

An Empowerment Evaluation Approach To Evaluating Complex Community & Systems Initiatives "Understanding The Early Years (UEY)" Malton, Mississauga, Ontario



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Mississauga, Ontario
November, 2011



Working In The Complex

**Volatile Environment – Rapid Context Changes –
Multiple Root Causes – Diversity of Outcomes –
Interactive Effects At All Levels – Difficult To Frame -
Full Of Paradoxes & Ethical Dilemmas**

A Desire For "*Simplicity*" Pushes Us To "*Simplexity*"

The New Requirements For Complex Problems

- The same evaluation techniques will not do !
- New practices & techniques are needed that engages a wide range of participants – each experiencing different parts of the problem !
- **EMPOWERMENT EVALUATION** fits the bill !



Understanding the Early Years (UEY) Malton Empowerment Theory of Action

Enables communities to understand the needs of their young children and families

Enables community members to work together to address the needs of children

Provides information on:

- the development of kindergarten children
- family & community factors which influence children's development
- community resources



Engaging the Community

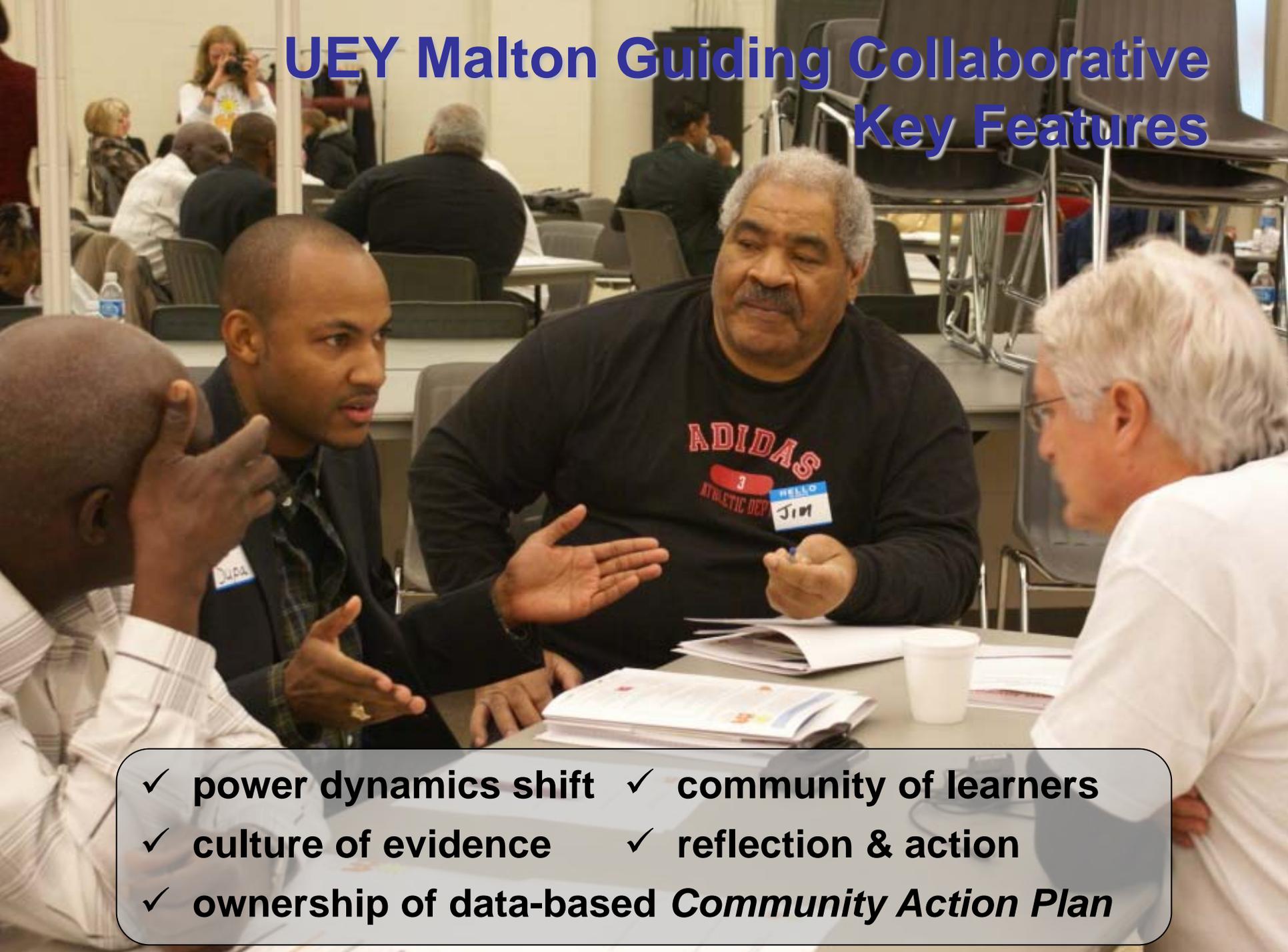
Application of Empowerment Evaluation Principles

