



# **Transcript: Community Meeting on Poverty Reduction**

**Kamloops, BC  
January 18, 2018**

## Introduction and Event Summary

On January 18, 2018, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction hosted a community meeting in Kamloops, BC to discuss poverty and poverty reduction with local residents. The event brought together approximately 100 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 various walks of life.

The event began with a welcome from the hosts at Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services Centre and Elder Leona Thomas of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, followed by opening remarks from Shane Simpson (Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction).

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 living in poverty right now?

- Housing.
  - o Overcrowding is a challenge.
  - o Need for supports to go along with housing.
  - o “living well.”
- Insufficient Support services resources.
  - o Non-profits down.
  - o Brain drain.
  - o Have to wait for a doctor.
  - o Strain on non-profits.
  - o Public education.
  - o Emergency staff are worn out.
  - o Compassion fatigue.
  - o Detox covered but treatment is not; people are sent back to community with no housing.
  - o Issues are complex and interconnected.
  - o A.R.C.H. subsidize recreation – but need bus money to get there.
- Quality of life.
  - o Lack of recreation programs, music for kids.
  - o 23 hours work = “over employed” = special statuses or deregulation.
  - o The designation you receive determines the amount of money you get.
  - o Vulnerable people are disenfranchised.
  - o Many people live in chaos.
  - o Look of despair in youth.
  - o PWD process – improvements and benefits are rare.
- Subsidized bus passes.
  - o Transportation and bus pass for IA clients – not just PWD.
  - o Gets money for a family - \$53 adult, \$35 child, \$34 seniors.
  - o Rely on bus for work, school.
  - o Hard to get a subsidy
  - o Barrier to attending mandatory program or looking for work
- Parenting
  - o Single parents get no breaks.
  - o Hard to get child support even when other parent is on the birth certificate.
- Food Security.
  - o Food bank for students – have to miss class to get there at the allocated time.
  - o “I’m homeless, where do I even put the food?”
  - o Food bank limits are not enough, and expired food – donations = “you eat this, I don’t want it.”

- Housing.
  - o \$2200 for rent! I rent out 2 rooms to help. 4 kids. "I was on disability – you can't rent 1br for \$700"
  - o Hydro \$500/month for my old house.
  - o Housing – subsidy/risk assessment matrix would help.
  - o Keep families housed. No room in social housing. "I only got affordable housing because I was homeless."
  - o Income assistance – it's all a cycle you get stuck in (no house without a job, no job without bus, etc.).
- At risk youth.
  - o Youth aging out of care often end up homelessness
- Education Opportunities.
  - o People need to have more education – had to leave. Education should be more accessible.
  - o Ready access to education on the North Shore to get meaningful employment.
- Transportation.
  - o Need transportation to get around town without a car, to health offices or education.
- Social Assistance.
  - o Big contributor of poverty is income assistance because you have to be bottom of the barrel before you're given any help.
  - o When we had kids we got off and moved out of the city and lived on child benefit.
  - o System is broken and it's humiliating.
  - o Needs to be revamped and doesn't make them feel worthless. Being tested is humiliating. Need to change.
  - o Alternatives to income assistance like Basic Income.
- At risk youth/ education.
  - o Research says that by the time entry into kindergarten is already disparity between children.
  - o Kids not ready for school by age 7 because of poverty. Negative impact to education from starting point.
  - o When you don't earn a proper wage and you can't spend time with children, working for a small amount of money but with too many hours.
  - o Two-tier minimum wage – cooks and servers, percentage of gross sales to other staff and also paying \$60/day for child care. Not much money left.
  - o Save all year to buy a winter coat for kids.
  - o Have to buy second hand stuff (mommy and me).
  - o Basic grade 12 – it can be difficult to complete.
  - o Started out with 5 kids graduating but now over 200 kids are graduating.
  - o How do people get back to school?
  - o Idea – go to friendship centre to use staff to mentor, or trades.
  - o Not having enough to eat but kid has to focus on algebra. Not just kids will have these issues. Lunch or meal provided?

