



Transcript: Community Meeting on Poverty Reduction

**Maple Ridge, BC
March 26, 2018**

Introduction and Event Summary

On March 26, 2018, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction hosted a community meeting in Maple Ridge, BC to discuss poverty and poverty reduction with local residents. The event brought together approximately 30 to 40 participants including people with lived experience of poverty; poverty reduction front line workers and advocates; people from the non-profit and business sectors; and other community members from all walks of life.

The event began with a welcome from Elder Margaret Pierre, followed by opening remarks from Shane Simpson (Minister of Poverty Reduction and Social Development).

Participants then engaged in round table discussions in groups of 8 to 10 people per table. Each table had a dedicated facilitator from a local community group or from SPARC BC who helped to guide the conversations. Each table also had a dedicated note taker who helped to record the discussion.

There were two rounds of discussion which focused on the following questions:

1. What are the issues facing you and people living in poverty right now?
2. What would address these issues and help you and others out of poverty?

Following the discussions, participants were invited to put a sticky dot beside the strategies or solutions that were most important to them. Each participant received four (4) sticky dots. Following the individual priority setting exercise, participants were asked to determine as a table the top three (3) priorities from the evening and to report these priorities back to the room.

The Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction shared some closing remarks.

Document Organization

This document contains the transcripts from the flip chart notes from those in attendance. The flip chart notes have been transcribed verbatim, correcting only for spelling and grammar as needed. The notes are organized according to the feedback received to the two questions beginning with:

1. What are the issues facing you and people living in poverty right now?
2. What would address these issues and help you and others out of poverty?

Question 1: What are the issues facing you and people in poverty right now?

- Children and Youth
 - o Youth Under 18 are subject to exploitation
 - o Youth 19-24 can get trapped in substance abuse
 - o Mental health issues facing youth
 - o People can be on a wait list for 2 years with no follow up
 - o There can be youth as young as 10 who are on the street
 - o Grandparent dementia no longer able to take care of child
 - o Homeless, relying on shelter
 - o Last month there was only 1 vacancy in the shelter
 - o Summer, 6 months no spots for youth
 - o Accessibility
 - o Educational opportunities needed
 - o No youth shelter
 - o There is no “safe” house
 - o Youth need 24 hour service, safe place
 - o There is the need to review MCFD criteria
 - o There are barriers for youth 18 and under
 - o 16 years old have a Youth Agreement, but if there is active substance use you are not eligible
 - o How do youth get connected?
 - o No ID
 - o Youth forced to do drugs
 - o Need to adopt the approach that “every door is the right door!”
- Senior Housing
 - o BC Housing has long wait lists
 - o Retiree had a ground floor suite but was given 2 month notice to move
 - o 1 bedroom suite rental was \$1050 and hydro- this is now 75% of senior’s retirement income
 - o Need affordable housing for seniors or rent subsidies to help seniors
 - o Seniors often have to cut back on food to keep up
- Mental Health
 - o Acquired brain injury
 - o PWD – isolated mental health issues
 - o Safety concerns
 - o Caregiver, for dementia, day camp
- Income Assistance
 - o People receiving income assistance can’t afford to eat
 - o Medical, prescriptions not covered
 - o No transportation

- Can't afford glasses
- Transportation
 - HandyDART services are difficult to access
 - Day camp for dementia, linked to HandyDART funded by health authority
 - Don't know where to go - different health authority
 - Need a driver to get to appointments
 - People don't know how to connect
 - Mismatched eligibility
 - You are entitled to a case worker if you are diagnosed with dementia
 - People just don't know the difference between federal and provincial
 - No access to medical
 - No resources for dental, hearing aids
- Realities of Poverty
 - People need to know how to fill out forms, budgets
 - Need to be proactive
 - When do you look at and teach people
 - Treading water
 - People are trying to catch up
- Access to Ministry Services
 - No access to internet
 - No money on cell phones, missed calls from the Ministry
 - MYSS, hard to access
 - Application for income assistance hard
 - People can't find a home, how can they access a computer
 - 35% illiterate in this community
 - Forms difficult to fill out
 - May be ineligible simply because they filled out a form wrong
- Government Services
 - Bus pass
 - Lack of supports
 - Need more programs!
 - More funding for programs
- Housing
 - More money but when you get more money rent goes up
 - Need to have safe housing, the ability to lock your door
 - Not ideal to live near drug addicts
 - Mixed tenants
 - Single parents
 - Mental health not always good if housing is unstable
 - BC housing waitlist – 4 years!
 - Accessible purpose built housing, e.g. wider hall to accommodate wheelchairs

