



COMMUNITIES BY NATURE

Growing Democracies from the Ground Up

2009 Forum Workshops

Children's Nature Deficit - Tuesday, November 3, 2:00 pm

A growing body of evidence suggests that children are spending less time outdoors, resulting in a loss of physical, psychological and social benefits. Social norms and increasingly inaccessible natural settings are distancing young people from the natural environment. This workshop explores the challenge of children's "Nature Deficit" and implications for school board and municipal leadership.

Leadership in Smart Growth - Tuesday, November 3, 2:00 pm

This workshop explores the Smart Growth land use and development principles that provide a solid framework for planners, educators and local leaders to build sustainable, inclusive and energy-efficient neighbourhoods.

Talking Sustainability with Constituents - Tuesday, November 3, 3:30 pm

Dawson Creek's Emmanuel Macchado, Director of Sustainability Planning, will share the municipal leadership story that has garnered Dawson Creek - in the heart of oil and gas country-- national attention for sustainability initiatives. Dave Thompson, author of "*Green Jobs: It's time to build Alberta's Future*" speaks about the sustainability synergy of jobs that lead to a clean environment and strong local economies.

P3 Public Policy Challenges - Tuesday, November 3:30 pm

Public-private partnerships (P3s) have become an increasingly important topic for locally elected officials across Canada. Decades of underinvestment in infrastructure and tight operating budgets have forced local governments to search for the best way to provide services their citizens expect at the lowest cost. P3s are offered as a solution to this challenge, though not everyone agrees that P3s can deliver infrastructure and services at the lowest cost. The central question for locally elected officials when contemplating a P3 is, will it ultimately serve the public interest?