- Food Security.
  - o People need basic food, food security.
  - o Also need housing, good sleep/safe.
  - o Food bank is not a solution! Government relies on food bank; food quality at the food bank is not good enough.
  - o People need emergency help but there shouldn't be 200 people that need help.
- Transportation.
  - o Transportation is an issue. Buses don't run at 5am or 6am.
  - o System has to be geared towards that demographic or if you have kids.
  - o Can be difficult to get into town to get milk (addressing basics can be challenging).
- Systemic disregard.
  - o People don't recognize that the system is belittling and disempowering towards those in poverty.
  - o Husband working out of town and he didn't get paid for his work.
  - o Agency staff made me feel useless on a continual basis.
  - o Education system for Aboriginal children – you can see the transition in grade 4 because it changes the style of teaching to a lecture, traditional way is to show, not lecture.
  - o Indigenous or metis people are labeled streamed into English and trades math instead of regular math.
  - o Son was labeled FAS, when he's ADHD – but is NOT FAS. Racism
  - o Until TRC recommendations are put into practice we can't move forward
- Education.
  - o Core curriculum hasn't changed in a long time.
  - o Kids labeled with ADHD and she's just bored.
  - o Curriculum caters to Type A personality.
  - o If you don't have that you miss out (systematic bias).
  - o If not in that category you must have something wrong with you – kids spend 3 hours to make a cup of cocoa.
- Environmental conditions.
  - o The condition of our environment is not separate from poverty. As land/air degrades, liveable areas will decrease, likewise people in poverty will be the first harmed by climate change.
- Accessibility of knowledge.
  - o Residential tenancy needs to be more accessible – rights need to be known
- Income exemption.
  - o for SDPR clients need to be raised.
- Barriers and Access.
  - o Employment Financial employment and type of employment is an issue.
  - o Need a comprehensive approach to address similar issues.
  - o Transportation Travel and transportation barriers.
  - o Legal issues.
  - o Health care issues and medical access.

- Literacy.
- Food costs/access to healthy food.
- No choice in lifestyle for those in poverty.
- Lack of mentors or advocates.
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse.
  - Mental health supports.
  - Substance abuse.
  - Vulnerable people e.g., mentally ill fall prey to people who want to take advantage of them.
- Childcare.
  - Daycare subsidy is so backed up causing people to lose their daycare.
  - Childcare is inadequate.
  - Daycare hours don't allow for shift work.
- Housing challenges.
  - Forced into unsafe housing locations for families.
  - Affordable housing is segregated.
  - Housing and finances can be difficult.
  - Lack of affordable housing and condition of affordable housing.
  - Location of affordable housing is often challenging.
  - Need more income support for persons with disabilities or seniors.
  - Support for single people to keep home livable.
- High cost of living.
  - High cost of living and housing, with daycare subsidy too low.
  - Cost of working and the need to have many jobs to meet financial obligations.
  - Must work long hours to meet needs and pay high daycare costs.
  - Income cut-off disqualifies you for subsidy, keeping you in poverty.
  - Wages don't reflect the high cost of living.
  - Eligibility criteria do not reflect the lifestyles or cost of living.
  - Legal assistance for single parents to obtain child support or deal with other legal issues.
  - Cost of utilities is high.
  - When a situation is addressed, for example minimum wage is increased, and then the price of housing goes up – ripple effect and someone always suffers.
- Barriers and support.
  - Proper ID is necessary and needs to be more affordable.
  - Lack of financial literacy causes individual to go to cash loan places.
  - Need for a coordinating body for low income individuals, one advocate to speak to their situation.
  - EPBC promotes an uncoordinated process – too many cooks in the kitchen, nobody managing all services are separate, creating a lack of communication which affects the person's ability to move to employment.
  - Lack of financial security or investment opportunities. Seniors having to go back to work.

