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Community-Based Education Program



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Promotional Copy

#4236 – Investigating Neighbourhood Cohesion

Organization Information

The vision of the host organization is to facilitate active, broad based citizen participation in shaping healthy communities in Peterborough city and County; act as a catalyst for positive, sustainable social change; and promote the understanding that social justice is in everyone's interest. Through research, community development, and public education, the host organization works to build a strong community. The host organization's mandate is to improve quality of life through documenting community trends and needs.

Project Information

The purpose of the project is to improve the capacity of Peterborough residents to build inclusive and safe neighbourhoods.

- a) Research communities in similar mid-sized Canadian municipalities who have created neighbourhood alliances for fostering inclusive and safe neighbourhoods - ideally producing five to six case studies. Research questions might include: What are the tools, strategies and models used for building inclusive and safe neighbourhood areas? What strategies should be avoided? What are things they wish they had done? What were their successes? What were their obstacles?
- b) If there is time, talk with local service providers about stories and tools for fostering neighbourhood inclusion and safety in Peterborough. Address challenges that have been faced along with successes.
- c) Compile the research and present the findings to the host organization and project advisory committee.

Benefit to the Host Organization and Community

The host organization will benefit by having information that will allow it to develop a model for effective community development, and this can then be shared with other residents and service providers in Peterborough who desire inclusive and safe neighbourhoods. The host organization and greater community will also gain increased knowledge and dialogue about what a 'safe' and 'inclusive' neighbourhood is.

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What Students Might Learn

Students will learn:

- a) interview and research skills
- b) communication skills
- c) networking skills
- d) understanding of the sensitivity and balance of living in a neighbourhood
- e) to act in a professional manner
- f) compilation and presentation skills
- g) due diligence required to arrive at accurate, complete and constructive views which produce measurable “real world” results
- h) The opportunity to partake in developing a roadmap for effective action within communities where none may currently exist

Screening or Training Requirements

None.

Skills or Experience Needed

- 1) An earnest, personal interest in the restoration and development of strong, stress- and crime-resistant communities
- 2) Grassroots approach, and self-starter character a huge asset.
- 3) Ability to consider and respect a wide variety of viewpoints.
- 4) Time management skills
- 5) Communication skills

Resources Required for Project Provided by Host

We don't anticipate any costs for this project. That said, the host organization and the project advisory committee will likely be able to cover costs should they arise. All expenses must be pre-approved by the host organization.