

Delta Communities in Action ?

Delta Communities in Action was a community development initiative funded by the United Way of the Lower Mainland. This grassroots project brought together a wide range of partners to identify local issues, set goals and targets to improve the quality of life and take action to bring about positive community change.

Phase One — Identifying Issues

The Delta Communities in Action project got underway in 2003 by initiating a 10 month study designed to produce a community “snapshot.” highlighting social conditions and changes occurring in Delta.

The community snapshot highlighted 46 indicators that provided valuable information about social conditions and changes presently occurring in Delta.

The “snapshot,” proved to be an invaluable tool to help raise public awareness, prompt dialogue about future directions, and assist in the establishment of community goals and priorities for the future.

Phase Two — Setting Goals

Following the completion of the community snapshot, the Delta Communities in Action initiative undertook a rigorous process through 2004 to engage the community in local “round table discussions,” in an attempt to foster opportunities for Delta residents to exchange ideas, express opinions, and promote open and honest community dialogue.

These Community in Action round table talks provided important forums for local citizens from all walks of life to voice their needs and concerns, and contribute to framing a comprehensive list of recommendations to help promote positive social change for Delta’s future

Phase Three — Achieving Solutions

The third and final phase of the Delta Communities in Action project will help to demonstrate that communities who work together towards common goals reap many benefits. Research has long suggested a link between high levels of civic participation and a community’s overall quality of life.

Communities whose citizens collaborate closely experience increased educational achievement and childhood development. Their neighbourhoods are safer and more productive. They experience greater economic prosperity, and their citizens have increased physical and mental health.