



Cities Reducing Poverty 2017

Membership Directory

Meet the members of the Cities Reducing
Poverty network

Compiled by Vibrant Communities Canada
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Special Acknowledgments | Our Funders

Vibrant Communities Canada would like to acknowledge and express our deepest appreciation to our funders:

THE J.W. McCONNELL
FAMILY FOUNDATION

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FAMILLE J.W. McCONNELL



Introduction | About Vibrant Communities

For over 15 years, Tamarack has been building a network of cities committed to reducing poverty through a collective impact movement called Vibrant Communities Canada – Cities Reducing Poverty.

About the Cities Reducing Poverty Network

Vibrant Communities Canada is the backbone support for a pan-Canadian network of 55 local poverty reduction roundtables, led by towns, counties, municipalities, regions, and provinces.

As of July 2017:

- 2% of CRP members have been doing poverty reduction work for more than ten years;
- 34% for six to ten years;
- 34% for three to five years;
- 16% for one to two years; and
- 14% for less than one year.

This membership directory tells a brief story about each member's local poverty reduction collaborative and about their priorities. Included in each profile are links to our member's website(s) and social media pages, details about their governance models, funding sources, priority action areas, and links to resources such as their poverty reduction strategies, progress reports and more.

In addition, members have identified their areas of local expertise, their challenges, and coaching and learning needs. It is in this space that Vibrant Communities excels at connecting ideas and information, for and across our membership, to make the work of our members easier and more effective. Through our annual learning plan we deliver newsletters, blogs, webinars, online community of practice meetings, research and policy resources, a shared evaluation, staff support, in person workshops and an annual gathering; all of which are designed to meet the needs of our diverse and growing membership.

Readers may use this guide to:

- Look up convenor contact information by individual names or by organization – we're a learning community – please connect with one another to ask questions;
- Connect with groups working on similar priority areas in neighboring regions, the same province, or elsewhere, to learn how they're working differently to address poverty;
- Review plans, reports, infographics and more to help you with your own case or strategy development and/or reporting;
- Follow other organizations through social media or visit their websites and subscribe to their newsletters to stay up to date on progress happening across the country.

The Vibrant Communities Canada Team

If you have any questions about the VCC-CRP membership directory or are a city convenor and wish to make updates to your profile, please get in touch with one of the members of our team.



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Convenor Contact List

If at any time you are unable to contact an individual in the email list below or would like to update the contact information on your organization's profile, please email VCC Manager, Kirsti Battista, at kirsti@tamarackcommunity.ca.

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AB - City of Edmonton	Lucenia Ortiz	lucenia.ortiz@edmonton.ca
AB - End Poverty Edmonton (EPE)	Andrea Burkhardt	andreaburkhardt@hotmail.com
AB - Community Action to End Poverty Grande Prairie	Tammy Wentzell	twentzel@cityofgp.com
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AB - City of Spruce Grove	Linda Bernicki	lbernicki@sprucegrove.org
AB - Strathcona County Social Framework	Michelle Jehn	michelle.jehn@strathcona.ca
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BC - Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee Kamloops	Rebecca Cain	Rebecca.cain@gov.bc.ca
BC - Langley Poverty Reduction Committee	Amanda Laboucane	amanda.laboucane@fraserhealth.ca
BC - Nelson at its Best	Valerie Warmington	bestofnelson@hotmail.com
BC - New Westminster Poverty Reduction Committee	Lisa Paterson	Lisa.Paterson@gov.bc.ca
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NB - A Quality of Life for All Monctonians	Kayla BreeLove Carter	kayla.breelove-carter@moncton.ca
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NB - WA Action	Joanna Brown	joanna@waaction.ca
NL - Vibrant Communities St. John's	Ruth MacDonald	ruthmacdonald@cscnl.ca

NS - All Access Community Pass Poverty Task Force Cape Breton	Lynne McCarron	lynne@unitedwaycapebreton.com
NS – Halifax Regional Municipality	Tracy Boyer	TBoyer@unitedwayhalifax.ca
NT - No Place for Poverty Coalition	Julie Green	julie_green@gov.nt.ca
ON - Prosperity Roundtable of Chatham-Kent	Karen Kirkwood-Whyte	karen@uwock.ca
ON - Social Development Council of Cornwall Area	Alex DeWit	adewit@sdccornwall.ca
ON - Poverty Action Partnership of Haldimand and Norfolk	Alison Dunn	Alison.dunn@hnhu.org
ON - Halton Poverty Roundtable (HPRT)	Leena Sharma Seth	leena@haltonpovertyroundtable.com
ON - Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction	Tom Cooper	tom@hamiltonpoverty.ca
ON - Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes Poverty Reduction Roundtable	Marina Hodson	mhodson@knfht.ca
ON - Plans for Action as a Community - Kingston	Bhavana Varma	bvarma@unitedwaykfla.ca
ON - Leeds and Grenville Poverty Reduction Alliance	Loretta Corbeil	loretta@eecentre.com
ON - London Child and Youth Network	Cheryl Smith	csmith@london.ca
ON - Niagara Poverty Reduction Network & Niagara Prosperity Initiative	Marc Todd	marc.todd@niagararegion.ca
ON - Ottawa Poverty Reduction Network	Linda Lalonde	linda_lalonde_ottawa@yahoo.com
ON - Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy	Adaoma Patterson	adaoma.patterson@peelregion.ca
ON - Poverty Roundtable of Hastings Prince Edward	Christine Durant	christine@povertyroundtablehpe.ca
ON - Sault Ste. Marie Poverty Round Table	Gary Vipond	gvipond@uwssmalgoma.ca
ON - Simcoe County Poverty Reduction Roundtable	Irena Pozgaj-Jones	Irena.Pozgaj-Jones@simcoe.ca
ON - Solutions to Poverty Waterloo Region	Linda Terry	linda@spccnd.org
ON - Elgin St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty	Laryssa Thompson	lthompson@elginhealth.on.ca
ON - TO Prosperity	Ricardo Tranjan	Ricardo.Tranjan@toronto.ca
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ON - Pathway to Potential (P2P)	Stephen Lynn	slynn@citywindsor.ca
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QC - The Réseau Québécois de Revitalisation Intégrée	David Marshall	revitalisationsaintpierre@gmail.com
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Table of Contents

Alberta	8
Enough for All Calgary	9
Canadian Poverty Institute	11
Central Alberta Poverty Reduction Alliance.....	13
End Poverty Edmonton	15
Community Action to End Poverty Grande Prairie	17
City of Spruce Grove.....	21
Strathcona County Social Framework	23
British Columbia.....	25
Vibrant Abbotsford	26
Cranbrook Poverty Reduction Committee	28
Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee Kamloops	30
Langley Poverty Reduction Committee	32
Nelson at its Best	34
New Westminster Poverty Reduction Committee.....	36
Port Hardy Poverty Reduction Committee	38
Revelstoke Poverty Reduction Working Group.....	40
Stewart Community Connections	42
Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition	44
Greater Trail Lower Columbia Region.....	46
Manitoba.....	48
Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council	49
New Brunswick	51
Vibrant Communities Charlotte County	52
Greater Fredericton Social Innovation	54
A Quality of Life for All Monctonians	56
Living SJ	58
WA Action	60
Newfoundland	62
Vibrant Communities St. John's	63
Northwest Territories.....	65
No Place for Poverty Coalition	66

Nova Scotia.....	68
All Access Community Pass Poverty Task Force	69
Halifax Regional Municipality	71
Ontario.....	73
Prosperity Roundtable of Chatham-Kent.....	74
Social Development Council of Cornwall Area	76
Poverty Action Partnership of Haldimand and Norfolk	79
Halton Poverty Roundtable (HPRT)	82
Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction	84
Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes Poverty Reduction Roundtable	86
Plans for Action as a Community - Kingston	88
Leeds and Grenville Poverty Reduction Alliance	90
London Child and Youth Network	92
Niagara Poverty Reduction Network & Niagara Prosperity Initiative	94
Ottawa Poverty Reduction Network	96
Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy.....	98
Poverty Roundtable of Hastings Prince Edward	100
Sault Ste. Marie Poverty Round Table	102
Simcoe County Poverty Reduction Roundtable.....	104
Solutions to Poverty Waterloo Region	106
Elgin St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty	108
TO Prosperity.....	110
Region of Waterloo Poverty Reduction Strategy.....	112
Pathway to Potential (P2P).....	113
Quebec.....	115
Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce	116
The Réseau Québécois de Revitalisation Intégrée	118
Saskatchewan.....	120
Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership	121
Yukon Territory.....	123
Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition	124
International.....	126
Opportunity Central Iowa	127

Alberta

Enough for All Calgary

Canadian Poverty Institute

Central Alberta Poverty Reduction Alliance

End Poverty Edmonton

Community Action to End Poverty Grande Prairie

THRIVE: Medicine Hat and Region Strategy to End Poverty and Increase Wellbeing

City of Spruce Grove

Strathcona County Social Framework

Enough for All Calgary



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Franco Savoia, Executive Director;
franco@vibrantcalgary.com; 403-283-2125

City/Region:
Calgary

Governance:
Vibrant Communities Calgary is the Collective Impact backbone organization that connects and convenes organizations from all sectors to advance the goals of the Enough for All local poverty reduction strategy

Initiative led by:
Municipality, United Way, Momentum and Vibrant Communities Calgary

Staff Supports:
7 full time employees, 1 part time employee, and 2 part time contractors

Convening Organization(s):
Vibrant Communities Calgary

Funded by:
The United Way of Calgary and the City of Calgary provide financial support and Momentum is the charitable sponsor for VCC and provides accounting and HR services to Vibrant Communities Calgary

ABOUT:

Vibrant Communities Calgary is the backbone organization to Calgary's poverty reduction strategy, Enough for All. Vibrant Communities Calgary seeks to engage in strategies that address the root cause of poverty. We have an extensive history with VC Canada, and our main goals include supporting Calgary to become more inclusive, strong, equal, and an accessible place to live. Enough for All is a community-driven poverty reduction initiative based on 15,000 hours of consultation with Calgarians, the business community, government, non-profits, and academia.

<http://enoughforall.ca/>

“Let's work together to make sure there is #ENOUGHFORALL.”

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)
- [Enough for All Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)
- [Heros to Each Other \(Community Engagement Report\)](#)
- [2015-2018 Implementation Strategy](#)

Action Areas:

- Everyone in Calgary has the income and assets to thrive
- All Aboriginal people are equal participants in Calgary's prosperous future
- All communities are strong, supportive and inclusive
- Everyone in Calgary can access the right supports, services and resources

Areas of Expertise/Successes:

- Evaluation
- Engaging Indigenous populations
- Engaging people with lived experience

Coaching Needs:

- Evaluation
- Living Wage
- Engaging Indigenous populations

Top Challenges:

- Co-branding poverty reduction initiatives with the city, and ensuring everyone is connected through proper communication

Learning Interests:

- Engaging in smaller, focused community of practice calls
- Increasing resources specific to Indigenous populations
- Making more direct connections within the network
- Regional events

Canadian Poverty Institute



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2016

Primary Convenor Contact:
Derek Cook, Director; Derek.Cook@ambrose.edu; 403-410-2913

City/Region:
Calgary

Governance:
The Canadian Poverty Institute exists as an interdisciplinary institute within Ambrose University and is guided by a pan-Canadian advisory committee

Initiative led by:
Canadian Poverty Institute at Ambrose University

Staff Supports:
1 full time director and a core research team, supported by an inter-disciplinary network of Faculty Associates and students

Convening Organization(s):
Ambrose University

Funded by:
Funding is provided by Ambrose University as well as private donors and project grants

ABOUT:

The Canadian Poverty Institute provides opportunities for students, faculty, non-profit organizations, government, churches and the community to learn about and research poverty, and to discern and share solutions for the betterment of all Canadians. It is in the resilience of community that the gifts of all people can be valued and brought into being. We believe that by actively seeking, nurturing and sharing the gifts people hold poverty in all its forms will be eradicated. The Canadian Poverty Institute is grounded in the Christian tradition of extending compassion while seeking justice and reconciliation for the marginalized and oppressed.

“Healing poverty through teaching, research, and public dialogue.”

<https://www.povertyinstitute.ca/>

Resource List:

- [Rights, Capabilities and Obligations: New Perspectives on Child Poverty in Calgary](#)
- [Strategic Plan 2016-18](#)
- [Planning to Eliminate Child Poverty: Thematic Overview of Child Poverty Policy in Canada](#)
- [The Influence of Policy on Childhood Poverty in Selected Provinces in Canada](#)
- Submission to the Alberta Ministry of Labour on Proposed Increases to the Provincial Minimum Wage: [Summary Report](#); [Background Report](#)

Action areas:

Current initiatives focus on teaching in poverty studies as well as research and collaboration on diverse issues including:

- Child poverty
- Access to justice
- Energy poverty
- Decent work
- Resilience
- Collaborative leadership

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Multi-dimensional definitions of poverty
- Living wage and decent work
- Access to justice
- Energy poverty
- Community mobilization
- Engaging faith communities
- Knowledge mobilization
- Public policy / strategy development

Coaching needs:

- Fund development
- Engagement with Indigenous communities

Top challenges:

- Stakeholder communication

Learning interests:

- Updates on provincial and municipal poverty strategies and policy developments

Central Alberta Poverty Reduction Alliance



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Dianna Souveny, Community Facilitator;
info@capovertyreduction.ca; 403-342-8102

City/Region:
Central Alberta

Governance:
An Administrative Team (day-to-day management), a Strategy Team, Action Committees (working on strategy issue-areas), and Regional Initiatives

Initiative led by:
Community

Staff Supports:
1 part time community mobilizer and many volunteers

Convening Organization(s):
Community driven regional collective

Funded by:
FCSS, United Way, in-kind member support

ABOUT:

CAPRA came into being in 2010 as discussions started to happen between community organizations and citizens on how to reduce poverty in Central Alberta. The Alliance is now a collective impact initiative that supports the efforts of those working to reduce poverty in the community. By April 2012 we had signed on to Cities Reducing Poverty, and the initiative now consists of 5 core administrative/leadership team members and 45+ members from business, government and community organizations that meet on a monthly and bi-monthly basis; with issue-based action teams meeting monthly.

<http://capovertyreduction.ca/>

**“Poverty affects us all.
Let’s understand it.
Let’s talk about it. Let’s
take action together.”**

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)
- [Living Wage reports and infographic](#)
- [Living Wage Action Committee](#)
- [Literacy Action Committee](#)
- [Transportation Action Committee](#)

Action areas:

- Affordable Housing
- Transportation
- Early Childhood Development
- Justice
- Economic Security
- Education and Literacy
- Social Environment
- Health and Wellness

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Working regionally to develop local strategies
- Vulnerable people and credit

Coaching needs:

- Supporting collective impact
- Policy development

Top challenges:

- Making collective impact work smoothly
- Turnover- lacking consistent engagement in action teams
- Unknown political climate
- Engaging and navigating the municipal government
- Lack of resources

Learning interests:

- Participating in small, specific community of practice calls with other VC practitioners
- Sharing poverty reduction theory in tandem with concrete examples
- Developing marketing/communications skills to increase impact
- Wages and taxation for sustainable livelihoods
- Policy and advocacy
- Measuring Impact

End Poverty Edmonton



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Andrea Burkhardt, Executive Director,
andreaburkhardt@hotmail.com; 780-990-1000

City/Region:
City of Edmonton

Governance:
Stewardship roundtable

Initiative led by:
Municipality and Community

Staff Supports:
3 full time employees and 3 seconded staff

Convening Organization(s): City of Edmonton

Funded by:
The municipality is funding the planning process, and city and community stakeholder investments are being coordinated to fund the 35 roadmap actions

ABOUT:

Launched in March 2014, the End Poverty Edmonton (EPE) task force engaged a diverse group of community leaders who were involved in forming both the End Poverty Edmonton strategy and its 5-year roadmap implementation plan. Following the approval of the roadmap by City Council on May 24th, 2016, a transition team worked to establish End Poverty Edmonton as a community-led coalition to steward the implementation of the five-year Road Map. EPE includes five tables: the stewardship roundtable, indigenous circle, investment collective, count me in network, and stakeholder forum. The backbone entity that will support the five community tables will be a secretariat composed of four staff members. A service package was approved by City Council in December 2016 representing the City's significant investment for the next five years. EndPovertyEdmonton is now operational with the recent hiring of Executive Director, Andrea Burkhardt, and full membership complement of the Stewardship Roundtable. The four community tables are now completing their membership and terms of reference.