- Lack of community inclusion programs, which increases stigmas for people and leads to further poverty and systemic discrimination.
- Lack of subsidized abstinence based treatment centres for substance users.
- Challenge of having no fixed address (1 vote).
- Ministry Service issues.
  - Insufficient staff (government).
  - No getting welfare because I am not looking for work.
  - People have to go online to get income assistance (3 votes).
  - Privacy issues with online application.
  - On hold with income assistance office for 4 to 5 hours (1 vote).
  - Took 5 days to get to talk to a person at income assistance.
  - Need face to face contact; lack of human interaction (for IA) (2 votes).
  - No humanity anymore.
  - Have been trying to get on to income assistance since Jan 9.
  - Need enough help to assist people get back on social services.
  - When you have a mental illness you cannot go to multiple places (2 votes).
  - Need to be integrated (2 votes).
- Homelessness.
  - I was homeless for 5 months.
  - When you don't have money nobody is willing to help.
  - Things got really hard with no money.
  - Child care/after school care and transit are big issues (4 votes).
  - Some are forced to live in a van.
  - Do not qualify for government programs or services.
  - Hard to get a decent night sleep (40 years without).
- Safety and Security.
  - No safety in our community.
  - Authority is not protecting us and is harassing us.
- Housing affordability.
  - Housing is a big issue (3 votes).
  - Need a guaranteed minimum income.
  - Rent; affordable rent is not affordable.
  - Housing is an issue for young girls.
  - Need guaranteed basic income.
  - Cut bureaucracy.
- Health.
  - Better mental health.
  - Better living conditions needed for there in poverty.
  - I am disabled but I don't qualify for provincial disability, I qualify for federal disability that will not give me the health support.
  - Cost me \$500 for medicine leaving me with no money to get car out of impound(Cannot lose vehicle – it is my home).

- Disenfranchisement.
  - o No housing supplement because I don't have an address.
  - o 95% on welfare are not looking for work, or education, just wants to stay the same.
  - o Years and years of oppression leads to resignation.
- Services.
  - o Downloading of federal programs and services (1 vote).
  - o Municipality does not get enough money.
  - o Not enough doctors – have to stand around for hours in the cold.
  - o Too many people are on disability and they don't have a disability.
- Poverty Cycle.
  - o Visible open racism towards children in care.
  - o 72% of homeless in Kamloops aged out of care.
  - o Money to build supportive housing but not to provide services.
  - o Child tax benefits – parents lose money if child is in care, then parents can't pay rent and don't get kids back – it's a cycle.
  - o "We'll pay other people to look after kids but not parents."
  - o Drug use.
  - o Kids in care – got kids back May 8, but my Child Care Benefit went to MCFD.
  - o Child services doesn't give benefits back prorated – set you up to fail.
- Cost of living.
  - o Experiment transportation for food – rides, bus, cab.
  - o Depression, mental health, pharma care, medication, basic needs.
  - o Rent \$1200/month is too high for low income.
  - o Expensive/unaffordable – having to double up in housing.
  - o Sustainable living wage.
  - o No jobs, no good jobs in Kamloops.
  - o Unable to buy/forced to live in unsafe areas.
  - o Living wage needed, don't want a bunch of roommates.
- Families.
  - o Affordable and safe housing needed for single moms.
  - o Family living below poverty.
- The system perpetuates the cycle.
  - o Lack of access to safe housing.
  - o Lack of access to childcare.
  - o Some families can't afford to put kids in sports/programs.
  - o Many people within community without a doctor (around 30 thousand people).
  - o Need to help people navigate system; system only for certain status (i.e., certain designation).
  - o Tough time with employment.
  - o Lack of affordable safe housing.
  - o Overcrowding is common.

- No supports available to go along with housing – not just the house, need to support people.
  - Need to provide support to vulnerable persons.
- Support for People with Disabilities.
  - PWD application is laborious – challenge on health care providers and advocates.
  - Doctors are needed for the process.
  - Need to improve process for PWD and benefits that go along with it.
- Youth Housing.
  - Housing an issue even for youth getting housing because can't afford rent otherwise.
  - Support needed along with housing (trained staff).
- Single Parents.
  - Still having difficulties if single mom is working – working but still can't afford needs.
- Low wages.
  - Need higher wages.
  - Government staff that are negotiating with/for advocates.
  - Even GEU jobs.
  - Increased wage but precarious work is very common on casual contract.
- Discrimination.
  - People attacking others publicly; “those people.”
  - Need to respect all within our society.
  - Need to change community perspectives/views; need to engage the public and eliminate negative views, stigma of those in poverty.
- Health and wellbeing.
  - Healthcare issues are common.
  - No adequate access to healthcare; no treatments.
  - No safe housing.
  - No living wage; people falling through cracks.
  - People within community only get care if they can get a “referral.”
  - Lack of public and need for education of public – maybe through a campaign.
  - Compassion fatigue – amount of strain on non- profits.
  - No one should profit from healthcare.
  - Can't afford not to raise minimum wage.
- Housing.
  - Housing issues not cut and dry; scope of issues is interconnected.
  - If someone has stable housing then they can access other programs – these things feed into one another – not the same for every person.
- Regional differences.
  - Regional Differences i.e., labourers specialized in certain areas.
  - People believe if they go elsewhere, it is better.
  - They think opportunities are available elsewhere.
  - We have regional detox – we are fortunate.
  - People forced to go to where there are services, i.e., Kamloops.

