



BC Communities Reducing Poverty (BC CoP) – Notes

Meeting date: Jan 14, 2020

Attendance

1. Adrienne Montani, First Call & BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition
2. Anne Burrill, Williams Lake
3. Averill Hanson, MCFD Surrey
4. Chelsey Andrews, Vancouver Island University
5. Connie Berrios, Claire Sauvage-Mar, and Jo Henderson, BC Healthy Communities, Victoria
6. Colleen Hamilton, Vancouver
7. Dena Kae Beno, Abbotsford
8. Don Kattler, Port Hardy
9. Emily Johnson, BC Healthy Communities, Victoria
10. Graham Riches, Vancouver
11. Jen Casorso, Alison and Taylor, Kamloops
12. Jen Ford
13. Jill Dewtie, Golden
14. Kady Hunter, Nelson
15. Katrina Lehenbauer, Central Okanagan
16. Kerri Wall, Cranbrook
17. Kristen Hargreaves, Mission
18. Lisa Doff, Coquitlam
19. Liz Moore, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
20. Leslie Sherlock, Richmond
21. Lori Pyne, Whistler
22. Lorraine Copas, SPARC BC
23. Marjie Lesko, Nelson
24. Melanie Burner, City of Richmond
25. Michelle Puffer
26. Morag Carter, Trail
27. Shari Laliberte, Vancouver
28. Victoria Barr, Level Up Planning & Consulting, Victoria
29. Viveca Ellis, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, Vancouver
30. Jill Zacharias, City of Revelstoke Social Development Committee
31. Alison Homer, Vibrant Communities
32. Hannah MacDonald, Vibrant Communities
33. 5 unidentified callers

| Agenda Item | Description |
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| Welcome and Introductions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who is on the line? |
| Overview of the Program and Goals of the Call | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of the Government of BC's Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program and Goals of Today's Call |
| Presentations, Q&A and Discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources, tools and supports available to support applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alison Homer, Tamarack Institute ○ Viveca Ellis, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition ○ Lorraine Copas, SPARC BC |
| Closing Announcements & Next Call | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upcoming Learning Opportunities ▪ Next call: Mar 17 at 11am PT Topic: Sourcing Local Data |

Meeting Notes

Overview of the Government of BC's Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program and Goals of the Call

- The Government of BC's Poverty Reduction Planning and Action program will provide \$5M over 3 years to support local governments to reduce poverty at the local level.
- The program is a result of collaborative efforts calling for provincial support for local poverty reduction work
- This is an important and timely funding opportunity and a real opportunity to address a significant issue; we encourage communities to pursue it
- We want to support success of the grant's first stream (e.g. demonstrate the need and that impactful use of funds makes a difference for families in BC)
- The opportunity and the challenge – Re-visioning the role of the municipality to include a strong role in poverty; encouraging municipalities to incrementally step up their work
- Partnerships are essential – SPARC, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition and Tamarack coming together; local governments and communities can make a big difference
- We aim to make resources, tools, connections and supports available that make it as easy as possible for communities to apply based on promising practices, capacity and level of readiness – even when the opportunity may seem daunting
- SPARC BC, the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition and Tamarack Institute will speak to resources, tools, and supports that each of these organization is able to provide to support communities' readiness to plan for high-impact projects, meet eligibility requirements, and submit applications by the grant's Feb 28, 2020 deadline
- Each of the three organizations is able to support communities to submit proposals and to deliver on promises they make; we want to draw attention to high-impact and upstream approaches to developing and implementing community plans
- Areas for support include: engaging the municipality; sourcing local data and accessing local poverty profiles; evaluation; developing a common agenda and community plan; high-impact

and upstream ideas for implementation that align with Together BC; engaging across sectors including business and people with lived/living experience