**Community
collaborative guides
the project mandate**



- ✓ **Self-determinism**
- ✓ **Knowledge mobilization**
- ✓ **Capacity-building**
- ✓ **Community ownership**

UEY Malton Guiding Collaborative Key Features



- ✓ power dynamics shift
- ✓ culture of evidence
- ✓ ownership of data-based *Community Action Plan*
- ✓ community of learners
- ✓ reflection & action

Empowerment Evaluation Documentary “Giving Voice to the Community”

Highlights the principles of empowerment evaluation

- ✓ **Community knowledge**
- ✓ **Community ownership**
- ✓ **Community engagement**
- ✓ **Authentic & democratic participation**
- ✓ **Inclusion of all voices**
- ✓ **Social Justice**



The Empowerment Paradox

Individuals, organizations, communities are not empowered by external agents

Belief in one's ability

Influence over external environment

Obtain skills to control their environment

Participate in decision-making and policy setting to build their community

They must experience the developmental process of empowerment themselves.

Malton Guiding Collaborative KM Accomplishments



Program Inventory

Malton Neighbourhood
Mississauga, Ontario



Understanding
the Early Years
Malton



Understanding The Early Years - Malton Malton Guiding Collaborative



Early Development Instrument (EDI) Readiness to Learn Profile 2007

Malton Community Report



October 2008



Developed in partnership with the Understanding the Early Years (UEY) Malton Guiding Collaborative, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, and Peel District School Board



Tuesday September 29th, 2009
Malton Community Centre 6 pm to 8 pm
3540 Morning Star Drive, Mississauga

Hosted by the
Malton Guiding Collaborative

Join us for the launch of the Photovoice exhibit.

Photovoice Malton is a grassroots community research initiative conducted by youth and women. Using cameras, they focused on areas of interest and need in Malton.

Don't miss this exciting evening!

Photovoice launch at 6 pm * Community meeting to follow * Refreshments will be served * Child minding available upon request

Malton Photovoice Youth Calendars Available for Sale
"The Vision within Malton"
Meet the youth & get your calendar signed