“Imagine a poverty-free community where children don't go to school hungry and homelessness is a thing of the past.”

<https://www.endpovertyedmonton.ca/>

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)
- [Strategy – End Poverty in a Generation](#)
- [Implementation Road Map](#)
- [Stewardship Model](#)

Action areas:

- Living Wage
- Affordable housing
- Transportation
- Indigenous treaty roots
- Income Security
- Racism and Discrimination
- Early Childhood Development
- Human Rights

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Engaging and involving diverse community sectors
- Cultivating collective action
- Municipalities engaging in poverty elimination/reduction strategies

Coaching needs:

- Poverty elimination plan implementation
- Evaluation
- Governance

Top challenges:

- Competing priorities and limited resources
- Shifting landscape at the municipality, provincial and national levels
- Rapidly changing economic and political landscape

Learning interests:

- Poverty elimination-related information
- Working group toolkits
- Continuing to work under key Vibrant Communities strategies
- Transitioning from a city-based to a community-based approach

Community Action to End Poverty Grande Prairie

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Tammy Wentzell, twentzel@cityofgp.com; 780-538-0380

City/Region:
Grande Prairie

Governance:
Network of 35-40 individuals led by an advisory committee from all four sectors (considering collective impact model)

Initiative led by:
Municipality

Staff Supports:
City of Grande Prairie, FCSS 1 full time employee

Convening Organization(s):
Grande Prairie Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

Funded by:
The initiative is 100% municipally funded but does not have a specific budget line; the City recently designated \$25,000 to the development of a new poverty reduction strategy for Grande Prairie

ABOUT:

The initiative began with a community information session featuring Tamarack Institute in 2012. The CAEP was formed and is comprised of several community-based organizations that established goals, priorities and purpose in 2012. Their focus is gathering data on local poverty and the voices of people who've lived in poverty; creating systems change through coordination of services, practices, policy, and advocacy; building individual capacity by valuing people's input, skills building and education; and building community capacity by identifying barriers, communicating with service providers, increasing coordination and challenging perceptions.

“More than half of lone parent families with 3 or more children in Grande Prairie are poor.”

<http://www.cityofgp.com/index.aspx?page=127>

Resource List:

- [Low income access program](#)
- [Grande Prairie Living Wage](#)

Action areas:

- Information sharing/public presentations
- Understanding use of services by low-income populations (transit, recreating, tax)
- Living wage
- Alternatives to predatory lending
- Affordable housing
- Transportation
- Income Security
- Emergency needs

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Low-income transit pass
- Low-income recreation pass
- Rural poverty initiatives

Coaching needs:

- Business engagement
- Municipal engagement
- Implementing a Living Wage campaign
- Poverty reduction strategy development

Top challenges:

- Engaging business
- Being inclusive of regional needs
- Boom/bust cycles- industry has an impact on who is experiencing poverty
- Information sharing

Learning interests:

- Living Wage, Getting to Impact and Municipal community of practice calls
- Regional convening (Alberta)

THRIVE: Medicine Hat and Region Strategy to End Poverty and Increase Wellbeing

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Dr. Denise Henning; dhenning@mhc.ab.ca;
403-504-3643

City/Region:
City of Medicine Hat

Governance:
A Council of Champions is being developed

Initiative led by:
N/A

Staff Supports:
TBD

Convening Organization(s):
N/A

Funded by:
THRIVE is in the process of raising funds in the community to implement the Plan to End Poverty in Medicine Hat by 2030

ABOUT:

The Medicine Hat roundtable for poverty reduction began its work in June 2011. Over 120 individuals from the business community, people with lived experience, service providers and elected officials have had input to the process. In the winter of 2012, the United Way, Community Foundation and community housing foundation gave funds to complete the research report. In spring 2016, a researcher was contracted to update this 2013 report and to facilitate the development of a community action plan. Community consultation took place throughout the summer and fall of 2016. Input from over 500 residents informed the new and updated plan. THRIVE: Medicine Hat and Region Strategy to End Poverty and Increase Wellbeing was released to the community on February 15, 2017.

“It’s not just about surviving – it’s about thriving.”

<https://www.thrivemh.ca/>

Resource List:

- [THRIVE: Medicine Hat and Region Strategy to End Poverty and Increase Wellbeing](#)
- [Reducing the Cost of Poverty in Medicine Hat](#)
- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)

Action areas:

- Leadership and Systems Change
- Community System Planning
- Income Security
- Business Innovation
- Energy Poverty
- Affordable Housing
- Homelessness
- Food Security
- Transportation
- Health and Wellness
- Learning and Literacy
- Resilient Families
- Community Safety

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Starting and sustaining a poverty reduction initiative
- Housing and ending homelessness
- Food security

Top challenges:

- Siloism in the community
- Competition of ownership around events, activities, and solutions
- Alberta economic changes – especially in the oil and gas sector
- Sustainable working group and sustained coordination

Learning interests:

- Implementation of a community plan

City of Spruce Grove



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2016

Primary Convenor Contact:
Linda Bernicki, Complex Needs Coordinator;
lbernicki@sprucegrove.org; 780-962-7634 ext. 138

City/Region:
Spruce Grove and surrounding region

Governance:
N/A

Initiative led by:
Municipality

Staff Supports:
Limited staff capacity; we are doing to work off the side of our desks

Convening Organization(s):
City of Spruce Grove

Funded by:
United Way, some grant funding from Government of Alberta Indigenous Relations

ABOUT:

Poverty reduction has been identified in the social sustainability plan as one of the common themes within the key areas for action. The Social sustainability plan vision states: "Spruce Grove is a safe, inclusive and engaged community that is aware of its social issues and opportunities and that proactively invests in ensuring the basic needs of residents are met." An Indigenous Engagement Improvement Strategy along with a Coordinated Community Response to Homelessness have been identified as priorities. Breaking down barriers and building bridges with our Indigenous residents and neighbours is a first step in becoming an inclusive community. A growing homeless population has resulted in steps to develop a more effected response and to become proactive instead of reactive. We are in the infant stages in responding to poverty reduction and our hope is to learn, become more engaged and become a leader in response to the growing needs.

“Breaking down barriers and bulding bridges...”

http://www.sprucegrove.org/government/departments/community_services/fcss.htm

Action areas:

- Homelessness
- Indigenous residents and neighbours
- Inclusion
- Community education
- Trauma

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Crisis Intervention
- Leadership in the community
- Community development
- Building relationships with our Indigenous residents and neighbours
- Bridges out of Poverty facilitation

Coaching needs:

- Educating our elected officials
- Boundaries restrictions
- Building a tri- regional coordinated community response by having the right people (not the same people) at the table
- Where do we find sustainable funding?
- How do we successfully combine poverty reduction with the other work we are doing?

Top challenges:

- Securing funding
- Building capacity
- Increasing community education and understanding
- Racism (particularly racism against Indigenous people)
- There is no low income or subsidized housing at all in our area

Learning interests:

- Municipal commitment and policies that would guide this work
- How do we quit going in circles and make a step forward?
- How do we include poverty reduction with some of the other work we are doing?
- How do I do this successfully off the side of our desks?

Strathcona County Social Framework

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2014

Primary Convenor Contact:
Michelle Jehn, Manager, Community and Social
Development; michelle.jehn@strathcona.ca;
780-464-4044

City/Region:
Strathcona County

Governance:
Community-led multi-sector leadership table, including
business, health, education, faith communities,
government, housing, health, social serving organizations,
library, committees and clubs

Initiative led by:
County

Staff Supports:
Backbone supports provided

Convening Organization(s):
Strathcona County Family and
Community Services (FCS)

Funded by:
N/A

ABOUT:

The initiative began in 2013 with consultations on poverty with local agencies and vulnerable people. A survey was distributed to partner social service agencies as well as low-income individuals in the community, and in 2014 a poverty simulation was held to raise awareness of poverty in the community. From this, Strathcona's new poverty reduction committee has been formed and is being led by the community. In 2016, nearly 8,000 people who live and work in Strathcona County spoke up through surveys and conversations. These conversations allowed for a better understanding of our community's social priorities and experiences, and led to the development of a renewed social framework.

www.strathcona.ca/fcs

“We as a community need to start paying attention to the issues in our community, or raising awareness about issues so they become part of our community consciousness.”

Resource List:

- [Profile of Social Framework and Statement of Priorities](#)
- [Guide to Affordable Services](#)
- [Social plans, social information and surveys](#)
- [Social Framework for Strathcona County](#)
- [What We Heard Report \(2017\)](#)

Action areas:

- Affordability – Citizens have an increased capacity to meet their basic needs
- Access to Programs and Services – Citizens have straightforward access to programs and services that are easy to find
- Safety – Citizens feel physically, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally safe
- Connectedness and Inclusion – Citizens are connected to one another, and their individual differences are valued and respected

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Strathcona County FCS is committed to supporting and pioneering the backbone support as one of its primary roles and paying attention to dimensions of stewardship.

Top challenges:

- Changing the traditional service delivery system and individual and organizational mindsets:
 - FROM programmatic responses – TO systemic responses
 - FROM “do for” people – TO “do with” people
 - FROM incremental, organization-level outcomes – TO high aspiration and community-wide outcomes
 - FROM working in silos – TO collective ownership
 - FROM focus on symptoms – TO focus on root causes

Learning Interests:

- A year of strategic learning cycles: learning the ‘how’ of working in this new way. All those involved will need to build capacity to work in this new way through a process of learning by doing. This includes how to convene and prototype new approaches that address issues such as affordability, an emerging social crisis, or even how to measure where we are truly changing systems.

British Columbia

Vibrant Abbotsford

Cranbrook Poverty Reduction Committee

Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee Kamloops

Langley Poverty Reduction Committee

Nelson at its Best

New Westminster Poverty Reduction Committee

Port Hardy Poverty Reduction Committee

Revelstoke Poverty Reduction Working Group

Stewart Community Connections

Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition

Greater Trail Lower Columbia Region

Vibrant Abbotsford



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Shakira Miracle, Coordinator, info@vibrantabbotsford.ca;
778-880-8516

City/Region:
Abbotsford

Governance:
Executive Committee comprised of 7 people representing different stakeholders

Initiative led by:
Community

Staff Supports:
1 part time coordinator

Convening Organization(s):
Vibrant Abbotsford

Funded by:
The initiative is reliant on grant funding

ABOUT:

Vibrant Abbotsford began in 2006 when local citizens dedicated themselves to realizing a vision of Abbotsford that offers a high quality of life for all. We are a collaborative group working to build a more vibrant city through the reduction of poverty. We support residents to gain resources, means, choices and power to achieve self-sufficiency and act as active participants in society. Vibrant Abbotsford builds compassion and community understanding of poverty, promotes coherence between community organizations and supports regional, provincial and national poverty reduction efforts.

www.vibrantabbotsford.ca

“A high quality of life for all.”

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)
- [The Abbotsford Community Poverty Profile](#)
- [Abbotsford Poverty Fact Sheet 2015](#)
- [Vibrant Communities Story: Economic, Social, and Civic Opportunities for All](#)

Action areas:

- Research and drafting of a poverty reduction strategy partnered with the City of Abbotsford
- Financial Empowerment
- Living Wage

Coaching needs:

- Determining root causes of poverty for a specific community
- Developing a poverty forum
- Drafting a poverty outreach strategy for the purpose of municipal adoption
- Advocacy/outreach tools and strategies to help shift community attitudes
- Strategies for effective use of language (e.g. business case, prosperity vs. property)
- Getting political buy-in

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Business engagement
- Resource development
- Community collaboration
- Messaging

Top challenges:

- Equipping staff to effectively collate and design impacting data for the purpose of determining root causes of poverty and sustainable solutions
- Sustainable funding (undesignated funds)
- Lack of support for poverty reduction research and messaging
- Lack of community awareness of Abbotsford's poverty profile and sense of urgency for reducing poverty

Learning interests:

- Resources/publications/tools
- Evaluation: receiving tax filer data to put together a poverty fact sheet
- Convenor calls, face-to-face events, webinars
- Living wage
- Sustainable funding – beyond annual project grants

Cranbrook Poverty Reduction Committee

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2015

Primary Convenor Contact:
Rita Romeo, Chair, cranbrookspc@gmail.com; 250-426-5677

City/Region:
Cranbrook

Governance:
Cranbrook's Community Poverty Reduction Initiative includes the creation of the Cranbrook Poverty Reduction Committee (CPRC)

Initiative led by:
Cranbrook Poverty Reduction Committee

Staff Supports:
Part-time Family Consultant position through MCFD vacant, and 48 service agency representatives and community volunteers who meet monthly

Convening Organization(s):
Community stakeholders, in partnership with the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD), Province of British Columbia

Funded by:
Columbia Basin Trust funded the 2015 annual VC membership and along with MCFD jointly funded the 2016 annual VC membership

ABOUT:

Through the Community Poverty Reduction Initiative, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is working collaboratively with local government, community stakeholders, the private sector and other ministries in six communities to support or develop meaningful community based solutions to poverty and address the specific challenges that families are experiencing. The goal is twofold: in the shorter term both manage and mitigate the immediate impacts of poverty on families and in the longer term, to support communities in their efforts to reduce poverty.

<http://cranbrookclicks.com/cbkclks/>

“No one party can effectively address a complex issue such as poverty.”

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)
- [2015 Progress Report](#)
- [Cranbrook Clicks Online Resource Directory](#)

Action areas:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Poverty stigma
- Awareness of, access to, and coordination of services
- Living Wage
- Food Security
- Child poverty

Coaching needs:

- Strengthening collaboration
- Asset mapping
- Creating a community profile
- How to develop a local community poverty reduction plan

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Getting started; who to invite and involve
- Developing of community-based responses to meet needs (e.g. free-transit passes for families living in poverty; free bike program, etc.)
- Community awareness campaign

Top challenges:

- Municipal engagement and role clarification
- Lack of funding for future planning
- Ongoing engagement of working group members

Learning interests:

- Regional networking
- Community-specific learning
- Action-oriented learning and networking
- Rural development

Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee Kamloops

PROFILE

Member of VCC since: 2016
Primary Convenor Contact: Rebecca Cain, Rebecca.cain@gov.bc.ca; 250-554-5828

City/Region: Kamloops
Governance: N/A

Initiative led by: Elizabeth Fry Society
Staff Supports: N/A

Convening Organization(s): Elizabeth Fry Society
Funded by: N/A

ABOUT:

Changing the Face of Poverty is a group that meets to improve the services that are available to people living in poverty. On the fourth Wednesday of each month representatives from community groups, government, government agencies, faith groups, businesses and individuals meet to share information about programs and services and discuss areas of need. When an area of need is identified the group will explore ways of addressing the need by forming a subcommittee to focus on the issue and report back to the larger group on any progress.

