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Hello! Today we're sending out our second newsletter to our network with mixed feelings. The speed and severity of the measures being implemented in response to COVID-19 are unprecedented for most of us - and are eerily reminiscent of what's been predicted by many as the growing challenges we face as a species. We can no longer rely on the status quo, and we must work together to protect the wellbeing of the most vulnerable. At the same time, the swift actions of many are helping to shine light on what we're capable of when we put the collective above the individual.

At Inspiring Communities we are working to support those who are striving to uncover alternative solutions, approaches to building community and ways of connecting for social change. Our aim is to "nest" initiatives for systems change. Pushing the limits can be scary and isolating. We hold space for those we support to experiment, ask questions, and co-create social change.

As a Community Animator my work entails tending to our nest. I am working to cultivate the conditions where collaboration, experimentation, and learning for systems change can flourish. [We currently support a variety of initiatives across the Atlantic region](#). For us, this is just the beginning. We believe that finding a path forward to a new future will take many forms and we're here to support changemakers in their own unique efforts.



When I think of nesting change at Inspiring Communities, I can't help but think of my favourite bird, the European Starling. I love starlings for many reasons, but mostly, I love them because of the amazing patterns they create in the sky called murmurations. I believe that by supporting a wide range of actions we will be able to create our own set of remarkable patterns.

The video below is the second in a miniseries about our work, and showcases some of our nested initiatives. If you missed the first video about Inspiring Communities, you can check it out [here](#).



**Tyler Colbourne, Community Animator**

## **Social Change Initiatives We Are Nesting**

We're excited to profile a sample of the incredible work that is happening across the Atlantic region by initiatives that are nested here at Inspiring Communities.

[Northside Rising](#) in North Sydney, Sydney Mines and surrounding area has supported a number of community projects through their Rising Tide grants. Find out more about how one such grant has made [art more accessible](#), and how community events have [amplified the conversation](#) around harmful substance use.

[World Cafes](#) have been a big part of the community engagement efforts by [Turning the Tide](#), in the Digby area. Three theme areas have emerged: Healthcare, Economy and Employment, and the Environment. Soon this work will be amplified by involvement in a 5-year initiative called [Communities Building Youth Futures](#). Read more about how [youth are being engaged](#) now.

**WeavEast: a network of social changemakers across Atlantic Canada**

2019 was the inaugural year for [WeavEast](#) that included supporting fellows from the region to learn more about the current state of social innovation and gatherings aimed at building new relationships and identifying priorities for a regional network. Going forward, actions are being supported under the themes of shifting narratives; bridging sectors, communities and decision makers; and, influencing policy. Follow us on social media to learn more about how to get involved as work progresses!

***“The idea of promoting, reinforcing collective action or social dependence is the solution to many problems” - Kevin Hooper (Halifax, Nova Scotia)***



Watch [the full video](#) from WeavEast Storytelling and Design Jam.



Inspiring Communities 60A Queen Street Dartmouth NS B2Y 1G3 CA  
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