?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With those who have the knowledge • Those impacted/affected • Non-partisan political decisions and ownership of the problem • Awareness • With education and knowledge
<p>What are the bottlenecks that prevent this from evolving?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cohesion; the system is too silo(ed) (niche areas, nothing to fill the gaps) • If somebody needs help you need to go to multiple people • The system is not flexible for the diverse realities that exist • Innovation is not rewarded • Pilots are tedious and changing • Mismanagement

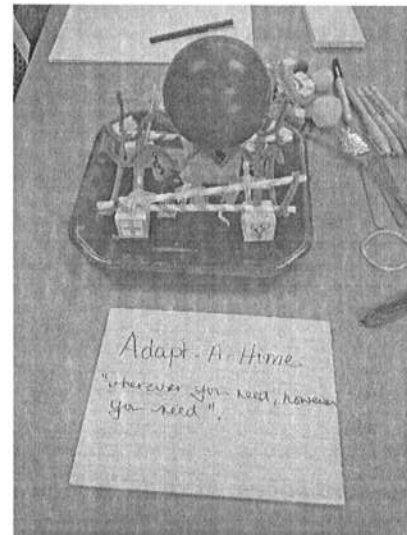
Area of Focus: Secure Income
Name of the Model: Paths to Prosperity
Visual of the Model:



Questions	Responses
What are the key concepts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building bridges -- connections between business, government, education • Disruption/dissolution of precarious work with contract, temp work • Seniors – needs need to be addressed, increased expenses, income stays the same, need dental, medical Rx • Geared to income • Businesses provide – options – healthcare/Rx/medical within their business model
What needs to end?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temp agencies • Precarious work • Businesses need to stop working in isolation • “cuts”/“low rates”/“low wages” (more government support) • Communication (not knowing what’s available to them)
What is emerging?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living wage • Raise in minimum wage (exploration through base income pilot) • More connection between education and employment • Recognizing the gaps – moving forward with addressing the gaps “soft skills” • “Calvin on Conestoga website helps to align your needs with your potential education”
What do you love about it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People – untapped resources, more connections are necessary • Dollar sign – freedom, reasonable level of income for everyone no matter the source • More pathways and communication • Untapped resources/not utilized resources • 100s of welding jobs i.e. and people aren’t taking the program

Questions	Responses
What other emotions come up?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of support • Expensive – prices rises • Frustration • Disillusionment • Feel like giving up - hopeless
What are the hard truths?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility • Education – identifying needs of being employed, courses, guidance from an early age • Model of education systems don't foster what they're interested in
Where does the power lie?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We the people • We need to have a voice • Speak up/don't settle, fight • Gap is growing
What are the bottlenecks that prevent this from evolving?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems

Area of Focus: Affordable Housing
Name of the Model: Adapt-A-Home
Visual of the Model:



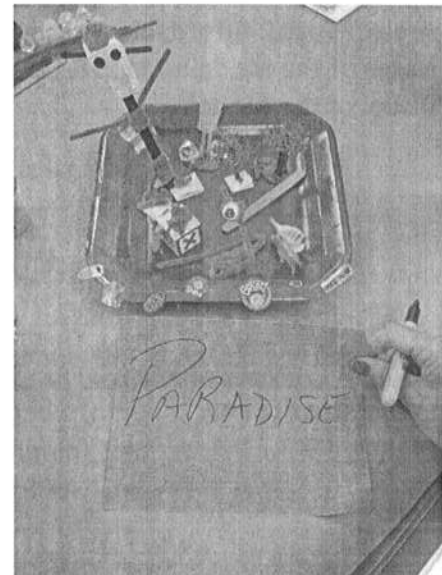
Questions	Responses
What are the key concepts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "wherever you need, however you need" • Integrated into larger society • Not identified building or neighbourhood • Portable subsidy • Lifelong accessibility to reflect personal changing needs (i.e. seniors)

Questions	Responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different models
What needs to end?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break cycle of poverty • National housing policy • Affordable homes
What is emerging?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New concepts – home share • Tiny homes • Portable subsidy • Integrating affordable housing/stigmatizing
What do you love about it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interior – adaptable to all, similar looking, interchangeable • Haves and have nots
What other emotions come up?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimism • Hopeful • Frustration
What are the hard truths?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordability, land is very expensive • Not a political hot potato
Where does the power lie?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowerment
What are the bottlenecks that prevent this from evolving?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Business interests • Current market • For-profit society

