

Advisory Group on Poverty Reduction – Partner Forum

Liz Weaver

Vibrant Communities Canada – Cities Reducing Poverty

Tamarack: An Institute for Community Engagement



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Welcome and Opening



Honourable Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services
Government of Saskatchewan



www.vibrantcanada.ca



An Institute for Community Engagement

We develop and support learning communities that help people to collaborate, co-generate knowledge and achieve collective impact on complex community issues.

For **Collaborative Leaders** who use collective impact approaches to address complex community issues. www.tamarackcci.ca

For **Cities** that develop and implement comprehensive poverty reduction strategies vibrantcommunities.ca



For **individuals** who care about community, the vibrancy of neighbourhoods and the unique role of citizens in social change. seekingcommunity.ca

Making Connections

- Who is in the Room
- Think Pair Share – Why is it important that I am here today?



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Agenda for Today

Morning Session

- Welcome and Opening
- Setting the Context
- Lessons Learned from Vibrant Communities
- Priorities Table Dialogue and Reports

Afternoon Session

- Mapping Connections
- Moving from Priorities to Impact – Part 1
- Moving from Priorities to Impact – Part 2
- Our Collective Role in Poverty Reduction
- Wrap up and Next Steps



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Participant Outcomes

- To consider a whole systems approach to developing recommendations for a poverty reduction strategy
- To review the work to date of the Advisory Group and determine key priorities for moving forward
- To provide advice to government on three key areas:
 - where are opportunities to do more;
 - what best practices are already working;
 - what measures or targets would show success
- To discuss how each organization and partner can help advance a poverty strategy in Saskatchewan



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Setting the Context in Saskatchewan

- Steve Compton and
Cory Neudorf
Poverty Advisory Group



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Advisory Group on Poverty Reduction

Approach to Developing Recommendations for a
Poverty Reduction Strategy

AGPR Overview

Purpose:

To bring forward recommendations that will:

- address identified gaps and opportunities, and
- inform the development of government's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

How are we defining poverty?

- In general, poverty refers to:
 - low-income
 - PLUS, dimensions of social exclusion, such as
 - access to adequate housing,
 - essential goods and services,
 - health and well-being, and
 - community participation.

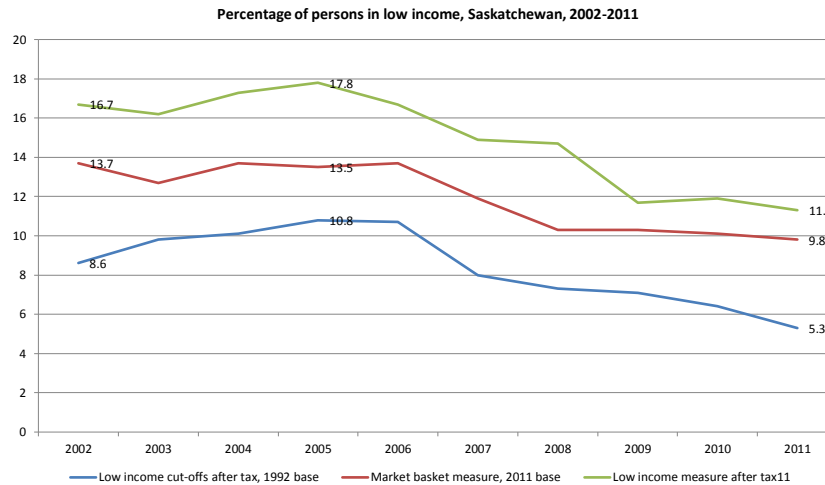
How are we measuring poverty?

- No official measure of poverty in Canada.
- Three measures of low income for estimating levels of poverty:
 - Low-Income Cut-offs (LICO)
 - Low Income Measure (LIM)
 - Market-Based Measure (MBM)

How are we measuring poverty?

- Poverty is more than just low income
- Include measures and targets related to:
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Health
 - Housing/Homelessness
 - Food Security
 - And more...

