

DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTS

Our focus: Reducing Poverty Together: Every City, Province & Territory Our goal: Learning, Sharing, and Engaging Together

WHY POVERTY REDUCTION? WHY VIBRANT COMMUNITIES?

Poverty is an assault on human dignity and is the result of deliberate policy choices.

☒ Poverty is constructed by the public policy choices that we make as a society. It is something that we can deconstruct and pull down.

☒ Let's make sure we focus on the big things, things that work at scale and will make a real difference. We have done this successfully in the past.

☒ We have the right people here, we have the right tools, and this is the right moment to make change happen.

We need to think differently about poverty reduction

☒ Every problem related to poverty is an opportunity to build a better economy, to create an "opportunity economy".

☒ Let's start measuring "social productivity". How can we reduce the impact of poverty on our economy?

☒ All solutions have to be driven and owned locally. All solutions need to be systemic.

REDUCING POVERTY TOGETHER: EVERY CITY, PROVINCE AND TERRITORY

Successful Poverty Reduction Strategies require broad-based collaborations

☒ Cities, Provinces, and Territories need to take a lead role, but business, education, and the social sector all need to be engaged.

☒ This is systemic change and in order to be meaningful has to be informed by the lived experience of those living in poverty.

☒ We have shared values, there is both a moral and business case, and we are poised for action.

Strategies need to be integrated and change will take time

☒ Strategies to address child poverty, education, employment, and homelessness need to be integrated in order to create a successful overall poverty reduction strategy.

☒ Strategies should be informed and driven by data and evidence, and results need to be measured and shared broadly.

☒ We need a national strategy and the federal government policy has a critical role to play.

LEARNING WALL HIGHLIGHTS – OUR HOPES

Reduce Poverty

- ☒ *Poverty reduction becomes a priority for governments of all levels across Canada*
- ☒ *That we build a sense that “no poverty” is possible in Canada*

Working Together

- ☒ *We end up with a national poverty reduction strategy - working together*
- ☒ *We create enduring connections and networks to continue sharing info and knowledge*
- ☒ *We will make connections that create new synergies to move our efforts forward in an exponential way*

Renewal

- ☒ *New ideas and renewed energy*
- ☒ *Renewed energy to break down barriers and bring in more true partners in eliminating poverty from our wealthy country*

Making a Change in My Community

- ☒ *Through shared learning we will leave with increased knowledge and tools to make a difference back home*
- ☒ *Bring back key insights to end poverty*

Learning

- ☒ *Meet people who share the passion of being a part of change and learn how they do it*
- ☒ *Learn how to build further capacity for our Poverty Reduction efforts*
- ☒ *We will generate/learn awesome strategies*

Inclusion and Diversity

- ☒ *We will experience the power of unity in diversity*
- ☒ *To see aboriginal inclusion and representation in poverty reduction strategies*
- ☒ *Engage directly with those with lived experience*

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Jim Russell @jimmer_uw

Optimism will liberate. “Poverty is our national shame” #ReducePoverty2015 @UnitedWayPtbo @PeterboroughPRN

Nadine Reeves @corazenia

Art of Advocacy: Stop awful-izing poverty. Messaging needs to be more optimistic & hopeful. Inspire change. #ReducePoverty2015

Carissa Di Gangi @CarissaDiGangi

Andrea Cohen Barrack: “Collective impact: a multi-pronged approach is the only way to create real change.” #ReducePoverty2015

Catherine Ludgate @catherinludgate

“Poverty is not just about people who are poor, it’s about society, about a commitment to how we live together” #ReducePoverty2015

Colleen Cote @CTAPinSK

#ReducePoverty2015 is socially complex – it must be participatory #nothingaboutuswithoutus

DAY 2 HIGHLIGHTS

Our focus: Reducing Poverty Together: Every City, Province & Territory **Our goal:** Understand what is needed to move forward at the city, provincial, and territorial levels

CITIES THAT LEAD, SUCCEED!

We know what we need to do, but leadership is the key ingredient for success in cities

☑ The core of our success as a nation is that we have discovered a very simple truth:

We are all in it together.

☑ We know how to reduce poverty, so we need to understand why the rates of poverty have not changed and child poverty still remains a serious issue. We need leadership.

☑ We need to be “brave” when thinking about poverty reduction policy, particularly at the local level. We need political courage.

☑ Use today as the starting point for a meaningful conversation about this across the country with Mayors, Provincial, and Federal leaders.

Business Community Coalitions can achieve unique results

☑ Business leaders have access to political and community leaders, and they can bring us with them.

☑ Don’t ask business leaders for a cheque; ask for their time, participation, and leadership.

☑ Businesses talk a lot about their community investment strategies, but what they don’t talk about is the impact of their business practices on poverty. Simple changes to payroll, procurement, and hiring practices can make a big difference.

THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES IN REDUCING POVERTY

Provinces are pursuing deliberate poverty reduction strategies across Canada

☑ Ontario has designated a Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction, established an office to coordinate a strategy across all Ministries to reduce poverty by 25 %, and linked to program spending reviews by Treasury Board.

☑ Newfoundland and Labrador has moved from the highest level of poverty in Canada to 2nd lowest: *How we support vulnerable people speaks to how we address poverty.*

☑ New Brunswick created an independent Crown Corporation with a representative board to implement the provincial strategy, and a Community Inclusion Network to distribute funds.

☑ Nunavut developed a shared understanding of poverty reduction that is inclusive and sensitive to Inuit culture and traditions.

THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN REDUCING POVERTY

Provinces can help by pushing for a federal agenda on poverty reduction

- ☒ Poverty doesn't register in the House of Parliament: Political parties don't think that poverty registers as an issue in the minds of voters.
- ☒ We have to create political will to create change.
- ☒ Give poverty a face during the election - behind every statistic is a real person.

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

- ☒ We need to stop pointing fingers and bring everyone into the tent.
- ☒ At the heart of poverty there is often trauma.
- ☒ Just choose a working definition of poverty and begin.
- ☒ Complex issues require adaptable solutions!
- ☒ Welcome the boat rockers and seek divergence - involve everyone.
- ☒ Living Wage - Create Employer Engagement Teams/Committees.
- ☒ Poverty is something we have constructed in our society; we have the power to de-construct it. But we must also have the will.
- ☒ The essential role culture plays in reducing poverty – Reconciliation, meaningful community engagement, bold ideas that lead to action - in our beautifully diverse Canadian DNA.
- ☒ Build an "Upside Down" environment.
- ☒ So much to learn, so much to do, I can't wait to start! Joy in the journey.

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Kate Gunn @KateGunn Been totally inspired by & learned so much from Rebekah Williams of Nunavut this hour! #ReducePoverty2015

Laura Cattari @AdvocacyHamON Riding high after our break out session on creating community will through stories. Truth to power. #ReducePoverty2015

TESA @TESAonlineorg Poverty is also a #trans and #queer issue. #transrespect #transvisibility #transrightsmatter #cantrans #abtrans #Canada #ReducePoverty2015

Pedro Barata @pedrobarataTO Race matters when it comes to understanding and fighting poverty. Let's talk about it. #ReducePoverty2015

BC Poverty Reduction @PovReductionBC Everyone at #ReducePoverty2015 talking abt lack of #Poverty data in #Canada! How can we evaluate policy impacts without it? #needpovdata

Heather Vanner @HVanner Share what you are learning. Push the conversation further. @nenshi #ReducePoverty2015