- People have been evicted because they damaged a wall, elevator because of scooter, wheelchair
 - Housing first needed
 - Combination of housing and person first
- Affordable Housing
 - Was time for development of co-op, etc.
 - Need affordable housing
 - Rent control
 - How do people transition from detention facility to regular housing?
 - Greed/capitalism getting in way of affordability
 - Low rental income buildings sold then tenants “renovicted”
 - How to transition from homelessness
 - How can families deal with annual rent increases
 - Creates insecurity, uncertainty
- Education
 - Challenge to access educational opportunities
 - Need for well-paying jobs
 - Transportation costs add to cost of education
 - High degree of illiteracy and tech illiteracy
- Stigma
 - “Blaming the victim” for poverty
 - Lots of hidden poverty, shame
- Affordable Housing
 - Very little affordable rental housing
 - “Affordable housing” in Maple Ridge are not rentals but houses for sale
 - Vacancy rent is high and cost unaffordable
 - If can afford, have to commute to work which costs more
 - Income is fixed compared to rising costs
 - Youth also struggling with high costs
- Youth
 - Kids raised in poverty, drug abuse, etc. Need lots of support
 - Public perception that “they” should go to jail
 - Jails are overcrowded
 - Jail costs more than providing housing or services for youth
- Vulnerable
 - People “preying” on folks needing transitional housing
 - Better accountability is needed
 - Poverty exploitation is common
 - Cheque cashing places and furniture rentals
 - This has become an industry
- Debts
 - People borrowing money to get food

- Debt cycling
- More money you have, cheaper it is to borrow
- Day to day expenses of being poor more expensive than those with money
- Poor pay more
- Supports
 - need life skills
- Cycle of Poverty
 - access to food and pedestrian access
 - If inter-generational poverty is not addressed now, grandchildren will face insurmountable challenge
 - People/families “trapped” - Community isolation of poor families cycle continues
 - Need community cohesion/sense of community to break the cycle
- Urban poverty vs. rural poverty
 - Difference between urban and rural poverty
 - Urban - more people, less help; rural - fewer people, more help
- Food security
 - Majority of food imported
 - Agricultural land should not be developed
 - Production of food not thought of
 - Now dependent on other countries
 - Will cost more to feed people
 - Cheap food is nutritionally deficient
 - Impact of poverty on diet is significant
- Medical/dental care impacts poverty
 - If not on assistance, may not get medical supports; This has a major impact on getting off assistance
 - Communities pitted against each other, i.e. diabetic supplies not covered, but drug and alcohol treatment are covered
- Childcare
 - Poverty impacted by lack of and the expense of childcare
 - Quality of care by providers is important
 - Before/after school care lacking and this impacts working parents who commute or have unpredictable hours or work hours outside of regular childcare hours
- Realities of Poverty
 - Lack of money/income
 - Forced into prostitution through poverty
 - Abusive relations – stuck in
 - Forced to live in inadequate housing
- Housing
 - Rent is too high
 - Housing is too expensive
 - Rental increases – should be freeze on increases. Even 4% too high

