**LESSONS LEARNED DOCUMENT – Group Trailblazers**

Develop 3 Lessons Learned in your Group.

Here are the lessons learned questions as part of our project closure activity:

• *One must be related to how your group functioned*

**Communication & Conflict Resolutions**

Clear communication and effective problem-solving were key throughout our project. We kept each other updated on every step and stayed open to feedback. If someone couldn’t complete their task, they let the team know in advance so we could adjust as needed. We also listened to each other’s concerns and worked together to find solutions instead of letting small issues grow. By being honest, supportive, and communicative, we kept things organized and on track. **(Ladan Asempour)**

**Team Collaboration, Research Challenges, and Skill Development**

Our group worked effectively together, with each member demonstrating initiative, leveraging their individual strengths, and showing mutual respect for one another’s time and commitments. While we collaborated well, the high volume of assignments highlighted the need for continued improvement in our time-management practices. In the future, setting internal deadlines and improving communication around absences—possibly through written group charters—could enhance our efficiency and coordination.

During the research phase, we encountered some difficulty accessing certain project-specific details, such as cost information. However, we were able to overcome this challenge through proactive communication with the instructor. Overall, group members utilized a variety of online resources and keyword strategies to gather insightful and relevant information for the project.

Throughout the course of the project, we explored a wide range of organizational processes and developed valuable skills such as goal formulation, budgeting, critical path analysis, and overall project flow management. These skills are not only applicable to future careers but will also benefit us in personal endeavors. **(Alexandra Gladkova)**

**Adaptability & Problem Solving**

One of the biggest things I realized is that problem-solving in a team setting is very different from working on my own, and having different perspectives helped us tackle challenges more effectively. Moving forward, we can be even more flexible by being proactive in spotting potential issues early and staying open to adjusting our plans when needed. This will help us tackle future challenges more smoothly. **(Kushwanth Sai Kolli)**

**Balancing Workload with Other Commitments**

A major challenge that was faced during the project was balancing the project commitments along with our personal lives, in addition to the number of projects running alongside in other Humber courses. This project required a high level of understanding, which meant that we as students had to be up to date with the course as it was going on every week. This was especially hard with the deadlines of projects in the other courses. In addition, scheduling was very hard due to everyone in our group having different work schedules, if our responsibilities for the charters were dependant on each other, our work would be staggered due to someone only being available to finish at a late hour in the night or not being free practically the whole weekend. This also extended to meetings where people would have to make up the time to fill in individuals not, however we all put a lot of care into our work and would schedule time to get caught up to speed.   
A method we personally feel could improve our teams scheduling and workload issues would be to have made a Gantt chart to develop timelines for our team, and also give proposed slack for each of our tasks so if someone did have to delay their work, we would still be able to work around it a little better since we prepared for it in advance. **(Hao Lun Rong)**

**Research & Problem Solving**

The first challenge we faced was selecting the project that was both meaningful and relevant to Canadian citizens. We spent a lot of time researching the various issues Canadians face and realized that housing affordability was the most critical one. Regardless of their status in Canada, most individuals are confronted with the challenge of unaffordable housing, and this gave us the idea for our project. The second challenge was gathering information. While some information like rent prices were easy to find, we found it difficult to find real-world examples of similar projects to guide our budgeting process. After thorough research, we eventually estimated the budget based on the best information available. Working on this project taught us that it is easier to solve a problem when in a team with diverse input. Each member of the team had different ideas that allowed us to solve these challenges. **(Christina Saju)**

• *One must be related to projects in the public sector*

One long overdue project in Toronto is the housing crisis. During the semester, our group explored it from one angle, focusing on how rent regulations in high-unemployment areas contribute to housing accessibility issues. While the housing crisis is a complex problem with many interconnected factors, such as affordability, supply shortages, and socioeconomic inequality, our project aimed to understand and address one piece of it: the barriers caused by current rent regulations.