Area of Focus: Affordable Housing

Name of the Model: Paradise

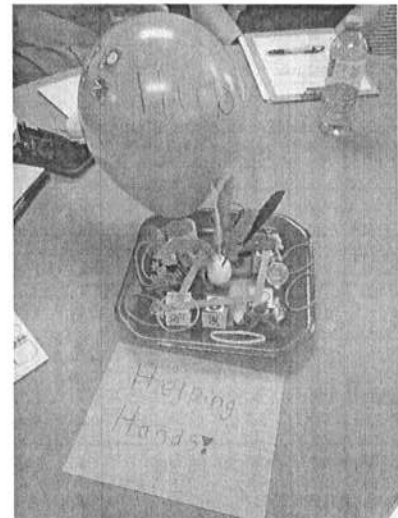
Visual of the Model:



Questions	Responses
What are the key concepts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable • Age friendly • Diverse • Central to all service (food, health, transportation, police) • Pretty with gardens, green space • Sound and safe structures • Accessible and social work
What needs to end?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers to access affordable housing • Wait lists • Unrealistic price • Lack of information • Not enough options, lack of housing people • Less ghetto scenarios
What is emerging?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding around the need for affordable and safe, inclusive housing • Dreams • Change in demographics – more older adults, change in family dynamics and structure • Larger demographic, who owns homes, going through changes • All here together to identify assets and deficits • More services to keep seniors in home
What do you love about it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utopia • Age friendly • Safe • Green space • Acknowledged land • Welcome and inclusive • Respectful • Access to services • Fosters creativity, all accepted • Encouraging, dreaming
What other emotions come up?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope • Rest • Attractive • Curb appeal • Practicality • Social participation • Serene • Not stigmatizing
What are the hard truths?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of planning and priorities • Lack of land (limitations)

Questions	Responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No tax dollars allotted
Where does the power lie?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of government
What are the bottlenecks that prevent this from evolving?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So many vacant buildings with nothing being done • Wasting tax dollars • Government changes • Politicians/ministries not listening to city • Lack of initiative due to lack of knowledge/no lived experience

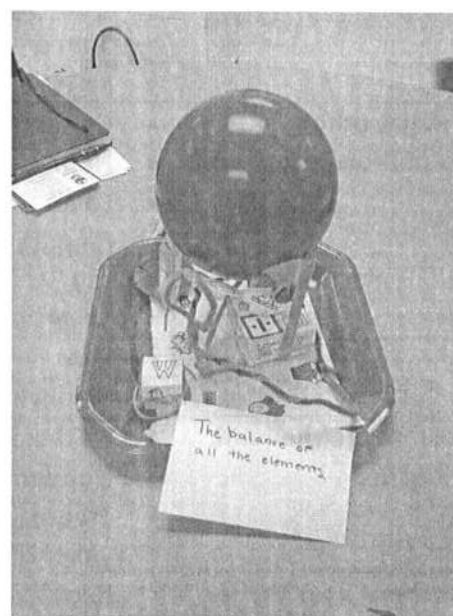
Area of Focus: Safe Neighbourhoods
Name of the Model: Helping Hands
Visual of the Model:



Questions	Responses
What are the key concepts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement • Neighbour connections • All resources on the outside • Youth engagement • Celebrating diversity • Park access and recreation • Community garden • Community hub • Safety • Inclusive environment • Internal support system
What needs to end?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division • Stigma • Segregation • Silo effect

Questions	Responses
What is emerging?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections • Resiliency • Collaboration • Community involvement
What do you love about it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrancy • Access to police system • Youth engagement • Access to nature and resources
What other emotions come up?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy friendship • Celebration of diversity • Inclusion • Pride in community
What are the hard truths?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services will not be free • Services may be scary or are uncontactable • Funding won't allow for engagement
Where does the power lie?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the people • With the community
What are the bottlenecks that prevent this from evolving?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding/\$ • Lack of education • Fear • Volunteers • Policy driven

Area of Focus: Safe Neighbourhoods
Name of the Model: The Balance of all the Elements
Visual of the Model:



Questions	Responses
What are the key concepts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyes – awareness, looking out for each other, no one is left out • Balance – fire, air, land, water • Stickers represent diversity • Wraparound supports, loving each other, big hug • Fire – gathering place, warmth, safety, brings people together • Elastic – safety is open and can be invited into the safety, own it together, children and youth, safety including building young leaders • Importance of relationships with your community and with nature • Heart, to represent compassion and inclusion • Healing from trauma, addictions and mental illness • Engagement • Nature, earth, tree, integrity, into natural world
What needs to end?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disconnection • Violence • Close-minded
What is emerging?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Compassion and caring • Engagement • Open to difference • Relationships, connectedness/natural environments
What do you love about it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance • Represents balance of all • Elements – diverse, colourful • Sum of the whole • Safe space, open
What other emotions come up?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compassion • Hope • Love • Empathy • Joy • Laughter • Fun • Belonging
What are the hard truths?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the pieces are their own • Not working together • Trauma – dictates how we engage – difficult to engage – family violence
Where does the power lie?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation • Relationships • Individual

Questions	Responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical • Knowledge/learning
<p>What are the bottlenecks that prevent this from evolving?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At each level • Original pain • Exclusion • Government bureaucracy • What can we do differently – look at from a different lens • Listening/sharing power (natural) • Whoever holds the power needs to give it up • Fear

The table on the following page outlines the assets in each of the three areas as identified by the participants at the forum.

