

CKX Summit

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A surprise opera performance at CBC, impromptu dance at TIFF, graphic illustrations and some spoken word poetry

Cultural moments to shock, disrupt and shake up

Rocking your senses

Out of the box movements and creations

Meant to start conversations and connections.

Expect the unexpected at CKX

Turning shared problems into shared solutions

And the change we desperately crave.

What started as a vision two years ago

Came into fruition, 18 months in the making

Where the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Community Foundations of Canada dreamed of getting 120 people together

But more than 400 people showed up to share their time, research, data, stories and resources

Moving out of silos and into communities

Connecting our heads with our hearts

And building stronger communities together.

So we asked a few key questions:

How can we use research to make more informed decisions?

How can we turn data into knowledge to drive change?

How can we use stories to demonstrate our impact?

How do we know we're making a difference, together?

With complex challenges, innovation starts with unexpected encounters

Change is about people starting to do different things in order to change systems

We don't need any more band-aid solutions, but have to work together

Because you need people from different perspectives to address complex issues

And environments where we can all be creative and see what works best for us

"You only understand the problem once you start to solve it"

But how do you engage stakeholders who don't want to play in the sandbox?

It's called "seductive urgency"

Make it attractive, so others play along.

There were many explorations at the CKX solutions lab on youth employment, housing and food security

And great connections made on food sustainability using open data and collaboration Such as the fruit tree projects where groups didn't realize there were other people around the country doing similar programs and activities

Coordinating resources, opportunity and delivery

Open to being guinea pigs and trying out ideas in different locations

Where people really want to learn from one another

And even asking, “What have you done wrong?”
It takes courage to share failure stories
Community knowledge exchange.

But there are huge challenges when we work in communities
Heated conversations, dissatisfied people who don’t agree and want more
Let’s be reminded there’s always more
These are tough realizations, but crucial conversations
And let’s question who has privilege in this moment and also at this conference
Whose voices are being heard and which ones are left out?
Like why were there no women on a panel about culture?
How can we ensure that we have a fuller cross-section of diverse perspectives?
Take a moment, reflect and think about it.

Or maybe, just play with some Lego
Because if you didn’t know, Lego offers more options than puzzles with one simple solution
I mean, you could spend an entire weekend assembling a four thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven Lego logo
But imagine what it would look like to assemble and re-assemble knowledge
Where you can reuse the pieces – research, data, stories – in different ways
Because like people, there are a variety of viewpoints, experiences and different ways of doing things
Overlaying other perspectives to see the true picture of communities.

We can share community knowledge on many levels and in different ways
Like one of our CKX participants who wanted to connect on social media
And then lost her phone
But this unfortunate event allowed her to connect to older systems
Like meeting someone in the storytelling workshop who gave her a paper copy of the schedule
And then, running into a friend in a workshop who she hadn’t seen in 15 years
Who knew people could connect without social media?
There’s so much knowledge in the moment and being present with people.

CKX – intentional places and spaces to make catalytic connections
Because often, you just need the space, an opportunity and a vision

We all know it won’t be seamless
It’ll be filled with messiness and uncertainty as we’ve experienced over the past few days
But let’s walk into those spaces with humility, passion and purpose
With our shared knowledge, data, stories, ideas and resources
And why hold back, if we can do this together?