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DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC VISION PROJECT BACKGROUND MATERIAL SUMMARY SHEET

1. Title

Community and its Counterfeits (transcript: Ideas: CBC Radio)

2. Location:

Phillips (250-642-3297) 2459 Kemp Lake Road

3. Year Published:

1994

4. Brief Summary:

John McKnight, a community organizer, defines a community as “the space where citizens prevail”. Associations of citizens, small groups that take 3 powers “the power to decide there was a problem, the power to decide how to solve the problem—that is the expert’s power—and then the power to solve the problem.” are the best form for a community.

Communities can only regenerate from within “governments function best...when they transfer resources that enable people to act on their own behalf”.

Government should remove layers of bureaucracy & services that prevent the community from working together.

John McKnight was invited to Prince George & Powell River BC in the early 1990s to lead Project Friendship a program to rebuild a community to become hospitable and inclusive for people who have been excluded because of severe mental & physical disabilities.

An internet search showed that Project Friendship was still running in 2006.

5. Opinion on Relevance to Project:

It gives me the feeling that we are on the right track with the visioning process. It is a philosophical exploration of the idea of community but not directly relevant.

6. Categories Covered:

Governance Recreation Economy
Environment Community Development

Others (Specify): _____

7. Reviewer:

Rosemary Jorna