<https://www.kamloopschangingthefaceofpoverty.com/>

“We envision a community founded on equality and Justice.”

Resource List:

- [The Homelessness Action Plan](#)
- [Community Health Profile](#)
- [Food Policy Council](#)
- [City of Kamloops: A Way Home](#)

Action areas:

- Housing
- Living Wage
- Transportation
- Employment
- Childcare
- Income Security

Coaching Needs:

- Support around the ways to define and evaluate the work that is underway

Areas of Expertise/successes:

- Recruiting representatives from sectors that we know will have input
- We have a committed, core groups of inclusive and flexible people with strong networks within the community

Top Challenges:

- Lack of resources
- Systemic challenges we face with various government ministries and our health ministry

Learning Interests:

- Using what is available to us and take action in our community

Langley Poverty Reduction Committee

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2017

Primary Convenor Contact:
Amanda LaBoucane, Community Health Specialist;
amanda.laboucane@fraserhealth.ca, 604-539-2900 ext.
743067

City/Region:
Township of Langley and City of
Langley

Governance:
The Task Group operates through a collaborative
partnership model made up of representation 13
partners across a variety of sectors

Initiative led by:
Langley Poverty Reduction Task
Group

Staff Supports:
Community Health Specialist provides support to the
Task Group

Convening Organization(s):
N/A

Funded by:
BC Healthy Communities and Innoweave

ABOUT:

The Poverty Reduction Task Group was formed in 2015, shortly after the Langley Healthier Community Partnership hosted a Community forum on Poverty Reduction (From Poverty to Prosperity). At this forum a high level community strategy to address poverty was formed. Since then the Task Group has prioritized specific areas of the strategy including Food Security and Social Isolation and has worked to build a more detailed strategy and actions, primarily for Food Security. The Task Group is committed to building on what already exists in the community, and thus will be working on expanding engagement to include people with lived experience and other community organizations.

<http://www.langley.ca/PartnershipHome.aspx>

“Our desire is to start the dialogue in hopes of moving towards a poverty reduction strategy for Langley.”

Resources:

- [From Poverty to Prosperity in the Langleys Report](#)

Action areas:

- Access to resources
- Access to services
- Asset mapping
- Information sharing
- Increased engagement
- Data collection

Coaching needs:

- Aligning engagement with impact
- Strategic planning efficiency

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Engagement and connection to those with lived experience
- Engagement and connection to Aboriginal populations
- Information sharing
- Strengthening local and regional networks
- Lessons learned in food security
- Cross disciplinary collaboration
- Volunteer mobilization

Top challenges:

- Expanding engagement to include other organizations who may be doing food security work in isolation
- Ensuring long term, sustainable engagement with all partners including those with lived experience

Learning interests:

- Aligning engagement with impact
- Best practices
- Models for sustaining impact
- Models for sustaining engagement
- Policy level impact

Nelson at its Best



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2014

Primary Convenor Contact:
Valerie Warmington, Project Manager;
bestofnelson@hotmail.com, 250-505-2952

City/Region:
City of Nelson

Governance:
12-person multi-sectoral project steering committee

Initiative led by:
Committee with city representation

Staff Supports:
Currently without a paid staff, 13 part time volunteers

Convening Organization(s):
Social Planning Action Network Society (SPAN)

Funded by:
The initiative has been funded primarily through the Columbia Basin Trust, with SPAN providing in-kind support

ABOUT:

The initiative began in 2013 with a survey developed by the Social Planning Action Network Society. The community survey identified poverty as one of the top three priorities. With the conviction that poverty is a complex issue that cannot be solved by one agency or sector alone, SPAN put together a multi-sectoral Steering Committee to host community conversations and develop a poverty reduction plan that envisioned a better Nelson by 2025. The poverty reduction strategy is currently being drafted with involvement of the local community. 30 community conversations were carried out with a range of community members and stakeholders. These conversations focused on identifying Nelson's strengths, visioning what the city could look like in 2025, and beginning to ascertain the practical steps that will take us there.

<http://www.bestnelson.org/>

“Our aim is to reduce poverty and make our community the best place it can be.”

Resource List

- [Poverty Reduction Strategy 2017-2018](#)
- [Nelson at its Best Final Report to CBT 2016](#)
- [Nelson at its Best in Action](#)
- [Vibrant Canada profile](#)

Action areas:

- Sustainable livelihoods: Living Wage, job availability, and helping employees to have a good healthy life
- Healthy Childhoods/Early Childhood Development: helping people access what is available, social determinants of health, and finding correlations between poverty and health/health programs
- Voices of Lived Experience Project: empowering people experiencing poverty to talk about the issue from their perspective and to speak out about it politically
- 150 Voices Project: working in collaboration with the arts community to develop a creative initiative to increase understanding of poverty in Nelson by Nelson residents

Coaching needs:

- Evaluation: Accessing data, using statistics and employing a consistent set of indicators

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Engaging the political process (e.g. changing local policy), including linking a large number of people at all levels and employing media engagement strategies to achieve these goals

Top challenges:

- Engaging the Steering Committee – Members are working off the sides of their desks, and it is challenging to break down work in a way that members can support
- Lack of funding for future planning
- Lack of understanding and empathy with respect to poverty by community members and local business owners

Learning interests:

- How to formally link with larger initiatives (e.g. how to politically support the work of national organizations such as Canada Without Poverty)
- Learning from people with lived experience
- Evaluation: Statistics, indicators, project impact measuring, analysis and reporting

New Westminster Poverty Reduction Committee

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2016

Primary Convenor Contact:
Lisa Paterson Community Development Worker,
Lisa.Paterson@gov.bc.ca; 604-660-8123

City/Region:
New Westminster

Governance:
The Poverty Reduction Committee has a diverse and committed membership which meets on a monthly basis

Initiative led by:
New Westminster Poverty
Reduction Committee

Staff Supports:
MCFD Community Development Worker

Convening Organization(s):
Community stakeholders in partnership with the City of New Westminster (City) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)

Funded by:
The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) funds a Community Development Worker position and provides a small annual operating budget

ABOUT:

The Community Poverty Reduction Initiative began in May 2012 as a partnership between the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Through the Community Poverty Reduction Strategy, MCFD has been working collaboratively with local governments, community partners and the private sector to support the development of community based solutions to poverty and address the specific challenges that families are experiencing.

“The strategy builds on the strong foundation in place in New Westminster and the collaboration and partnerships forged as a result of its development.”

Resource List:

- [New Westminster Community Poverty Reduction Strategy \(October 2016\)](#)
- [New Westminster Community and Social Services Asset Map](#)
- [New Westminster Poverty Myth Busters](#)

Action areas:

- Community Poverty Reduction Committee
- Employment, Income and Financial Literacy
- Housing and Shelter
- Information, Services and Support
- Public Awareness, Empowerment and Mobilization
- Social Connectedness and Community Engagement
- Transportation

Coaching needs:

- Strategies and tools for involving the business community. New Westminster is primarily comprised of small businesses and it has been a challenge to engage them or business associations representing them. This engagement will be very important to strategy implementation and success.

Areas of expertise/successes:

- The Community Poverty Reduction Committee has considerable expertise with regard to asset mapping and statistical analysis

Top challenges:

- There is a need for seed funding to implement a number of the actions. In many cases, this funding would be small (i.e., less than \$10,000) but it would enable actions to proceed, as well as determine if they have applicability to other jurisdictions.

Learning interests:

- Strategies and tools for involving business

Port Hardy Poverty Reduction Committee

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2016

Primary Convenor Contact:
Don Kattler, MCFD Family Consultant,
Donald.Kattler@gov.bc.ca; 250-208-5407

City/Region:
Port Hardy

Governance:
The intent is to establish a multi-sector table that will be focused on the issue of poverty

Initiative led by:
Multi-sector table that is supported by the Ministry of Child and Family Development and the District of Port Hardy

Staff Supports:
MCFD Community Development Worker

Convening Organization(s):
District of Port Hardy and MCFC

Funded by:
MCFD funds annual VC membership, operating budget, and part time Family Consultant position

ABOUT:

Port Hardy does not yet have a formal poverty reduction strategy, however; the community has a range of municipal/provincial government and non-government services to support low-income families. These services include the Mount Waddington Health Network's subcommittee – the Wellness First committee. This committee's focus is on the determinants of health (emotional, physical and mental) for the underserved population in the Mount Waddington area.

“Identifying the key barriers families face and connecting families to services they need.”

Action areas:

- Hiring and retaining a Family Consultant
- Strengthening community connections
- Housing
- Transportation
- Food Security
- Youth issues

Areas of expertise/successes:

- The Wellness First committee is a multi-sector table that focuses on Housing First, addictions and recovery, youth issues

Top challenges:

- Due to the part-time position, hiring and retaining a Family Consultant has been a challenge

Revelstoke Poverty Reduction Working Group

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2014

Primary Convenor Contact:
Jill Zacharias, Social Development Coordinator,
e.jill.zacharias@gmail.com; 250-814-3875

City/Region:
Revelstoke and Area

Governance:
The City initiative is overseen by a Steering Committee

Initiative led by:
City of Revelstoke

Staff Supports:
Social Development Coordinator provides part-time support

Convening Organization(s): City of Revelstoke

Funded by:
Project-specific funding has been acquired from a variety of sources including the Columbia Basin Trust

ABOUT:

Due to Revelstoke increasingly becoming a 'resort community', rising costs of living have become a major issue for residents. In 2011, frontline workers and community partners stressed to the municipality, that the cost of living has been a major issue for their clients and service users, with several residents moving away. A strategy was created with the goal of understanding what more the municipality could do at a local level to reduce poverty.

<https://www.revelstokesocialdevelopment.org/>

“All families and individuals in Revelstoke have the option to contribute and participate meaningfully in community life.”

Resource List:

- [Revelstoke Community Poverty Reduction Strategy – Final Report June 2012](#)
- [Revelstoke Poverty Reduction Action Plan](#)
- [Implementation Summary Update – May 2016](#)
- [Revelstoke: Vibrant Canada Profile](#)
- [Poverty Implementation 2017](#)
- [Surviving, Not Thriving](#)

Action areas:

- Access to Resources
- Information Sharing
- Living Wage
- Food Security
- Income Security
- Housing Security

Coaching needs:

- Engaging business
- Engaging politicians

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Lessons learned from developing a poverty reduction strategy
- How to engage with people with lived experience
- Information sharing
- Strengthening local & regional networks

Top challenges:

- Lessons learned from developing a poverty reduction strategy
- How to engage with people with lived experience
- Information sharing
- Strengthening local & regional networks

Learning interests:

- Learning best practices
- Being part of a national, provincial and regional network to strengthen the local movement
- Engaging the business community
- Inspiration

Stewart Community Connections

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2016

Primary Convenor Contact:
Kimberly Reid, Family Consultant for the Ministry of Children and Family Development,
Kimberly.a.reid@gov.bc.ca; 250-636-2294

City/Region:
Stewart

Governance:
District of Stewart, Community Connections poverty working group, MCFD

Initiative led by:
Partnership between the District of Stewart and the Ministry of Children and Family Development's Community Poverty Reduction Initiative

Staff Supports:
Part-time Family Consultant position employed by MCFD

Convening Organization(s):
District of Stewart, Northern Health, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Community Connections Poverty Working Group

Funded by:
Community grants for specific projects, MCFD covers cost of Tamarack membership

ABOUT:

Stewart is a small yet passionate community in Northern BC. On the Alaskan border, nestled in the mountains and positioned at the end of a long canal, Stewart is far from the hustle, and services, of the city. Although low income families in Stewart face many barriers, the Stewart Community Connections roundtable is committed to identifying and developing the resources that families need most.

www.districtofstewart.com

“Committed to identifying and developing resources that families need.”

Action areas:

- Creating an environment where low income families feel safe reaching out for help
- Access to medical transportation (limited medical services available locally)
- Access to social and mental health services (limited to unavailable locally)
- Food Security
- Access to daycare space (currently unavailable)

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Our community identified a need for early years programming. We have since secured space and funding for a parented pre-school program that runs 5 days a week. We also identified a need for work experience opportunities for youth, and by collaborating with local business and the school district we developed two full credited high school courses that also count toward a post-secondary apprenticeship program.

Top challenges:

- Lack of services (no available services for mental health, addictions, dental health, pharmacy, victim outreach or extended health services. Only basic medical treatment is available at the Health Centre, most medical procedures are referred to other communities)
- No Transportation to nearest service center (over 325 km one way)
- Seasonality of work/lack of jobs/low paying jobs
- No daycare space to allow parents of young children to seek employment

Learning interests:

- Community Engagement
- Community development
- Sustainability (economic, social and environmental)

Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Jessica Pan, Coordinator, Jessica.pan@me.com; 778-987-0277

City/Region:
City of Surrey

Governance:
Collective impact table with approx. 20 people representing 3 of 4 sectors

Initiative led by:
Hybrid

Staff Supports:
2 part-time coordinators

Convening Organization(s): City of Surrey

Funded by:
The Coalition is lacking administrative funding

ABOUT:

With the dissolution of long-time Vibrant Communities Canada member, Vibrant Surrey, the broader Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition emerged in 2012 from the board of directors, community forums and research. In 2010 a Coordinator had been hired to create Vibrant Surrey's 3-year strategic plan, which included compiling research on poverty in Surrey. The community was brought together to review the facts and create an action plan, which became the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan. The Plan, titled THIS is how we end poverty in Surrey, was adopted by City of Surrey Council in July 2012.

<http://www.surreyprc.ca>

“The Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan is dedicated to the 71,000 individuals in our city who face the daily challenge of living with limited incomes.”

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)
- [Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan](#)
- [Summary of Activity and Results](#)
- [Incidence of people in Low Income](#)
- Poverty Policy Fact Sheets: [Transportation](#), [Housing](#), [Income](#), [Supports](#)

Action areas:

- Transportation
- Housing
- Income
- Early years support (ex. school breakfast club, youth safe house)
- Community engagement and capacity-building of neighbourhoods
- Neighbourhood Leadership
- Outreach to landlords for Housing First clients

Coaching needs:

- The business case
- Engaging the municipality
- Fundraising (esp. for administrative work)
- Engaging with voices of lived experience

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Community planning
- How to mobilize at the neighbourhood level

Top challenges:

- Engaging the community with only 20 people at the table
- Have yet to receive financial support from the city

Learning interests:

- Engaging the community with only 20 people at the table
- Have yet to receive financial support from the city

Greater Trail Lower Columbia Region

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2014

Primary Convenor Contact:
Jan Morton, Executive Director,
jmorton@communityskillscentre.com; 250-368-5316 x 216

City/Region:
Lower Columbia Region (5 small municipalities and 2 rural electoral districts)

Governance:
To be developed

Initiative led by:
Region

Staff Supports:
1 part time staff

Convening Organization(s):
Greater Trail Community Skills Centre

Funded by:
No core funding for poverty reduction; \$10,000 received from the Tech Serve student intern award has helped us do research on indicators of poverty; and, Stepping Out bursary goal is to raise a minimum of \$6,000 per year over 3 years for education bursaries for low-income women

ABOUT:

The Women Creating Change community plan is an economic development strategy developed through a gendered lens that mirrors a poverty reduction strategy, and is focused on creating economic opportunity for women. In 2012-13, baseline data was gathered that fed into creating a plan, which was formalized at the end of year one. Implementation of the Women Creating Change plan occurred over the following two years. A report on poverty reduction indicators for the region is in the final stages of completion and funds are being sought to begin a stakeholder engagement and planning process.

www.communityskillscentre.com

“Building a caring community of skilled, productive and engaged people.”

