



12 BOLD

IDEAS

To Eliminate
Poverty in Saskatoon

It's time to end poverty together!

#EndPovertyYXE

February 2019

Public Launch

Thursday, February
07, 2019

Station 20 West
Multipurpose rm

 **Saskatoon Poverty
Reduction Partnership**

12 BOLD IDEAS

Acknowledgements

- This work would not have come to be without the countless hours of conversations with community partners.
- Particularly those with lived experience who courageously shared their expertise, stories and experiences – it is essential to the work of the SPRP that “nothing about us without us” be a foundation of all the work.
- Photos in the document are the property of Jordon Cooper



Outline

- Background and methods
- The Market Basket Measure Family
- The 12 Bold Ideas
- Next Steps
- Questions and Comments



Poverty is Complex

Poverty looks different for everyone. What impacts some may not impact others, making poverty elimination difficult but not impossible.

Poverty shouldn't exist in a country like Canada. We are one of the richest countries in the world. And in a country with such tremendous social investments, people should not be struggling to make ends meet.

Many argue that **poverty is a human rights issue.** This argument suggests poverty can be the direct consequence of government policy, or governments failing to act. Viewing poverty in this way requires a shift in our understanding about how current policies & practices address **equity.**

This is much more than the unequal sharing of resources. Access to enough money is only one part of eliminating poverty. It is important to understand the impact social isolation, trauma and personal circumstances play in causing the cycle of poverty.



Poverty and Racism

Racism and poverty are clearly connected. Racial, ethnic, and cultural minorities have higher rates of poverty. Lack of education and good housing, paired with mental health challenges, addictions, trauma, and poor health can create a cycle of poverty that is passed from generation to generation.

The systems that are designed to help people often perpetuate systemic racism. System policies & practices have built a revolving door of poverty for those who fall into them. The cycle of poverty feels impossible to escape because the system was designed to discriminate, isolate, and often criminalize the people who exist within it.

Saskatoon is on a journey of Truth and Reconciliation. There is broad multi-sector support for the commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Treaty relationships. This is a positive start, but we must continue to push for more understanding.

How we came to these 12 Bold Ideas...

350 people shared stories, expertise, practical solutions & best practices

10% identified as having lived experience of poverty, homelessness, or difficulties making ends meet



350 hrs of reviews, data & document analysis & research

35 hrs researching provincial & other municipal plans

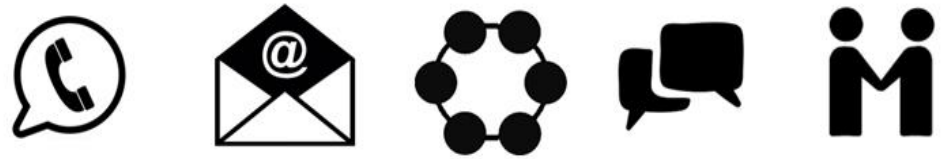
Over **1000hrs** to coordinate, convene and catalyse community partners to develop the **12 bold ideas**

- Who did we hear from?**
- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Education | Health |
| Justice | Housing |
| Early years | Homelessness |
| Policing | Income |
| Employment | Transportation |
| Food Security | Culture |
| Newcomers | Government |
| Funders | Youth |
| Social Enterprise | Literacy |
| Lived Experience | |



Inclusion of voices with complex and diverse experiences of poverty

480 Phone conversations 1750 Email and Online 15 Sharing Circles 65 shared stories 5 Mentorships



35 individuals who self-identified as having lived experience of poverty participated in the creation of the 12 big ideas to eliminate poverty in Saskatoon



Other strategies and work included in the research:

- ❑ Provincial & federal poverty reduction strategies
- ❑ Other federal strategies (early years, food, housing, social innovation)
- ❑ Other SK provincial plans (Early Years plan, Disability Strategy)
- ❑ Other provincial ministry plans and reports (education, health, justice, labour, immigration, etc.)
- ❑ Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action
- ❑ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- ❑ SK Human Rights Commission reports
- ❑ United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)
- ❑ Other Canadian cities' poverty reduction strategies
- ❑ Saskatoon Local Immigration Partnership and other immigration strategies
- ❑ Other local community recommendations/reports (including: Kitaskinaw, health reports, other sector maps and strategic plans, Saskatoon Police Services publications, Saskatoon Homelessness Action Plan)
- ❑ Academic publications and research
- ❑ Community based organizations strategic plans and recommendations

