**Golden Community Collaboration**

Within the community of Golden (including Area A) there are over 100 non-profits serving roughly 7,000 residents - approximately 2.5 times the national per capita average number of non-profits.

There have been many cooperative efforts between Golden non-profits over the years. Inspired by a local LIRN event in 2010 though, the Golden & Area A non-profit community began taking a closer look at [exploring efficiencies](http://www.goldenloom.ca/phase-1-exploration.html), [coordination](http://www.goldenloom.ca/phase-2-coordination.html) and [community collaboration](http://www.goldenloom.ca/phase-3-collaboration.html) among similarly-focused non-profit organizations. With an appreciation of the large number of non-profit groups in our community, experts were brought in to help facilitate discussions around collaboration. Local service providers visited other communities to examine how they have structured their collaborative efforts (e.g. Jasper, Revelstoke).

The [Golden Community Resources Society](http://www.goldencommunityresources.ca/) has taken the lead in exploring efficiencies, coordination, and collaboration and has been involved with the following:

1. Participated in the [BC Non Profit Sector Labour Marketing Partnership](https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/non-profit-sector-labour-market-partnership-project) (Ryan Watmough)
2. Participated in [StepUp BC](http://stepupbc.ca/)'s Sustainability and Emerging Leaders Working Groups (Ryan Watmough)
3. CBT's Social Sector Grants Program (Connie Barlow)
4. Created [GoldenLoom.ca](http://GoldenLoom.ca) as a way of sharing our activities and knowledge with everyone – local and beyond (Ryan Watmough)
5. Hosted 6 SFU Community Economic Development ([CED](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLcKIiA4LmM)) Program Courses
6. Inspired and shared knowledge through the [Local Intelligence Gathering – Golden](https://www.youtube.com/c/goldencommunityresourcesca)
7. Participated in a number of 'capacity developing' meetings on [Trails](http://www.goldenloom.ca/trails.html), Facilities and [Seniors](http://www.goldenloom.ca/seniors.html) (including Williams Lake's Nancy Gale)
8. Participated in a series of regular [Health & Social Services meetings](http://www.goldenloom.ca/health--social-services.html), with the Golden & District Community Foundation (GDCF), Food Bank, Women's Centre and Family Center
9. Participated in the creation of Golden's Age Friendly Community Team
10. Supported Golden's [Living Wage Calculations](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKI7lHz9h_o) (GFBS's Stephanie Findlater)
11. Provided Research and Analysis for [Golden & Area A's Vital Signs 2014 Report](http://www.goldencommunityfoundation.ca/vitalsigns.html), which is one of the few community-wide guiding documents Golden has produced in recent years.

Within the large group of non-profits in Golden, there is a smaller group of non-profits that provides social services to the community, and three of these provide services under contract with the provincial government: the Golden Community Resources Society, the [Golden Family Center Society](http://goldenfamilycenter.bc.ca/) and the [Golden Women's Resource Centre](http://www.goldenwomencentre.ca/).

The Golden Community Resource Society is the largest social service organization in Golden & Area A (by budget size and number of staff), with social service programs directed to a wide range of groups and ages. The Golden Family Center Society is second in size, and the Golden Women’s Centre Society is the smallest.

These three non-profits have partnered on many programs over the years (SUPP, ELCSAG, Youth and Men’s services, etc.), together with other community partners, but have not yet looked in-depth at structural change options, and how structural changes may support the overall sustainability, availability and quality of services for community residents.

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