Tamarack Institute

- [Vibrant Communities – Cities Reducing Poverty](#) (VC-CRP) is a national movement and learning network comprised of 80 members representing 300+ communities across Canada
- We support members under 4 areas of impact:
 - Moving through the stages of development
 - Developing a common agenda and community plan
 - Tracking and reporting on outcomes
 - Achieving financial and leadership sustainability
- Tamarack’s goal is to support as many communities as possible to access funding via BC Poverty Reduction Planning and Action grants
- Stream 1 supports communities to develop and/or update existing poverty reduction plans
- We can provide resources and tools that support communities to:
 - Plan for high-impact projects (e.g. to collaboratively develop a community-wide common agenda and poverty reduction plan)
 - Submit an application by the Feb 28 grant deadline (e.g. obtaining a Council resolution drafting milestones, activities, timeline & budget)
 - Provide ongoing support over the grant’s 12-month term and beyond (e.g. Manager of City support, Expert Coaching, Cities Reducing Poverty learning community, BC Communities Reducing Poverty Community of Practice)
- Developing a common agenda and community plan
 - Tamarack supports members via Expert Coaching by applying a proven approach where members develop a community-wide common agenda as a foundation for their poverty reduction plan
 - This approach engages the community across 4 key sectors (government, business, non-profit and lived/living experience)
 - It builds on existing community assets and talents and creates collaborative solutions
 - By the time the plan is launched, it is already being implemented by a diverse range of partners that has already bought in
- NEW RESOURCE: [Developing A Common Agenda for Poverty Reduction](#)
 - Written to support groups planning to apply for BC Government Stream 1 funding to adopt a proven, appreciative inquiry approach to collaboratively establish the foundations for a poverty reduction plan by developing a community-wide common agenda
 - Includes a timeline, milestones, activities, budget, and resources (Making the Case and Engaging Local Government; Multi-sector Collaboration; and Evaluation)
- Available learning supports via Tamarack and VC-CRP
 - [Tamarack Resource Libraries](#) (e.g. Collective Impact; Community Engagement; Evaluation)
 - [Cities Reducing Poverty Library](#): Case studies, guides, tools, articles & blogs from the CRP network
 - [BC Communities Reducing Poverty](#) (BC CoP) bi-monthly community of practice calls

- [Events, webinars, communities of practice](#) and more
- Additional benefits available to [Cities Reducing Poverty members](#)
 - Access to Tamarack's [Expert Coaching](#) Centre for intensive support to develop a common agenda and community plan
 - One-on-one customized support from a Manager of Cities
 - Two free seats to our [2020 The End of Poverty Summit](#) in Calgary, AB
 - Access to peer learning supports (e.g. peer-input process troubleshooting sessions; peer coaches and nitty-gritty resources)
 - For more information on membership [contact Alison](#)

BC Poverty Reduction Coalition

- Focused on provincial advocacy – last 10 years work was around advocating for a provincial plan; currently renewing priorities
- Updated their municipal guide – What municipalities can and can't do – to a [Toolkit for Local Governments: A Guide for Local Communities to Support Access to Provincial Government Funding for Municipal Poverty Reduction Strategies](#)
- Highlights from the Toolkit
 - Adopting a stream framework – focusing on [upstream](#) (root causes) vs. downstream (immediate symptoms). For example:
 - Addressing food security as income security
 - Transit equity and universal access - [#AllOnBoard](#) – impact of transit is enormous re: accessing education, jobs etc. – can also lead to improved transit and transit infrastructure in BC; opportunity to link to recreation passes
 - Tackling Stigma - Pivot Legal society – [Stigma Audit](#) – To assess where bylaws and law enforcement practices that municipalities have in place may violate human rights
 - Tackling low wages – [Living Wage for Families](#) - Governments can commit to becoming living wage employers to embed the responsibility to pay all employees and contractors a Living Wage
 - Universally funded childcare – [\\$10aday](#) – local governments regulate development zoning and have other opportunities to support access/affordability
 - Provincial advocacy – Recommended for inclusion in all municipal plans
 - Income assistance
 - Public and universal childcare system
 - Wages and working conditions (see slide/toolkit for details on the role of municipalities in these spaces)

SPARC BC

- SPARC BC has a 50 year history of working with social policy research including poverty reduction
- Able to support with adopting a targeted strategy; an evidence-based approach to reducing poverty; bringing resources into the conversation

- Data available – e.g. Target Group Profiles via the [Community Data Program](#) - Data Consortium
 - Information on different measures – LIM, LICO and MBM
 - Information across key social, demographic groups including low income families, seniors, children, people with disabilities and those that are at increased risk of poverty (e.g. single parent households, seniors, Indigenous people and communities)
 - Factors to break the dynamics of poverty and low income (e.g. access to employment, education and housing)
- [Send Lorraine an email](#) – she can create a customize poverty profile for any BC community

