



P.G. Poverty Free Committee

Action Plan July 2015

An updated version of the poverty reduction action plan. This document reflects and includes the committee's recent direction, commitments and priority action items to address poverty in the community.

Committee Background/Decisions:

After careful consideration and review, committee members (stakeholders) involved with the poverty reduction committee declared interest in withdrawing from the MCFD/UBCM Community Poverty Reduction Pilot Initiative. As such, this decision was formally communicated (i.e. report to UBCM outlining the decision (and rationale) for Prince George’s withdrawal from the pilot initiative) to both MCFD and the UBCM Healthy Communities Committee in July 2015.

The Committee, renamed as PG Poverty Free, will work to achieve its commitments outlined in the original action plan and continue to move work forward by adding in advocacy as an additional focus for strategic action (Table 1. Action Plan). The work for the Committee has been categorized into 2 distinct focus areas:

A. Making the Case

- Community Education – Helping the community to better understand the extent and depth of poverty among different local groups as well as the root causes and dynamics underlying poverty.
- Cost of Poverty – Building urgency around the issue – What is the cost of not paying attention to poverty?
- Understanding Economic Impact/Engaging Broader Sector of Players – The flow of dollars to PG (e.g. how much is being administered by MCFD/MSDSI) is significant.
- Challenge Government – Reframe their words to paint the picture of reality. Take apart “commitments” and continue to push for systems changes

B. Delivery of Service

- What do we really need in Prince George?
- Learn from existing integrated service models (i.e. Integrated Health Team/HIP) – Can the scope be broadened to address what we really need in Prince George to achieve a long-term, sustained reduction in the local poverty rate?
- Consider how to enable discretionary authority in determining eligibility for assistance.

Table 1: Community Action Plan - Updated July 2015

HOUSING			
<i>Action 1: to establish evidence based information regarding the spectrum of housing needs in Prince George (COMPLETE)</i>			
<i>Action 2: to work collectively as a coalition of community stakeholders to increase affordable housing options for those living in poverty</i>			
Deliverables	Milestones/Key Tasks	Target Date	Responsible
Identify the issues for safe affordable housing for low income families in Prince George	Bring together evidence that will support expert knowledge for the following three topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the nature of the issue • How it affects different populations • Determine what is currently in place 	Complete	BC Housing, Community Partners Addressing Homelessness, Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia, Métis Housing, Prince George Real-Estate Board
Develop a plan to address the relevant issues surrounding safe affordable housing for low income families in Prince	• A plan to address the relevant issues surrounding safe affordable housing for low income families in Prince George	Complete	BC Housing, Community Partners Addressing Homelessness, Community Development Institute, University of Northern

George			British Columbia, Métis Housing, Prince George Real-Estate Board
Develop and implement a Housing First Approach	Support and Contribute to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan 2014–2019	On-going	CPAH (Lead) and stakeholders
Support efforts to address affordable housing in Prince George	<p>Prepare a City of Prince George Affordable Housing Developer’s Package</p> <p>Facilitate the Development of New Partnerships to Encourage the Integration of Affordable Housing Units in market developments</p> <p>Support and Contribute to the Efforts of CPAH to Implement a Housing First Approach</p> <p>Research Promising Practices Related to the Development and Maintenance of Affordable Housing</p> <p>Leverage Committee Strength to Address Broader Social Issues</p>	On-going	City of Prince George Select Committee on Affordable Housing and Homelessness (Lead) and stakeholders

ADVOCACY

Action 1: Community Education – Helping the community to better understand the extent and depth of poverty among different local groups as well as the root causes and dynamics underlying poverty. (connect explanation to something visual – understandable)

Action 2: Cost of Poverty – Building urgency around the issue – What is the cost of not paying attention to poverty?

Action 3: Understanding Economic Impact/Engaging Broader Sector of Players – The flow of dollars to PG (e.g. how much is being administered by MCFD/MSDSI) is significant.

Action 4: Challenge Government – Take apart “commitments” and continue to push for systems changes

Deliverables	Milestones/Key Tasks	Target Date	Responsible
Develop a Communications Strategy	<p>Draft of communications plan that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communication goals • audiences • messages • tools • timelines 	September 2015	City of Prince George and PG Poverty Free Committee
Support the development of a living wage campaign	Inform/educate the public on issue of the living wage	September 2015	Integris Credit Union (Lead Agency) PG Poverty Free Committee, Chamber of Commerce, businesses, United Way, residents

Host an advocacy workshop	Key messages being developed by Integris Credit Union on 2015 Living Wage Completed research on living wage	Fall 2015 TBD	United Way, Integris Credit Union BC Poverty Reduction Coalition (Trish Garner) & PG Poverty Free Committee
Research/share examples of poverty reduction efforts that have worked well in other communities	Examples of successful projects that can be included in the public education campaign and to inform the work of the Committee (i.e. transportation pilot project selection)	Sept committee meeting & on-going	PG Poverty Free Committee members & other agency representatives
Advocate for a coordinated funding approach.	Long-term sustainable resources are put in place to address poverty (i.e. amount of funding directed to poverty reduction)	Sept and on-going	PG Poverty Free Committee, City of Prince George, Government of BC, Government of Canada, elected officials, residents ,community agencies

TRANSPORTATION

Action 1: to establish evidence based information regarding the spectrum of transportation needs in Prince George
Action 2: Select a pilot project that focuses on addressing transportation needs for a particular group (i.e. single mothers, seniors etc.)
Action 3: implement and evaluate the pilot project as to how effective the action was to address that particular group's identified need of access to transportation

Deliverables	Milestones/Key Tasks	Target Date	Responsible
Establish evidence based information regarding the spectrum of transportation needs in Prince George	Bring together evidence that will support expert knowledge for the following three topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the nature of the issue How it affects different populations Determine what is currently in place 	On-going	PG Poverty Free Committee
A strategy to	Strategy to address the	On-going	PG Poverty Free

address the relevant issues surrounding transportation for low income families in Prince George	issues surrounding the collaboration and coordination between agencies serving low-income families in Prince George		Committee
Select and implement a pilot transportation project	Collect information to support selection of a pilot project (including): Identify the target group for pilot initiative Determine what (if anything) is currently in place for this particular target group How the pilot project will impact the particular group	Fall 2015	PG Poverty Free Committee & Potential Partners in the Community (UNBC, CNC, City Transit etc.)
Support the implementation of recommendations from Leisure Access Program review (2011) as it pertains to transportation/access to recreation services			

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Action 1: to establish evidence based information regarding the collaboration and coordination between agencies serving low income families in Prince George

Deliverables	Milestones/Key Tasks	Target Date	Responsible
Establish evidence based information regarding the collaboration and coordination between agencies serving low income families in Prince George	Bring together evidence that will support expert knowledge for the following three topics: Identify the nature of the issue How it affects different populations Determine what is currently in place	On-going	PG Poverty Free Committee
A strategy to address the relevant issues surrounding the collaboration and coordination between agencies serving low income families in Prince George	Strategy to address the issues surrounding the collaboration and coordination between agencies serving low-income families in Prince George	On-going	PG Poverty Free Committee
Identify a consistent (and safe) way to engage those experiencing poverty in discussions about the supports and services they need.			PG Poverty Free Committee