- Cycle of poverty
 - o We should invest heavily (billions of \$) in kids. Some kids just assume they will grow up and live in poverty/be on welfare (as parents are)
- Homelessness
 - o Increase in homelessness has been observed over the years
 - o People need to exhibit sympathy/emotion
 - o Homelessness has created such a divide in the community
- Public Apathy
 - o Saddened there are not more people affected by poverty here/regular citizens
 - o Disappointed by time of this session (afternoon) as working people can't attend
- Affordability
 - o Seniors can't retire - not enough money to do so
 - o Lack of increase in wages but costs going up
- Income Assistance
 - o Social assistance payments should have a program with targets/supports so that payments do not keep going on endlessly with no progress made
 - o Another person thinks we are already doing this. That people can't get assistance without accountability
- Housing
 - o Housing and speculation on housing. Property values increase and then people want to sell to cash in on gains and then people are left without housing
 - o Short-term rentals are taking housing out of the (low end) market (e.g. Airbnb)
 - o Housing prices too high. Many people are house "rich" but poor. People can't get ahead
- Affordability
 - o A lot of people, even with good jobs, are on the "borderline" and are one pay cheque away from losing what they have. Living in fear
 - o Rental situation - schools can't get teachers to come because rent is too high
- Food Security
 - o Food security issues for their students living in poverty
- Education
 - o Free upgrading courses for high school graduates
 - o Educational opportunities in other countries (e.g. Finland) are free, readily accessible education, e.g. trades training
 - o Education is key
 - o Maple Ridge has low uptake to post-secondary education
 - o Maple Ridge does not have a post-secondary institution. So students have to leave community and have rent costs added or huge commutes and gas expense
- Childcare
 - o Way too high day care costs. Universal day care needed to reduce poverty
 - o Working people who live in poverty cannot afford childcare; face employment challenges

- Transportation
 - o We are lacking public transportation
 - o There should be a low income bus pass (free bus passes for people that are homeless, low income)
 - o Or people without money should just be able to get on a bus for free (and it should be policy and not dependent on the particular bus driver)
- Social Attitudes
 - o Some professions are not monetarily valued - caregiver jobs/service providers. We expect exceptional care but wages are low
 - o People don't believe in their potential anymore. Kids getting bagged lunches each day. Either their parents don't know how to provide for them or some other reason – parents just can't provide. Who believes in them? Maybe we should give them free university and transportation there. They should not just go into welfare.
 - o Social investment - we should be "wrapping our arms" around the most needy
- Services and Supports
 - o Outside agencies (like Big Brothers) and after school programs can make a big difference
 - o But parents still have to bring their kids to support programs, and not all do
- Youth
 - o Provide some school districts with additional funding who have vulnerable students (community link funding)
 - o Enhances this funding for districts that meet certain markers, e.g. early development index
 - o We need to look at current formula to review it to make sure schools that need the funding get it
 - o Mental health issues in children manifest in school settings
 - o Counsellors come to school meetings crying because they have so many kids in crisis but so few places to refer them to (ex. High wait lists)
 - o We need to manage clients and put supports in place to help them. Some people have a lot of barriers that they need support to overcome. We need a case management model, especially for chronic cases. They need to know "someone cares"
- Youth
 - o Solution needed for youth homelessness
 - o If students don't have proper food to eat, are malnourished, they cannot learn (other say lunch is being offered to students in Maple Ridge)
 - o Youth recreation centre but when it is closed at end of day – where do they go? Sending to Covenant House
 - o Found a house to renovate (5 bed shelter) funding through (HPS)
 - o Kids connected to ministries and for 30 days
- Youth Homelessness
 - o Our shelters cannot accept people under age 19
 - o They end up couch surfing or living with pimps who exploit them
 - o Breaking cycle of poverty should happen at this stage