Low Income In Saskatchewan

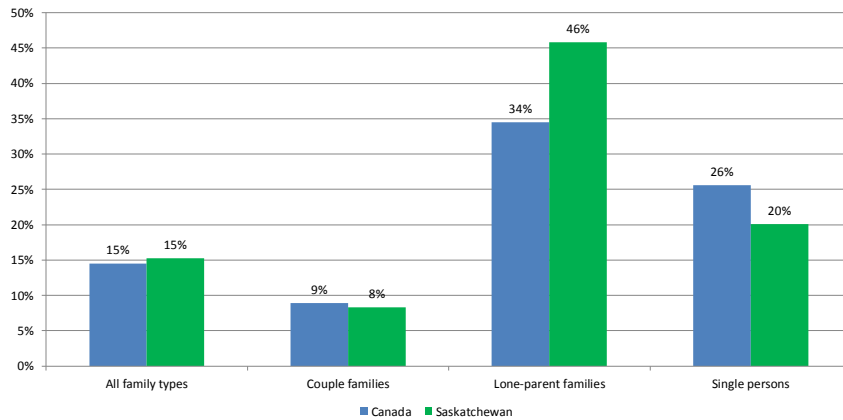


Gaps and Opportunities

- Number of people with low income in SK has declined, but challenges persist for
 - Lone parents and children
 - First Nations & Metis people
 - People with disabilities
 - Recent immigrants
 - Single individuals

Lone Parent Families

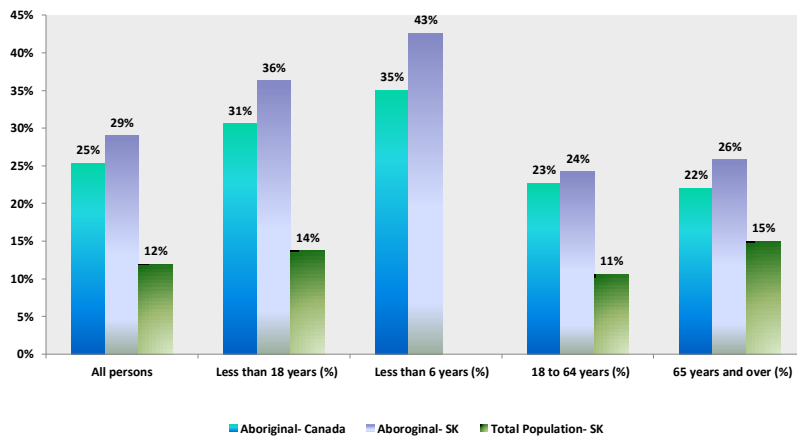
Individuals in low income by family characteristics, Canada and SK, LIM, after-tax, 2012



Source: Statistics Canada, LIM 2012

Aboriginal People

Prevalence of low income among Aboriginal population Off-reserve (LIM, 2010)

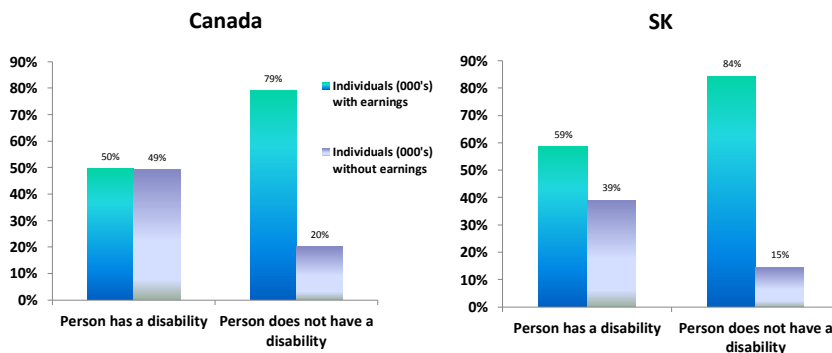


Source: Statistics Canada, LIM 2010

People with Disabilities

39% of people with disability in SK do not have employment income, compared to only 15% of people without disability

Status of earnings of individuals by disability status 2011



Source: Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012

Recent Immigrants

- Percentage of recent immigrants in low income is double the overall provincial rate
- Recent immigrants face specific challenges around housing and credential recognition.
- Once settled in SK (after 5 yrs), no difference in incomes between immigrants and non-immigrants.

