

SARAH DELASSI ON BUILDING COMMUNITY IN THE WORKPLACE

PRE-LISTENING QUESTIONS:

Instructions: You will hear a short interview with a leader of a large company talking about how her past and present employers built a strong workplace community.

Before you listen to the recording, answer the following questions:

1. What kinds of workplace social activities do you think people participate in here in Canada? Brainstorm as many activities as you can think of that people, especially colleagues, could do as a group:

a. that build community within the group:

b. that benefit others in a wider community:

2. What motivates people to get connected to a workplace community?

3. Is creating a workplace community important in your country of origin? How do you think creating workplace community in your first culture (C1) is similar or different from creating it in Canada?

Vocabulary Building Activity

Here are some words you will hear in the interview.

WORD	DEFINITION
manufacturing (adjective)	describes a process by which products are made with machines
effective (adjective)	having a desired effect or result
fundraiser (noun)	an event held for the purpose of collecting money for a school, charity, organization, etc.
Corporate Challenge (compound noun)	a fun, team-building event held in Edmonton in which many different companies come together to compete against one another in sports and recreation
charities (plural noun)	companies or organizations that help people in need
network (noun)	a group of people or organizations that are closely connected
meshed (simple past or past participle verb)	to be connected together and working properly
LGBTQ (adjective)	Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Questioning. Identifies people whose sexual orientation, gender identity or sexual characteristics are different from the majority of the population, which are male or female heterosexuals
awareness-raising (noun - gerund)	bringing attention to an important issue or group
sense of belonging (noun)	a feeling of being included and connected to others

Using your new vocabulary in context

Choose the correct vocabulary word to complete each of the sentences below.

1. Nisku, near Edmonton, is a major _____ centre for oil and gas products in Canada.
2. More than 170 companies participate in the _____, which is a fun recreation and team-building event held each year in Edmonton.
3. One goal of community building is to create a _____ of people to support each other.
4. One way to make a difference in the community and help those less fortunate is to donate money to _____.
5. One way to work together is to participate in _____ activities that help people understand the needs of groups such as the _____ community.

6. An _____ method of working for the common good of society is to host a _____ to support an important cause.
7. Once a team of people has _____ together, there are all kinds of benefits to the workplace environment.
8. Employees are more likely to remain loyal to a company if they feel a _____ within the organization.

While you listen

Instructions: Read the following questions and then answer them as you listen to the recording.

1. What is the name of the person being interviewed?

2. What is her position?

3. Where was the first organization this leader worked for located?

4. Which activity was NOT listed as a way her first employer built community? Choose one answer.

- a. raising money for charity
- b. having a BBQ together
- c. playing baseball together
- d. participating in Corporate Challenge
- e. They were all listed as ways to build community

5. The interviewee mentions that at her second employer they had a strong group of people that were part of what community? Choose one answer.

- a. Diabetes Foundation
- b. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) community
- c. Newcomers to Canada
- d. Oceanview community

6. What two projects did her second employer get involved with? Choose one answer.

- a. fundraising and charity work
- b. charity work and corporate challenge
- c. fundraising and awareness-raising
- d. awareness-raising and baseball

7. At her current employer, what 3 activities do her colleagues enjoy doing together?

8. What does Sarah mean by “bringing back” to the community? Choose one answer.
- a. to contribute
 - b. to take
 - c. to mesh
 - d. to carry

True or False

Listen to the interview again. Decide whether each statement is true (T) or false (F).

- 1. T / F Sarah liked working for companies with a strong community focus.
- 2. T / F Everybody got involved in community building wherever she worked.
- 3. T / F One of the benefits of getting involved in the broader social community building a sense of belonging.
- 4. T / F The events her teams get involved in only benefit themselves.
- 5. T / F It was easy for Sarah to leave the previous organizations she worked for.

POST-LISTENING REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Generally, why do employees get involved in community building activities at work? Explain.

2. What are some of the benefits of community building at work? What are some of the drawbacks?