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)
- [Increasing Women's Access to Economic Opportunity: The Lower Columbia Accord](#)
- [Women Creating Change Community Plan and Priorities](#)
- [Working Options for Women: Strategic Plan](#)
- [Working Options for Women: Final Report](#)

Action areas:

- Completion of a poverty reduction plan for the Lower Columbia Region
- Securing funding to implement the plan
- Development of a governance or management process for the plan

Coaching needs:

- Understanding how to use data and link it to the planning process

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Incorporating a gender-based lens to poverty reduction
- Women in non-traditional work

Top challenges:

- Mixed level of awareness and community leader engagement in poverty reduction issues
- Engaging people with lived experience in poverty
- Accessing ongoing funding and other resources

Learning interests:

- Networking with others in the region
- Sharing strategies and resources particularly related to use of data and community planning

Manitoba

Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council

Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Pam Sveinson, Executive Director,
psveinson@unitedwaywinnipeg.mb.ca; 204-924-4295

City/Region:
City of Winnipeg

Governance:
12-member Steering Committee meets monthly to provide on-going direction

Initiative led by:
United Way of Winnipeg

Staff Supports:
3 full-time staff

Convening Organization(s):
Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council Steering Committee

Funded by:
Current funding comes from the Government of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA), and United Way of Winnipeg

ABOUT:

In 2007 the United Way of Winnipeg brought together a group of community leaders from across the city to form the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council (WPRC). The WPRC was established based on the understanding that no single organization can successfully address poverty on its own. The Council has championed a number of different initiatives over the years, most recently focusing on ending homelessness. This initiative culminated in the formation of a new organization known as End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) – whose mandate is to carry out the strategies identified in the 2014 Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg. With EHW now up and running, WPRC has shifted its efforts to another priority aspiration in the Council's Framework for Action - 'Achieving independence through income'. Recent community engagement and consultation regarding this aspiration, combined with analysis of related research, has led to a more specific WPRC focus on Indigenous youth employment.

www.wprc.ca

“...Achieving independence through income...”

Resource List:

- [Framework for Action 2015-2020](#)
- [The Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg](#)
- [Update to the Community - January 2017](#)

Action areas:

- Achieving independence through income
- Starting strong
- Learning for life
- Expressing ourselves
- Being and feeling safe and included
- Thriving in healthy environments
- Getting around
- Having a home
- Feeding ourselves
- Accessing responsive human services

Coaching needs:

- Measurement and evaluation of collective impact

Areas of expertise/successes:

- The theory and practice of collective impact

Top challenges:

- Engaging youth, community agencies, Indigenous leaders and business owners in the work of WPRC – specifically in the TRC92: Youth Employment journey
- Continuously improving communication and engaging the broader community in the work of WPRC
- Ensuring broad representation on the Council such that it reflects the interests of the community
- Meaningful measurement, evaluation and reporting on the work of WPRC, primarily the TRC92: Youth Employment process

Learning interests:

- Involvement in a community of practice; learning from other communities across Canada
- The theory and tools of social Innovation

New Brunswick

Vibrant Communities Charlotte County

Greater Fredericton Social Innovation

A Quality of Life for All Monctonians

Living SJ

WA Action

Vibrant Communities Charlotte County



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2013

Primary Convenor Contact:
Joy Benson Green, joy@vibrantcc.ca; 506-660-0805

City/Region:
Charlotte County, NB

Governance:
Board is comprised of 7 individuals from 4 sectors and day-to-day work is done by staff and network partners

Initiative led by:
Province/Local Region

Staff Supports:
1 full-time staff

Convening Organization(s):
Vibrant Communities Charlotte County/ ESIC, Charlotte County Community Inclusion Inc. Board of Director

Funded by:
VC Charlotte County is 100% funded by the government of New Brunswick

ABOUT:

Vibrant Communities Chartlotte County was created in 2011 and incorporated in 2012. Its mission is to carry out the administration of New Brunswick's provincial poverty reduction strategy, *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan*, in the Charlotte County region (which is one of twelve Community Inclusion Networks). The organization incubates, networks, coordinates, and provides grant funding and information for local poverty reduction initiatives.

<http://vibrantcc.ca/>

“All men, women and children in New Brunswick shall have the necessary resources to meet their basic needs and to live with dignity, security and good health.”

Resource List:

- [New Brunswick's Poverty Reduction Strategy 2014-2019](#)
- [Charlotte County's Priority Areas](#)
- [Charlotte County's Poverty Reduction Plan](#)
- [Bridging the Gap – A Poverty Reduction Plan for Charlotte County – Priorities](#)
- [Year End and Six Month Report](#)
- [Charlotte County: 20 Years into the Future](#)
- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)

Action areas:

- Learning opportunities (youth, children and adults)
- Employment
- Access to transportation
- Housing
- Economic Inclusion
- Building a stronger more resilient non-profit community

Coaching Needs

- Tamarack learning events
- Speakers for the Municipal Leaders workshop

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Rural transportation

Top challenges:

- Drain of resources to urban centers rather than for rural communities (esp. government)
- Organizational turnover
- Diversifying funding

Learning interests:

- Communities of Practice
- Data
- Economic development
- Different models of social enterprise success

Greater Fredericton Social Innovation



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2014

Primary Convenor Contact:
Susanne White, Coordinator, mswhite@nb.sympatico.ca;
506- 262-0842

City/Region:
Greater Fredericton Region
(population appr. 85,000)

Governance:
Stewardship Committee and a Management Committee

Initiative led by:
Province/Local Region

Staff Supports:
1 full-time staff

Convening Organization(s):
Greater Fredericton Social
Innovation (GFSI)

Funded by:
Annual budget is about +\$200,000; the Economic and
Social Inclusion Corporation provides a budget to each
Community Inclusion Network

ABOUT:

Greater Fredericton Social Innovation Inc. (GFSI) is a social planning council that works to strengthen our community by focusing collective efforts and resources on community defined goals. GFSI was developed to fill the need for long-term social planning in the Fredericton region. We have adapted the successful model used by the Human Development Council in Saint John and other social planning councils across the country to facilitate action aimed at making our community a better place to live, work and play.

<http://www.socialinnovationfredericton.com/>

“Strengthening our community by focusing collective efforts and resources on community defined goals.”

Resource List:

- [New Brunswick's Poverty Reduction Strategy 2014-2019](#)
- [Greater Fredericton's 5-Year Summary Report](#)
- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)

Action areas:

- Transportation
- Housing
- Food Security

Coaching Needs

- Evaluation

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Food security (creating networks to influencing policy at municipal level and on the ground projects)

Top challenges:

- Overcoming stereotypes and perceptions: building awareness and empathy leading to action on issues related to poverty
- Transportation: accessibility and affordability issues; some people are living in more isolated areas and are socially excluded
- There is a lack of access to data
- Developing easy to administer tools to evaluate initiatives and assess impact

Learning interests:

- Community Inclusion Networks could bring coaching in together
- Accessing more energizing success stories
- Best practice for food security, transportation
- Accessing national data sources
- Being a part of a community of practice on Game Changers
- Attending a webinar series on Game Changers

A Quality of Life for All Monctonians

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2016

Primary Convenor Contact:

Kayla BreeLove Carter, Community Development Officer for Social Inclusion, kayla.breelove-carter@moncton.ca; 506-853-3584

City/Region:
Moncton

Governance:

Two chairs and mayor appointed members of the community (experts and lived experience)

Initiative led by:
Province/Local Region

Staff Supports:

1 full-time staff and 10 part-time volunteers

Convening Organization(s):
Poverty and Social Inclusion Committee

Funded by:
The City of Moncton

ABOUT:

The City of Moncton has contributed to the fight against poverty and exclusion for years. Nevertheless, Council believes that more can be done and that the City should lead the community's efforts. As a leader, it will add value to what is already being done by numerous individuals and organisations and, whenever required, facilitate and implement additional actions in the city and the region, in order to reduce poverty and increase inclusion. The end goal is to provide a quality of life for all Monctonians. The belief is that improving the quality of life for marginalized and excluded citizens, improves the quality of life for all.

http://www.moncton.ca/Residents/Social_Inclusion.htm

“The end goal is provide a quality of life for all Monctonians.”

Resource List:

- [Social Inclusion Municipal Plan](#)
- [Southeast New Brunswick Regional Food Assessment](#)
- [The Action Plan for Mental Health in New Brunswick 2011-18](#)
- [The Power of Literacy – Provincial Literacy Strategy](#)
- [The City of Moncton Municipal Plan](#)
- [Becoming an Inclusive Community Greater Moncton Immigration Strategy](#)
- [City of Moncton Cultural Plan](#)
- [Southeast New Brunswick Regional Food Pledge Toolkit](#)

Action areas:

- Housing Choice and Affordability
- Urban Agriculture and Food Security
- Mental Health
- Education and Training, and
- Inclusion and Diversity

Coaching Needs

- How to empower the community to organize, prioritize, and articulate their needs
- Identifying the best role for the municipality

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Facilitator
- Capacity Developer
- Leveraging other levels of government

Top challenges:

- Provincial barriers (i.e. Municipal Act)

Learning interests:

- How we strengthen and have better channels of communication between three levels of government
- How to empower community members
- How to articulate our successes to our citizens

Living SJ



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2003

Primary Convenor Contact:
Donna Gates, Executive Director,
donnagates@livingsj.com; 506-977-0087

City/Region:
Saint John

Governance:
Collective Impact teams guide the focus on each priority area and a 32-member Leadership Team of senior influencers meets quarterly

Initiative led by:
Region

Staff Supports:
2 full-time employees; 1 part-time community consultant

Convening Organization(s):
Living SJ

Funded by:
12 funding partners providing cash and in-kind services

ABOUT:

Despite our community's 15 years of progress in reducing poverty (including ten-year effort of Vibrant Communities Saint John), the child poverty rate in Saint John in 2012 remained the highest among cities in Canada, at 29%. This signaled the urgency to accelerate our impact. Living SJ is the strategy to break the cycle and end lifelong poverty. Collective impact is the framework adopted to achieve Living SJ's vision and strategies. Living SJ is also the Community Inclusion Network for the region from Saint John to Sussex, connected to the NB Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation and the Province's provincial poverty reduction strategy, Overcoming Poverty Together.

www.livingsj.ca

“The root cause of our city's social malaise was generational poverty.”

Resource List:

- [2016 Infographic](#)
- [Living SJ Evaluation Plan 2016](#)
- [Living SJ Social Renewal Strategy](#)
- [New Brunswick's Poverty Reduction Strategy 2014-2019](#)

Action areas:

- Transform low-income neighbourhoods into mixed income communities
- Education and training opportunities lead to employment for low income residents
- Close the education achievement gap
- Improve the health of residents through neighbourhood-based models of care

Coaching Needs

- Evaluation and engagement
- Collective Impact

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Priority setting through an engagement process
- Working with low income neighbourhoods
- Saint John experience with poverty reduction
- Involvement of the business community (Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative)

Top challenges:

- Making progress in our four priority areas and tracking our impact
- Broadening the engagement base
- Developing and implementing communication tools

Learning interests:

- Face to Face events
- Community of Practice calls

WA Action

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2014

Primary Convenor Contact:
Joanna Brown, Coordinator, joanna@waaction.ca; 506-878-7525

City/Region:
Westmorland-Albert

Governance:
The organization follows a co-operative model; a multi-sectoral board with 7 members meets quarterly, and working groups focus on specific projects

Initiative led by:
Local region and linked to provincial poverty reduction plan

Staff Supports:
1 full-time employee

Convening Organization(s):
WA Action (Westmorland Albert Action Co-Operative)

Funded by:
Provincial government contributes base funding for administration, salary, etc

ABOUT:

12 Community Inclusion Networks (CIN's) were developed to locally represent poverty reduction work, and communicate back to the provincial government. The WA Action was originally hosted within the local United Way, and became an independent co-operative with a formal structure in 2012. The Co-operative is focused on community capacity building and asset-mobilization, leveraging existing work, networks, and investing in local organizations. WA Action's mission links organizations with funding, training, support, and each other to maximize social impact

<http://www.waaction.ca/>

“We are a co-operative organization that collaborates with local community groups to address the realities of poverty through social programs.”

Resource List:

- [WA CIN Co-op Plan 2014-2019](#)
- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)

Action areas:

- Transportation (volunteer driving programs)
- Food security (healthy food in schools, food banks, soup kitchens, community kitchens and gardens, and food policy change)
- Lifelong learning (adult literacy and community engagement)

Coaching Needs

- Evaluation
- Collective Impact (formalizing)
- Engaging lived experience

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Facilitation
- Planning and formatting
- Setting agendas for multi-stakeholder conversations
- Listening and asking questions

Top challenges:

- Finding focus and investing time
- Doing proper evaluation
- How to engage the (right) people at the table to move things forward locally
- Bringing people out of their defined silos to work together
- Hard to track and monitor changes

Learning interests:

- Engage with a larger community (community of practice calls)
- Evaluation
- Resources useful for revising the regional action plan (esp. on resiliency)

Newfoundland

Vibrant Communities St. John's

Vibrant Communities St. John's

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Ruth MacDonald, Program Associate,
ruthmacdonald@cscnl.ca; 866-753-9860

City/Region:
City of St. John's

Governance:
Leadership committee of about 10 individuals; and
Vibrant St. John's has organized a citizen's voice group
that includes over 100 individuals

Initiative led by:
Community

Staff Supports:
1 full-time employee

Convening Organization(s):
Community Sector Council of
Newfoundland and Labrador

Funded by:
Provincial and and municipal governments

ABOUT:

Vibrant Communities St. John's is a multi-sector, community-based initiative that seeks to reduce poverty by working collaboratively with volunteer-based and non-profit organizations, all levels of Government, businesses and especially people living in poverty. This initiative builds on successes happening in our community and works to connect partners and people to increase community engagement, capacity building and partnership development.

<http://communitysector.nl.ca/vibrant-communities>

“Building capacity,
spirit, and engagement
in low income
neighbourhoods...”

Resource List:

- [Poverty Reduction Policies and Programs in Newfoundland and Labrador: Tracing a Path from the Past to the Future](#)
- [Citizens Voice Network](#)
- [Video: From citizen's voices ... reducing poverty in NL](#)
- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)

Action areas:

- Increasing engagement: Elevating community wide conversation around poverty through a yearly Community Poverty Forum
- Supporting public access e.g. connecting individuals to their rights under income support programs, navigating and helping with appeals, family literacy
- Citizens Voice Network e.g. Held a Federal Poverty Reduction Consultation and hosted a consultation on the VC game Changers
- Health

Coaching Needs

- Shared measurement (specifically tools to implement this)

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Working with local politicians
- Working with local neighbourhoods
- Empowering Citizen's Voice Network
- Helping individuals navigate support systems
- Potential budget cutbacks
- Lack of human resources (single paid employee)

Top challenges:

- Funding to have a properly supported staff unit
- How we elevate the conversation – to get people to say poverty is not acceptable, to take away stigma, how we can push this conversation into the public domain
- Funders, what you need are people – looking for community champions and connecting all sectors, business, non-profit and for-profit

Learning Interests:

- How to elevate the conversation about poverty locally
- Face to face gatherings based on learning interests

Northwest Territories

No Place for Poverty Coalition

No Place for Poverty Coalition

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2013

Primary Convenor Contact:
Julie Green, Coordinator; julie_green@gov.nt.ca; 867-767-9143 ext 12180

City/Region:
Yellowknife/NWT

Governance:
Ad-hoc Coalition with 31 supporting organizations

Initiative led by:
Community/Territory

Staff Supports:
3 part-time volunteers

Convening Organization(s):
Alternatives North

Funded by:
The Coalition does not have an operating budget

ABOUT:

A group first gathered in 2009 to talk about the increasing need to develop a territory-wide anti-poverty strategy. In 2010 the members established the Coalition, requested a Territorial plan, and gathered for a conference where they developed priorities that would create the base of the *Strategic Framework*. With the momentum of the Framework's launch in 2013, the coalition worked with Minister Glen Abernethy to create the Anti-Poverty Action Plan in 2015. An economist completed a calculation which has been shared widely. Further work resulted in approximately 10 businesses signing up for recognition as living wage employers. The coalition was not successful in obtaining continued funding from GNWT to expand this work. The coalition is now in the process of confirming members want to support new goals which return to the roots of territory-wide anti-poverty advocacy.

