

## Kitchen Table Conversation Report

**Name of Group/Organization:** Mr. Pollio's Grade 6 Class (1), Father Leonard Van Tighem School

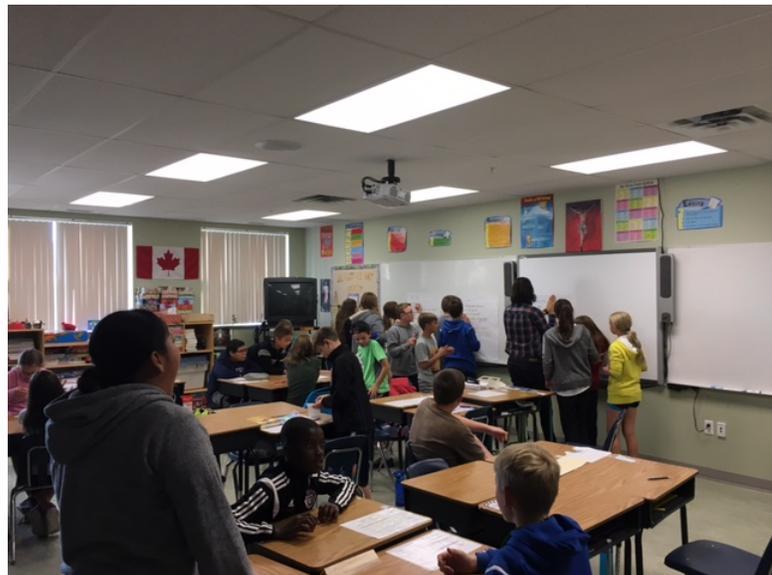
**Conversation Topic:** Our City's Future

**Date:** September 29, 2016

**Describe your Conversation:** During the morning of September 29, 2016, Andrew Malcolm and Perry Stein, Community Planners at the City of Lethbridge led a planning and visioning activity with a class of Grade 6 students at Father Leonard Van Tighem School.

The activity started by introducing community planning to the students, and a conversation about the role of planning, our City's Master Plan (the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan / Municipal Development Plan) and City Council. The class was then asked to describe their ideal future city (Lethbridge 20 years from now). The students' comments were organized into three main areas: environment, economic and social, using the concept of the "three-legged" sustainability stool; the idea being that a healthy community seeks to balance environmental, social and economic priorities and outcomes, and that each leg supports the others. When one leg is missing the stool falls over.

Listed below are the community priorities, ideas, visions, dreams of the class in each of the three areas.



### **Environment:**

- Protecting nature
- No weeds (especially prickly ones)—control weeds and bugs
- Less pollution
  - Less cars, more buses
  - Electric cars
- No litter
- Happy
- Beautiful
- More bushes and trees
- Recycling in parks
- Peaceful
- Dreamland
- Trees
- Amazing place to live in
- Outside
- Big open fields
- Alternative energy
- River bottom
  - Coulees
  - Activities (swim, hike)
- Nature in my backyard

### **Economic:**

- Helping people find jobs
- Job opportunities for everyone
- Big commercial
  - More selection
  - Cost is higher
- Diversifying
- Local stores
- Convenient
- Find things easier
- Better prices
- Takes up less land
- Balance taxes with community needs

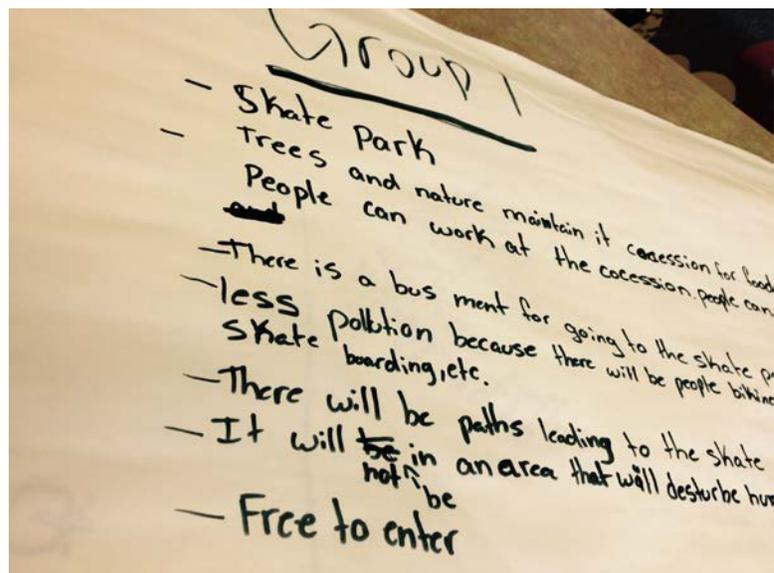
### **Social:**

- Peaceful
- Entertainment
- Education
- Flying cars
- More parks
- Recreation
  - Skate park
  - Baseball diamonds
  - Hockey rinks
  - Soccer centre
  - Horse riding in the city
- Less traffic
  - More roads, more opportunity to bike
- More biking and walking trails
- Silent garbage trucks
- Fix potholes
- Less fences in parks
- Strong healthcare
- Younger driving age
- Housing
  - Large houses
  - Modern houses
  - Acreages/small ranches
  - Lots of grass
  - Apartment (starter homes)
  - Trailers

After brainstorming these ideas, students were given the chance to vote on the community priorities, ideas, visions, dreams that they thought were most important to them. The community priorities, ideas, visions, dreams that received the most votes are highlighted in Green.

While the visioning was taking place, a classroom election was also held by secret ballot. The students elected one mayor and two councilors.

With the visioning complete, students were put into groups and tasked with creating a project (building, program, business etc.) that they think could achieve all of the main community priorities (those that received the most votes). After spending time



working in their groups, each group had to present their project to the class. After all the presentations, the mayor and councilors chose the best project to “fund”.

Below is a short description of each project:

1. Skate park surrounded by nature with a concession stand. There is a bus that takes people to the skate park, as well as paths, so people don't have to drive and pollution is reduced. The park will also be free.
2. Recreation centre with a walking paths and bike trails. There is a bus that goes directly to the centre from different locations. The centre has garbage and recycling facilities and is a source of employment.
3. Downtown recreation centre that has a multitude of recreation and entertainment opportunities, including a school, movie theater, library, pet store, baseball diamond, hotel, and restaurants.

All of the projects focused on being inclusive, environmentally responsible and financially responsible.