- Services.
  - o Misconception of “treatment centres.”
  - o Many barriers for those trying to access services, i.e. transportation.
  - o Need to have more subsidy programs and to give service providers have more control to assist other clients.
  - o Need to have long term subsidy.
  - o Government sector is influencing private non-profit sector.
  - o Barrier: not enough outreach workers.
  - o Service hours, i.e. mobile injection site, if you are at risk you are not on a schedule, need more flexibility (1 vote).
  - o More integration of services into communities (e.g Maverick Hotel purchased by ASK).
  - o Wasn’t getting enough work, spoke to ASK who suggested housing that wasn’t safe housing, need core transitioning.
- Communication and Collaboration with Government.
  - o Work with city council to find strategically placed affordable housing (1 vote)
  - o Provincial government and municipal government should work together with regards to community planning.
  - o Better communication between governments of service providers.
- Housing Supply.
  - o 41 units for one housing project, 60 for another – supply is not keeping up with demand.
- Accessibility.
  - o What, where would we hold these educating places? Mental services, supports, cost is expensive, not accessible to everyone and overwhelming.
  - o Accessing mental health services.
  - o Services that do exist that are not being accessed because of bureaucracy.
  - o Not knowing all the resources in your community, needing awareness.
  - o Solution – creating program specific programming.
  - o Organizations are siloed, more connections to share services.
- Mitigating risks to youth.
- Safe, Affordable housing.
  - o Issues increasing a lot.
  - o 2 years ago, 1.5 years ago, subsidized housing started at \$425.00, 1.5 years later up to \$475.00, a \$50 increase over a short period of time.
  - o \$375 from ministry low – part of support goes into shelter costs, and last 2 weeks before cheque issue no money left.
  - o Affordable housing fills up fast.
  - o Keeping housing is hard.
  - o Much of the housing is not in a healthy environment.
  - o Lack of choice.
  - o Discrepancy for living and rent, even with subsidized housing – if not subsidized couldn’t afford rent in Kamloops.
  - o Vacancy rate of rental housing is less than 1%.

- Housing for at risk populations.
  - o For people on IA, it's even harder to find housing.
  - o Vulnerable youth taken advantage of with only one option to choose from (housing).
  - o Minimum wage, you have to claim, and IA deducts dollar for dollar.
  - o People coming out of addictions have no choice of housing.
  - o System is simply "Warehousing" people.
  - o \$1400/mo, single parent with 2 kids, 60% of her income goes to rent, doesn't qualify for subsidies, experienced addictions, ending up in relapses – cycle of poverty.
  - o Homelessness – once away from work, end up homeless with substances everywhere.
  - o Youth and adults falling through the cracks – odds of making it without housing are low.
  - o Emotional supports are not present.
  - o Housing, health care if you don't have housing, the norm is to live in survival mode.
- Cycle of Poverty/ Systemic Issues
  - o Youth coming up living with trauma.
  - o Tuition doesn't help if you're living in trauma, without a home or social connections, you need there to get a healthy life.
  - o Transition to adulthood with no life skills when in care; they are surviving – both youth and caregiver – Adult Youth Agreement requirements are very difficult to manage.
  - o Opportunities are there, but trying to manage them requires flexibility..
  - o Education, food, mental health, housing are all connected.
  - o Even when people are making more than minimum wage it's hard to manage, if they had to pay rent it would be difficult.
  - o Pressure with high housing costs.
  - o Service provider working under contracts with mandated limits (lack of stability).
  - o Crisis management – having people commit to certain programs or services when they are in survival mode, being proactive is not always possible and follow through is difficult.
  - o Cycle of poverty running out of funds way before the end of the month.
  - o People being turned away from supports in communities.
  - o No jobs or jobs shutting down via big decisions (i.e., pipeline).
  - o Women at home, not enough accessible education – effects of gender on poverty.
  - o Education is not geared to accessible support.
  - o Homeless people in Kamloops who aren't from the area are overcrowding services.
  - o Health authorities decides and then asks if that works
  - o We're not all the same as DTES
  - o Solutions cannot all be the same; must fit where people are at
- Wellbeing.
  - o Poverty is a lack of cash, not just education.
  - o Barriers to opportunity.
  - o Aptitude testing in high schools for employment.
  - o Son at 9 years old, BC children's hospital wanted to amputate (bias discrimination) despite alternatives.

