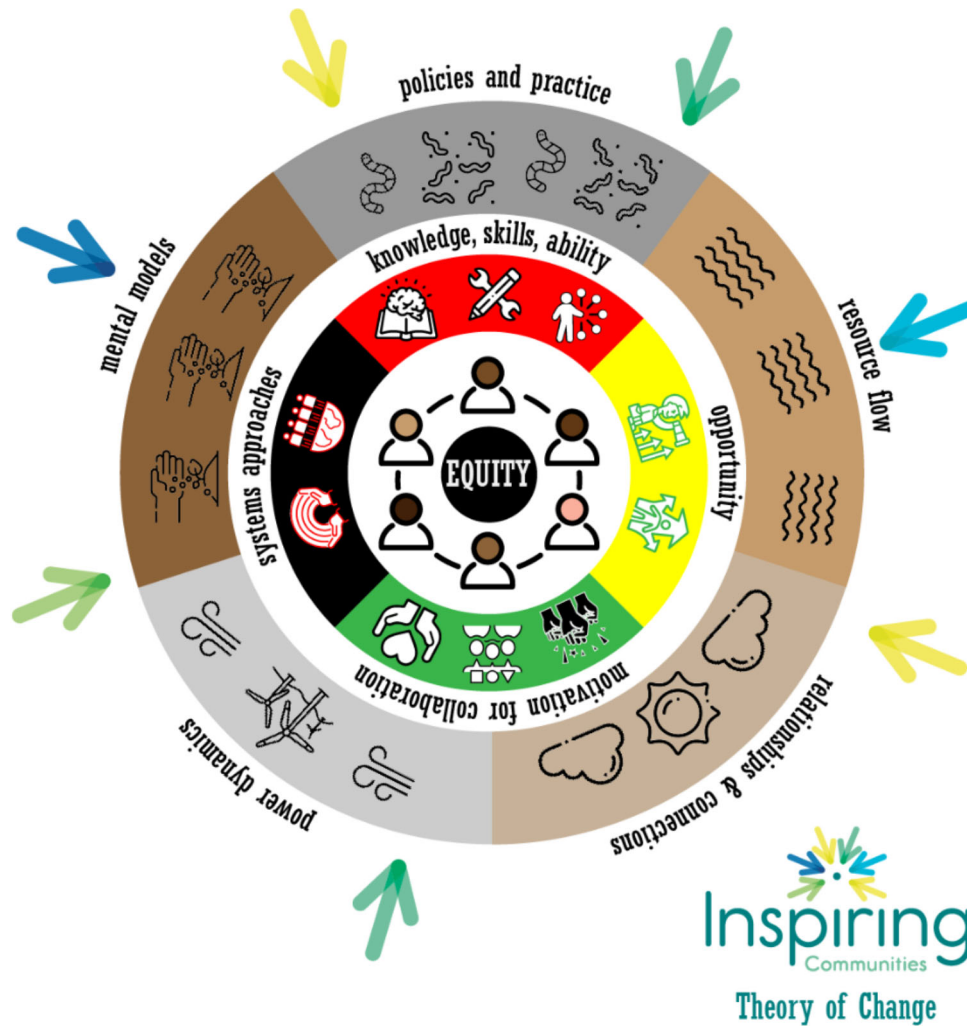


[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▾](#)[RSS](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

Summer 2023



Changing and Learning

About a year and a half ago we determined that one of our greatest challenges was communicating fully what we do. Since then we have been working at finding clearer language to describe what we do and why we do it. We have just finished our 2022-2023 Learning report, called [High-Hanging Fruit](#), which we invite you to read through for a deep dive into what we have learned and experienced this year. For now, consider this newsletter a re-introduction.

So... hello! We are Inspiring Communities. We are a nonprofit based in Nova Scotia. We work toward positive social change by trying to make society's systems more equitable. Our systems -- education, transportation,

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

In practice, this equity-centered systems change work looks like this: With equity at the center, we focus on building capacity in individuals and groups, and also apply influence and pressure to leverage change in the conditions for systems change. The image above is a visualization of this, which we call our Theory of Change. We invite you to read on to learn more about our work now.

