

IN PURSUIT OF A PROVINCIAL AFTER SCHOOL AGENDA

Recognizing that after school is a complex issue and cannot be solved by individual programs or investments, commitment from many vested stakeholders will be essential. Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation is therefore working with partners in the development of an Alberta After School Agenda using a Collective Impact approach.

Collective Impact recognizes that no single organization can create large-scale, lasting social change alone and requires the commitment of a group of stakeholders to a common agenda. It is more rigorous and specific than collaboration among organizations and is based on five underlying principles.

1. **Common Agenda:** All participants have a shared vision for change as well as a common understanding of the problem.
2. **Shared Measurement:** Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensure efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
3. **Mutually Reinforcing Activities:** Participants activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.
4. **Continuous Communication:** Consistent and open communication is needed across the many players to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and appreciate common motivation.
5. **Backbone Organization:** Creating and managing collective impact requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative (FSG, Inc., 2013).

By using collective impact to advance our provincial after school agenda, TPR believes we can begin to understand the complexity of the issue and develop a supportive ecology that will allow us to best design and deliver quality programs across Alberta.

The first step in this process is the development of an Alberta After School Website. Working with a number of provincial stakeholders, TPR has begun the development of an Alberta specific website focused on the after school hours. The website will leverage the national efforts of the Canadian Active After School Partnership and act as a catalyst for continued collective activities. To learn more about the Canadian Active After School Partnership please visit www.activeafterschool.ca.

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