Components of a Poverty Reduction Strategy

- How can you help?
 - What's working?
 - What are the gaps and barriers?
 - Where is more work needed?

Components of a Poverty Reduction Strategy

- Guiding Principles
 - People come first
 - Respecting the rights and dignity of all citizens
 - Building and supporting individuals and families
 - Partnerships
 - Innovation and Excellence
 - Accountability
 - Flexible, practical and concrete

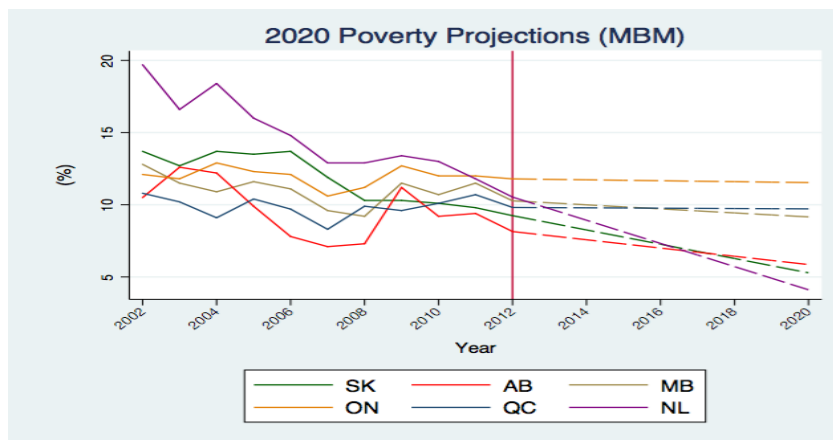
Components of a Poverty Reduction Strategy

- Goal/Target: Aspirational Goals:
 - “Building on our traditions and resiliency we envision a Saskatchewan future where the entire community connects, prospers and succeeds”
 - “We envision all of Saskatchewan committing to actions that will reduce and ultimately eliminate poverty in our communities”
 - “We see a Saskatchewan that builds on our collective strengths, opportunities and resiliency to ensure everyone in our communities thrives, prospers and succeeds.”

Components of a Poverty Reduction Strategy

Goal/Target: Provincial Target

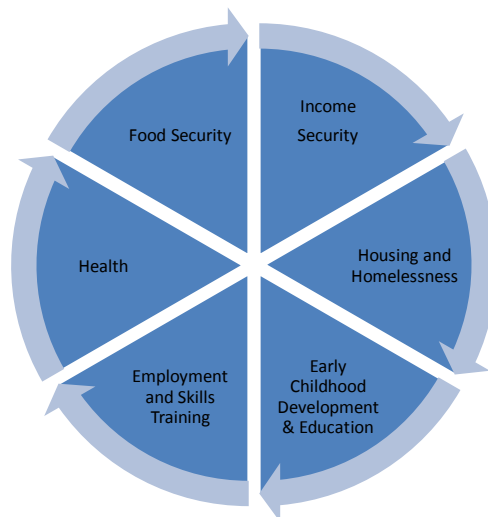
- What is an achievable, yet bold, target for SK to strive for?



Components of a Poverty Reduction Strategy

- Policy Recommendations:
 - Early Childhood Development & Education
 - Employment & Skills Training
 - Housing & Homelessness
 - Income Security
 - Food Security
 - Health

Components of a Poverty Reduction Strategy



Components of a Poverty Reduction Strategy

- **Process Recommendations**
 - Processes to achieve the goals and targets
- **Recommended next steps**
 - What are the logical next steps.

It always seems impossible until it's done.

Nelson Mandela



A Look at Poverty Reduction Across Canada Lessons Learned from Vibrant Communities



www.vibrantcanada.ca

*How much more
information do we need to
know that a hungry child
will not do well in school?
Stop admiring the
problem and get on with
the work.*



Mark Chamberlain
CEO, Trivaris



www.vibrantcanada.ca

The Complex Nature of Poverty

“Poverty is a complex issue. There is no single cause and no one solution. Its successful reduction, and ideally its eradication, require a set of linked interventions undertaken by all orders of government working in collaboration with communities.”