Malton Guiding Collaborative 

Getting your Child Ready for School

A Parent's Toolkit

Giving Children the Best Start



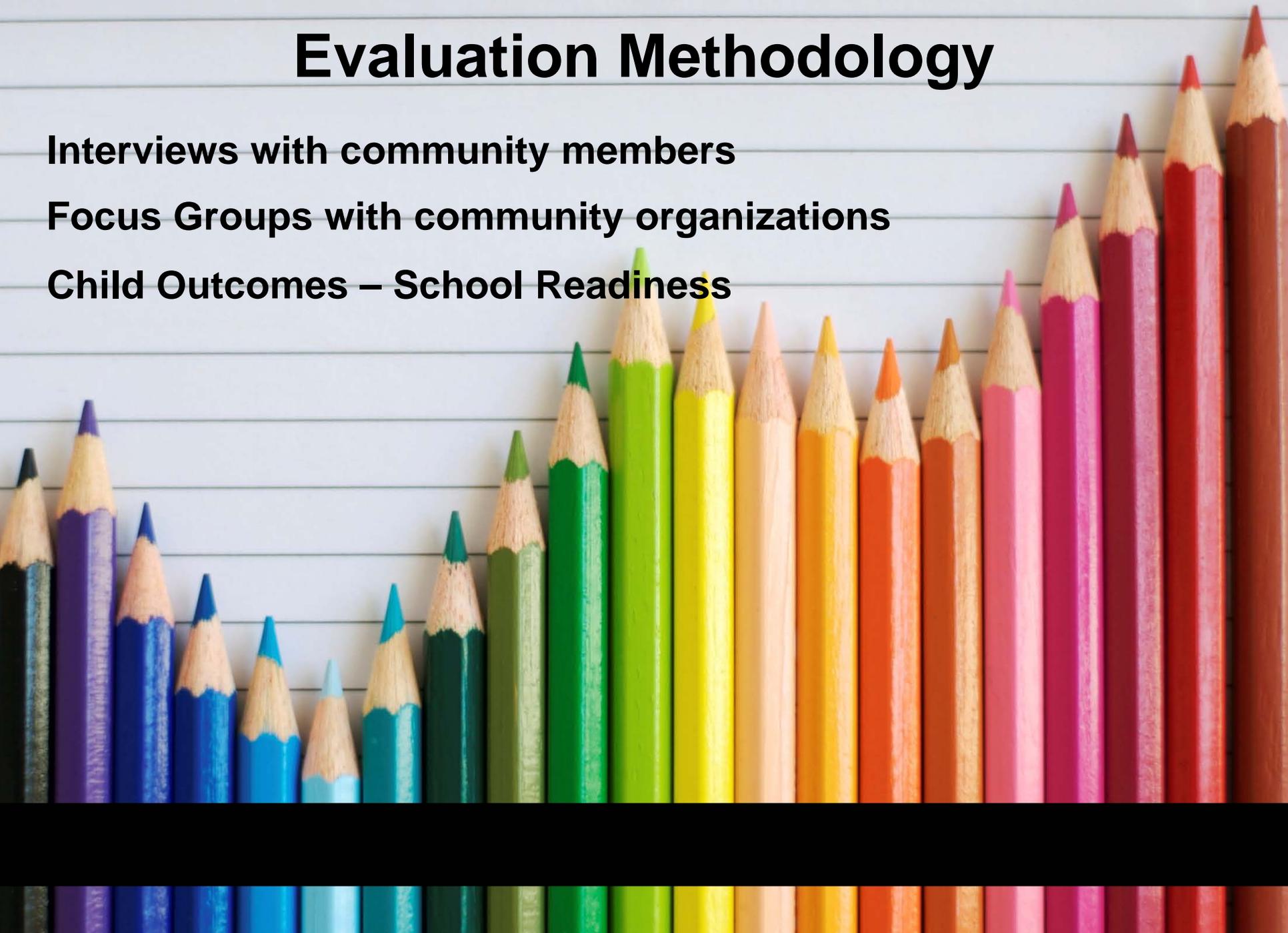
Malton Guiding Collaborative
Report to the Community 2009