“Strong individuals, families and communities sharing the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories.”

www.alternativesnorth.ca

Resource List:

- [Yellowknife Living Wage Report \(2015\)](#)
- [Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan](#)
- [Poverty Reduction Strategic Framework](#)
- [No Place for Poverty Workshop Report](#)
- [Alternatives North – Resource Library](#)
- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)

Action areas:

- Development of the federal anti-poverty strategy to ensure it reflects northern goals and priorities
- Provide oversight and request accountability on the implementation of the Anti-Poverty Action Plan (2015)
- Lobby the territorial government to continue indexing income assistance rates
- Lobby the territorial government to implement universal day care and preserve funding for early childhood development

Coaching Needs

- Rebuilding the coalition around a new set of goals

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Collective impact by collaborating with a wide variety of stakeholders

Top challenges:

- Diversity across such a large region/population
- Engaging the business community
- Resources for impact
- Understaffed – a lot of work for a small group of people
- Support the City of Yellowknife's work on Housing First

Learning Interests:

- What's going on in other jurisdictions and connecting with others doing similar work
- How to put together a strategy
- Face-to-face conferences
- Tamarack expertise

Nova Scotia

All Access Community Pass Poverty Task Force Cape Breton

Halifax Regional Municipality

All Access Community Pass Poverty Task Force

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2016

Primary Convenor Contact:
Lynne McCarron, Executive Director,
lynne@unitedwaycapebreton.com; 902-562-5226

City/Region:
Cape Breton Regional
Municipality

Governance:
Collective Board

Initiative led by:
Region

Staff Supports:
3 full-time employees, 14 full-time volunteers

Convening Organization(s): Non-profit agencies, the Cape Breton Poverty Task Force

Funded by:
All funding will filter through United Way Cape Breton for this goal; we are supported financially as well through the municipality

ABOUT:

We are former coal and steel industry communities with a significant outmigration issue. We also have a large population of ‘fathers’ working away (in Fort McMurry) while ‘mothers’ are raising their children here. Our unemployment rate is high and while we do have a number of entrepreneurs, most of these businesses are small with a handful of employees. We have an aging population as well. Our mission is to improve lives and build community on the island of Cape Breton, by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action. United Way Cape Breton is an autonomous organization operated by a voluntary Board of Directors chosen from the community it serves which governs decision-making. In addition, United Way Cape Breton has three paid staff that run the organization.

“ In Cape Breton 32.7 percent of children live in poverty. ”

<http://unitedwaycapebreton.com>

Resource List:

- [The Cost of Poverty in Nova Scotia](#)
- [A Generation of Broken Promises – The 2014 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia](#)
- [Bill No. 94 – An Act to Establish a Poverty Reduction Strategy Working Group in Nova Scotia](#)
- [Nova Scotia report card on child and family poverty \(2016\)](#)

Action Areas:

- Education and awareness of the extremely high poverty child poverty rate (32.7%) in Cape Breton
- Transportation – Transit passes for persons living in poverty
- Youth Programs – Create programs in communities that are lacking in this area for youth
- Food Security – Community Gardens
- Affordable Quality Childcare – All Access Subsidized Community Pass

Coaching Needs:

- Addressing impact: If poverty is measured by household income, how are we changing that without increasing household income? If we need to get people better educated to get better jobs, where do these jobs come from?

Areas of Expertise/Successes:

- Our youth programs keep children in school, out of trouble with the law, healthier, better citizens

Top Challenges:

- Driven more by the United Way than the community right now
- Long government processes can lead to people losing momentum and sight of the goal
- Where do the jobs come from? From coal and steel, entrepreneurs, or what else?

Learning Interests:

- If we are able to identify the gaps and recognize that organizations are working in silos, how do we change that? We know what works in other communities across Canada, how do we create it here, with modifications reflective of community needs?

Halifax Regional Municipality

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2017

Primary Convenor Contact:
Tracy Boyer, Poverty Solutions Facilitator,
tboyer@unitedwayhalifax.ca; 902-461-3066

City/Region:
Halifax Regional Municipality

Governance:
Poverty Solutions Advisory Committee (PSAC) will govern for a six-month term to develop solutions

Initiative led by:
United Way Halifax and United Way Halifax with other partners

Staff Supports:
1 full-time employee, 5 other supporting employees

Convening Organization(s):
United Way Halifax and Halifax Regional Municipality

Funded by:
United Way Halifax and Halifax Regional Municipality

ABOUT:

United Way Halifax hosted a one-day Poverty Summit on May 31st, 2016 to explore a shared plan to help Halifax be free of poverty. Learning from the Poverty Summit informed next steps in creating a Poverty Reduction Strategy. On April 25th, 2017, unanimously approved collaborating with United Way and other partners on the development of an [Anti-Poverty Strategy for the municipality](#). On July 4th, 2017, the Poverty Solutions Advisory Committee had its first meeting. The Poverty Solutions Advisory Committee (PSAC) will steward the development of a Poverty Solutions Strategy for the Halifax Regional Municipality. The council will be a sounding board for community developed solutions, seeking to connect this work across sectors and communities and add credibility. Membership in this committee is cross-sectoral and includes Experts by Experience.

“The opportunity to work with Regional Council and engage the entire community to develop progressive poverty solutions for our municipality that focus on root cause is such a big step forward.”

- Sara Napier, CEO United Way Halifax and co-chair of the Poverty Solutions Advisory Committee

Resource List:

- [United Way Poverty Summit](#)
- [Staff Report HRM Anti-Poverty Strategy, April 5, 2017](#)
- [Dr. John Ross - Social Determinants of Health](#)
- [Lars Osberg - Poverty in Nova Scotia - Money Does Matter](#)
- [Christine Saulnier - Income Based Solutions to Poverty Alleviation](#)
- [Preventing Poverty. Promoting Prosperity. Nova Scotia's Poverty Reduction Strategy - 2009](#)

Action Areas:

- Income and employment: Employment and skills training; Income Assistance; Precarious Employment; Living Wage; Basic income
- Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Health and Well-Being: Mental health and addictions; Health equity
- Education and Early Childhood Development: Childcare; Children and youth issues
- Food Security
- Access and Equity: Racism; Stigma; Disability; Newcomers; Services; Transportation

Coaching Needs:

- Best practice for organizing structures for this work as it moves through various stages
- Collective Impact models
- Financial investments and funding the work
- Systems change thinking, working with complexity – agile process of acting and being responsive to change
- Measurement and Evaluation of both process and multiple returns on investment for partners, seeing results
- Cross governmental collaboration and shared investment
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission inclusion efforts

Top Challenges:

- Tensions in hunger for action from community and impatience for change and need to integrate work and shared across governments and sectors. Need to move quickly towards thoughtful action that doesn't perpetuate the problem.
- Different policy/budget cycles to invest in the work and step into real institutional change. Cross governmental strategy development and collaboration.
- Ensuring themes do not become silo'd and we get to innovative and scalable solutions
- Leverage existing public resources while building investment opportunities for business sector.

Ontario

Prosperity Roundtable of Chatham-Kent
Social Development Council of Cornwall Area
Poverty Action Partnership of Haldimand and Norfolk
Halton Poverty Roundtable (HPRT)
Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (HRPR)
Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes Poverty Reduction Roundtable
Plans for Action as a Community Kingston
Leeds and Grenville Poverty Reduction Alliance
London Child and Youth Network
Niagara Poverty Reduction Network & Niagara Prosperity Initiative
Ottawa Poverty Reduction Network
Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy
Poverty Roundtable of Hastings Prince Edward
Sault Ste. Marie Poverty Round Table
Simcoe County Poverty Reduction Roundtable
Solutions to Poverty Waterloo Region
Elgin St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty
TO Prosperity
Region of Waterloo Poverty Reduction Strategy
Pathway to Potential (P2P)

Prosperity Roundtable of Chatham-Kent



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Karen Kirkwood-Whyte, CEO at United Way of Chatham-Kent, karen@uwock.ca; 519-354-0430 ext. 213

City/Region:
Chatham-Kent

Governance:
Steering Committee (Collaborative Leadership Team) and Action Teams with Government, Business, Community and Lived Experience all represented

Initiative led by:
Region

Staff Supports:
1 full-time person, 60 volunteers

Convening Organization(s):
Prosperity Roundtable,
Chatham-Kent

Funded by:
Municipality of Chatham-Kent with additional in-kind supports from the United Way of Chatham-Kent

ABOUT:

The mission of the Prosperity Roundtable Chatham-Kent is “A diverse team of individuals working together to support, develop and implement strategies to eliminate poverty in Chatham-Kent”. Their vision is “No person in Chatham-Kent living in poverty.” The Roundtable is led by a Collaborative Leadership Team (CLT) and the Project Coordinator. The CLT provides leadership to 4 Action Teams which have been assembled to work on the following issue areas and projects.

<http://prosperityroundtable.com>

“No person in Chatham-Kent living in poverty.”

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)
- [Poverty Roundtable mid-term report 2015/16](#)

Action areas:

- Education
 - Development of a Life-long Learning Strategy
 - Annual Poverty Awareness Week Campaign
 - Providing support, awareness and advocacy around the Canada Learning Bond
 - Supporting the development of programming for At-Risk Youth
 - Social Determinants of Health
 - Addressing local housing concerns
 - Working with financial institutions so families can purchase affordable homes
 - Developing Healthy Family Units
- Social Inclusion
 - Development of Community Information Access Points
 - Living Wage Awareness
 - Transportation Accessibility
 - Annual Breaking Barriers Exhibition
- Food Security
 - Canadian Food Strategy Feedback Report
 - Let's Talk Food Report and Community Forum
 - Food Policy Council Community Gardens

Coaching needs:

- How to scale up our local initiative for most impact

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Government/Public relations and PR Planning

Top challenges:

- How to effectively build community awareness and trust
- How to build mutually supportive relationships with local decision makers
- Need to increase the size of the budget to keep up with work that needs to be done

Learning interests:

- Starting a rural communities' caucus/community of practice
- Provincial and National Government Relations Committee Work
- Finding funding

Social Development Council of Cornwall Area



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2017

Primary Convenor Contact:
Alex DeWit, adewit@sdccornwall.ca; 613-930-0211

City/Region:
Cornwall and Area

Governance:
Not-for-profit organization with board or directors

Initiative led by:
Social Development Council of Cornwall Area

Staff Supports:
4 full-time staff, 3 part-time staff

Convening Organization(s):
Social Development Council of Cornwall Area

Funded by:
Ontario Trillium Foundation, Municipal Government, and Community Futures Development Corporation

ABOUT:

The Social Development Council (SDC) of Cornwall Area is a grass roots non-profit organization that strives to make Cornwall healthy, resilient and an inclusive community. The SDC promotes positive social change through advocacy, innovation and facilitation and has 4 priority areas: a Poverty Working Group working on systemic changes to address poverty in our Community, an Employ-ability Network working to make it easier to get jobs and keep jobs, the All Things Food Network working on food accessibility and food literacy issues, and an Information and Referral Network working to ensure that all community assets are understood and up-to-date on the goings on other community assets.

<http://sdccornwall.ca/>

“Our mission focuses on the social and economic impact on individuals, families and communities at large.”

Resources:

- [Social Development Council of Cornwall Area website](#)

Action areas:

- Poverty Working Group: working on systemic changes to address poverty in the community
- Employability Network: making it easier to get and keep jobs
- All Things Food Network: food accessibility and food literacy
- Information and Referral Network: ensuring that all community assets are understood and update to date on the goings on of other community assets

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Food accessibility
- Grant writing
- Employability training
- Domestic violence reduction/prevention

Top challenges:

- Working with municipal government
- Working in a conservative community
- Funding

Learning interests:

- Writing a holistic poverty reduction strategy for a community
- Developing strategies to help social isolated in rural communities

Poverty Action Partnership of Haldimand and Norfolk

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2015

Primary Convenor Contact:
Alison Dunn, Public Health Nurse, Alison.dunn@hnhu.org;
519-426-6170 ext. 3211

City/Region:
Haldimand and Norfolk Counties

Governance:
Community Partnership

Initiative led by:
United Counties

Staff Supports:
1 full-time employee who contributes 10% of their time to work with the partnership

Convening Organization(s):

Nonprofit organization - the Poverty Action Partnership of Haldimand-Norfolk

Funded by:

No funders at present

ABOUT:

Poverty issues came to the foreground during difficult economic times when Lake Erie Steel went through a lock out in 2009/10. This concern prompted a local poverty conversation with council, business members and other community stakeholders. Started with initiatives like the "Do the Math" challenge, and brought in SDoH nurses. Community Leadership Forum was put together and was later revamped into what's now the Poverty Action Partnership. The Poverty Action Partnership of Haldimand and Norfolk exists to find solutions to poverty by raising awareness, reducing stigma, mobilizing and strengthening our community to take action.

<http://paphn.weebly.com/>

“A caring,
compassionate
community free
of poverty.”

Resource List:

- [Community Profile Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk](#)
- [Community Profile Determinants of Health](#)
- [Community Profile Health Outcomes](#)
- [Community Profile Health Behaviours](#)

Action areas:

- Raising awareness
- Reducing stigma around poverty
- Mobilizing and strengthening the community to act
- Financial literacy
- Food security

Coaching Needs:

- Moving the work forward
- Advocating for people and building the capacity of people to advocate for themselves

Areas of Expertise/Successes:

- Communications

Top Challenges:

- Movement forward is slow due to administrative changes
- Poverty is pervasive and it is difficult to focus efforts
- Not having funding
- Lack of visibility
- Lack of important perspectives/power such as government, business and corporate sector, police, school boards etc.
- How to access good data as a rural community

Halton Poverty Roundtable (HPRT)



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:

Leena Sharma Seth, Director, Community Engagement,
leena@haltonpovertyroundtable.com; 905-635-3131 ext. 303

City/Region:

Halton Region including Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton, and Oakville

Governance:

A collaborative multi-sector group comprised of volunteers committed to leveraging resources and partnerships to eliminate poverty in Halton

Initiative led by:

HPRT is an independent backbone support organization

Staff Supports:

2 full-time staff

Convening Organization(s):

United Way of Halton & Hamilton

Funded by:

Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Oakville Community Foundation, Atkinson Foundation, Amarna, and United Way of Halton & Hamilton

ABOUT:

The Halton Poverty Roundtable (HPRT) was created as a result of several pivotal gatherings of community stakeholders. In June 2009, a gathering of concerned citizens, community and regional staff of Halton attended a three-day leadership event in Kitchener called: *Reducing Poverty in Ontario – A Place-Based Approach*. This inspired a local Halton Leadership Summit on Poverty Reduction in November 2010 that engaged participants from the business community, public sector, non-profit agencies, elected officials, faith groups and those with lived experience. The feedback from this Leadership Summit provided the Terms of Reference for the creation of a Halton Poverty Roundtable.

<http://haltonpovertyroundtable.com/>

“HPRT believes in the right of every person to live in good health and with dignity.”