Poverty Policy
Sherri Torjman,
Caledon Institute of Social Policy
October 2008



www.vibrantcanada.ca



History of Vibrant Communities Canada



www.vibrantcanada.ca

One idea that sparked a community.
One idea that poverty could be tackled.
One idea that would change a nation.

Vibrant Communities began as one idea.

Opportunities 2000 sought to move 2000 people in their journey out of poverty by the year 2000 in the Waterloo Region.



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Vibrant COMMUNITIES 2002-2012 An Action Learning Experiment

- Abbotsford
- Calgary
- Edmonton
- Hamilton
- Montreal
- St. John's
- Saint John
- Surrey
- Trois-Rivières
- Victoria
- Winnipeg
- Waterloo Region



www.vibrantcanada.ca

5 Elements of a Vibrant Community



From Charity to Inclusion of All

- “This is a no blame, all responsibility table”
- We all come with our strengths and weaknesses
- We need each other to ensure we have all the bases covered
- We need to move from organizational outcomes to community outcomes

Key Numbers in Vibrant Communities

439,435 poverty reducing benefits to 202,931 households in Canada

256 poverty reducing initiatives completed or in progress by local Trail Builders

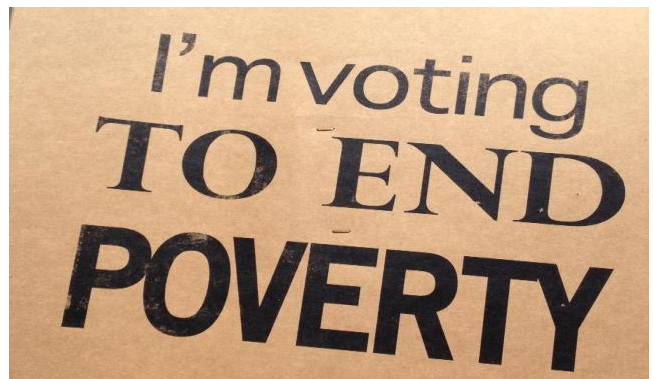
\$22.8 million invested in local Trail Builder activity

2,278 organizations partnering in Trail Builder communities

1,539 individuals playing substantial roles including 840 people who are living in poverty

53 substantive government policy changes

In 10 years,
13 Vibrant Communities
have assisted over 202,931
people in
their journey out of
poverty.



www.vibrantcanada.ca



The Landscape has Changed since 2002!

- **Municipally:** 121 collaborative poverty reduction roundtables have connected to Vibrant Communities Canada – Cities Reducing Poverty
- **Provincially:** 12 provinces and territories have or are developing provincial/territorial poverty reduction strategies – only 1 more to go!
- **Federally:** All-party Anti-Poverty Roundtable has been formed to focus on poverty, the Government of Canada – HUMA committee, Senate Roundtable on Cities and Federation of Canadian Municipalities have identified poverty as a critical issue



www.vibrantcanada.ca



Network of 100+ cities, regions, counties, territories, and provinces

Networked together to:

- Learn from each other and scale up what's working more quickly
- Charter for Reducing Poverty
- Cities that Lead, Succeed – The Case for Shared Prosperity
- Shape a national policy agenda on reducing poverty
- Launch a Canadian Living Wage Framework and Campaign
- Research models of campus-community engagement for policy change
- Create a National Poverty Reduction Summit, May 6 – 8, 2015, Ottawa Canada
- Develop a shared measurement framework to track poverty reduction efforts



www.vibrantcanada.ca

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES CANADA CITIES REDUCING POVERTY MEMBERS



**52 Cities /
Regions and
growing – from
Coast to Coast
to Coast**

Conversations about poverty are happening across the country!

Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategies

Newfoundland and Labrador (2006) –recently renewed

Nova Scotia (2009)

New Brunswick (2009) – in renewal phase

PEI (2012)

Quebec (2004) – renewed through 2015

Ontario (2008) – renewed in 2014

Manitoba (2011)

Saskatchewan (under development 2014)

Alberta (under development 2014)

Yukon (2012)

Northwest Territories (2013)

Nunavut (2011)

Advocates across Canada are pushing for a Federal Poverty Reduction Strategy



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Advancing Shared Priorities

- National Poverty Reduction Charter
- Common Evaluation Framework + Local Indicators of poverty
- Cities that Lead, Succeed - Case for Shared Prosperity
- Poverty Reduction Summit, May 6-8, 2015, Ottawa
- National Inclusion Strategy
- Shared Policy Agenda – Canadian Living Wage Framework, Employer Engagement Strategy
- Learning Together



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Cities Reducing Poverty Charter

Opportunity is in front of us. Across Canada, cities and provinces are uniting to reduce poverty. These cities are knit together in a collaboration called Vibrant Communities Canada - Cities Reducing Poverty. This collaboration of cities rests on five core principles: poverty reduction over poverty alleviation; work comprehensively to address root causes of poverty; build on the existing assets in a community; bring people together from all sectors; and learn together to scale up change.

This collaboration is committed to significantly reducing the human, social and economic costs of poverty. Through a connected learning community of 100 communities, our shared goal is to align our poverty reduction strategies and build collaboration between cities, all provinces and the Federal government resulting in reduced poverty for one million Canadians.

This Charter serves as a foundation for connecting communities together. All Vibrant Communities Canada - Cities Reducing Poverty members participated in the development of this charter and have endorsed it at the community level.



Find us on Facebook

Endorse The Cities Reducing Poverty Charter

We envision:

We envision all Canadians collectively committing to action that will significantly reduce and ultimately eliminate poverty in our communities.

We envision a Canada where everyone has access to adequate and affordable housing, income, nutrition, education, and opportunities to participate in community life.

We believe:

Poverty can be significantly reduced in Canada.

Poverty is a complex condition involving many social, economic, systemic, physical causes.

Communities play a critical role in poverty reduction.

Every Canadian benefits when poverty is reduced; therefore, everyone has a role to play in poverty reduction.

People with lived experience of poverty must play an active role in planning and decision making.

The cost of poverty is not only personal; there are social and economic costs to Canada as a whole.

Reducing poverty is a shared responsibility requiring collective and concrete action.

We value:

Voice for Everyone: Every person has the right to live in dignity, make their own decisions in life, and fully participate in society. Policies, systems and solutions must respect and include everyone in the community.

Multi-Sector Collaboration: Sustainable poverty reduction is best addressed through collaboration across all sectors and includes people with lived experience of poverty to harness diverse perspectives and solutions.

Comprehensive Approach: Poverty reduction is a long-term process focused on tackling root causes through a strengths based, multisector, collective impact approach to planning and change.

Charter Members

London Child & Youth Network
Vibrant Communities Canada
Chatham-Kent Community Health Centres

City of Surrey
Brant-Brantford Roundtable on Poverty

Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy
Démarche des premiers quartiers:
Trois-Rivières, Quebec

Vibrant Abbotsford
Prosperity Roundtable of Chatham-Kent

Opportunities Waterloo Region
Restigouche Community Inclusion Network

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Halton Poverty Roundtable

Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network
Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

Vibrant Communities Charlotte County, NB



CREATING SHARED PROSPERITY:
cities that lead, succeed



What's working in Communities

Education: Early Childhood Investments, school success, high school completion, mentoring, curriculum changes

Promise Partnership in Saint John

Investments in Learning in Winnipeg

Universal School Nutrition in Hamilton

Understanding Poverty Curriculum in Saskatoon, Waterloo and Hamilton

Plan for Growth in Saskatchewan



www.vibrantcanada.ca

What's working in Communities

Income Security: Tax Assistance, Social Assistance Reform, Financial Literacy, Living Wage, Minimum Wage Reform, SAID program