Evaluation Methodology

Interviews with community members

Focus Groups with community organizations

Child Outcomes – School Readiness



Empowerment Evaluation Community Outcomes



***Improved community
reputation and enhanced
community pride***

***Increased
understanding of
community context***

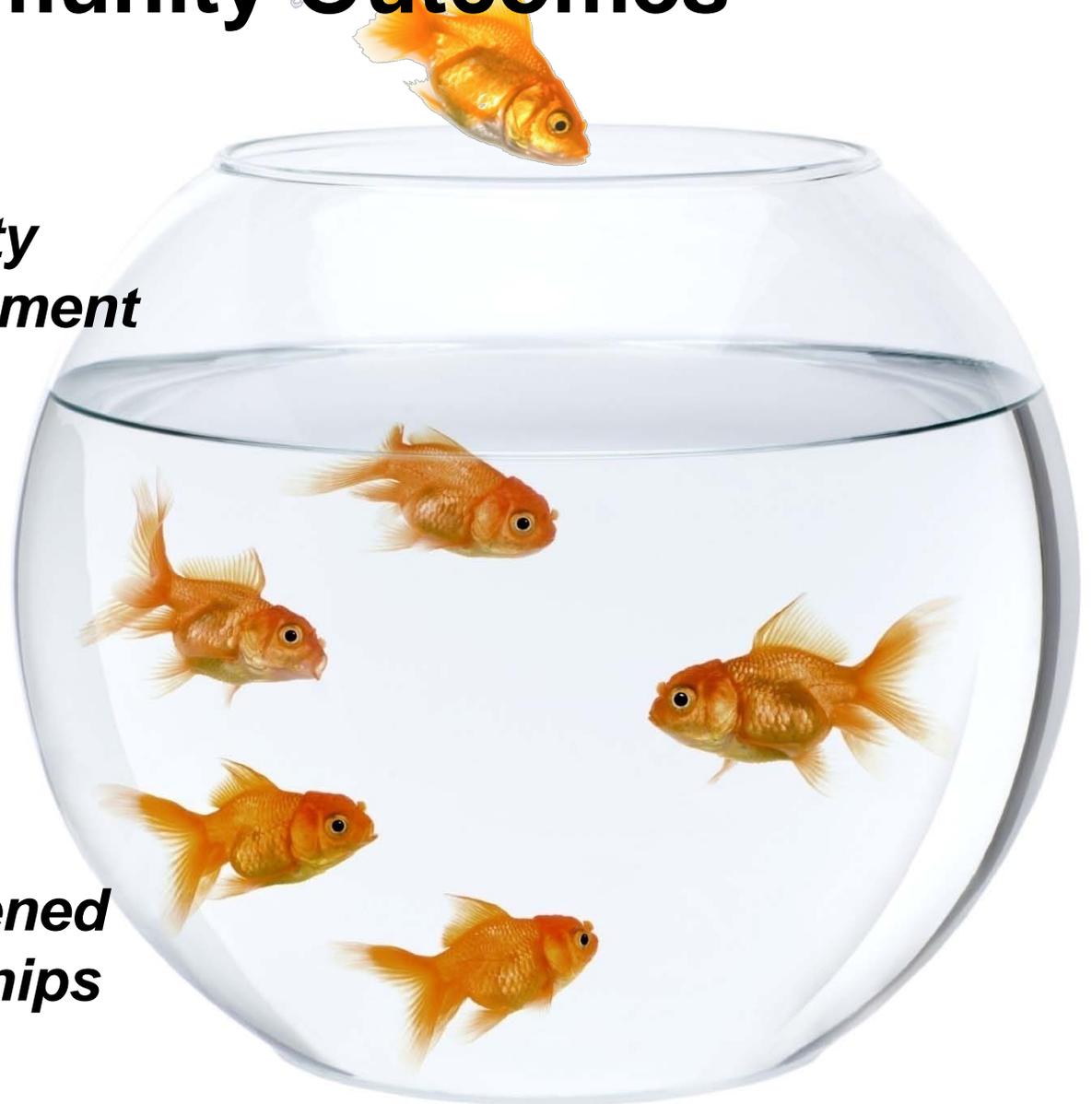
***Increased use of
research to inform
policy & program
decision-making***

Empowerment Evaluation Community Outcomes

***Increased community
involvement/engagement***

***Increased
community
awareness***

***New &
strengthened
relationships***



Empowerment Evaluation

Personal Outcomes



Better understanding of myself - confirmed my pre-conceptions about our community & challenged my biased perceptions & stereotypes

Improved as a person – leadership skills, data interpretation skills & became more empathetic

Changed us as evaluators – from objective, value-free stance to empowerment agent, facilitator, coach, friend, advocate

School Readiness Outcomes Early Development Instrument (EDI)

Percentage of Vulnerable Children in:				
Malton 2007	Malton 2009	Mississauga 2007	Ontario Sample	Canadian Sample
28%	26%	26%	27%	27%

Percentage of vulnerable children in the lowest 10th percentile in one or more of five developmental domains.



A Message from Malton UEY To The CES-Peel & Ontario Evaluation Community



“This is a great place,” says Valerie Thompson. “You see a lot of diversity, a lot of good people who really care about this community.” For Valerie, UEY Malton conjures up two words: “prosperity and pride.”

“Don't forget our assets, synergy & determinism”

MALTON SUMMIT

NEXT EXIT 

Sustainability Key Challenge Malton Community Alliance

www.maltonkids.ca

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Current Partners

