



BUILDING LEADERSHIP

ACORN INSTITUTE CANADA 2013 YEAR END REPORT

ACORN Institute Canada (AIC) is a charitable organization that uses research and training to address the problems in low-income communities. We believe that the poverty, discrimination, and community deterioration that exists in low-income communities is a result of a lack civic engagement, community leadership and financial literacy.

acorninstitute.ca

BUILDING LEADERSHIP

ACORN INSTITUTE CANADA 2013

YEAR END REPORT

Community Leadership Development



Since AIC's founding in 2005, our work in local communities has allowed us to gain extensive experience and build a tremendous knowledge base on how to develop leaders and engage communities; knowledge we have used to develop our Leadership Schools. AIC Leadership Schools are full day trainings designed to give community members and leaders the skills necessary to build a local community organization. As leaders are developed locally, they take over the facilitation of leadership schools to ensure they are organically connected to the community in which they take place.

AIC's leadership school program engages the community with the goal of creating local community leaders who are better equipped to implement on community-based ideas about how best to address the socio-economic challenges that affect all low-income people, as well as possessing the skills to share this knowledge with others

Tenant Working Groups

The tenant working group model of civic engagement arose after participants in our workshops, trainings and meetings identified negligent landlords as their single largest concern affecting their community. This model calls for graduates of our leadership schools that have identified landlord issues as their primary concern to establish working groups with other concerned tenants in the neighbourhood. Working with other community stakeholders, the tenant working groups can leverage change in their community and tie their efforts together with the other tenant working groups to move towards a larger, more structural change. They allow tenants and community members to build a greater understand of multiple levels of government processes and to educate and share knowledge with each other.



Financial Literacy

Through partnerships with banks, credit unions and other financial institutions, as well as our institutional funders, we have carried out a number of different financial literacy projects in recent years. These projects have taken different forms in different cities, but have allowed us to provide our constituency with financial literacy classes with an emphasis on predatory lending avoidance and understanding and maximizing tax benefits. These are ongoing projects and partnerships that continue to expand each year.



2013 Institutional Funders

- Catherine Donnelly Foundation
- George C. Metcalf Foundation
- Atkinson Charitable Foundation
- Community Foundation of Ottawa
- Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union
- Harry P. Ward Foundation