



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

PREPARATION

Review the steps involved in undertaking service-learning projects with your students and determine how to integrate project time into your classroom curriculum.

MATERIALS

- Investigate materials: Handouts A) 1-6
- Prepare, Plan, and Act materials: Handouts B) 1-3
- Reflect and Celebrate materials: Handouts C) 1-3

ALIGNMENT ↔

BC Curriculum

Social and Emotional Development: The MDI measures aspects of children's social and emotional development that align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum

Core Competencies

Communication & Collaboration: Students practice communicating findings and ideas through group work and presentations

Summary

The service-learning project toolkit provides educators with materials they can use to support the design and implementation of service-learning projects that students can create to take action based on their MDI results.

Time

Service-learning projects can take anywhere from one week to several months depending on the scope and goals of the projects students undertake.

General Objectives (will vary by project)

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination, and reflexivity.
- Demonstrate skills such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching, and investigating.
- Interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.
- Express ideas and create meaning using a range of media.
- Use information and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas, and represent their thinking.

Guidance

Students will get the most out of this project if it is preceded by [MDI Lesson Series 1: Getting to Know the MDI](#)

Students' projects will vary widely in terms of focus and scope given that they are developing their ideas from their school and/or district MDI data and will have varying amounts of time and resources to devote to their projects.

Here are some example projects:

- If local data suggest the need to strengthen relationships with adults in the neighbourhood, students could design a project that connects students with elderly members of the community at a local care home or through a grocery delivery service.
- If local data suggest that many students are not eating breakfast, students could design a project that seeks food donations from the community to add to a daily snack cart for their school.
- If local data suggest the need to increase the frequency of good sleep, students could design a project to boost sleep hygiene awareness among students through a school campaign.



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

INVESTIGATE

Before the Project

1. Choose your focus area: Review your MDI results and identify areas of improvement. This step may be completed as part of [MDI Series Topic 1, Lesson 3, Activity 2](#).
2. Develop a research plan: Identify what you already know about the need you identified and what you need to learn in order to make a difference.
3. Identify your assets: What passions, interests, and assets do you bring to the project that will help make it successful?
4. Map community resources: Who or what is available in your community to help you achieve your project goals?
5. Select your action strategy: How will you achieve your project goals—through awareness, service, advocacy, or philanthropy?
6. Finalize your project idea: Finalize your service project idea in a clear, one-page document. Then assess your readiness to pull it off!

PREPARE, PLAN & ACT

During the Project

1. Pick your project team: Gather a group of friends, family, school staff, and other supporters who can commit to helping you plan and lead the project.
2. Identify project goals: Develop clear, measurable goals to help guide project planning and gauge impact.
3. Plan project tasks: Determine the tasks involved to prepare and take action to realize your project's goals. Then assess your readiness to take action and implement your project.

REFLECT & CELEBRATE

After the Project

1. Reflect on your experience: Consider how the project has affected you and your community.
2. Evaluate your impact: Review your project goals and outcomes; identify what went well and what you would do differently.
3. Celebrate your success: Identify ways to thank everyone who helped you realize your project and share your results with the community.



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

INVESTIGATE : 1. Choose your focus area

Review your school or district's MDI results in the following areas: Well-Being Index, Adult Relationships, Peer Relationships, Nutrition & Sleep, Out-of-School Activities

Use the graphic organizer to record your thoughts about the results:

I'm surprised about...	I'm curious about...
What's going well...	Areas for improvement...

Consider the areas for improvement you've identified. What issue do you care about the most?

Why is this issue important to you?

What would you like to see change? How can this area be improved?



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

INVESTIGATE : 2. Develop a research plan

Your focus area:

What do you already know about the need or condition you identified?

What do you need to learn in order to take action and make a difference?

What are the *sources of information you can use to get the information you need?

What did you learn about the need and how to address it?

***Sources of information:**

Media: articles, blogs, videos, podcasts

Conversations & Interviews: talk with experts and those affected by the issue to understand their point of view

Observations & Experiences: notice people, places, or behaviours, and keep track of what you see

Surveys: Create a survey to find out what people know or how they feel about an issue



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

INVESTIGATE : 3. Identify your assets

What interests and passions do you have that might help you with your project? Consider the examples below and circle the ones that you enjoy most. Add your own if it's not there!