- Cheaper method is not always the best method, especially for indigenous kids.
  - When people get out of rehab and are put back into the same situation and don't have a safe place (lack of community supports)
- Trial or full change
  - If you scrape SA, you need info to go along with it.
  - Lack of housing or no fixed address, can't qualify for PWD or SA.
- Parenting.
  - Fear of child services – “If I access a program, my kids will get taken away” (1 vote).
  - Single moms are “watched,” blamed, shamed.
- Crisis grants.
  - Workers are mean, patronizing
  - Policy needs to be clear
  - Workers are STINGY with crisis grants
- Law enforcement.
  - Sending police is traumatizing; “I grew up associating cops with all the bad shit in my family. Taken a long time to change my view.”
- Barriers.
  - Access to health card; access to addiction treatment services can be issues.
  - Employment challenges – no bus fare, transportation, child care, communication, follow up, clothing access – accommodating disabilities for the interview.
  - Employment wages are too low.
  - Linking in to community – credential recognition.
  - Navigating employment market supports with skills.
  - Geography – transportation challenges.
  - Connecting employment, childcare, housing.
  - Precarious employment – part time wages, unstable commitment by employers.
  - 2 hour minimum shift is too short for money or to make other employment arrangements – cost of transportation is unaffordable to go to work – it's the same cost to get there if you work 2 or 8 hours.
- Foreign Workers.
  - False beliefs around temporary foreign workers – risk of false conditions being realized.
- Seniors
  - Lack of elder housing – need more public elder housing rather than private for aging population, because private is unaffordable. \$5000/month for a couple in BC whereas in Manitoba a couple would pay \$1000/month.
  - Seniors having to go back to work due to high cost of living
- Policy Shift.
  - Money is not being spent proactively such as on after school programs – developing soft skills/life skills – money is spent on corrections, homelessness, outreach, law enforcement – after the fact spending
  - Medicine Hat is an example of shifting funding toward preventative rather than reactive priorities

- Governments have allowed privatization and downloading onto municipalities; inadequately funding municipalities
- Employment
  - Employee/employer relations to be more sustainable – employers don't invest in employees.
  - Standard entry level jobs require university degree, used to be high school education
  - Retail automation is reducing jobs
- Transportation.
  - Bus service – too few handicapped spaces, too small buses, leaving people with strollers and wheelchairs behind.
  - Bus stops are not sheltered or accessible for people with children or disabilities
- Lack of Knowledgeable Service Staff.
  - Couldn't get 2 year old into daycare, finally got on a waitlist, directed to a resource centre where they referred me to centres that didn't care for 2 year olds; then inappropriate in-home daycare that lacked structure.

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

- Wage increases
  - Increase minimum wage.
  - Minimum wage increased to continually match the cost of living.
  - All wages to increase to properly match the cost of living. Cost of living overall are too modest.
- Housing and social justice.
  - Social inclusion programs (8 votes)
  - Need to come back to a place where we care for society.
  - "Housing is health and health is housing."
  - It is right and just to support people in housing – people need respect and dignity and a safe and affordable place to live
- Governance.
  - Not just what is cost effective.
  - PWD application process on health care process.
  - Utilizing different power sources to make things more economical.
  - Create plans to actually make key initiatives happen (1 vote).
- Education.
  - Support more education, for example rather than a certificate programs like SPEI support a diploma program. Increase supports from one year to two years (3 votes).
  - More affordable education through subsidies.