Resource List:

- [No Neighbour in Need: 2017 Community Report](#)
- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)

Action areas:

Livable Incomes through four key strategies:

- Scale up Canada Learning Bond education and awareness building campaign to increase take-up rates
- Develop a local social procurement and community benefits program
- Scale up alternative High School education programs for disengaged youth at risk for living in low income
- Grow awareness of and mobilize action around key income security solutions to eliminate poverty

Coaching needs:

- Collective impact – how to identify community assets

Areas of expertise/successes:

- How to develop a Poverty Reduction Roundtable
- How to engage business representatives in poverty reduction
- Empowering people with lived experience
- Since 2012 have been running forums that have brought people together about housing, business, income security, social procurement, food security Stakeholder influences at policy level

Top challenges:

- The need to bring more awareness to the issue of poverty in Halton
- Finding funds to support the work
- Having to prepare groundwork for a Living Wage is difficult as public opinion is not positive

Learning interests:

- Accessing new, informative knowledge and funding opportunities

Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Tom Cooper, Director, tom@hamiltonpoverty.ca, 905-667-3595

City/Region:
City of Hamilton

Governance:
Advisory Steering Committee is made up of 15 - 16 members from the larger roundtable and legal sponsor is the Hamilton Legal Clinic

Initiative led by:
Community

Staff Supports:
1 full-time employee, 1 part-time employee, 1 part-time contractor

Convening Organization(s):
Hamilton Community Legal Clinic; City of Hamilton Hamilton Community Foundation

Funded by:
The Hamilton Community Foundation, City of Hamilton, some funding is provided via the Living Wage Network, and in-kind contributions are provided courtesy of the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

ABOUT:

The Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction was formed in 2005 to tackle the City's unacceptable levels of poverty. Roundtable members come from across Hamilton and include leaders from the business and non-profit sectors, from government, education and faith communities as well as individuals who experience poverty daily. Our goal: to reduce and eliminate poverty through the aspiration of Making Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child. The Roundtable doesn't offer programs or direct services; our role is to build understanding about the need to invest in poverty reduction to create a healthier, inclusive and more prosperous Hamilton. We work locally, provincially and nationally on policy and systems-level change to achieve long-term solutions to poverty.

<http://hamiltonpoverty.ca/>

“Hamilton has a history of pulling together.”

Resource List:

- [Speakers Bureau](#)
- [Living Wage Hamilton](#)
- [Money for Nothing, Debt for Free](#)
- [Voter ID Clinics During the 2015 Federal Election](#)
- [Social Inclusion Policy](#)

Action areas:

- Shifting Attitudes Towards People in Poverty
- Housing
- Living Wage and Predatory Lending
- Vote to End Poverty – advocating a national poverty reduction strategy
- Community benefit agreements – how local communities can benefit from skills training, e.g. LRT coming into Hamilton; how can low income people benefit
- Social Assistance Reform
- Basic Income – provincial pilot test site

Coaching needs:

- Evaluation
- Fundraising/Sustainability

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Shifting public attitudes about poverty
- Influencing policy at local and provincial and national levels
- Encouraging local businesses to adopt living wages

Top challenges:

- Failure of governments to address systemic levels of poverty e.g. social assistance reform
- Encouraging more diverse voices in the community to recognize the importance of poverty reduction
- Recognizing particular groups who experience poverty differently and face specific challenges i.e. urban aboriginal populations and other racialized communities. They will be looking to create a strategy around the influx of newcomers in the future.
- Engaging HRPR members; may move towards a membership-based structure

Learning interests:

- Community Benefit Agreements
- Post-federal election – how can we influence the new government/policy at a federal level – particularly on the national housing and poverty reduction strategies
- Strategies and best practices for raising of and awareness of and helping people access government benefits they are entitled to (such as the Canada Child Benefit)

Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes Poverty Reduction Roundtable

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2016

Primary Convenor Contact:
Marina Hodson, Co-Chair, mhodson@knfht.ca; 705-887-3535

City/Region:
City of Kawartha Lakes and
Haliburton County

Governance:
Roundtable Steering Committee

Initiative led by:
Municipality

Staff Supports:
City of Kawartha Lakes staff provide administrative support to the Roundtable

Convening Organization(s): City
of Kawartha Lakes

Funded by:
Supported by municipalities; no funding at present

ABOUT:

Established in summer of 2016, the primary objective of the Roundtable is the implementation of the recommendations of the City of Kawartha Lakes and County of Haliburton Poverty Reduction Strategy Action Plans. The Roundtable shall also champion initiatives, programs and services that will reduce the prevalence of poverty or reduce the impact of poverty for all residents of the City of Kawartha Lakes and County of Haliburton.

<https://www.kawarthalakes.ca/en/living-here/poverty-reduction-strategy.aspx>

“Our community clearly has a vision of being a place where people can overcome adversity and reach their full potential.”

Resource List:

- [Poverty reduction plans and reports](#)

Action areas:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Food Security
- Employment and Education
- Children and Youth

Coaching needs:

- How to scale up our local initiative for most impact

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Active support of the local community, primarily service providers
- Recently the Town of Lindsay (within the City of Kawartha Lakes) was announced as one of three municipalities in Ontario to be a pilot site for the Province's Basic Income Program, a three-year pilot.

Top challenges:

- More concrete and direct support in implementing initiatives or changes may be more challenging as we move forward

Learning interests:

- The guaranteed annual income pilots being considered by Ontario

Plans for Action as a Community - Kingston



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Bhavana Varma, President and CEO,
bvarma@unitedwaykfla.ca, 613-542-2674 ext. 1101

City/Region:
City of Kingston and Area

Governance:
Steering Committee

Initiative led by:
Municipality

Staff Supports:
1 full-time and many volunteers

Convening Organization(s):
Jointly chaired by United Way
KFL&A and City of Kingston

Funded by:
United Way, City of Kingston, Innoweave

ABOUT:

Mayor Rosen announced on March 6, 2007 the initiation of a Mayor's Taskforce on Poverty Reduction. Within eight months, on October 16, 2007, this Task Force presented to City Council its Report: Ready To Do Better. Central to its recommendations was "the convening of a permanent community planning roundtable that, amongst other functions, can serve in an advisory capacity to Council on issues related to poverty." Thus, the Kingston Community Roundtable on Poverty Reduction was born. In September 2010, a report to Kingston's City Council suggested a coordinated community strategy be used to reduce poverty. The initiative was renamed the Poverty Reduction Initiative. The following year, a series of community engagements were held to develop goals and objectives. After four years of working in these areas, the focus was narrowed to two priority areas: Child Poverty and Employment and Skills Development.

“Our vision is to empower youth with the skills and opportunities they need to build careers that create a better future for themselves and their communities.”

<http://www.unitedwaykfla.ca/programs/poverty-reduction-initiative/>

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada profile](#)
- [Poverty Reduction Plan 2011](#)
- [Plans for Action as a Community 2013](#)
- [Plans for Action as a Community 2014 report](#)
- [Youth Out Loud Taking Action to End Youth Homelessness 2014](#)
- [Children & Youth Neighbourhood Profiles 2015](#)
- [Ending Youth Homelessness in KFL&A Implementation Plan 2016](#)
- [Youth Employment Strategies 2016](#)

Action areas:

- Youth Employment & Skills Development
- Child Poverty
- Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Food Access

Coaching needs:

- Measurement and evaluation
- Translating strategies into action i.e. what is required to achieve final outcomes

Areas of expertise/successes:

- How to bring people together for a common purpose
- Listening to the community and individuals with lived experience
- Leading an awareness campaign that highlights real stories

Top challenges:

- Understanding what's happening in the community so that there's no overstepping or duplication of work
- Developing a rural youth homelessness strategy with an aim of keeping youth in their own community, where appropriate, and addressing their unique needs
- Developing a plan with strategies to address food access for Kingston and area

Learning Interests

- Indigenous Youth

Leeds and Grenville Poverty Reduction Alliance

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2014

Primary Convenor Contact:
Loretta Corbeil, loretta@eecentre.com; 613-498-2111

City/Region:
United Counties

Governance:
Roundtable with a coordinating group

Initiative led by:
Region

Staff Supports:
All volunteer

Convening Organization(s):
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, Leeds, Grenville, and Lanark Health Unit, Employment and Education Centre

Funded by:
In-kind funding and support from United Counties of Leeds & Grenville, Leeds, Grenville, and Lanark Health Unit, Employment and Education Centre

ABOUT:

The Leeds Grenville Poverty Alliance is a collaborative of organizations and individual working today to reduce poverty in our communities. The Poverty Reduction Coordinating Group is using the following definition of poverty to focus and guide the work of the Leeds and Grenville Poverty Reduction Alliance: "Poverty is the condition of human beings who lack resources, means, choices and power necessary to acquire and maintain economic self-sufficiency and meaningful participation in society."

<http://vibrantcanada.ca/users/leeds-grenville>

“Poverty is a complex issue and only by working and learning together we will be able to create stronger, healthier and better communities for all.”

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada profile](#)

Action areas:

- Basic Income Guarantee
- Financial literacy
- Information sharing

Coaching needs:

- Engaging municipal politicians in the conversation on poverty
- Engaging the voice of lived experience in a meaningful way

Areas of expertise/successes:

- The Board of Health Leeds Grenville Health Unit endorsing the Basic Income Guarantee
- Establishing partnership with Smart Saver and 35 participants attending a training session with Smart Saver for Canada Learning Bond Promotion
- Promoting the Canada Learning Bond at multiple community events
- Hosting a community consultations on both the Provincial Government Basic Income Guarantee Pilot Project and the Federal Government Poverty Reduction Strategy

Top challenges:

- Resources & capacity (all members are working from the side of desk)
- Engaging the broader community
- Coordinating and getting consensus among 13 different communities over a large geographical area

Learning interests:

- Engaging municipal politicians in the conversation on poverty
- Moving from discussion to action
- Engaging the voice of lived experience in a meaningful way
- Engaging with the broader VC Canada community
- Evaluation

London Child and Youth Network

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2013

Primary Convenor Contact:
Cheryl Smith, Manager, Community Development & Funding, csmith@london.ca; 519-661-2489 ext. 5880

City/Region:
City of London

Governance:
Network of individuals and organizations

Initiative led by:
Community Collaborative

Staff Supports:
1 full-time person, 60 volunteers

Convening Organization(s):
City of London

Funded by:
The City of London, and one time funding and in-kind from partner organizations and the province

ABOUT:

The Child and Youth Network (CYN) began in 2007, with about 50 members. In 2008, the community identified four priorities to collaborate and work collectively on - Ending Poverty is one of those priorities for London's children, youth, and families. The CYN is now composed of over 170 agencies and individuals that span the education, health, recreation and social services sectors. The Ending Poverty Priority is working to end poverty in London through a four-part strategy: reducing the impact of poverty, breaking the cycle of poverty, changing mindsets and system change. Ending Poverty priority partners are actively implementing strategies to meet basic needs in London neighbourhoods through initiatives such as Food Families and Harvest Bucks. Recently, a large-scale, community-wide education campaign (Poverty Over – London) was implemented to promote awareness and educate Londoners about poverty in our city.

<http://londoncyn.ca/>

“Happy, healthy children and youth today; caring, creative, responsible adults tomorrow.”

Resource List:

- [CYN Theory of Change](#)
- [Progress Report 2016](#)
- [Child & Youth Agenda 2017-2021](#)
- [London for All: A Roadmap to End Poverty](#)
- [The Child and Youth Network Assessment](#)
- [CYN Youth Framework](#)

Action areas:

- Changing mindsets; research and advocacy; basic needs; breaking the cycle of poverty (youth led initiatives) and policy level issues
- Income security working group: writes 1 or 2 policy papers per year
- Micro loan program: now an initiative of the local Goodwill Industries; “Impact Loans”
- Harvest bucks: Partnership between CYN and Middlesex London Health Unit to give low income individuals access to healthy food from the local market
- Support the community purchase of a refrigerated truck to rescue and redistribute vegetables and fruit from local retailers
- Food Families: help families develop food skills, save money and build relationships – in partnership with a number of local organizations

Coaching needs:

- Roundtable/strategy development
- How to include individuals with lived experience at your roundtable

Areas of expertise/successes:

- How to run a poverty simulation
- Awareness campaign
- Policy
- Food security
- Youth engagement

Top challenges:

- How to align poverty reduction activities within the greater community

Learning interests:

- Poverty reduction at the national level
- Income security (such as Living wage) and financial empowerment
- Subsidized transit
- Food security
- Evaluation reporting

Niagara Poverty Reduction Network & Niagara Prosperity Initiative



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Marc Todd, Manager, marc.todd@niagararegion.ca; 905-734-7976 ext. 6548

City/Region:
Niagara Region

Governance:
Community based consortium with a dedicated Secretariat

Initiative led by:
Region

Staff Supports:
1 full-time and 1 part-time employee

Convening Organization(s):
Niagara Region, Niagara Poverty Reduction Network

Funded by:
Niagara Region

ABOUT:

The Niagara Prosperity Initiative (NPI) was established by Niagara Region in 2008, and provides an annual investment of \$1.5 million to support poverty reduction and prevention activities. The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN) is a group of residents, businesses and organizations working collectively to wipe out poverty in Niagara through information sharing, changing attitudes, and compelling Niagara citizens to get involved and take action.

The goal of NPI is: to guide and direct investments on identified initiatives to alleviate poverty in neighbourhoods across Niagara; to develop and enhance collaborative relationships between stakeholders; to engage people living in poverty in meaningful ways to ensure that investments reflect need, and to advocate for change that will reduce and prevent poverty in the community.

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/social-services/niagara-prosperity-initiative/default.aspx>

“Alleviating poverty in neighbourhoods across Niagara.”

Resource List:

- [Niagara Prosperity Initiative Background](#)
- [Niagara Neighbourhood Mapping Tool](#)
- [List of Niagara Prosperity Initiative Projects](#)
- [Building a New Legacy Report](#)
- [Wipe Out Poverty Niagara](#)
- [Calculating the Living Wage for Niagara Region 2016](#)
- [Infographic – 2013 Statistics](#)
- [PRSO Deep Dive Session](#)

Action areas:

- Affordable housing
- Transportation
- End Stigma and Discrimination
- Income Security – Work & Wages
- Income Security – Basic Income Guarantee
- Access to Health Care
- Affordable and Accessible Childcare

Coaching needs:

- Communicating results so they are meaningful to naysayers

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Designing systems and mechanisms to connect initiatives happening at different levels, at different times, in different domains

Top challenges:

- Persistent idea that poverty is the fault of individuals is still pervasive and frustrating
- Conveying success to the general public is difficult because it means some people's stories are exploited when they are meant to share success
- Securing funds to do long-term evaluation, data collection, or assessments
- Reaching consensus
- Engagement

Learning Interests:

- Want more access to data and research

Ottawa Poverty Reduction Network

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2015

Primary Convenor Contact:
Linda Lalonde, Chair, linda_lalonde_ottawa@yahoo.com;
613-325-4737

City/Region:
City of Ottawa

Governance:
Coalition of organizations and individuals

Initiative led by:
Community

Staff Supports:
All volunteer

Convening Organization(s):
Ottawa Poverty Reduction
Network, Community
Developer's Network (Network
of the Coalition of Community
Health and Resource Centres)

Funded by:
No funding at present; community partners offer in kind
supports

ABOUT:

The Ottawa Poverty Reduction Network was the initiator of the 2009-2011 Poverty Reduction Strategy which was developed in consultation with community members and partners and approved by City Council in December 2008.

The network is trying to advance the poverty reduction agenda via existing connections/allies to explore and determine opportunities for next steps.