Music

Playing an instrument;
singing; writing songs

Art

Painting, drawing,
sculpture, graphic art

Reading and Writing

Poetry, stories, plays
Fiction, nonfiction

Movement

Dancing, martial arts,
cheerleading

Building

Wood working,
construction, welding

Leadership

Peace building, student
government, politics

Entrepreneurship

Business, marketing,
inventions, innovation

Sports

Team or individual sports,
activities, competitions

Teaching

Mentoring, tutoring, teaching,
reading to others

Nature

Exploring nature,
wildlife, gardening

Animals

Caring for animals,
training, healthcare

Computers

Software development,
repair, web design, coding

Academic Subjects

Science, math, history,
literature, languages,
geography

Speech

Debate, public speaking,
broadcasting, vlogs

Creative Arts

Cooking, sewing,
fashion, knitting

Comedy

Jokes, sketch comedy,
improv, making people laugh

Spirituality

Prayer, meditation,
mindfulness

Journalism

Newscasting, blogs,
writing, radio, podcasts,
and TV production

Advocacy

Politics and government;
commitment to a cause;
civic engagement

Mechanics

Electronics or machine
repair, robotics, auto repair

Other**Drama/Theatre**

Acting, directing,
production design, lighting

Outdoor Recreation

Fishing, hunting, trapping,
hiking, orienteering, camping

Photography and Film

Taking photos, making
films, animation

Skills

Knowledge

Experiences

Traits



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

INVESTIGATE : 3. Identify your assets (cont'd)

Now that you've identified your personal passions, interests, and assets, think about how you'll use them to help you make a difference in the need you identified for your project. Record your ideas below.



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

INVESTIGATE : 4. Map community resources

Your community can also be a good source of assets and resources that can help you with your project. In the different categories below, record the community assets you can access to help make your project a success.

COMMUNITY ASSETS (educational, economic, religious, political, cultural)

People, associations, and groups	Places
Events and traditions	Businesses, organizations, and institutions

PARTNERS Record the other groups, classes/schools, or organization that might already be working on this issue. They may be willing to partner with you!

--

IDEAS How have others tried to address this issue? What's worked? What hasn't?

--



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

A) INVESTIGATE : 5. Select your action strategy

There are four main ways to take action to address an issue: awareness, service, advocacy, and philanthropy. Read more about each of these below. Then identify which action strategy you want to use to address the issue you chose.

☐ AWARENESS

Educate. Share information and teach others to positively change people's behaviours.

Examples: Encourage active commutes to school; create a healthy eating campaign; teach disaster preparedness

☐ ADVOCACY

Advocate. Speak out, join others, and persuade policy makers to change policies and laws.

Examples: Hold a rally, march or protest; meet with elected officials; speak at a public forum or meeting; organize a petition

☐ SERVICE

Volunteer. Use your creativity, time, and talent to directly meet a need in your community.

Examples: start a tutoring service; plant trees in your neighbourhood; distribute meals to elders

☐ PHILANTHROPY

Give. Collect and donate financial and in-kind support.

Examples: raise money for disaster relief; clean up a local park; do a food drive; collect books for children

My action strategy:



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

INVESTIGATE : 6. Finalize your project idea

Community need – My cause or issue is:

Personal assets – The personal passions, assets, and interests I bring to the project are:

Community resources – My community can help by:

Type of project – The action strategy I will use is:

Community need + Personal assets + Community resources + Type of project
= Project idea: My service project is...

ARE YOU READY TO DO THIS PROJECT?

If you can answer “yes” to the following questions, then your project is meaningful, doable, and effective. If not, adjust or simplify your project idea.

- ☐ Are you willing to commit time and skills to this project?
- ☐ Will the project have a positive and visible outcome for your community?
- ☐ Will you be able to track and measure the impact or results of your project?
- ☐ Can you convince others to join you?
Is there enough time to plan and complete the project?
- ☐ Will you need funds to do this project?
- ☐ Do you know where, and how, you will be able to collect the supplies and materials you need to do the project?



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

PREPARE, PLAN & ACT : 1. Pick your project team

Team Members

Your project may need a team to be successful. Who has assets that can help your project? Who do you work well with or would like to learn to work with? Who would be willing to commit to helping you plan and lead the project? Note the names of friends, family, classmates, and other youth and adults who can be part of your team:

Team Values

Identify the values that can guide how your team works together and help the project be successful. Some examples include honesty, accountability, respect, kindness, and service.

Team Guidelines

Identify rules and guidelines that will help you and your team work well together and ensure the project goes smoothly. Some examples include be on time; ask for help when you need it; listen to everyone's ideas; take turns speaking.



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

PREPARE, PLAN & ACT : 2. Determine project goals

You have your project idea, but you'll also need to develop clear, measurable goals to help guide project planning and gauge impact.

Write one or more SMART goals for our project. SMART goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound.

Example: We will host a book drive, collecting at least fifty new or used books for the local library, within the next four weeks, to help expand their children's reading collection and encourage literacy.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

PREPARE, PLAN & ACT : 3. Plan project tasks

Every project, no matter the size, will need several tasks completed for it to be successful. Read about the categories of tasks below. Decide what tasks you'll need for your project. Then organize your team into committees or smaller teams to be responsible for each task's completion.

Build Partnerships

Community partners can help you identify community needs, effective strategies, and resources to address those needs; refine your project idea by providing feedback; and spread the word out about your project.