- Low homeless count #'s can excuse inaction when it's desperately needed
 - Youth homelessness funding model has changed
 - Youth homeless facility would have be updated
 - 2 weeks for 6 kids (not sustainable)
- Services and Supports
 - Pilots often proven to work but no funding to continue it (common concern)
 - Community meal program is frequented by seniors (for social and community participation aspects)
- Housing
 - Not enough spaces and rent is too high for seniors and others
 - If you're single you don't have two income to take care of bills
 - Lack of housing options (only one place available and still accepting applications and waitlist is so long)
- Housing
 - Independent housing
 - Fear of losing housing if people complain about poor housing
 - More social housing
 - Senior housing
- Discrimination faced by many groups:
 - Women
 - Disability
 - Seniors
- Youth
 - Housing issues
 - Support for youth
 - Hidden poverty – cannot live on own (Young people have difficulty starting out)
- Surveys do not reflect reality
- Access to Government Supports
 - Difficulty navigating system for support
 - Job bank - no positions in BC with for those with no experience
 - ID should be easy to get
- Landlords have difficulty evicting tenants because of tenancy rules
- Increased counselling
- Childcare
 - Affordable child care
 - Afterschool programs
- Food
 - Food banks
 - Healthy food options
- Shelters
 - Low barrier shelter in a good location near transits route and near resources
 - More shelters

- Increase transitional homes
- Transportation
 - Subsidized transportation
- Taxes
 - Lower taxes
 - Property tax increase to control over sea purchasing
 - Different taxes according to wages
- Supports
 - 24/7 outreach
 - Drop in centres
 - Laundry facilities
- Addiction and Health
 - Addiction service increased
 - Increase hospital services
 - Better health care
 - Assisted living lacking
 - Safe injection site
 - Needle pick up program
 - Dental clinic
 - Prescriptions free for seniors
 - Increase mental health services
- Housing
 - Families living in very small accommodations
 - Low cost housing
- Realities of Poverty
 - Prostitution to earn money
 - Tenting in our communities
 - Women and children forced to remain in abusive situations
 - Gas prices too high
 - Cost of living too high
 - Property tax too high
 - Utilities increase
- Food Security
 - Limited hot lunch/food programs
 - Poor nutrition common for those in poverty
- Housing
 - Too much criteria required to qualify for social housing (too strict)
 - Income level is too high
 - Senior income too high to get housing
 - Pension income is too low for housing
- First Nations
 - Federal government improve funds to First Nation communities

- Education
 - o Education accessible to all
- Supports
 - o Increase help people get out of poverty
 - o Increase extended health
 - o Can't live on PWD rate
- Housing Affordability
 - o Housing is not affordable \$950 per moth for 1 bedroom starting rate, \$1450/mo newer unit
- Hydro
 - o Besides usage, additional charges on bills (Rate rider) (reg transit levy)
 - o Large percentage of bill is extra charges
 - o Could extra be taken away for low income?
 - o Or increase tax rebates?
 - o In Ontario, there is a low income hydro tax credit
 - o Because of rent/hydro costs, I don't take all medication. This increases pain I live with
 - o Credit cards were obtained to purchase essential items, now interest rates are higher
- Medications
 - o Supplements not covered
 - o \$750/mo for brain medications not covered for family members (this is prescription)
 - o I was switched from slow to fast acting insulin. Now not fully covered
 - o My pain pills aren't covered. If I took all medications I am prescribed, it would cost \$150/mo. I shoplift my medications monthly. I am alcohol/drug free
- Addiction
 - o Waiting list for treatment centres of 2- 6 weeks
 - o Challenge to keep my rent paid while I am in treatment
- Income Assistance
 - o Many years ago it was possible to rent a place for \$375 rent/month. In today's costs, this is not possible
 - o Need to double the \$375 and do so via OIC and not wait until next budget
 - o I am \$400 short for total expenses each month - (Solution) Seeking immediate \$200 increase
 - o (Solution) In Canadian provinces, we are mid-rate for rates. We are lower for PWD. If we are \$200 increase we would get lowest rate in Canada.
 - o Previous government was concerned to increase shelter portion as SRO hotels would take all of this increase. This shouldn't be a reason to not increase rate for rest of us.
 - o Why is housing subsidy tied to particular housing?
 - o (Solution) Give subsidy direct to client and let them decide where to live. This could prevent subsidized housing providers from tying eligibility to asset level
 - o Income deduction from welfare - keeps people at certain income level and no incentive to work more (disabilities)
 - o Lack of dental care for kids on welfare