<http://vibrantcanada.ca/users/ottawa-poverty-reduction-network>

“Poverty in our
city affects us all.”

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)
- [Ottawa's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)

Action areas:

- Food Security – we have several initiatives working in this area such as the Poverty and Hunger Network and Good Food Initiatives
- Civic Engagement Table – part of the Making Voices Count initiative which focuses on increasing engagement on civic issues among low-income communities. We achieved the EquiPass and an increase in city funding for the social service sector this year and currently, we are working on getting a long-term social investment strategy in place at the City.
- Transit – we are working on low income transit options. The community achieved a \$57 monthly bus pass this year and is pushing for a reduced-fare single ticket
- Income inequality – we are working on Basic Income education and awareness

Coaching needs:

- How other community-led poverty reduction efforts build and maintain momentum with no committed financial resources

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Community engagement
- Connecting organizations and agencies
- Engaging community members with lived experience in poverty reduction initiatives and civic engagement

Top challenges:

- Getting poverty reduction recognized at the political level
- Involving other sectors, particularly business and labour

Learning interests:

- The best way to frame the issue in a way that will engage the broadest cross-section of people and partners

Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Adaoma Patterson, Advisor,
adaoma.patterson@peelregion.ca, 905-791-7800 ext. 4015

City/Region:
Peel Region

Governance:
Multi-sector collaborative roundtable

Initiative led by:
Regional Municipality of Peel and
United Way of Peel

Staff Supports:
3 full-time employees to manage roundtable and strategy,
2 temporary staff to support current pilot project and 2
part-time volunteers

Convening Organization(s):
Region of Peel and United Way of
Peel

Funded by:
In-kind supports for staffing and other expenses are
provided by the Region of Peel & United Way

ABOUT:

The Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee (PPRSC) was formed in 2008 in response to the Province of Ontario's announcement about the creation of the provincial poverty reduction strategy as well as to the growing and critical issue of poverty in Peel. Co-chaired by United Way of Peel Region and the Region of Peel, the Committee is a collaborative, which includes local government and the non-profit sector. The Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy recognize that in order to effectively address poverty, we must all work together – people experiencing poverty, residents, businesses, academia, all levels of government and the non-profit sector. The Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy is currently being refreshed.

<http://www.povertyinpeel.ca/index.asp>

“Peel Region is a
liveable
community for all
individuals and
families.”

Resource List:

- [Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)
- [Affordable Transit Pilot Program](#)
- [Infographic – Know the Facts](#)
- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)

Action areas:

- Economic opportunities
- Income security
- Food security
- Affordable/accessible transportation
- Safe and affordable housing

Coaching needs:

- Understanding backbone theory and implementation in municipal government
- Maintaining integrity of community owned strategy in regionally led structure

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Developing a regional poverty reduction strategy
- Municipality providing backbone support

Top challenges:

- Difficult to engage private sector in any long-term way
- When leadership changes, organizational focus can also change, along with commitment
- Rebuilding relationships requires time and energy; this is ongoing work
- On-going challenge of being a region with two cities and one town adds an extra layer of complexity to the work; operating at regional scale means it's challenging to stay true to local identities. i.e. local priorities don't always align
- No shared ownership of work
- Limited participation by individuals with lived experience

Learning interests:

- How to articulate Collective Impact in the next strategy

Poverty Roundtable of Hastings Prince Edward

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2017

Primary Convenor Contact:
Christine Durant, Director,
christine@povertyroundtablehpe.ca; 613-779-7477

City/Region:
Hastings and Prince Edward
County

Governance:
Roundtable members include more than 400 individuals
across 17 municipalities; steering committee is made up of
6 roundtable members

Initiative led by:
Poverty Roundtable Hastings
Prince Edward

Staff Supports:
1 full-time employee, 1 part-time employee

Convening Organization(s):
Community Development
Council of Quinte

Funded by:
Ontario Trillium Foundation (current), United Way
Hastings & Prince Edward (seed/start up), and in-kind
contributions from a number of partners

ABOUT:

In 2013 the Poverty Roundtable of HPE was formed. The key questions raised by the members of the PRT were: are there things we could do, or do differently, to address the causes of poverty? Can we broaden our capacity by working together? Members of the PRT created a mission: to eliminate the causes of poverty in Hastings and Prince Edward counties by building the capacity of our community to work together to plan for and implement strategic, long term solutions that result in fair and equitable opportunities for all. Four pillars guide our work: Empowerment, Education, Knowledge exchange, Advocacy & partnership.

www.povertyroundtablehpe.ca

“Where everyone experiences a standard of living which is sufficient for their physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being without compromise of dignity and self-respect.”

Resource List:

- [Tool for Engagement](#)
- [Snapshot of Poverty](#)
- [Ending Stigma – A rights based Approach](#)

Action areas:

- Housing
- Food Security
- Employment and Income Security
- Community Education - Shifting Attitudes and understanding poverty
- Community capacity building
- Community input for national, provincial, regional and municipal actions to end poverty

Coaching needs:

- Evaluation
- Sustainability
- Multi-sector partnerships – leveraging business and municipalities for poverty reduction
- Strategic Planning

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Encouraging broad community participation in consultation processes to influence policy
- Education and knowledge exchange on different approaches to poverty reduction
- Networking for community organizations to come out of silos, to broaden community partnerships, improve services, navigate systems and advocate collectively

Top challenges:

- Encouraging business and municipalities to recognize their role in poverty reduction
- Long term sustainability i.e. access to funding
- Encouraging greater leadership from people with experiences of poverty
- Working in a large geographical region, with three tiers of local government with multiple municipalities, various economic and social contexts
- Strategic development of the roundtable: managing size, strategies, growth and impact
- Failure of government to address systemic poverty, e.g. social assistance reforms

Learning interests:

- Municipal actions and by-law revisions to reduce poverty
- Community organizing – supporting the development of working groups and initiatives
- Social enterprise
- Collective impact and game-changer approaches
- Community organizing approaches – e.g. campaigning on single issues
- Addressing the challenges of rural poverty
- Utilizing rights based approaches to leverage action and access to rights

Sault Ste. Marie Poverty Round Table

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2017

Primary Convenor Contact:
Gary Vipond, CEO, United Way Sault Ste. Marie,
gvipond@uwssmalgoma.ca; 705-256-7476 ext. 201

City/Region:
City of Sault Ste. Marie and
District

Governance:
The Round Table is currently governed by two Co-Chairs
and working groups have been established for each
identified priority area

Initiative led by:
Community

Staff Supports:
Staff support is provided in-kind by Algoma Public Health
and the United Way

Convening Organization(s):
United Way Sault Ste Marie and
Algoma District, Algoma Public
Health

Funded by:
The Poverty Round Table does not currently receive any
significant funding; in-kind services are provided by
Algoma Public Health and United Way

ABOUT:

The Sault Ste. Marie Poverty Round Table was initiated in January 2015 to develop a plan to reduce the impact of low income on the health and well-being of individuals and families in Sault Ste. Marie. The Round Table was originally managed by three Co-chairs; Dr. Gayle Broad (Algoma University NORDIK Institute), Jennifer Miller (Algoma Public Health) and Gary Vipond (United Way Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District). The Round Table consists of representatives from municipal and regional government, post-secondary institutions, local school boards, social service organizations, health care providers, police services, fire services and individual community members. A draft plan was completed April 2016 and was approved by City Council in August 2016.

“To reduce the impact of low income on the health and well-being of individuals and families.”

<http://ssmunitedway.ca/>; <http://www.algomapublichealth.com/>

Resource List:

- [SSM Strategic Action Plan 2016](#)
- [SSM Poverty Strategy Chart](#)

Action areas:

- Food Security
- Essential Services
- Engagement and Communication
- Housing
- Workforce Entry

Coaching needs:

- The Roundtable is in the early stages of work; coaching needs will be identified as work progresses

Areas of expertise/successes:

- A community plan has been developed and approved by stakeholders

Top challenges:

- Resources will be required in order to advance the work of the Round Table

Learning interests:

- We are interested in learning more about community indicators to track progress towards achieving identified outcomes

Simcoe County Poverty Reduction Roundtable

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2014

Primary Convenor Contact:
Irena Pozgaj-Jones, Program Supervisor, Irena.Pozgaj-Jones@simcoe.ca, 705-722-3132 ext. 1039

City/Region:
Simcoe County

Governance:
Poverty reduction roundtable has been established, the Poverty Reduction Task Group

Initiative led by:
Community

Staff Supports:
All in-kind support from convening organizations

Convening Organization(s):
County of Simcoe, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, United Way Simcoe Muskoka

Funded by:
The County of Simcoe provides a Social and Community Investment Fund which is available to community agencies, and the County is leading a Poverty Reduction Project funded through the Ontario Local Poverty Reduction Fund (LPFR)

ABOUT:

Over 20 years of poverty reduction work is continuing in the County through collaboration from strong community partners. Bridges Out of Poverty framework started in 2010. A comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy is being developed through community engagement and priority setting which began with a Community Engagement Event in October 2015.

<http://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/scs/about>

“
**Don't be
ashamed of your
story...it will
inspire others.**”

Resource List:

- [Simcoe County Data Consortium Webpage](#)
- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)
- [Making Choices Together Community Engagement Report 2016](#)

Action areas:

- Affordable Housing
- Homelessness
- Breaking the Cycle of Poverty for Children and Youth
- Employment and Income Security
- Transportation Access
- Access to affordable nutritious food
- Wage level

Coaching needs:

- Moving to next step (i.e. engagement, implementation, and action)

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Collaboration and creating strong networks
- Community engagement
- Data and research

Top challenges:

- Mobilizing around shared outcomes and creating a sense of urgency. Have overcome this by strong collaboration with key partners, coordinating and aligning resources and system planning
- Rural/urban nature of the Simcoe region which leads to transportation issues and problems with access to resources for people.
- Accurate and reliable data at low levels of geography. This is overcome by sourcing alternate data products and engaging in primary data collection.
- Consensus on common solutions can take time

Learning interests:

- Results Based Accountability, learning and evaluation
- Models for developing local poverty reduction roundtables, and strategies for maintaining momentum
- Social enterprise

Solutions to Poverty Waterloo Region

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2017

Primary Convenor Contact:
Linda Terry, Executive Director (SPCCND),
linda@spccnd.org, 519-623-1713 ext. 222

City/Region:
Region of Waterloo

Governance:
Community initiative comprised of over 20 community members from across the region

Initiative led by:
The Social Planning Council of
Cambridge and North Dumfries
(SPCCND)

Staff Supports:
1 part-time staff

Convening Organization(s):
The Social Planning Council of
Cambridge and North Dumfries
(SPCCND)

Funded by:
Ontario Trillium Foundation Collective Impact Grant Stream
One

ABOUT:

In 2016, the SPCCND hosted its 11th Annual Poverty Symposium, and this initiative developed from a group of attendees who wanted to keep the discussion going on local poverty issues. In 2017, the initiative became known as “Solutions to Poverty Waterloo Region” and began pursuing a collective impact approach to address the complex and growing issue of seniors living in poverty. This initiative is comprised of over 20 community members from across the region, with representatives from a variety of sectors including local government; employment support; literacy development; fair-wage advocacy; legal services; emergency shelter services; housing support; food banks; and community healthcare.

<http://www.spccnd.org/Poverty-Symposium.htm>

“Sharing the burden
among many
reduces the cost of
intervention for
everyone.”

Resource List:

- [Infographic highlights from 11th Annual Poverty Symposium](#)

Action areas:

- To be determined – in early stages of planning

Coaching needs:

- Understanding nuances of the collective impact approach
- Getting and keeping influential champions at the table
- Gauging desired level of involvement amongst partners
- Developing a theory of change

Top challenges:

- Encouraging interactions amongst partners
- Securing partners from a broad cross-section of the community
- Embracing a culture where everyone is a leader

Learning interests:

- Deepened understanding of collective impact theory and process
- Systemic causes of poverty amongst the senior population
- Gaps and limitations amongst existing senior supports
- Existing, impactful senior supports and how we might align with and/or enhance them

Elgin St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2014

Primary Convenor Contact:
Laryssa Thompson, Public Health Nurse,
ltompson@elginhealth.on.ca; 519-631-9900 ext. 1214

City/Region:
St. Thomas and Elgin County

Governance:
Coalition with about 35 members and a steering committee of 9 individuals

Initiative led by:
Community partners, YWCA, & Public Health

Staff Supports:
In kind staff support provided by Public Health and YWCA to co-chair the coalition

Convening Organization(s):
YWCA and Public Health

Funded by:
Elgin St. Thomas Public Health and YWCA provide dedicated staff time

ABOUT:

Elgin St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty formed as a result of conversations within Bridges out of Poverty St. Thomas Elgin, a group of committed community leaders and volunteers whose mission is to eliminate poverty by uniting the strengths and passions of those living in St. Thomas & Elgin County. In 2015, Bridges out of Poverty St. Thomas Elgin appointed a working group to further investigate interest in a comprehensive poverty coalition to tackle the root causes of poverty and commit towards eliminating poverty entirely. In October 2016, planning tables of community leaders across St. Thomas Elgin were invited to talk about what could be done. Subsequently, a group of about 25 agencies and community citizens met in December 2016 and January 2017 to establish and inform a Steering Committee. The local YWCA and Public Health Unit agreed to provide backbone support and the Steering Committee met for the first time in February 2017.

“To eliminate poverty by united the strengths and passions of those living in St. Thomas & Elgin County.”

<http://www.endpovertyinelgin.com/>

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Communities Canada Profile](#)
- [Health Status Report 2015](#)

Action areas:

- Food security
- Housing/homelessness
- Employment and income (living wage)
- Transportation
- Getting Ahead and Circles programs is supported through the local Bridges out of Poverty program

Coaching needs:

- Collective impact and partner engagement
- Evaluation

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Bridges out of Poverty/Circles
- Urban pantry food sharing strategy
- Homelessness
- Strengthening neighbourhoods

Top challenges:

- Coordination of the work, sharing of the work, measurement and communication
- Internal staffing changes
- Gaining full council support and engagement of the business community
- Current lack of lived experience at the table
- Having available infrastructure to support assisting people up and out of poverty

Learning interests:

- Distributing election materials
- Networking around project areas

TO Prosperity



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2014

Primary Convenor Contact:
Ricardo Tranjan, Manager, Poverty Reduction Strategy,
Ricardo.Tranjan@toronto.ca; (416) 392-5397

City/Region:
City of Toronto

Governance:
The approved strategy proposes a five-body implementation and accountability structure that brings together internal and external stakeholders, residents with lived experience of poverty, the private sector, and measuring and monitoring experts

Initiative led by:
Municipality

Staff Supports:
3 full-time staff, 8 part-time support staff

Convening Organization(s): City of Toronto

Funded by:
Funding requests are considered as part of annual budget processes for the City of Toronto

ABOUT:

Drawing on the experiences and ideas of hundreds of Toronto residents from all parts of the city, TO Prosperity sets a bold vision to build a city with opportunities for all. It contains 17 recommendations and 71 actions to respond to the immediate needs of low-income residents, to reorient services towards the creation of pathways out of poverty, and address the systemic causes of inequality. The strategy focuses on housing stability, services access, transit equity, food access, the quality of jobs and incomes, and systemic change.

“TO Prosperity sets a vision for our city, lays out objectives for our long-term fight against poverty, and proposes ways to act on it now.”

