

## **Conversation, Collaboration and Community Change**

Communities around the world are entering a new era of community building. Whether improving economic conditions and reducing poverty, reenergizing citizens and social and mental health programs for families, reducing crime, or revitalizing a troubled neighborhood, they are engaging people from all sectors as never before to work together as equals to improve their quality of life. At the heart of this engagement are community conversations, in which common goals are embraced by a diverse array of people with different backgrounds and need, and influencers are drawn from multiple sectors, including community organizations, the various levels of government, and business leaders big and small?

This workshop will be highly interactive and is full of informative and inspiring examples of conversations that built collaboration and sparked community change.

Our key note speaker and lead facilitator Paul Born will provide exciting tips to help you engage your community in creating and implementing a vision for positive change. Paul will lead us through the reasons and the process of community and engaging citizens, in exploring partnerships, and in developing, maintaining, and enhancing partnerships for the benefit of your organization and community. He will also lead us in conversations about the new forms of collaborative leadership required for community change today.

We will spend the afternoon in dialogue as the gathering breaks into four different types of conversation exploring questions that matter to our community. Come experience conversation café's, appreciative inquiry and other ground breaking ways that large groups of people can meaningfully explore better futures.

### **Our speaker:**

Paul Born is a master storyteller who infuses his work, relationships, community and life with the magic of conversation. He is the author of three books including the highly acclaimed *Community Conversations* and the newly released *Creating Vibrant Communities* which tells the story of a national collaborative Paul co founded that has to date helped over 120,000 people living in poverty. His Masters thesis entitled *Leaderful Communities* was recently published out of Germany. Paul as the President and co founder of Tamarack an Institute for Community Engagement and has been internationally recognized, with awards from the United Nations, Imagine Canada, The Conference Board of Canada and the Governor General of Canada for his innovative approaches to community development. He holds a Masters in Leadership, lives in Waterloo, Ontario, is a Mennonite inspired by Buddhism and Yoga and a dad who loves to cook.

Learn more about Paul at [www.paulborn.ca](http://www.paulborn.ca)

**What people are saying About Community Conversations – Mobilizing the Ideas, Skills and Passion of Community organizations, Governments, Business and People.**

*I love it (the book) because I think it will be helpful to our ever emerging Canadian Community for Dialogue and Deliberation, amongst other communities. It is an easy read, packed with such simple yet strong lessons which we all have acquired in our practices yet tend to forget or let slide to the sides of our frames of action let alone reference.*

Sandra Zagon - Treasurer and Past Co-Chair  
Canadian Community for Dialogue and Deliberation (C2D2)

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*If you want to help your community move from good to better, Community Conversations is a must read. Paul Born, draws the reader into some marvellous conversations about the theory and techniques that lie behind community improvements.*

Monica Chaperlin Coordinator, Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative Inc  
Saint John, N.B.

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*"Paul Born has done a masterful job of demonstrating the power of community conversations. The combination of first hand stories, concepts that make sense and practical advice will make this a favourite book for community leaders, facilitators and activists. The book is loaded with clearly laid out practical tools. But above all, Paul demonstrates the power of being in the moment. He is a planner extraordinaire and yet he demonstrates that planning only takes one so far. He shows how you can be present in your community conversations and not lose sight of the purpose of your work."*

Brenda Zimmerman, PhD Co – author of Getting to Maybe, How the World is Changed and Director, Health Industry Management Program - Associate Professor of Strategy/Policy Schulich School of Business

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*"Paul Born's book is a summary of many many experiences and experiments in community conversations. His distillation of what has worked for him, tricks and formats to use, and principles to follow will be valuable for anyone who works in this fascinating, challenging, diverse and emergent space."*

Trevor Gray Executive Director The Tindall Foundation, New Zealand

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*Paul Born's book Community Conversations is appropriately conversational in its style, enjoyable and easily readable. Typically, we think of conversations occurring in very typical or traditional ways. Paul Born reminds us that there are a multitude of ways in which communities can converse and that by being creative in our approach to these interactions, a greater opportunity exists for our communities to be inspired and involved.*

Salima Stanley-Bhanji Director, Vibrant Communities Calgary