- Support for those who have housing so they can continue to live affordably in their homes – rental control
- Governance.
  - Ministries to collectively work together, for example MCFD aware of poverty issues but can't address as it's not their area, that is SDPR – Ministries must work together to meet all clients' needs collectively (1 vote).
  - Proactive approach to preventing poverty rather than reactive (2 votes)
- Empower people.
  - Education – financial – for people to learn how to manage money before they are in a position of debt or need.
  - Realistic approach to monies issued to income assistance clients; who can actually live off \$710/month!?
  - More access to food resources and more often, such as community gardens.
  - More and greater access to treatment programs and monies, funding for abstinence treatment (3 votes).
  - Allow individuals to be part of their own solutions rather than having them managed for them.
  - Address how we look at things, not “them”, say “us” as we are looking at all these issues – they are ALL our issue, not just issues for the impoverished.
  - Access to education outside of normal hours, e.g. nights, weekends, etc.
  - Invest in people not in policies (10 votes).
  - Evidence based policy for poverty
- Regional Accessibility.
  - Make services accessible within the community.
  - For example there is no food bank in Barrier; resources aren't available in rural areas.
  - Work with local governments.
  - Improve technology in rural areas.
  - Invest more in these areas so they have resources like internet (2 votes).
  - Increase medical support in our communities; cost of taking care of their own health is not affordable (2 votes).
- Tobacco.
  - Evidence policy addressing drugs, such as tobacco.
- Affordability.
  - Affordable local healthy places to access food.
  - Look at cost of healthy food, make it affordable to all.
  - Affordable, community based, safe, maintainable, inclusive, socially acceptable housing.
  - Livable income, minimum wage, cost of living increases.
- Individual Needs.
  - Individualized investment into people's actual needs – e.g. medical, education, assistance and resources advocates, mental health, etc.
- Justice system.
  - Is punitive – should fix this – need a different model.

- There are no incentives once you get punished.
- Address the justice system.
- Transportation.
  - Free buses – work, medical services, shopping recreation .
  - More local authority for transit.
  - Make recreation more accessible with the bus.
- Housing.
  - Modular style housing units, can be on crown land (2 votes).
  - Disperse affordable housing randomly in the city.
  - People need to take responsibility for their own housing.
- Guaranteed income/ living wage/Affordability.
  - Increase wage (i.e. double).
  - Decrease the number of days needed to work (1 vote).
  - Address the system; make it more progressive, more fair (1 vote).
  - Guaranteed income (3 votes).
  - Living wage (6 votes).
  - \$10-20 thousand per year.
  - Study other countries' welfare/support system (2 votes).
  - Everyone get basic income and people will have incentives to stay in jobs.
- System overhaul.
  - Rent control (1 vote).
  - Price control.
  - Tax marijuana (1 vote) and eradicate revenue stream to social programs (4 votes).
  - Increase sales tax.
  - Do not allow offshore investment or banks.
  - Make the tax system more transparent, more accountable (2 votes).
  - Child tax benefits should not be dependent on last year's income (1 vote): child tax benefit should be based on your current situation.
  - Welfare clawback – need to change the law to not deduct, or only deduct a set maximum amount.
  - Free housing (4 votes).
- Strategies for homelessness.
  - Storage bins, space provided on Victoria St. – (storage, lock, key secure)
  - Laundry facility, possible showers.
  - Utilize land by adding washrooms, containment, standalone when services can be accessed to one area (2 votes)
  - Educate communities, community buy-in to welcome people from all diverse backgrounds (1 vote)
  - Talking to the public so there is less stigma to homelessness (1 vote)
  - Rent – government to bring incentive program to make rent affordable for people giving landlords or new buildings having something to be had – an incentive to rent to lower income (2 votes)