- PWD
 - o Daughter on PWD, living at home. She needs to be in subsidized housing. Asset limits are in place for PWD, but not all subsidized housing. If she gets an inheritance (in trust) the beneficence has no power. Subsidy providers are introducing asset limits. If we are not around to advocate, who will help her?
 - o Local housing cooperatives won't take PWD clients as they can't afford a 30% rent payment

Question 2: What would address these issues and help you and people out of poverty?

- Housing
 - o Residential Tenancy Act rent and rules
 - o Freeze on rent increases (1 dot)
 - o Rental control (1 dot)
 - o We need a solution to "renovictions"
 - o "Grandfather" people so that long-term renters are protected
 - o Reduce the incentive for renovation rental increase if people have been there a long time
 - o If people have already paid off their mortgage, we should look at what they are charging for rent - they are taking advantage of market
- Families
 - o People should look at extended family arrangements
 - o In other cultures families live together
 - o Would this benefit seniors? Kids?
- Housing
 - o Look at different forms of co-housing arrangements
 - o A good example is Windsong International Community
 - o This form of housing provides a sense of community
 - o People have coffee/meals together
 - o There are shared garden spaces and other amenities for residents to enjoy
 - o The price is at market value so it is not cheap
 - o Community housing (co-housing) is a way to build community
 - o People watch each other's children, have coffee together
 - o Need policies that help to promote and support this form of housing
 - o Are there tax incentives that people could receive?
- Housing
 - o Tiny houses might offer a solution
 - o Need more creative housing options and ideas (3 dots)
 - o We need another system other than landlords trying to make the most money they can
 - o We need policies to support increased tenant protection

- There is the need for property to put tiny houses on (1 dot)
- Need more co-op housing (1 dot)
- We need more trailer parks (1 dot)
- Children and Youth
 - There is the need for more youth services
 - Youth should have access to free post-secondary education
 - Families need access to affordable childcare
 - Investments in children and youth will show results downstream but you might not see the results for 20 years (4 dots)
- Childcare
 - Single mothers receiving welfare should get free daycare
 - Even if the parent doesn't work the child will have supports and be in a good environment
 - Affordable childcare – what should the amount be?
 - \$20/day is still \$400/month!
 - Need an “over-all, big picture view” of the whole issue
- Services and Supports
 - There should be supports for stay-at-home parents
 - Childcare is a critical part of the picture - before and after school care (1 dot)
 - Policies should focus on the child
 - Celebrate them when they are born
 - If a family is deemed vulnerable, someone should be available to help
 - Previously nurses would visit – this type of support should continue
 - There should be free/subsidized afterschool programs at schools (3 dots)
 - There should be child wellness centres in communities
 - Mental Health supports should be available at the youth centres
 - Some kids are diagnosed at 14 but don't get treatment until 24
 - Preventative approaches are needed
 - Improve access to services
- Education
 - Advocate for prevention rather than intervention, crisis intervention later (1 dot)
 - Need university programs and other training
 - Programs should be free for everyone, especially Post-secondary education
 - Billeting university students with seniors in seniors home (They are doing this in Europe)
 - Might offer seniors the support they need
- Stigma/Judgement
 - We need to build empathy
 - Some people have so little empathy
 - Need unconditional empathy – accept people as they are
 - Some in Maple Ridge show so little empathy around the homeless issue (1 dot)
 - Need better information for citizens
 - Need to educate youth about poverty