Make Tax Time Pay – Edmonton, Calgary, Waterloo Region

Social Assistance Reform – Ontario, Saskatchewan

Living Wage – over 30 Canadian communities

Financial Literacy – Vibrant Abbotsford

Minimum Wage increases – Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia



www.vibrantcanada.ca

What's working in Communities

Transportation: Affordable transit passes, Job Bus

Transit Passes: Calgary, Hamilton, Windsor, Abbotsford, Peel Region, Halton Region, Saskatchewan

Rural Transportation: Charlotte County Dial-A-Ride

Housing: affordable housing, rent subsidy, hostels to homes programs, housing first (Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan)



www.vibrantcanada.ca

What's working in Communities

Food Security: Good Food Boxes, Community Gardens, Community Kitchens, Market Dollars

Market Dollars in Windsor

Harvest Boxes in Abbotsford

Traveling Chef in St. John's

Student Back Pack Program in Regina



www.vibrantcanada.ca

What's working in Communities

Other Priority Areas: Health, Social Inclusion, Shifting Attitudes, Employment, Drug Vision and Dental programs in NB and Saskatchewan

Speakers Bureaus – Waterloo, Hamilton, Guelph, etc.

Poverty Awareness Campaigns – Chatham

Research – Waterloo, Toronto, Windsor



www.vibrantcanada.ca

What's working in Provinces and Territories

Investments in Social Assistance reform, increasing social assistance rates (NFLD, NB, NS, ON)

New or increased tax credits for children and families (Ontario Child Tax Benefit et al)

Prescription Drug, Vision and Dental Plans for low-income residents (ON, NB, NFLD, NS, PEI, QC, SK)

Increases to minimum wage legislation (ON, QC, SK, AB, BC)

Investments in early years – Best Start (ON), Early Years/Family Literacy Centres (NB, ON, PEI, NS), \$7/day childcare (QC), Full Day Kindergarten (ON)

Affordable Living Tax Credit (NS), Investments in affordable housing, Provincial Housing Strategy (Saskatchewan)



www.vibrantcanada.ca

How we know it's working

New Brunswick: reduced poverty from 24.6% to 16.1% in 4 years (using LIM)

Saint John has highest poverty rate in NB – rate fell from 28% to 20% over 10 years of a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy – led by Vibrant Communities Saint John.

Ontario – 40,000 families lifted out of poverty since 2008.

Hamilton – had highest poverty rate in Ontario – 1 in 5 living in poverty, since the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction introduced a multi-sector approach this has dropped over 10,000 people.

Saskatchewan – although the province has the second lowest poverty rate in Canada, it recognizes that more has to be done and is launching a provincial poverty strategy



www.vibrantcanada.ca



Elements of Success



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Vibrant Communities: Key Elements for Success

- Influential and credible convener(s)
- Cross-sector, connected leadership table
- Challenging community aspiration
- Clearly articulated purpose and approach – Framework for Change
- High degree of resident mobilization
- Research and Understanding of Poverty which informs the work and captures shared impact

A Common View of Poverty

Conditions of Poverty	Definition	Poverty Reduction Goal
Absolute Poverty	Lack of resources to meet the physical needs for survival	Meet basic needs
Relative Poverty	Lack of resources to achieve a standard of living that allows people to play roles, participate in relationships and live a life deemed normal by society	Equity/parity with others
Poverty as Dependence	Lack of critical mass of assets needed to meet one's needs on a sustainable basis	Self-sufficiency
Poverty as Exclusion	Processes of deprivation and marginalization that isolates people from social and economic activities	Inclusion
Poverty as capabilities deprivation	Lack of resources, capabilities, choices, security and power necessary for an adequate standard of living and other civil, economic, political and social rights	Human Development



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Your view determines your interventions

A focus on **absolute poverty**, for example, will typically result in efforts to help low income people to meet their basic needs through such interventions as food banks, homeless shelters, emergency health care clinics, etc.



A focus on **poverty as dependence** might result in efforts to create economic self sufficiency through job training, earned income tax credits for the working poor, etc.



A focus on **poverty as capabilities deprivation** might result in efforts to increase inclusion through anti-racism programming, strengthening democratic processes, building social capital, improving community safety, etc.



