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| **Community Data Solutions Lab**  Developing easy-to-use community decision-making tools  to help achieve National Housing Strategy goals  **Solutions Lab Working Group Meeting** | |
| Meeting Date: | **Tuesday, April 8, 2021 at 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm ET** |
| Location: | **Online: Adobe Connect meeting room** |

**Notes**

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| **Hosts:** |
| * Michel Frojmovic * Mary Clarke * Michael Ditor * David Crenna * John Purkis * Jamie Carrick * Saeideh Hejazi |
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| **Participants:**   1. Chris Eden – Halton Region 2. Gael Gilbert - Waterloo 3. Prerna Bhasin – City of Toronto 4. Teresa Falseta Aflak – City of Windsor 5. Emily Frauts – Hasting County 6. Marty Robinson – Habitat for Humanity Canada 7. Dan Vandebelt - Waterloo Region Immigration Partnership 8. David Godfrey – Government of New Brunswick 9. Gena Ali – Halton region 10. Robert Voigt - Parkbridge Lifestyle Communities 11. Robert Jagoe - Region of Durham 12. Tiffany Boening – County of Simcoe 13. Vera LeFranc – Elizabeth Fry Society, Greater Vancouver 14. Jasmine Ing – City of Calgary 15. Andrea Dort – Region of Peel 16. Irena Pozgaj-Jones – County of Simcoe 17. Luke Grazier – City of Regina 18. Ted Hildebrandt – Halton Region 19. Victoria Chapman – County of Simcoe 20. Erik Sagmoen - SPARC BC 21. Laurie Dixon – City of Kingston 22. Marci Pernica - Ontario Housing Data Group 23. Angela Gerbrandt 24. Valentyn Kliuchnyk – Regional Municipality of York 25. Chun Nam Law - City of Markham 26. Melanie Bailey – PEIANC 27. Madison Van West - Region of Peel 28. Mat Krepicz - City of Toronto 29. Francois Tessier - Montreal Public Health (DRSP-Montréal) 30. Madeleine Hebert - Happy City 31. Jennifer Tanner - City of Windsor 32. Andrew Faber - McGill University (on behalf of Nik Luka) 33. Scott McCullough - Institute of Urban Studies, the University of Winnipeg 34. Brenda Boothby 35. Angela Gerbrandt - Manitoba Housing   **Agenda** |

1. **Overview of Solutions Lab, John, Michel**
2. **Discovery Phase Results, David**
3. **Discussion of Results, Facilitated discussion between Michel, David, John**
   1. ***What are you most excited about from the conversation so far?***

**Michel**: Opportunity to spend more one-on-one time focused discussion with people the represent our memberships naming people from City of Red Deer or Government of New Brunswick. We talked on focused topics such What are your big questions in local level about specific issues in this case, housing? What are your challenges to measure those issues using data not just from our program but generally? So, hearing first hand what’s happening around the country in the local level validated what we already knew and revealed a few issues, approaches and data that we hadn’t actually considered. Also, the other thing is the number of exciting innovations occurring in places you would never expect at a very local level.

**David**: 1) good starting points to the documents: how do you use in local communities. For instance, there is a group in Vancouver called Demonstrating value. These are reach discussions. 2) Talking to people across the country, looking at some documents specially from students’ documents. We are still some distance away from having the kinds of measures that are needed to goal the results of the National housing strategy. We need to examine those gaps, indicators and data. 3) CDP very focused on small area data. We have a number of vital statistics and indicators at national, provincial, large areas but not small areas like neighborhoods. The good part is that we are getting a better and better grip of what the challenges are.

**John**: 1) This is great to be able to dive into exploring how we can use to make better decisions around housing. The process we are going through in this lab is that we are operating in national scale most in conversions to explorations, challenges and opportunities with organizations in Federal, provincial and local level. At the same time, we create a space for a very local conversations in the Solutions lab. Talking about what is meaningful to them, what type of data, information and decision-making tools support them? Seeing that happens in both levels is one of the points. 2) Engaging with people is the other thing. Learning about issues in NB and in other levels and scales in BC, the needs are different. Being able to explore what those needs are in the communities in different scales is the other point.

* 1. ***Who is missing from the conversation? How will they be brought in?***

**John**: In Solutions Lab, we are looking at data related to affordable housing and housing affordability. In order to do that We need a right representative around the table at different points of time. There are lots of people who hold data and responsible for collecting, managing data, like StatsCan and CMHC in different levels. We’ve had some conversations with those groups to some degree. Having more involvements from them in a right time, that would be beneficial.

From March 2nd comments: lots of organizations working on housing issue and indicators like John Howard Society. It’s impossible to engage all of them. It’s helpful to understand what type of data they need. I am hoping as we shift to micro labs, we’ll have more involvement on the ground by organizations that making housing related decisions on the regular basis. So, we can get their inputs and ideas. What potential solutions we can suggest to integrate into the road map which is the ultimate output from this process.