- Need to teach empathy – need to teach people to not discriminate
- Too many people have negative, uninformed attitudes about homelessness and poverty (4 dots)
- Taxes
 - Increase tax rebates on hydro costs
 - In Ontario, there is a low income tax credit for hydro
- Medications
 - Ensure low income people don't have to pay for essential prescription medications
 - Ensure any supplements prescribed by doctor (non-pharmacare) are supplied for free
- PWD
 - Increase PWD rates by \$200/month minimum by order in Council
 - Increase them by an additional \$375 per month later (9 dots)
 - Immediate increase in PWD (7 dots)
 - Reduce “red tape” for people who are to receive PWD
 - Make PWD like a pension (less reporting)
- Subsidized housing
 - Prevent subsidized housing providers from disqualifying people for a subsidy based on assets
 - PWD clients with trusts cannot control how they are dispersed
 - Housing providers must not be able to apply their own rules around assets
 - If it is exempt under one program, it should be exempted under all programs - housing providers should be mandated to follow (4 dots)
 - Give housing subsidy directly to people so they can choose where to live
- Poverty Reduction
 - Analyze poverty reduction plans from other provinces
 - Don't re-invent the process (2 dots)
 - Focus on breaking the cycle of poverty
 - Start with children (3 dots)
 - Fix public education (2 dots)
 - Don't claw back income/earnings on regular income assistance
- Employment
 - Bring back well-paying jobs
 - Need to do more manufacturing here
 - Look after the community
 - Do not ship resources and jobs to other countries (1 dot)
- Income Assistance
 - Allow people on welfare to earn up to a certain amount (higher than current)
 - Allow people to stay on welfare for a few years to build up equity/security (1 dot)
 - Provide protection from landlords
 - When rent subsidies are increased there need to be more protections in place
 - Need to be able to prevent landlords from increasing rents

- Taxes
 - o Corporations receive tax breaks, give tax breaks to others
 - o Use a new model where the tax break is based on a percentage of the amount between the lowest paid employee and CEO. The smaller the gap, the higher the tax break (1 dot)
 - o Introduce a progressive taxation system
 - o Make fees, fines, taxes higher for higher income people
 - o (i.e. a speeding ticket costs less if you are PWD) (1 dot)
- Ministry Services
 - o One Stop Service needed
 - o Portal/HUB/an assessment that looks at everything (3 dots)
 - o One stop, client selects services they need
 - o One entry into system – better clarity for clients
 - o Sit down with 1 person
 - o Need a system for navigation – someone who knows the connections
 - o Outreach worker, mobile
 - o Comprehensive list of services needed
 - o Verbal is just too much information
 - o Making conclusive observations
 - o Centralized access
- Health Care
 - o Wellness centre
 - o Refer clients out of the community
 - o People need services in their community
 - o Need community based centres
 - o Mental health doctors
 - o Navigation, wellness center
- Programs and Services
 - o Too Ad hoc at present
 - o Housing is needed
 - o More vocational support
 - o Computer training
 - o Food supports
 - o Vancouver pilot for youth services
 - o Successful outreach
 - o Transitional workers need access for services
 - o Provide a services hub
 - o Regional service (2 dots)
 - o Co-location of services
 - o Existing services
 - o Link other services
- Training
 - o Barista Program needed through Work BC

- First aid training, WHMIS, serving it right
- Trained to be a barista @ Starbucks
- Very successful program
- Employment
 - Barriers to employment
 - Have high schools offer trade programs
 - Students need to know there are other options
 - Trade programs - diplomas/certificates may be outdated
 - People need to know there are programs to offset the cost of getting recertified
 - Work BC more responsive to actual needed (1 dot)
 - If you are homeless, it is difficult to get a job (1 dot)
- Services
 - Need an advocate to help get youth off the street
 - Shelter needs to offer plans before releasing people out on the street (3 dots)
 - Long stays at shelters to offer stability
 - Need more than 7 or 30 days (2 dots)
 - Need transitional housing (1 dot)
 - Need 1 to 2 years minimum in housing
 - Build trust
- Youth
 - Need more time to build trust
 - Addiction and mental health services
 - Build life skills
 - Start supports and services younger
 - Age 12-13 more likely to have gone into foster care (1 dot)
- Housing
 - Meet people where they are at (4 dots)
 - Provide modular housing options
 - (Royal Cres) for only 3 years of occupancy for folks living in tent city
 - Start building affordable, targeted housing (5 dots)
 - Housing for people with disabilities
 - Housing for single parents
 - Seniors housing currently being built (1 dot)
- Childcare
 - \$10 day care (just do it) (3 dots)
 - Maternity leave
 - Extend maternity leave
 - Some countries have much longer leaves
- Income Assistance
 - Rent has increased, not income assistance (3 dots)
 - Basic needs money having to cover housing costs
 - Raise shelter rate to match cost of housing

