

Strategic Dreaming Journey

(2024-2026)

In 2023, VA embarked on a Strategic Dreaming Journey, engaging in conversations with the people and communities we serve about the future of volunteerism and civic engagement in Alberta for generations to come. VA staff and board members convened in 2024 to reflect on the wisdom that surfaced from our community dialogues and to craft a strategic document that would turn the aspirations voiced in our community conversations into guiding principles for VA.

In 2024, we updated our Strategic Compass (2024-2026) as a north star document to navigate the future with intention and care. This compass will serve as a guide for VA, ensuring that our efforts are aligned with the engaged and caring communities in our province. It will help us clarify how we will continue supporting the good work of the sector and help us fulfill our vision of thriving communities nurtured by caring individuals across Alberta.



Summary of the Timeline

2025

November: Transition of Strategic Dreaming webpage into PDF document

2024

August: Creation of 'What We Heard' Summary document from the community conversation at our AGM

June to July: Compiling the conversations and feedback from the community conversation

June: Presenting the new Strategic compass at the 2024 AGM and a community conversation called "Calibration: Tuning in to Volunteer Alberta's Strategic Compass"

May: Creation of Strategic Dreaming Compass Document for 2024-2026

2023

November to December: Drafting of 'North Star' Strategy Document for 2024 - 2026 based on the strategic dreaming sessions the VA board and staff worked on together in October.

October: VA board and staff convened for Strategic Dreaming Strategy Sessions.

September: Creation of 'What We Heard' Summary Document of our Community Conversations from July.

August: Creation of Strategic Dreaming webpage to keep track of the conversations and ideas we heard since our AGM panel in June.

June: AGM and "Radically Hopeful Futures" panel discussion

[Go to the Strategic Compass](#)



“Radically Hopeful Futures” Panel Discussion (June 13, 2023)

We held our first panel discussion on “Radically Hopeful Futures” at our 2023 AGM, and we appreciate your participation and contribution towards creating a responsive and empowering environment for civic engagement and volunteerism in Alberta. A big thank you goes to our thought-provoking panelists, [Annand Ollivierre](#), [Cassie Robinson](#), [Jacquelyn Cardinal](#), and VA moderator Darryl De Dios, who graciously shared insights on harnessing our collective imaginations to envision alternative futures. Their expertise and passion for transformative thinking inspired everyone in the room to embrace new perspectives and strive for bold, positive change. As our 2021–2023 strategic priorities draw to a close, we will be hosting two community conversations in July to learn about what is important to our community members. These conversations will serve as a compass for our Strategic Dreaming session in the fall. We look forward to all the exciting conversations to come!



AVCN Insights & Input Towards Volunteer Alberta's Strategic Dreaming - What We Heard Summary (July 2023)



Inspired by our “Radically Hopeful Futures” panel discussion, we started our Community Conversations with members from the Alberta Volunteers Centres Network (AVCN) in June 2023. This is a summary report of the conversation we had with members of AVCN to better understand what mattered them, and the input we gathered from this meeting helped structure our Strategic Dreaming Community Conversations in July 2023.

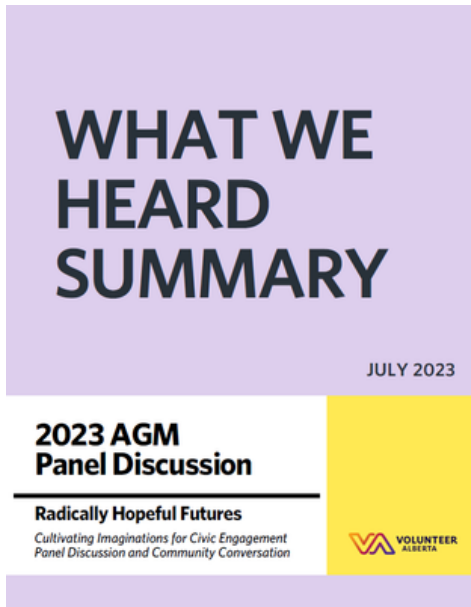
[CLICK HERE](#) to access the AVCN Insights & Input Towards Volunteer Alberta's Strategic Dreaming - What We Heard Summary July 2023

Strategic Dreaming Community Conversations (July 10 & 25, 2023)

During July 2023, we hosted two virtual Community conversations to seek imaginative input on how Volunteer Alberta can become a good organizational ancestor. During these conversations, we facilitated some creative activities and explored ideas for what the hopeful future looks like from each participants unique perspective.