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Poverty in Rural Communities

When we see poverty as individual problem we ask “why are you poor?” and expect simple solutions (get a job, get a husband, get off your butt , move somewhere else). If we see poverty as a community problem we ask: “why is there poverty?” and the answers are complex and require broad social change. If we fail to ask “why is there poverty?” community strategies don’t happen. If rural communities don’t have comprehensive strategies, effective community partnerships, or coordinated efforts to address poverty, it could well be that they are asking the wrong questions.

- Toolkit for Action on Rural Poverty:
http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/counting_women_in_toolkit_final.pdf



www.vibrantcanada.ca



Cross-Sector Roundtable to Drive Change



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Convene a Multi-Sector Leadership Roundtable

Business

- Expertise, credibility and voice, connections, funding and other resources, leadership

Government

- Expertise, connections to elected officials, funding and other resources, policy change, leadership

Nonprofit Organizations

- Expertise, experience on the ground, service delivery, ability to ramp up change efforts

Citizens with Lived Experience

- Expertise about the issues, practical and relevant solution, leadership, connections to other citizens



Establish a Framework for Change



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Create a Framework for Change

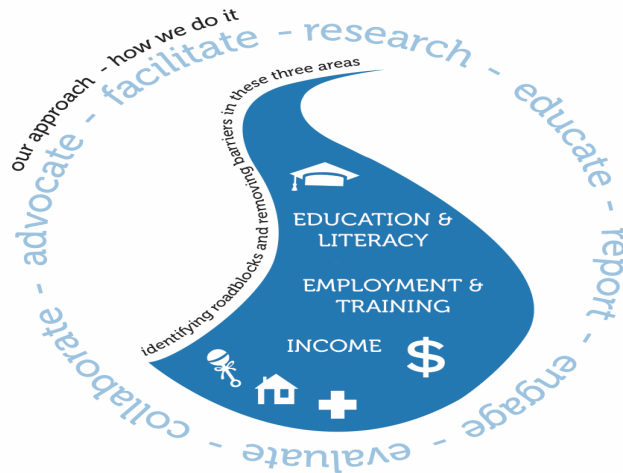


Saskatoon Poverty to Possibility Framework



Pathway To Potential | Windsor Essex County's Poverty Reduction Strategy

Our aspiration: Windsor Essex is a thriving community where every family and individual builds potential through access to quality opportunities, supports, and resources that work for them.



Our Focus Areas and Community Outcomes

Together with community partners, we will focus on the following priorities and achieve the following community outcomes

Education & Literacy

Increase literacy rates for all ages
Increase graduation rates for post-secondary education

Employment & Training

Remove barriers to workforce participation and improve employment outcomes

Income

Improve income security system and increase wages

Support efforts in the following areas:

- housing
- health - recreation and food security
- childcare
- civic participation



**PATHWAY TO
POTENTIAL**
Windsor Essex County's
Poverty Reduction Strategy



Focus on Shifting Policy



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Comprehensive Strategies

Strategy	Advantages	Limitations	Enabling Conditions
Thousand Seeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses multiple factors • Mobilizes broad support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale of activities overwhelming • Difficult to ensure synergies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constellation governance
Pool Ball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to manage • Quick results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak effects • Ripple effects not always known 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on high leverage cause and effects
Weaving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses a network of cause and effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not impact a large number of people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn by doing approach
Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaves together and leverages all three strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to manage and sustain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear framework for change • Strong leadership



Determine Indicators of Change



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Indicators of Community Change

Policy and Systems Change

- Changes in public policy
- Changes in service and support systems
- Changes in material resources
- Changes in community-level assets

Community Capacity Building

- Convening capacity
- Multisectoral leadership
- Collaboration
- Community awareness

Individual and Household Assets

- Personal assets
- Physical assets
- Social assets
- Human assets
- Financial assets

Thinking About Shared Measurement

Process: # of people/orgs at table, # of community presentations, articles, etc

Progress: # of programs, # of new initiatives, etc

Shared Measurement

Policy: policy changes in own or other organizations, new investments, gov. policy changes

Population /Outcome Measures - # of people moved out of poverty, % working poverty, financial vulnerability, etc

Questions?