In the real-world, public-sector projects like this often face challenges such as limited budgets, lengthy approval processes, and complex stakeholder dynamics. Through our research and proposal of policy changes, we learned how project management skills like risk management, stakeholder engagement, and clear communication can be used to address such challenges. Even though change is slow in the public sector, breaking down a larger issue like the housing crisis into actionable steps, such as analyzing policies and engaging with local communities can help move things forward and lead to long-term solutions.

• *One must be related to the structure of this course (e.g. format, evaluations, lectures, expectations, etc.*

**Ladan Asempour:**

I really enjoyed the Project Management class because of its clear and structured format. The way it was organized made it easy to follow and understand. Each session, Professor Blaides would start by explaining what we were going to do and what the next steps were, which helped me see how everything was connected. This made it easier to keep up with the lessons and understand how they built on each other.

One of the best parts of the course was the long-term group project. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and every week I was excited to move on to the next part; something that has hardly ever happened to me in my other courses. We worked on it throughout the whole semester, and it was well-structured with clear guidance from professor. Each week, we received feedback before moving on to the next assignment, which was helpful in improving our work.

Professor Blaides was always on time, and her expectations were clear from the start. She brought so much energy to the class, making it engaging and motivating for me. Her enthusiasm made learning more enjoyable, and I truly appreciated the experience.

**Alexandra Gladkova:**

I thoroughly enjoyed this course and found the lectures to be engaging, informative, and supportive of my learning. The quizzes and tests aligned well with the course content and effectively assessed my understanding of the material. The assignments were thoughtfully structured and followed a clear, logical progression, which made the learning process smooth and organized. The instructor demonstrated a strong passion for the subject and maintained a positive, encouraging attitude toward students. Overall, this course met my expectations and has sparked a genuine interest in project management.

**Kushwanth Sai Kolli:**

Coming into project management, everything was new to me, and with the curriculum being so dense with information, I initially thought this course would be overwhelming. I expected to rely heavily on textbooks to keep up, but Professor Blaides completely changed that expectation. From the very beginning, it was clear how much effort she put into making the course engaging and easy to understand.

The structure of the course played a big role in this. Expectations were clearly laid out, so I always knew what was required of me. The lectures were well-paced, breaking down complex concepts into manageable lessons, which helped me grasp new ideas without feeling lost. The evaluations and assignments were also thoughtfully designed, reinforcing what we learned rather than just adding extra workload. Despite the amount of content covered, I never felt bombarded with too much work at once or stressed about keeping up.

Overall, this course not only introduced me to project management in a way that felt approachable but also showed me how effective teaching methods and a well-structured curriculum can make a subject much more engaging and enjoyable.

**Hao Lun Rong:**

I truly appreciate the level of care that Professor Blaides has put into teaching. Her teaching style is very interactive, being able to mention people to give examples, and giving us time to understand the material that they are teaching while the lecture is going on. Another thing I appreciate is the conciseness of what is being taught as she closely follows the critical path that was laid out in the beginning of the course, including deadlines.

I also appreciate that there were discussion posts which gave us a chance to interact or see other student’s thought processes for certain topics and not only being graded based on assignments or quizzes. I can genuinely tell that the professor has a passion for teaching which I personally feel is not as apparent in other professors I have learned from in my previous studies. Overall, I enjoyed the course and can say that the professor has made a positive impact on my last semester at Humber.

**Christina Saju:**

I loved this course and found Professor Nadine’s method of teaching to be quite effective and engaging even with an 8:00 am Monday class. The way the professor explained how the previous lectures lead to the present one and how it all connects, made it very easy for me to retain information while also getting an idea of what comes next. The semester-long project worked together with the lecture content each week, which allowed us to apply and practice what we learned in theory. This further ensured that we retained all that was taught. She promised us that following her way of teaching would ensure we not only listen but also absorb everything being taught and that is exactly what she delivered. This course has given me a new path for my career which I am genuinely and immensely thankful for.