- Earning exemptions should be increased even more
- Education
 - Help parents get courses (1 dot)
 - Free or subsidized education
 - Expand the SPEI (Single Parent Employment Initiative) to low income families
 - Secondary education in Maple Ridge (1 dot) is one of the highest
 - But maple Ridge has lower rates of university education because of distance to and cost of university
- Training
 - More trade schools
 - Who is building modular housing?
 - Why not train local trades, trade school? (2 dots)
- Services and Supports
 - Wrap around services for kids “aging out” of care
 - Need to be less bureaucratic
 - Provide financial literacy courses (3 dots)
 - Encourage the use of the library for literacy (1 dot)
 - Kids don’t read books
 - Kids like to use electronics, but many can’t afford them
 - Expand library services
 - Add computer rooms and music labs
 - Create more community connections
 - Harness community/generational skills/connections
 - Expand community services, provide more funding
 - Wages need to be increased
 - Provide a living wage
- Taxes
 - Create benefits for small businesses rather than larger corporations
 - Lower/middle income earners carry the tax burden
 - Need all levels of government to address an economy feeding off of those who can least afford it
 - Cut corporate loopholes
- Transportation
 - Needs to be expanded (1 dot)
- Urban Planning
 - Better urban planning for access to jobs, education, shopping (food), transportation (1 dot)
- Politics
 - Need politicians to follow the will of the people, not corporations (2 dots)
- Government
 - More money to address poverty needs(6 dots)
 - Amendment to legislation for housing co-ops (2dots)

- Laws that are actionable (3 dots)
- Housing
 - Increase of shelter allowance by at least \$700 a month
 - Increase rent supplements
 - Equality with subsidy
 - More subsidized housing
- Employment
 - Work BC employment offers must appeal to people with no proven work experience and job references
 - Regular people filling out job ads, applications for positions and resumes need employment
 - All jobs ads in Canada must spell out to job hunters what credit score range as acceptable to Work BC employers (1 dot)
 - Increase funded employment opportunities to increase experience increase employability (1 dot)
 - Increase job training
- Services and Supports
 - More support for people with disabilities
 - Increase drop-in centres for youth (2 dots)
 - Non-profit founding increase (1 dot)
 - Increase mental health and addiction services (2 dots)
- Living Wage
 - Increase minimum wage to a livable wage
 - Look at DTES practice, use as model for housing
 - Revise amounts of funding to allow those in poverty or unemployment to participate in the community
 - Funded education programs
- Income Assistance
 - Index cost of living increase to income assistance
- Transit
 - Increase public transit – expand service area
- Food Security
 - Increase food bank funding
- Addiction and Mental Health
 - Increase housing after treatment (supportive)
 - Detox bed increase
- Childcare
 - Affordable childcare to aid families to get educated and work
- Education
 - Increase student loans
 - Work/education programs

- Living Wage
 - o Guaranteed income programs - follow Ontario model
- Women's shopping centre – safe place
- Supports
 - o Support workers in streets
- Addictions
 - o Mobile harm reduction
- Increase shelter (1 dot)
- Health
 - o Mobile health units
- Ministry Support
 - o Improve communication around eligibility
 - o Increase moving expenses and transition support to help people access employment