12 BOLD IDEAS

Market Basket Measure

What does an average month cost a family of 4 in Saskatoon?



on average, families in Saskatoon spend about \$1,200.00 per month on shelter



on average, families in Saskatoon spend about \$500.00 per month on transportation



on average, families in Saskatoon spend about \$900.00 per month on food



on average, families in Saskatoon spend about \$1,000.00 per month on childcare



on average, families in Saskatoon spend about \$145.00 per month on health related expenses



on average, families in Saskatoon spend about \$1,200.00 per month on other family expenses (including clothing, recreation, entertainment, & other unexpected costs)



on average, families in Saskatoon spend about \$5,000.00 each month making ends meet

Market Basket Measure (MBM) refers to the measure of low income (poverty line) based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living. It was developed by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). MBM is the amount a family of 4 spends **in a month on food, clothing, transportation, shelter and other expenses**).

12 **BOLD** IDEAS

Meet the Family

- The circumstances do not represent an actual family
- It is a compilation of many stories, situations & experiences of the people with lived experience who were consulted over the course of the development of these ideas
- This doesn't mean that the circumstances shared in the story aren't possible for a single family,
- Nor does it mean that the complexity of the circumstances for vulnerable families should be overlooked.
- For many people living in poverty day-to-day things pile up, making life a daily struggle. Often what would seem like a small bump for many, is a catastrophic event for people who are struggling to make ends meet.
- We encourage you to read the story with an open mind, free of judgement and aware of the privileges you may have in your life.

12 BOLD IDEAS

- 1** Income
- 2** Asset Building
- 3** Social Enterprise
- 4** Childcare
- 5** Education
- 6** Healthcare

- 7** Transportation
- 8** Good Food
- 9** Housing
- 10** Justice
- 11** Literacy
- 12** System Navigation

12 **BOLD** IDEAS

The Ideas explained

- People need income to support their basic needs.
- This looks different for each person and family.
- There is a difference between equality and equity.
- People need to be able to build and accumulate assets to support themselves and their families.
- Assets provide people with a safety net
- People need access to meaningful employment and training opportunities.
- People need access to flexible, affordable and reliable childcare that reflects their diverse needs.
- Investment in the Early Years is required to break the cycle of poverty.



The Ideas explained

- People need a school system that is youth centered and responsive to the needs of families and communities.
- Education can break the cycle of poverty.
- We must encourage an education system that is designed to maximize participation, create diverse learning opportunities and support all youth and their families' complex needs.
- People need access to a healthcare system that focuses on what they need to be healthy.
- Poverty is a risk factor for poor health AND poor health is a risk factor for poverty.

12 **BOLD** IDEAS

The Ideas explained

- People need barrier-free public transportation.
- People need access to healthy, affordable food in the neighbourhood they live in.
- People need support to find safe, affordable, appropriate and adequate housing.
- It is critical that systems stop perpetuating poverty by “releasing” people into homelessness.
- Families need to stay together.
- People need skills and knowledge to improve their circumstances to break the cycle of poverty.
- People need access to broad community support, no matter where they turn for help, when they ask.

12 BOLD IDEAS

What could it look like?

- Equity based distribution of income in combination with asset building
- Social enterprise and social procurement
- 24/7 choice based childcare with current market value subsidies
- Full year school year pilot and other innovative changes to the industrial school model
- Poverty screening tools at medical offices
- More focus on prevention, social determinants of health and what people need to be healthy

12 BOLD IDEAS

What could it look like?

- Free-to-use public transit
- Food assets in all neighbourhoods
- Better policy to assist people when they are transitioning from systems (like jail or foster care)
- Real-time access to mental health and addictions supports and better transitional housing options.
- Lifting women from poverty – decreasing numbers in jail due to circumstances caused by living in poverty.
- Free wifi in the city so people can be connected to what they need.
- Community-based non formal learning opportunities that help people secure better employment.

12 BOLD IDEAS

Next Steps

- There really are limitless ways to implement the ideas.
- Take some time to read through the details and ask yourself where does my work fit into these ideas? What changes can I make?
- Get involved with the SPRP as we work on the implementation and evaluation of the work over the next few years.

12 BOLD IDEAS

- Paper copies are available for partners who do not have options to print.
- Digital pdf copies of the full document are available to all partners via email.
- Online access to the digital copies will be available by March 01, 2019.

Get Connected



EndPovertySaskatoon



@EndPovertyYXE



SPRPcoordinator@gmail.com



Saskatoon Poverty
Reduction Partnership