<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=a67aa457bc09a510VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

Resource List:

- [TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)
- [Interim Staff Report](#)
- [Final Staff Report](#)
- [Phase 1 Engagement Summary Report](#)
- [Phase 2 Engagement Summary Report](#)
- [Background File: TO Prosperity](#)
- [TO Prosperity Year 1 Report to Community](#)
- [Fair Pass Program: Transit Fare Equity Program for Low-Income Torontonians](#)
- [Toronto Social Procurement Program](#)

Action areas:

- Housing Stability
- Transit Equity
- Service Access
- Food Access
- Quality Jobs and Liveable Wages
- Systemic Change

Coaching needs:

- Measurement and governance

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Engagement (internal and external)
- Building political buy in
- Developing action plan/recommendations

Top challenges:

- Constrained fiscal environment
- Lack of evaluation capacity

Learning interests:

- More tools
- Jurisdictional review – on website
- Rather than collection of strategies, some synthesis would work well
- Measuring outcomes - VCC could take leadership role to partner with academic institutions

Region of Waterloo Poverty Reduction Strategy

PROFILE

Member of VCC since: 2012	Primary Convenor Contact: Douglas Bartholomew Saunders, Commissioner, dbartholomew-saunders@regionofwaterloo.ca ; 519-883-2170
City/Region: The Region of Waterloo	Governance: Upper Tier Municipality (Regional Government)
Initiative led by: Regional Municipality	Staff Supports: N/A
Convening Organization(s): N/A	Funded by: N/A

ABOUT:

The Region of Waterloo's Comprehensive Approach to Poverty Reduction looks at addressing poverty comprehensively across the Departments and Divisions within the Region of Waterloo. The Approach is designed to ensure that all Departments and Divisions are aware of and are engaged collaboratively and collectively to find sensible, innovative and lasting solutions for poverty reduction.

“We are all part of the puzzle - we all have a piece to play.”

<http://communityservices.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/communityplanningpartnerships/poverty.asp>

Resource List:

- [Progress Report #1](#); [Progress Report #2](#)

Action areas:

- Increasing the Voices of the Low-Income Sector
- Social Policy Change
- Systems change
- Shifting Attitude

Pathway to Potential (P2P)



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012/2017*

Primary Convenor Contact:
Stephen Lynn, Social Planning Coordinator,
slynn@citywindsor.ca, 519-255-5200 ext. 5302

City/Region:
Windsor-Essex County

Governance:
City Council

Initiative led by:
Municipality

Staff Supports:
1 full-time staff

Convening Organization(s): City of Windsor and the County of Essex

Funded by:
Municipally funded by City of Windsor & County of Essex

ABOUT:

Since its creation in 2009, the City of Windsor's poverty reduction strategy, Pathway to Potential (P2P), has targeted four key areas to assist low-income individuals and families in Windsor and Essex County: Community Programs for low-income individuals and families; Subsidized recreation programs in the City and County; Subsidized bus transportation through Transit Windsor's Affordable Pass Program (APP); and Research and communication initiatives which raise awareness of the issues related to poverty and the need for everyone to share in the solutions. In January 2017*, Windsor City Council approved the creation of a comprehensive plan intended to 'change the conversation' away from poverty reduction and towards making social investments in our residents, our neighbourhoods and our community. This plan builds on existing and new resources and supports initiatives led by the City of Windsor and Community partners, with a goal to make a difference in the lives of all residents.

www.pathwaytopotential.ca

“Windsor-Essex County is a thriving community where every family and individual builds potential through access to quality opportunities, supports and resources that work for them.”

Resource List:

- The resources that were previously found on P2P's website are currently unavailable. We are currently in the process of finding a home so they can be accessible to all.

Action areas:

- Provision of foundational services
- Support social investment initiatives led by Community partners
- Enhance role of Windsor City Council to promote social investment campaign
- Promote social investments throughout Corporation of City of Windsor
- Provision of subsidized recreational programs in Windsor and throughout Essex County
- Provision of subsidized transportation through Transit Windsor – Affordable Pass Program (APP)
- Invest in Neighbourhoods
- Enhance communication campaign to raise awareness and to promote social investment programs available for residents; and
- Create a new data collection strategy based on outcome measures and best practices.

Areas of expertise/successes:

- Transit Windsor - Affordable Pass Program

Top challenges:

- Evaluation of various funded programs under the P2P funding envelope

Learning interests:

- Collective Impact
- Neighbourhood Revitalization
- Community Benefit Agreements/Social Procurement
- Evaluation

Quebec

Cote-des-Neiges – Notre-Dame-de-Grace

The Réseau Québécois de Revitalisation Intégrée (RQRI)

Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2016

Primary Convenor Contact:
Annick Brouillette; Coordinator,
coordotable@gmail.com; 514-739-7731

City/Region:
Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, a borough of
Montréal

Governance:
Roundtable steering committee

Initiative led by:
Borough Mayor Russell
Copeman

Staff Supports:
1 part-time Coordinator

Convening Organization(s):
Arrondissement Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

Funded by:
Borough surplus

ABOUT:

CDN-NDG borough mayor Russell Copeman launched a poverty reduction initiative in Montréal's most populous borough in 2016. The borough is comprised of two neighbourhoods that are governed by the borough council, and the total population is around 162,000. The roundtable hired a coordinator in March 2017, formed a steering committee, and the roundtable currently hosts about 14 members at monthly meetings. The borough is currently working to develop a strategy, which will include five priority areas they have identified, as well as

recommendations for changes. The target for developing a draft plan is December 2017, and a final strategy will be submit to the borough by the end of 2018.

“The round-table is mandated to produce an action plan within 18 months.”

http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=7497,84237570&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Resource List:

- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)

Action areas:

- Revenue for income
- Housing
- Transportation
- Food security
- 'How to live together' (about accessibility, language barrier, multi-culturalism)

Top challenges:

- To bring the lived-experience citizens around the table

Learning interests:

- Provide more concrete examples that are organized or classified by game changer thematics (housing, transportation, etc)

The Réseau Québécois de Revitalisation Intégrée

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
David Marshall, Chair, revitalisationsaintpierre@gmail.com;
514-365-7000

City/Region:
Québec

Governance:
A network comprised of 25 members from 10 local revitalization initiatives, governed by a voluntary members' board

Initiative led by:
Community

Staff Supports:
None

Convening Organization(s):
Communities with revitalization networks participate in this provincial network

Funded by:
Roundtables have been funded in the past by private foundations and government

ABOUT:

The Réseau québécois de revitalisation intégrée (RQRI) was established in 2008 by the two Québec Vibrant Communities sites – Démarche des premiers quartiers de Trois-Rivières and Vivre Saint-Michel en Santé, in Montreal. The RQRI network is a grouping of local initiatives from multiple who are working to improve the quality of life in targeted neighbourhoods. The purpose of the RQRI Network is to: enable the exchange of practices and expertise and the development of skills; work towards the development of public policies in support of this approach to development and the fight against poverty and social exclusion, taking into account the diversity of the members of the network; further develop and articulate the integrated revitalization approach; and, develop working tools to support practices and ensure availability to all members of the network.

“Improving the quality of life in Québec neighbourhoods.”

www.rqri.org

Resource List:

- [RQRI En Bref](#)
- [Le RQRI Orientation 2015-2020](#)
- [Projet Politique Nationale](#)
- [RQRI Cadre de Reference](#)
- [RQRI – Rapport D’Activités 2015](#)
- [Projet de Politique Nationale sur la Revitalization Intégrée des Territoires Locaux](#)
- [Nos Orientations 2015-2020](#)

Action Areas:

- Social Enterprise
- Evaluating community impacts
- Housing
- Income Security
- Food Security
- Community collaboration

Coaching Needs:

- Strategic resource development

Areas of Expertise/Successes:

- Convening a diverse network of communities with varying needs

Top Challenges:

- Securing sustainable funding for the network
- Diverse challenges amongst a large geographical network
- Internal capacity turnover

Learning Interests:

- Strategic resource development
- Analyzing success stories of the RQRI, suggesting how their experience may be useful to a federal poverty reduction strategy

Saskatchewan

Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership

Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2012

Primary Convenor Contact:
Colleen Christopherson-Cote, Community Partnerships
Facilitator; SPRPcoordinator@gmail.com, 306-933-5030

City/Region:
City of Saskatoon

Governance:
Constellation model

Initiative led by:
Human Services Community

Staff Supports:
1 part-time contractor

Convening Organization(s):
Saskatoon Health Region,
Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning
Centre, City of Saskatoon, and
the United Way of Saskatoon and
Area, University of Saskatchewan
Office of Community Outreach,
Unitarian Congregation of
Saskatoon

Funded by:
Project grants have come from United Way of Saskatoon
and Area; Saskatoon Health Region. Saskatoon Food Bank
and Learning Centre; City of Saskatoon; Affinity Credit
Union; outside agency grants. In kind resources are
provided as needed by various project partners

ABOUT:

The SPRP formed in 2010 to address poverty in Saskatoon. The partnership has evolved from a long history of community collaboration and a clear commitment to a multi-sectoral and sustainable effort to reduce poverty that is focused on the common vision of sustained individual and community wellbeing of all people in Saskatoon. Built on 15+ years of work. Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership work is strategically aligned with the project partner core priorities and the government of Saskatchewan's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

“A multi-sectoral and sustainable effort to reduce poverty based on 15+ years of experience.”

Resource List

- [Saskatoon, Its People and Poverty](#)
- [Saskatchewan Plan for Growth - Vision 2020 and Beyond](#)
- [Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership Possibilities 2011](#)
- [Living Wage Saskatoon](#)
- [Poverty Costs](#)
- [Business Case for Living Wage Saskatoon](#)
- [Vibrant Canada Profile](#)

Action Areas:

- Meaningfully engagement people with lived experience
- Housing – housing first initiatives are implemented by partners
- Early Years Education
- Income and Employment - Living Wage YXE; predatory loan policies
- Education – poverty reduction curriculum guide for grades 6-9
- Health – call for the inclusion of the social determinants of health in poverty reduction
- Food Security – trying to make food security an election issue
- Reconciliation – adding reconciliation as a core value

Coaching Needs:

- Mentorship around business engagement and participation
- Mentorship around advocating and navigating multi-level government jurisdictions

Areas of Expertise/Successes:

- Indigenous engagement and the inclusion of the TRC Calls to Action
- Awareness about Vibrant Communities for other groups in Saskatchewan
- Advocacy with government (e.g. framed poverty costs as economic growth strategy)
- Campus community engagement

Top Challenges:

- Sustainability of funding and internal management of an organization that is funded ad hoc
- Our work is systems based - not necessarily individual mandates based
- Engaging specific target groups
- Authentic and representative Indigenous engagement

Learning Interests:

- Being a part of a Community of Practice on Game Changers
- Attending a webinar series on Game Changers
- Evaluation

Yukon Territory

Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition

Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition

PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2013

Primary Convenor Contact:
Kristina Craig, Coordinator,
yukonantipovertycoalition@gmail.com; 867-334-9317

City/Region:
Yukon Territory with focus on
Whitehorse

Governance:
The Coalition is a flat organization that is led by 3 volunteer Co-Chairs with the support of a treasurer, secretary and members at large

Initiative led by:
Community

Staff Supports:
1 coordinator with 30hrs/week, 1 summer student, 1 outreach 15/hrs week & 1 housing navigator at 30 hrs/week

Convening Organization(s):
Community Coalition

Funded by:
Yukon Government Department of Health and Social Services provides an annual contribution of \$62,000 for administrative support to YAPC; the rest of our funding is proposal based and donations from members

ABOUT:

The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition (YAPC) was formed in 1996. It is a multi-sectoral coalition of 410 members including individuals, politicians, non-governmental agencies, and representatives from the business and faith communities, doing advocacy, awareness, and action work in poverty reduction. Our official mandate is to: foster development of strategies and activities to reduce poverty in Yukon; the promotion of awareness of poverty in Yukon; to help provide a voice for Yukoners living in poverty; and, coordinate efforts and information regarding poverty among individuals and organizations within and outside Yukon.

<http://yapc.ca/>

“We are committed to facilitating the elimination of poverty in Yukon through awareness, advocacy and action.”

Resource List:

- [Living Wage Yukon Report](#)
- [Vibant Canada Profile: http://vibrantcanada.ca/users/territory-yukon](http://vibrantcanada.ca/users/territory-yukon)

Action Areas:

- Housing/Homelessness – Taskforce assigned to this and it deals with housing/homelessness on a territorial level
- Food security – Bi-monthly food network discussions (YAPC facilitates the discussions)
- Sally and Sisters – Program for women who don't feel safe accessing food services at Salvation Army.
- Whitehorse Connects & Families Connect (new) – this event offers free services to homeless or low income individuals, including haircuts, immunization, clothing, entertainment and more all in one place. This past March was the first Families Connect, in which guests were families rather than individuals

Coaching Needs:

- How to best use data and evaluate success/progress
- Collective impact for systems change especially in area of homelessness, housing and supporting vulnerable people at risk

Areas of Expertise/Successes:

- Convening local agencies and organizations and providing safe and supportive space for new initiatives to take hold and grow (ie. DUGS, Habitat for Humanity, Sally and Sisters/Soeurs lunch program amongst others)
- Leadership roles with Yukon Planning Group on Homelessness and Working Group developing plan to end and prevent homelessness in Whitehorse
- Engagement with governments
- Whitehorse Connects

Top Challenges:

- Using social media and other new technologies for engagement without losing the closeness of the traditional face-to-face approach
- Finding opportunities for youth to lead and develop their own capacities
- Living wage discussions with small local employers
- Restricted capacity
- Developing a logical roundtable structure to ensure broader involvement in local discussions on homelessness, food security, housing and income
- Engaging and being relevant to First Nations citizens

International

Opportunity Central Iowa

Opportunity Central Iowa



PROFILE

Member of VCC since:
2016

Primary Convenor Contact:
Corinne Lambert; clambert@unitedwaydm.org, 515-246-6542

City/Region:
Central Iowa

Governance:
Community-based Leadership Roundtable

Initiative led by:
United Way of Central Iowa

Staff Supports:
2.5 full-time employees

Convening Organization(s):
United Way of Central Iowa

Funded by:
United Way of Central Iowa, John Deere Financial grant

ABOUT:

Since 1917, United Way of Central Iowa has brought together individuals and organizations from every corner of central Iowa to create and implement initiatives focused on producing real results in the areas of education, income and health. Many think of United Way as simply an organization that provides funds to other nonprofits, but we have evolved beyond that to a very different organization. United Way of Central Iowa is a "Collective Impact" organization. Our real power comes from bringing together local nonprofits, businesses, elected officials and community leaders to collaborate and implement solutions to some of our community's most pervasive challenges.

<http://www.unitedwaydm.org/opportunity>

“Our real power comes from bringing together local nonprofits, businesses, elected officials and community leaders.”

Resource List:

- [OpportUNITY](#)
- [Child Care Cliff Infographic](#)
- ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed)
 - [Full Iowa Report](#)
 - [Executive Summary for Iowa](#)
- [5 Things You Should Know About Affordable Housing in Central Iowa](#)
- [Youth Career Readiness Summit](#)

Action Areas:

- Education
 - Early Childhood-Grade 12
 - Adult Education and Employment Readiness
- Transportation, Homelessness and Employment Readiness
- Change
 - Child Care Cliff
 - New Iowans
 - Place-Based
 - Individual
- Food Insecurity

Areas of Expertise/Successes:

- Project management
- Community brand and influence
- Non-profit engagement
- Funding
- Strategy and tactic execution
- Governmental advocacy

Top Challenges:

- Social innovation and entrepreneurship
- Opposable mind thinking – disruption
- Business and government sector engagement
- Cross-sector collaboration
- Best practice community
- Engaging individuals with lived experience

For more information about Vibrant Communities Canada and Cities Reducing Poverty please visit:

www.vibrantcanada.ca



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