Secure Income Assets	Affordable Housing Assets	Safe Neighbourhoods Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult upgrading programs • Labour market information • Champions Campaign • Employment support for adults/youth experiencing autism • Employment supports for any intellectual diagnosis • Education Works Committee • Employment Ontario programs • Second Career • Experiential learning opportunities • Free academic upgrading, FAST – short/job ready programming (Conestoga) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts (i.e. tiny homes, home sharing) • Subsidies • Habitat for Humanity program • Housing First • Community support • Choice • Transitional housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People/friends • Resource centres • Harm reduction supports • BCRT • MCRT • CAEP • TICK • HSRO • Community gardens • CAS being in the community • Mental health/wellness supports • Access to food/transportation • Pop up markets • Taylor the Turtle • Well lit streets • Green spaces • Truth and Reconciliation • Nova Vita outreach • Trauma-informed supports

Action Planning

Each small group reviewed their vision/model and the asset maps, and then identified concrete items for action. The actions identified by each group and the individuals interested in working on these actions are noted in the tables below.

Secure Income (two small groups)

Secure Income Actions (Group 1):

- Increase awareness/knowledge to the community (specifically passive job seekers) of available supports and services
- Train and offer Community Navigators to help people/clients navigate multiple systems. Suggestion: Perhaps a pilot with the Community Response Team (Brantford Police)

People interested in being involved in the work:

Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Candace Lee Lickers	1-855-833-0108	candacelee@contactnorth.ca
Jim Harder		jimharder@hotmail.ca

Secure Income Actions (Group 2):

- Community discussion to create further connections (event to bring together business and nonprofits (social agencies) together to discuss income/security) – investing in people, understanding individual barriers/soft skill needs motivators

People interested in being involved in the work:

Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Theresa Vidal-Smith		tvidal-smith@woodview.ca
Tara Buchanan		tarabuchanan@clbrant.com
Fausto Victorio		fvictorio@clbric.com

Affordable Housing (two small groups)

Affordable Housing Actions (Group 1):

- Development of information sharing committee to bring forth all respective housing personnel and residents. Utilization of housing recommendations from Community Impact Report

People interested in being involved in the work:

Name	Phone Number	Email Address
William Ratelband	519-770-6441	William_ratelband@can.salvationarmy.org
Candace Lee Lickers	1-855-833-0108	candacelee@contactnorth.ca
Jim Harder		jimharder@hotmail.ca
Rebecca McAuley	519-209-2545	Rebecca_mcauley@hotmail.com
Dan Brooks	226-922-9093	dbrooks@habitatbn.org
Tara McEwen	905-973-9854	homesharealliance@gmail.com

Affordable Housing Actions (Group 2):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridging/collaboration between nonprofit and private business • Landlord education (Landlord Tenant Act) 		
People interested in being involved in the work:		
Name	Phone Number	Email Address
None		

Safe Neighbourhoods

Safe Neighbourhoods Actions (Group 1):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and pick one! Implement • Work with Association (Landlords) to educate/eliminate racism in housing, build relationship, explore incentives • De-ghettoize buildings and spaces • Deliberate engagement (LGBTQ, two spirit) • Building leadership (i.e. Boards, managers, municipalities) 		
People interested in being involved in the work:		
Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Leigh Savage		BFACS
Tara Buchanan		tarabuchanan@clbrant.com
Natasha Dobler		
Candace Lee Lickers	1-855-833-0108	candacelee@contactnorth.ca

Safe Neighbourhoods Actions (Group 2):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement and youth engagement • Volunteerism • Connecting the Brantford Youth Council to the Grand River Council on Aging (youth engagement, learning from each other) • Neighbourhood Watch – stay tuned 		
People interested in being involved in the work:		
Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Rebecca McAuley	519-209-2545	Rebecca_mcauley@hotmail.com
Emily Colibaba		Colibaba@live.ca
Candace Lee Lickers	1-855-833-0108	candacelee@contactnorth.ca
Natasha Dobler		
Chad Crawford	519-756-7050 ext. 2294	ccrawford@police.brantford.on.ca