Yours in systems change,



Louise Adongo, Executive Director

Download "High-Hanging Fruit"

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

IC Core and Strategic Initiatives Teams

Inspiring Communities' Core team, with our Board of Directors, sets direction and vision. The Core team also facilitates the work of initiatives by providing financial, operational, research, communications and evaluation support. Strategic Initiatives helps enfold emerging themes and include new diverse communities into our new and existing initiatives and projects.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Top row: Louise Adongo (she/her) Executive Director; Manal Salha (she/her) Director, Finance and Operations; Jocelyn Li, (they/them) Director, Strategic Initiatives; Second row: Charlene Boyce (she/her /they/them) Senior Manager, Communications; Lourdes Ong (she/her), Communications Coordinator; Nancy Carter (she/her), Evaluator/Consultant.

IC's Initiatives

Turning the Tide - Digby

Turning the Tide is our Digby Initiative. This initiative hosts a five-year [Communities Building Youth Futures](#) project funded by Tamarack, and has done a lot of work in supporting youth. In 2022-2023 the TtT team completed a transportation pilot project that revealed the extent of the challenge that rural youth face in accessing jobs, activities, school and sports. This summer they have employed a number of interns to help extend their work in reaching youth, and exploring [food insecurity](#), especially among equity-deserving communities. The Turning the Tide Team are:

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Top row: Erika Rolston (she/her/they/them) Project Lead; Bobby-Jay Aubin, (they/them) Youth Outreach Coordinator; Morgan Dunn (she/her) CBYF Coordinator; Second row: Carmelita Johnson (she/her) Community Coordinator; Graham Cromwell (he/him) Closer to Fed Intern (Clean Leadership); Amber Clark (she/her), Administrative Intern. (Summer interns Peter & Felicity not shown)

Northside Rising - Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Northside Rising is our CBRM initiative. Over the last year, they have focused on delivering the [Safe Spaces Network programming](#), to help build awareness around community trauma, with the goal of increasing the safety of community spaces for all. The [Open Space Mobile Arts Centre](#), a pilot program designed to combat social isolation, has recently wrapped up.

The Northside Rising Team are:

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Sarah DenHartogh (she/her/they/them), Project Lead; Suzi Oram-Aylward (she/her/they/them), Safe Spaces Network Coordinator; Evelyn Headley (she/her), Community Engagement Specialist. Left: Priya Prabhu, Clean Leadership Intern.

Between the Bridges - Halifax Regional Municipality

Between the Bridges is our Halifax Regional Municipality initiative, based in Dartmouth North. Over the last year, the BtB team has kept the Dartmouth North Organizations connected, while working with youth ([Community Healing Community](#)) and leading an exploration of readiness for collective action in Dartmouth East. They have also coordinated several small scale climate engagement pilots, including one matching North end Halifax African Nova Scotian youth with Middle Eastern youth to discuss food and climate matters.

The Between the Bridges Team are:

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Shreetee Appadu (they/them), Project Lead; Treno Morton (he/him), Climate Engagement Coordinator; Beshoy Zaky (he/him), Community Engagement Coordinator. Second row: Shelley Fashan (she/her), Community Engagement Specialist; Kayley Dixon (she/her), Communications and Events Coordinator; Isaac Barnie (he/him), Intern. Right: Jess Casey, Clean Leadership Intern.



Seeking Board Members

We are seeking volunteer board members from across Nova Scotia, representing the diversity of voices in our province.

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

[RSS](#)



Learn more and apply by August 18:

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Unlock Equity

Join Inspiring Communities' Board of Directors

Insightful, innovative governance is necessary for effective systems change. Inspiring Communities seeks volunteer Board members to help us create equitable, thriving communities. We are looking particularly to add these skills to our boards' assets:

- Accounting
- Legal
- Communications

Inspiring Communities, a non-profit based in Nova Scotia, is an equity-centered systems change leader in Atlantic Canada. Our mission is to build equitable, thriving communities through innovatively connecting communities, creating collaborative partnerships, measuring impact and maintaining a strong and sustainable core. We openly share our learnings. Our strategy to transform systems across the region is based on bringing diverse voices to the decision-making tables, creating the capacity to act, and fostering a culture of collaboration.



To apply, visit:
inspiringcommunities.ca

→ About Us
→ Our Board
to find the form;
or, scan this QR code →

Expression of Interest: Board of Directors



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▾](#)[RSS](#)

ART OF CITY BUILDING: 2023 RE(DEFINE)

Join us on September 18th at Alderney Landing Theatre. This is our first year in beautiful downtown Dartmouth!

The annual Art of City Building conference aims to inspire residents, planners, thinkers, doers and dreamers from across Atlantic Canada and the world to create great cities, communities and places.