**Michel**: Missing topics: Health, Education and Environment. Affordability, accessibility, Energy efficiency, I am hoping this lab is able to pick up those missing parts. Doing a better job measuring accessibility, Physical and energy efficiency at the local level across Canada.

**David**: Missing private sectors, suppliers and users of data. Not always as engaged, maybe they are in a diff page from other participants in housing systems. We need to figure out a way to get them in. Also, we are missing Newfoundlanders and Labradorians: We need to reach these people because they have issues in housing field and they require support and data.

* 1. What are you looking forward to during the next phase?

**David**: I am looking forward getting down to cases and terms. There are lots of good ideas from previous workshops and coming workshops for Quebec members, and from the research. Which you think to have the greatest impact across the country for evidence-based decision makings. They are all relevant and valued but how many of those do we recognizing? that takes a long time. We still are a way from what we need and we’ll get them in the next census. So, we are 4 years away from having a full result. That’s one cycle but that’s the most detailed data we collect on housing in Canada. How do we decide what is substantial issues that we can take?

**Michel**: I want to build something useful for members and workshop participants. Tools, new datasets getting from CMHC that answers the many issues and questions that we heard over the last few months. Pulling together data in format that accessible that answers questions that we already raised locally across the Canada.

* 1. What does success look like?

**Michel**: Building a tool. Success is that the tool gets used. Creating something that gets downloaded and used in the work by organization. The hard part is understanding what kind of difference the tool made such as: the tool is used in the work to improv the design of the program or report for council or committee. longer term success: impact on people’s lives. We are hoping to see the success in the process of this project.

**John**: Short term: useful tools. Longer term: A group of municipalities, housing providers, organizations working on the variety of aspects of housing, used the support and dataset which help them make better decisions or change the policies.

**David**: In addition to just support the conversations based on evidence, we also in some key areas, need to Change the conversations.

* 1. (City of Calgary) **Jasmin’s question**: Regarding Social Equity and Gender equity, I wonder about how do we incorporate diverse points of view into these conversations. Because we know that people from different points of view sometime come to more innovative, different solutions.
  2. (City of Toronto) **Prerna’s question**: What do you mean of private stakeholders?

David: The focus has to be on the affordability of housing and diverse housing supply. The fact is that the current housing market that not serving all people well.

John: Once we set the priorities, we can invite the related private sectors.

* 1. (Simcoe County) **Irena’s question**: So many agencies and individuals haven’t been enabled to involve as they wanted to. So, what has been impacted? How is the project team accounting for still getting as much input as be able to?

Michel: we have the survey, engaged team from university of Waterloo, David is doing his own research, everybody on the team has been doing a few one-on-one discussions with people across the country.

John: There are benefits from having conversations on the ground. I know there are other participants who are interested in micro labs. We support micro labs by developing engagement materials. The conversions that will happen in micro labs scale and the type of information that will be shared back at a national level would be helpful and provide potential solutions.

1. **The meeting Poll questions for participants:**

What housing data question/problem do you want us to solve for you?

How the system as a whole is working for your community?

Participants answers:

* How can wee measure outcomes better? (DC)
* Demographic projection on affordable/accessible housing needs of seniors (supportive housing of Waterloo)
* Consistent time series data
* Small scale, frequently updated and timely data; multigenerational households and housing needs; racial equity issues in housing policy (JI)
* Up-to-date, regional (small area) average market rents (IPJ)
* Makes measure quantifiable, Make the data available at custom geographies, along with social indicators and equity seeking groups (Prerna Bhasin, COT)
* We need more locally specific data (smaller scale), instead of Regional/ Provincial (Chris, Halton)
* How can we get more specific housing data on indigenous population and groups, at the city and neighbourhood levels? (COR)
* Having small scale (neighbourhood) level data, as well as more frequently available (TH)
* Secondary rental market – small area – time series (MF – CDP)
* Level of geography key data sources are available at. CSD level data would be helpful. (VC)

1. **Sample CDP dashboard, live tour, Jamie**
2. **Next Steps, Mary and Mike**

* April 22nd, 2021. National level ideation session followed by micro labs engagement of local stakeholder’s ideation sessions  
  In this session, we will break out into smaller groups where will have an intense discussion.
* Micro labs begin to happen in the next phase. This is the conversation that is happening at the local level.
  + Insight generation meeting for QC members will be on Monday April 12th.
* We have 3 committed local groups as micro labs happening in Halton, Winnipeg, Toronto.
* In the couple of next weeks, we have been doing one on one interviews to help fill some of our information gaps.
* We are holding a number of meeting throughout the project timeline to provide updates on the project.