Discussion

- Q – Are communities eligible to apply if they will not have their council resolution by the funding deadline?
 - A – Yes – These applications will be accepted as long as applicants can show that the resolution will be forthcoming (e.g. is held up due to a council agenda or meeting issue)
- Q – Does SPARC have access to data at local level and outside of the lower mainland?
 - A – Yes – Able to create customized profiles for any community across BC with data disaggregated to a local level
 - A – Adrienne (via chat box) – First Call will be posting regional district poverty profiles today on the www.still1in5.ca, along with the just-released [2019 BC Child Poverty Summary Report](#) – thanks to SPARCBC for collaboration!
 - A – Anne (via chat box) – Will be very helpful as costs have prohibited them from accessing the community data program locally
 - A – Support available to all communities – no support required
- Q – Please describe the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition’s Rights Based Approach
 - A – Focus on access to universal basic services to help level the playing field – 7 primary areas – housing, childcare and education, healthcare, democracy/legal, food and transportation.
- Q - One of the requirements for eligibility was demonstrating the extent of impact of the project - over the course of only a year. Do you have ideas for demonstrating impact?
 - Lorraine – Can support with data to track outcomes around Game Changers/ high-impact areas, engaging municipality, engaging the community etc.
 - Alison – Can share [Getting to Impact](#) resources re: moving from tracking and reporting on outputs to outcomes to impact under 3 areas: nice initiatives; shifting community awareness and will; and nudging systems
 - Viveca – Game Changers = high impact and upstream measures – the need is dire and is getting worse every day. There are ambitious targets as part of the BC strategy – to make a dent we need high-impact approaches (e.g. removing barriers)

Resources to Support BC Government Funding Applications

- **Access to Data / Making the Case / Engaging Local Government**

- Request customized local poverty profiles and data | [SPARC BC](#) via [Lorraine Copas](#) and the [Community Data Program](#)
- First Call's [2020 Child Poverty Report Card](#) with [regional poverty profiles](#)
- **Developing a Community Plan (Stream 1)**
 - [Developing a Common Agenda for a Poverty Reduction Plan](#) | [Tamarack](#) via [Alison Homer](#) | Presents a proven approach that Cities and communities can apply to develop a community-wide poverty reduction plan. Includes timeline, milestones, activities, budget, resources, and ways that Tamarack can support
 - [Impact Reporting: From Activities to Outcome](#) | Supports groups to move from reporting on activities to track and report on community awareness and buy-in, niche initiatives (projects, programs and services), and systems/policy change | Example: [Revelstoke's Getting to Impact Report](#)
- **Implementing a Community Plan (Stream 2)**
 - [Toolkit for Local Governments](#) | [BC Poverty Reduction Coalition](#) via [Viveca Ellis](#) | Supports local governments in considering guiding principles for the work local governments may undertake in applying for provincial funding, with ideas for actions and initiatives | Related resources: [Poverty in BC is a Violation of Human Rights](#) | [Upstream](#) | [Stigma Audit](#) | [#AllOnBoard](#) | [Living Wage for Families](#) | [\\$10aday](#)
- **BC's Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program**
 - [TogetherBC: British Columbia's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) | [What We Heard About Poverty in B.C.](#) | [Public and stakeholder input](#) from 28 community meetings, 100 stakeholder discussions, and 68 policy brief submissions
 - [UBCM Grant Homepage](#) | Contact for grant-related queries: Sasha Prynne | 250-952-9177 | lgps@ubcm.ca

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

- **SAVE THE DATE | The End of Poverty Gathering** | October 14-16, Calgary, AB | [Click here to sign up to to get first access to registration.](#)
- **WEBINAR | Leveraging Local Assets and Social Procurement** | January 28, 1-2 pm ET | Speakers: Hanifa Kassam and Nate Stephens | [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **PHOTO CONTEST | Communities in Transition - A Photo Contest for Engaged Youth** | [Learn more about the photo contest here.](#)

Closing Announcements and next BC CoP call

- Next BC CoP call: Mar 17 at 11am PT | Topic: Sourcing Local Data
- Invite others to join the BC CoP: http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/bc_reducingpoverty_cop

Have an idea for a future topic/speaker or a challenge to ask your peers via a peer-input-process troubleshooting session? Let Alison know at alison@tamarackcommunity.ca.