A strong community is one whose residents actively participate in making it prosperous and livable. Many of the best things we can do to build great places start out small – and people who are there, in person, every day are in the best position to see these opportunities.

1. **Interact and Observe**
   Experience your neighbourhood, by foot or bicycle if possible. Walk sidewalks and trails, spend some time in parks, check out businesses in the area. Think about spaces in other cities where you’ve enjoyed positive, memorable experiences.

2. **Decide What You Care About**
   After interacting and observing, what would you like to see changed? Can spaces in your neighbourhood be adapted? Are there ways to improve other areas around the city? Are there larger changes that you’d like to advocate for?

3. **Connect With Others**
   Do neighbours and other community members care about the same issues? Have they tried to solve them in the past? Are they willing to share their thoughts and ideas? Have you discovered strategies that have worked in other communities?

4. **Join Existing Projects**
   Learn if there are already people working on issues that matter to you. Join them so you can learn more and help out.

5. **Be Open-Minded About Solutions**
   Someone else may perceive the challenge from a different perspective. Listen and be open to other opportunities. Remember to be patient. Changes can take time, sometimes years!
“Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

- Jane Jacobs, urbanist, activist

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**TIPS FOR BECOMING A STRONG COMMUNITY CITIZEN**

**TIP #1**
Gain inspiration from other Strong Citizens around North America.

www.strongtowns.org/journal/tag/Strong+Citizenship

**TIP #2**
Learn about starting your own community association in Medicine Hat.

www.medicinehat.ca/communityassociations

**TIP #3**
Learn about community vibrancy grants and micro-grants, available from the City of Medicine Hat.

www.medicinehat.ca/grants

**TIP #4**
Enroll at Strong Towns Academy and study lessons from the MH Community Action Lab - it’s free!

https://academy.strongtowns.org/p/medicinehat-signup

**TIP #5**
Connect with other Hatters by joining Strong Towns Local Conversations:

www.strongtowns.org/local

**TIP #6**
Shape Your City: Learn more about the MH Community Action Lab and follow the City’s progress.

https://shapeyourcity.medicinehat.ca/strong-towns-community-action-lab