



ALBERTA

ASSET BUILDING

COLLABORATIVE EDMONTON

A Collaborative Approach to Creating Solutions

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Grassroots Origins

- Began with the keen interest and curiosity in financial literacy from community organizations.
- Early inclinations to work together evolved into more formal relationships and structures.
- All subsequent activities followed from observations about gaps, needs and possibilities.



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The need

To expand the size of community interested in financial literacy.

The response

The formation of the Financial Works Conference in 2009.

The impact

The development of a larger community inspired to advance financial literacy and empowerment in Edmonton and elsewhere.

The beginnings of the ABLÉ conference.



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The need

To connect with others in the province who are also active in promoting financial empowerment.

The response

The formation of the Alberta Financial Empowerment Collaborative.

The impact

The relationship building has allowed for the sharing of information, the consideration of a broader provincial scope and shared advocacy.



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The need

To enhance the level of financial literacy expertise in Edmonton.

The response

The formation of the Facilitator's Resource Committee tasked with providing half day and two day training sessions.

The impact

425 people have been trained to provide financial literacy programming.

Networking and relationship building.

Increasing support and interest in financial literacy and empowerment.



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The need

To secure reliable funding for asset building financial literacy groups.

EMPOWER U
BUILDING CONFIDENT FUTURES

ATBTM

The response

The joining of forces to obtain grant and corporate funding for Empower U: Building Confident Futures Initiative. United Way played a pivotal role.

The impact

Presently 11 organizations that offer facilitated financial literacy groups and matched savings of 2:1. In four years, 577 people have completed the groups and purchased assets.



Participant Focused

Evaluations

Participant feedback determines Empower U's directions and priorities.



Observations

Listening to participant comments about their challenges led to the creation of the Job Readiness event.



Appreciations

Participants involved in ATB Financial 'This is Me Art' Showcase and the ATB Financial Comedy nights.

Participant Focused

"Facilitators are awesome. They care about you. They are inspiring and act as mentors. They want you to succeed." Empower U Participant



Key Components in Creating Solutions in a Collaboration

Inspiration and Vision

Seeking inspiration and learning opportunities.
Remaining focused on participant needs.

Relationships

Fostering formal and informal relationships.
Recognizing all the contributions as valuable.

Composition

Inviting a diversity of voices and perspectives.
Involving back bone organizations as well as supportive organizations.
Ensuring there are champions who are passionate and committed.

Structure

Developing ways of resolving differences of opinion.
Using evaluations and research to base choices.
Remaining flexible and aware of the need to evolve.

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