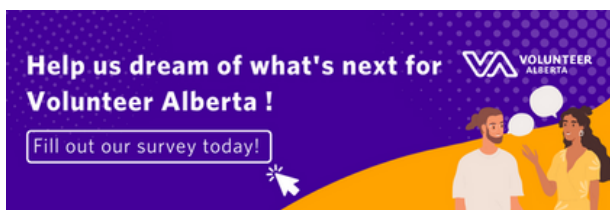
“Radically Hopeful Futures” AGM Panel Discussion - What We Heard Summary (July 2023)



To summarize all of the great ideas and fantastic discussions we heard at the “Radically Hopeful Futures” panel discussion in June , we compiled a report of all the key ideas and takeaways from the illuminating conversations we had. Thank you to our insightful panelists and participants for an inspiring conversation!

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the “Radically Hopeful Futures” - What We Heard Summary July 2023

Strategic Dreaming Community Survey



From Sep 1st to Sep 18th Volunteer Alberta launched our community survey to collect feedback from our network and learn how they envisioned the future of volunteerism and civic engagement. 29 responses were collected.



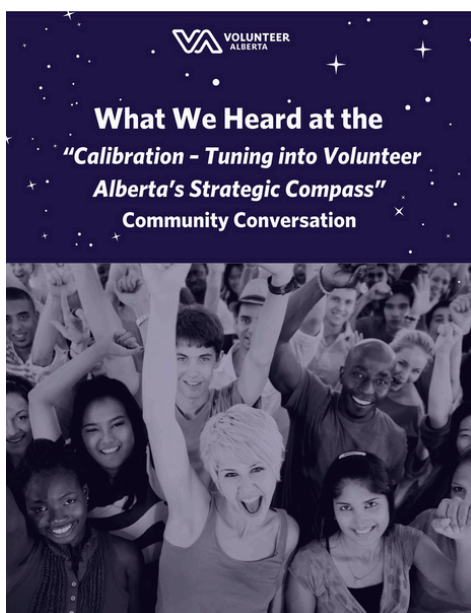
Strategic Dreaming Community Conversations - What We Heard Summary (Sept 2023)



Volunteer Alberta hosted two community conversations in July to envision what volunteerism and civic engagement might look like in Alberta several generations from now. This document provides a summary of those conversations. The community insights reflected in this report will serve as key inputs for VA's board and staff discussions in October 2023, where we will determine the 'north star' strategy for our organization for 2024 - 2026.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the Strategic Dreaming Community Conversations - What We Heard Summary Sept 2023

Calibration: Tuning in to Volunteer Alberta's Strategic Compass - What We Heard Summary (August 2024)



During the 2024 AGM in June in which the Strategic Compass was presented, Volunteer Alberta hosted a community conversation that explored possibilities and tensions highlighted in the Strategic Compass, and participants shared how these show up in their own contexts. The insights we heard are summarized in this document. VA will use these insights to bring our Strategic Compass to life over the next three years.

[CLICK HERE](#) to download the "Calibration: Tuning in to Volunteer Alberta's Strategic Compass" What We Heard Report

Suggested Reading and Resources

Here are some optional, additional resources you may wish to read any time before or after our community conversations. These resources may help to provide more insight on topics like futures thinking, collective imagination, systems change, and organizational ancestry.

[Protopia Futures Framework](#) by Monika Bielskyte

[Murmurations - Returning to the Whole](#) by Adrienne Maree Brown

[Futures Literacy: shaping your present by reimagining futures \(TEDx video\)](#) by Loes Damhof

[Two Loops Model: Berkana Institute's Theory of Change \(video\)](#) by Deborah Frieze

[Remember \(poem\)](#) by Joy Harjo

[What Is 'Futures Literacy' and Why Is It Important?](#) by Niklas Larsen

[Dancing with Systems](#) by Donella Meadows

[Convincing people that change is possible by 'painting the beautiful tomorrow'](#) by Christina Palassio (interview with Anat Shenker-Osorio)

[Thinking differently: Using the Seven Generations Principle](#) by Jayla Rousseau-Thomas

[Rewilding Social Care](#) by Bryony Shannon

[Missing Words](#) by Bryony Shannon

[Becoming Good Ancestors: The Urgency of Long-Term Thinking](#) by Lindsay K. Solomon

The Impossible Train - in [Article](#) or [Video](#) form by Phoebe Tickell

[Why you should think about being a good ancestor — and 3 ways to start doing it](#) - Bina Venkataraman

[How to Get Out of a Despairing Mood \(video\)](#) by The School of Life




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