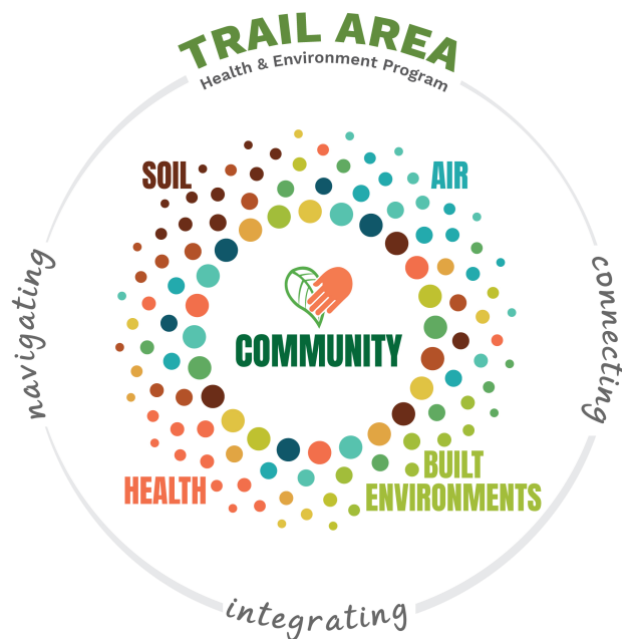


THEP 2024

4 key learnings to share

(March 31, 2025)

1. **Adaptive management** is core to THEP. It ensures we are consistently evolving and improving.
 2. **Communicating the history, activities and story** of THEP is an ongoing task that needs to be reiterated across all THEP partners organizations and the community.
 3. Complex work requires us to **engage beyond our silo**.
 4. **Perseverance** is essential for progress.
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Summary

The lessons from 2024 underscore that people and relationships are an essential part of the success in working to address complex, multi-stakeholder, community health and environment challenges. The Trail Area Health & Environment Program is a long-standing partnership that works to bridge expertise and silos in an area influenced by smelter air emissions. This includes valuing the wide ranging regulated and non-regulated activities, that are making a difference in people's lives.

1. Adaptive management is core to THEP. It ensures we are consistently evolving and improving.

- Incremental changes over time, along with flexibility, are leading to progress and impacts. Progress and changes are tracked and reported on.
- Small changes in how, what and when we communicate to those we seek to engage is resulting in more participation, more timely service delivery and ultimately, better health outcomes for children.

2024 examples: format for invitations to blood lead clinics; clarifying assumptions in existing language and communications materials; integrating pilot initiatives into standardized programs; implementing the annual milestones reporting changes over time.

2. Communicating the history, activities and story of THEP is an ongoing task that needs to be reiterated across all THEP partners organizations and the community.

- Communicating internally within our ‘partner’ organizations is important to ensuring consistent support, understanding of the work and its impacts, and ultimately building resiliency to ‘turnover of people’ with time.
- Communicating externally is important to demonstrating leadership, championing progress and sharing success stories. THEP’s story is worth sharing. There are myths to dispel and many communities look to THEP as a model.

2024 examples of internal communications include ‘showing and telling’ THEP’s work across our organizations with staff, meeting regularly as a cross-organizational team and tracking our joint progress and learning as partners.

2024 examples of external communications include establishing our international Community of Practice with Australia and Belgium, presenting to the Broken Hill Blood Lead Reduction Group; hosting local community partner networking event; and applying for excellence awards in BC.

3. Complex work requires us to engage beyond our silo.

- Often the answers to bigger challenges are unknown and require multiple interventions. Partners gain when listening and learning from a variety of expertise. Still, coming to together to collaborate requires time, trust and relationships. The outcomes are worth the effort as the group together sees the bigger picture.

In 2024, the example of bringing data together from various sources such as soil, air, dust and blood lead to help partners see various potential influences on blood lead; as well as test assumptions.

4. Perseverance is essential for progress.

For more than 30 years, the same group of partners have committed to continuing this work. Many topics addressed in 2024 have been talked about (and worked on) for decades such as the Wide Area Remediation Plan (WARP), difficult access yards and program participation rates. Municipal leadership helps 'as the glue' keeping partners together.

In 2024, the best example is the conversations and programs that persist through ups and downs, staff changes and governance changes. Regular meetings of the Trail Area Health & Environment Committee are well attended. Local leadership and staff have been essential for ensuring issues that matter to the community continue to receive attention.