Our theme this year is RE(DEFINE). Let's normalize collaboration and community participation in city development. What power dynamics & controls shape our urban landscapes? World-class speakers will help explore how to empower all residents and bring everyone's voice to the decision-making process.

Inspiring Communities is proud to be hosting this year's event, soon to be renamed to be more inclusive of all our communities!

Learn more and get your free Art of City Building tickets now!

NEW on our BLOG

Check these highlights of blogs in 2023:

Leadership Series (ongoing)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

July 10, 2023 - You have only to review this blog section to realize that Inspiring Communities is an organization in transition. Or perhaps, it is easier to [...]

[Burnout and Systemic Barriers to Rest & Resilience](#)

July 20, 2023 - People underestimate the burnout of, and impact on, leaders in the nonprofit/social purpose/ community sector. And that the leaders need rest.

[Collaborative Leadership as a Model for Healthy Transitions & Succession Planning](#)

August 4, 2023 - In our last post, we joined Benny Welter-Nolan and Louise Adongo in conversation on their experiences of burnout. Review the introduction here and the [...]

Evaluation and Three Bridges Series

[Harsh Truth & Tough Love: Imperialism, Race and Evaluation](#)

March 16, 2023 - Charlene Boyce interviews Darlene Lawrence Inspiring Communities is committed to learning and evaluation and has been since our inception. We have reflected publicly on [...]

[Three Bridges: IC's Culture of Evaluation](#)

June 5, 2023 - by Nancy Carter "Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence." – Abigail Adams "A [...]"

[Three Bridges: Bridges that Connect](#)

June 19, 2023 - by Nancy Carter, Evaluator In the first post in our series, we talked generally about Inspiring Communities' culture of evaluation and how it can [...]

[Three Bridges: Stories from the Ship's Bridge](#)

July 25, 2023 - by Nancy Carter, Evaluator Introduction In nautical and seafaring contexts, a ship's bridge is an elevated platform from which the captain steers. From the [...]

[Epilogue: Two-Eyed Seeing, a fourth bridge](#)

August 2, 2023 - Etuaptmumk as a Foundation for Learning in Visionary Intermediaries In the introduction to this blog series, I mentioned another interpretation of the bridges theme [...]

[Our Evaluation Evolution](#)

August 8, 2023 - Inspiring Communities has a long deep history entwining monitoring, learning and evaluation throughout our work. Nancy Carter is the evaluator who has been working [...]

Decolonizing Policy

[The Colonial Place](#)

February 17, 2023 - Navigating the governance bug in the Commonwealth software The Colonial place is my reality. I was watching the TV show The Good Place, which [...]

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▾](#)[RSS](#)

June 28, 2023 - *By: Kjeld Mizpah (KJ) Conyers-Steede, Fellow, Inspiring Communities* | When you look at Black lives within Canada, the evolution of the relationship on these [...]

[Phase Zero: Testing Community-Based Strategizing](#)

July 20, 2023 - *By: Kjeld Mizpah (KJ) Conyers-Steede Fellow, Inspiring Communities* | My ah-ha moment When I started this journey, I wanted to understand the impact of economic policy in [...]

Queer Climate Justice

[Queering Climate Justice in Mi'kma'ki](#)

February 15, 2023 - How do queer justice and climate action intersect? 2023 IC Climate Fellow Lily Barraclough explores the systems that define the challenges for queer climate [...]

[Queer Climate Justice Perspectives](#) June 27, 2023 - Policy, Community Organizing, and Lived Experiences We are grateful to HCl3: Halifax Climate, Investment, Innovation and Impact Fund for their support of this fellowship, [...]

Exploring Systems Transformations

[Could Co-operatives Help Rural Communities in Atlantic Canada Be Self-Sufficient?](#)

June 23, 2023 - Co-written by Inda Intiar and Kristen Murray, members of Inspiring Communities Atlantic Changemakers Council. In 2016, the community of Dorchester, on the bank of [...]

[Atlantic Canada Narratives: Staying, Coming, Returning](#)

May 2, 2023 - View the recording below. If you have a story about belonging or place, feel welcome to share it in the comments. Watch for more [...]

[Sustainable, Accessible, Affordable Rural Transportation?](#)

February 3, 2023 - Many thanks to all who joined us on January 31 for this engaging panel discussion. Everyone who came brought information, questions, and great insights. [...]



Copyright © 2023 Inspiring Communities, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