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Networking Break



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Table Dialogue #1: Thinking about Priorities

- Focusing on the Priority Areas, identify three which, for your table, are the highest priorities.
- Why did your table select these as the highest priorities?
- What is already working in these areas? What are the gaps?

Key Priority Areas include:

- ❖ Early Childhood Development and Education
- ❖ Employment and Skills Training
- ❖ Food Security
- ❖ Housing and Homelessness
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Income Security



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Table Reports



www.vibrantcanada.ca



www.vibrantcanada.ca

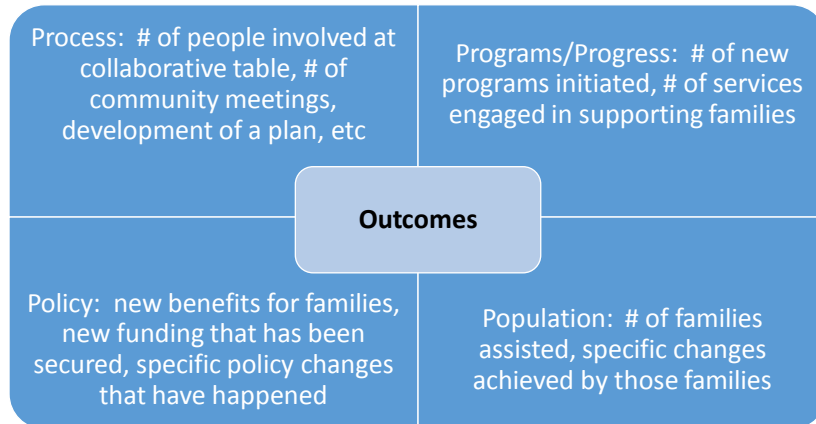
Mapping Connections

- Write your name and organization on each of the blue and pink post it notes
- Blue identifies your area of work and Pink identifies your area of Passion
- Place the post it notes on one or two of the priority areas which speak to you

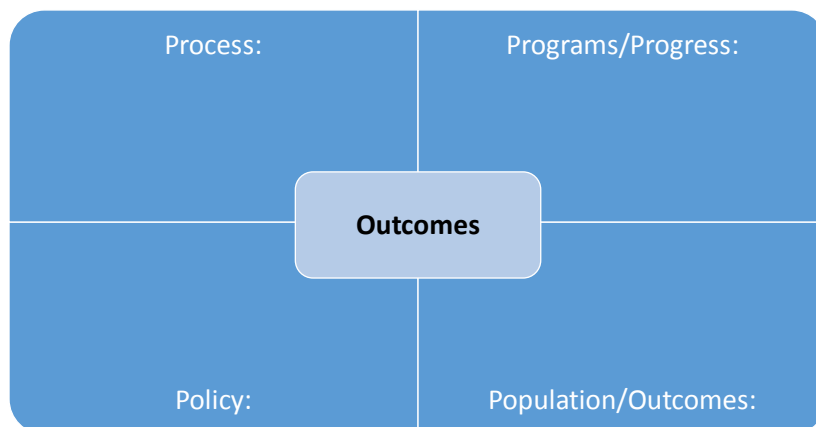


www.vibrantcanada.ca

Moving from Priorities to Impact



Moving From Priorities to Impact



Moving from Priorities to Impact

Feedback Session:

Walk around the other tables
and read their posters.

What feedback / advice will
you provide to them?



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Our Collective Roles in Poverty Reduction

Table dialogue about what
each partner is already doing
to advance the poverty effort
in Saskatchewan or could do.
This is captured on flip charts.



www.vibrantcanada.ca



www.vibrantcanada.ca

Tamarack 2015 Spring Learning Events

For More Information

Visit:

<http://tamarackcommunity.ca/events.html>



Business Engagement Session
– Saskatoon Poverty
Reduction Council
May 25, 2015



www.vibrantcanada.ca