

## Reconnecting Community An ABCD Approach



### What is the “Asset Based Community Development” Approach?

The Asset Based-Community Development (ABCD) approach is a way to see communities as full of potential instead of only seeing their needs and problems. The purpose is to create change by working alongside communities to build power from inside out by looking at what exists and what is working. ABCD also works with institutions from a place of confidence and resourcefulness. The approach is a set of values and principles and a way of thinking about the world. It values the capacity, skills, knowledge, connections and potential in a community. [Click here](#) to hear from Nurture Development's Cormac Russell about the value of working within the ABCD Approach.

ABCD brings people together to make change happen in their communities through discovering strengths and assets, connecting people and assets discovered and mobilising assets that are disconnected by acting together with other local assets such as associations, cultural, and business. [Click here](#) to learn more about the ABCD approach.

### The Process

'Reconnecting Community, an ABCD Approach', will offer the opportunity for communities to work in partnership with STOPS to Violence to apply Asset Based Community Development to nurture safe, healthy communities.

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*Start with what's strong, not with what's wrong!*

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This approach includes 5 steps:

### **1. Exploring the opportunity**

- Early interest from community and formation of an Exploration Team to organize a community meeting to decide if ABCD is an approach the community would like to move forward with.

### **2. Reaching out - Community Meeting**

- Gathering the community to explore the concept of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach and what is possible in the community
- Is there energy and interest to go ahead? Making a consent-based decision to move ahead with the initiative in the community.
- If yes, forming a Community Animator Team.

### **3. Establishing a Community Animator Team**

The Community Animator Team are community members who lead the ABCD initiative in partnership with STOPS to Violence. These are people in community that are good at discovering what others care about and where their assets can be most valuable.

*The Community Animator Team Will:*

- Identify and support Community Connectors and inspire others to be involved
- Play an active role in asset mapping and Listening Campaign
- Plan community engagement, celebration and planning
- Support community initiatives lead by community members

### **4. Applying the ABCD Approach**

- Through a process of learning sessions and working meetings, we work with the principles and process of ABCD by discovering strengths, gifts and assets, connecting people, and that are disconnected by acting together with other local assets such as associations, cultural, and business. We do this by:
  - Developing our shared understanding of Asset Based Community Development through learning sessions and practice
  - Identifying & convening community connectors
  - Mapping associations, intuitions and places
  - Learning about the interests, gifts and passions of community members through a listening campaign
  - Weaving people's assets, gifts and passions to strengthen connection between people.
  - Building on what's strong to improve community safety and well being.

## **For more information...**

To learn more about this initiative, contact Nofa at [nofa@stopstoviolence.com](mailto:nofa@stopstoviolence.com)

## **Who is STOPS to Violence?**

STOPS to Violence is a province wide Network that promotes healthy relationships and strong, safe, violence free communities. Our vision is a healthy, vibrant Saskatchewan where all people are safe and valued. Learn more about us at [www.stopstoviolence.com](http://www.stopstoviolence.com)