



## What makes for a successful community garden?

The following community garden best practices were gathered through consultations with gardeners, partners, and staff about their experiences with TCH gardens. These ideas are further developed in the Community Garden Training series.

### **Shared Leadership**

- More than one person making decisions
- Active coordinators
- The people who are most active in organizing the community garden are also involved in other community groups and activities

### **Shared work**

- Delegation of activities, based on interest and energy

### **Shared fun**

- Facilitating social events, celebrations, potlucks, barbeques, and festivals as a way to bring people together

### **Shared Communication**

- Clear channels of communication
- People know who to talk to for what
- People are pro-active about bringing their concerns to each other and addressing them in positive ways

### **Shared Decision making**

- Participatory process
- Transparency in process and funding
- Everyone participates in some way with making the big decisions
- Meetings are well-facilitated

### **Shared Vision, Guidelines and Plan**

- Guidelines are created and signed by everyone!
- People have a sense of what they want to accomplish together. They have ideas about how they will do this
- Commonly understood group values

### **Regular contact**

- People meet, talk and work together on a regular basis throughout the year

**Everyone can participate and everyone feels welcome**

- The community garden is user-friendly
- It is physically accessible to people of all ages, sizes and abilities
- The spaces and signage are positive and welcoming and in different languages
- Information about the garden is accessible to all
- What goes on in the community garden group is transparent and understood by all
- People feel like they are heard when they want to be heard
- People feel like they have the ability to shape the direction of the group
- People feel safe with each other

**Presence in the Community**

- The surrounding community recognizes the garden as a valuable part of their neighbourhood.

**The Garden has Partners**

- The community garden group, supported by staff, approaches local organizations and support staff as potential partners pursuing shared goals