

Local Resources

Figuring out who needs to be at the table, who is available for support, and who can take your initiative off of the ground requires a bit of time and practice. Listed below are some sectors you may want to involve. It is important to recognize that every community is unique and as a member of your own community, you will have a good sense of which individuals and organizations to engage.

Private Sector

The private sector is composed of large and small businesses, philanthropists and private funders.

How to connect:

- Engage business leaders in discussions
 - Visit local businesses in your area
 - Find contact information through company websites
- Learn about Business Associations and Chambers of Commerce
- Attend community meetings
 - Read neighbourhood newsletters
- Learn about your community and make others aware of your initiative

What they can offer:

- Support for your initiative
 - Funding opportunities
 - Advertising and promotion of your initiative
 - In-kind contributions

Social Agencies

Social Agencies are organizations with specific mandates (i.e., health, environment, social justice) that work within communities.

How to connect:

- Learn which social agencies are working in your area (i.e., religious organizations, not-for-profit agencies)
 - Read community newsletters and newspapers
 - Talk to community members
 - Attend community events

What they can offer:

- Support for your initiative
 - Advertising/promotion
 - Office space for meetings
- Volunteers
- Guidance/Advice
- Connections to other key players

Community

Community players may be individual community champions and/or groups in your area (i.e., community leagues, recreation centres, schools, and sports associations).

How to connect:

- Learn about your community
 - Identify key leaders in your community (see who is involved in community initiatives)
 - Read community newsletters and newspapers
- Attend neighbourhood events
 - Community events, festivals, celebrations
- Have informal discussions with community members

What they can offer:

- Support
 - Volunteers
 - Time, energy, passion and ideas
 - Information on community needs and current issues
 - Space for your events/meetings
- Promotion of your initiative
- Fundraising and funding opportunities

Political Sector

The political sector consists of the elected individuals who develop the formal policies of a region; the political sector also includes the public or civil service.

Municipal

How to connect:

- Mayor/Council
 - Mayor's Breakfasts or similar events
 - Community Events and Celebrations
 - Town Hall Meetings
 - One-on-one meetings
- Civil Service
 - Learn what departments exist and what services are available
 - Attend municipal planning and town hall sessions

What they can offer:

- Funding
 - Grants
- Promotion Opportunities
- Support
 - Guidance and direction

Provincial

How to Connect:

- Members of the Legislative Assembly
 - Visit your local constituency office
 - Email/phone your MLA to discuss your initiative or to set up a meeting
 - Contact information should be available through the government website
- Civil Service
 - Learn about the various government departments and the services they offer
 - Visit your provincial website searching for grants and other services available

What they can offer:

- Funding
 - Grants
- Information and resources
- Support
 - Guidance and direction

Federal

How to Connect:

- Members of Parliament
 - Visit your local constituency office
 - Email/phone your MP to discuss your initiative
- Civil Service
 - Learn about the various government departments and the services they offer
 - Visit the federal government website searching for grants and other services available

What they can offer:

- Information and Resources
- Support
 - Guidance and direction
- Funding
 - Grants
- Legislative support