Tasks can include:

- identify who to contact (e.g., public leaders, government agencies, issue-based organizations, university/colleges, community members)
- send an introductory email
- request a meeting
- when you meet, be prepared to talk about: your inspiration and project; your "ask", or what advice or support you are requesting; your assets

Gather Resources

Develop a project budget and fundraising plan (if necessary).

Tasks can include:

- brainstorm expenses
- determine number of items you need
- determine cost of items
- consider fundraising options: activities and events; grants; monetary donations; in-kind donations (e.g., equipment, tools, food)
- develop fundraising plan with details such as resource needed/fundraising goal, potential source of funding, team member responsible, due date, amount or item received, funder thanked (Yes/No)

Tell the Story

You are proud of your project, and you want others to know about it and get involved. Engaging the media and telling your story on social media is a chance to amplify your voice!

Tasks can include:

- identify your storytelling goals: What do you want people to know about your project? Who do you want to know? What do you want them to do?
- plan what media you'll use (e.g., radio, blogs, social media, newsletters, television)
- contact the media outlets
- give interviews
- invite reporters to cover your event

Work with Volunteers

You might need volunteers in addition to your team members to help you before, during, or after the project.

Tasks can include:

- determine what you need help with, if any special skills are required, and how many people you need.
- recruit volunteers
- send volunteers an email reminder with the date, time, location, what they should wear, and bring
- thank volunteers, and let them know the outcomes and impact of the project

Organize Logistics

Whether your project is a one-day event or happening over several days or weeks, there will be many logistics that need planning in order for the project to be successful. Logistics can include: schedule, equipment and supplies, facilities, speakers and entertainment, food and beverages, transportation, signage, bad weather plan, safety and security, photos and videos



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

PREPARE, PLAN & ACT : 3. Plan project tasks (cont'd)

Task Category	Team names	When? (start / due date)	What needs to happen?	Potential challenges
Build partnerships				
Gather resources				
Tell the story				
Work with volunteers				
Organize logistics				



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

PREPARE, PLAN & ACT : 3. Plan project tasks (cont'd)

ARE YOU READY TO IMPLEMENT YOUR PROJECT PLAN?

If you can answer, “Yes,” to these questions, then you are ready! If not, you may need to spend a bit more time adjusting your plans.

- ☐ Do you have clear, measurable project goals?
- ☐ Are all project team members aware of the project goals?
- ☐ Do you have a method to track progress towards project goals?
- ☐ Do you know how many volunteers you need to recruit?
- ☐ Do you know how much money you will need to do your project?
- ☐ If applicable, do you have plans to recruit volunteers, promote your project to the media and public officials, and raise funds to cover project expenses?



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

REFLECT & CELEBRATE : 1. Reflect on your experience

How has your participation in the project impacted you, and how have you impacted your community? Think of fun, creative ways you can reflect with your planning team throughout your project or use the sample questions and activities below. When appropriate, include project volunteers, beneficiaries, and partners in your reflection activities.

Your project and you:

What inspires you to serve?
What does service mean to you?
Service is power because...

Your project and your community:

How would you describe your connection to your community?
What short- and long-term impacts will your project have on your community?

Your project and your future:

Which skills are you learning and demonstrating through this project?
What interesting careers have you learned about through this project?

Sample reflection activities:

Blogs	Poems
Videos	Interviews
Personal journal	Group journal
Group discussions	Photo essays/collages

Your reflection plan



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

REFLECT & CELEBRATE : 2. Evaluate your impact

Find out what changed in your community as a result of your project. Did you meet your project goal(s)?

Measure, track, and record project outcomes

Your vision	Project goals	Baseline data	Project outcomes

Evaluate your project planning and implementation process

What worked well?

What would you do differently?



Taking Action with Your MDI Results

REFLECT & CELEBRATE : 3. Celebrate your success

How can you recognize and thank all project volunteers, partners, and funders?

Some tips to get started:

- Send thank-you letters and include information about the impact of the project
- Apply for local or national youth service or volunteerism awards

Celebration and recognition ideas:

- Hold a culminating event to bring together everyone involved in the project and provide a focal point for demonstrating and celebrating both learning and service. The event might be a traditional awards banquet or ceremony or a less-formal picnic or potluck. Effective culminating events recognize the efforts and impact of youth and their community partners.
- Report the results of the service to everyone who served. Encourage participants to feel proud of the work they have done, and to recognize and appreciate their involvement in the youth service movement.
- Offer recognition items, such as certificates, plaques, T-shirts, or pins. Or offer small gifts, such as mugs, keychains, baseball caps, flowers, books, music CDs, or gift certificates.
- Nominate outstanding youth for local and national awards and scholarships.
- Get feedback from key stakeholders and participants, including community partners and project beneficiaries.
- Gather ideas for the next project.
- Coordinate with schools so that youth get service credits on their transcripts. These can be used to meet graduation requirements, club requirements, or university applications.
- Send thank-you notes to organizers, funders, and anyone else who assisted you with your project.

Your Celebration Plan