- Educating people as to what trauma does to people, in terms of holding jobs, addictions; solution to trauma (trauma informed session, lens/awareness of trauma)
- Better infrastructure for transit, free transit.
- System change.
  - Change the system of the poverty trap.
  - Socialize rather than capitalistic.
  - Our society (government) is not taking responsibility for its children.
  - Our current electoral system is definitely part of the problem – those with poverty are greatly underrepresented – proportional representation would help to alleviate this.
  - Right now we are just using bandaid solutions (e.g., food banks) – we need actual changes like a guaranteed annual income for all.
  - Proportional representation would help with implementing changes, through cooperation between parties toward solutions
  - Solutions are done in response to urban and metropolitan areas (5 votes)
  - Rural communities need appropriate input into creating local solutions and not just a universal or provincial solution (E.g. Urban areas are different than other areas, diverse) (2 votes)
- Rehab.
  - Rehab is not just a 28 day program, it's a life change – educating people on how to make these changes.
  - Rehab in agricultural setting, must be volunteer.
  - Will have food security
  - Transition out of prison, into a safe home
- School Nutrition.
  - School nutrition program, early in the day (high quality program) – more widespread (2 votes).
  - Should be totally funded, not paying for anything.
- Service Access.
  - Bring services to people, not people going to services and needing transportation (2 votes)
  - E.g. right now, single mom living on reserve – to get services has to go to Kelowna and has to raise funds.
  - Shriners had a transportation system that took people to services.
- Education
  - Needs to have more life skills, more personal development – the tools and self-empowerment to succeed in life. Kids are measured by a criteria that's not just the 3 Rs (2 votes).
- Mental Health.
  - More access to mental health, access to good counselling and people looking for resources (3 votes).
  - Identification resources at safe places to get out of their mess.

- Just as important as physical health, all physical mental and spiritual health are the same.
- Mini homes and put it in an agricultural setting; nature healing aspect; mentorship program to stay clean and learn skills (1 vote).
- Guaranteed Annual Income.
  - Guaranteed Annual Income is for everyone, and people can still work.
  - Framework is already there with CPP but bring back the age to age 18, just it gets paid into by taxes – lots of unpaid work (2 votes).
  - Explore best practices in other countries.
- Supporting youth.
  - Reduce poor performance in school, food, drug use (7 votes).
  - Offer all students a place where they can think, rest, and study.
  - Have a safe place to start supporting youth.
- Guaranteed Annual Income (GAI) (4 votes).
  - Enough to go around and people with so much and other who can't put breakfast on the table.
  - Other side of that from employers and jobs and income attached; not an automatic entitlement and affects your income.
  - Trend is less and less employment; if there aren't enough jobs to go around because of automation.
  - Everyone should be able to benefit, but if they can't get a job then if you have GAI you can volunteer.
  - Have to address the individual responsibility.
  - Basic Income – NDP mentioned pilot project, the way they are going about it is just a glorified welfare project.
  - Dauphine MB, had a pilot, one thing they found is that education was completed and there was a decrease in health care, people said less people working but they finished school.
  - Welfare is demeaning and makes people feel like they are not better.
  - Basic income was just based on universality and not means tested.
  - Shouldn't have to beg to progress mentally and spiritually.
- Eliminate taxes for purchase of used cars
- Help families now to prevent kids from repeating cycle (3 votes)
- R-E-S-P-E-C-T! Treat people like people (3 votes)
- Give trades students real world building projects – e.g. welder students fixing homes; students need trade hours (2 votes)
- More information sharing about available services
- Food.
  - More food programming integrated into other services (3 votes).
  - Food security.
  - Recovery.
  - Sharing.

- 7 pillars of food sovereignty, instead of food security.
- Sustainable renewable resources for food; nutritional courses for youth, using new technologies for improving output of foods through urban farming and greenhouses.
- Services.
  - Put affordable housing near services (1 vote).
  - Respite care without stigma.
  - Service providers need training to identify people with needs and to be kind (1 vote).
  - Using our own community resources at TRU for poverty – with real world problems and solutions with maintenance.
- Intervention.
  - Police are AWFUL – need a youth response team and a family team (4 votes).
  - More support money for appropriate interventions (e.g. trained street teams).
  - Police need better mental health training.
  - Jail alternatives for mental health related arrests (4 votes).
  - Use a risk matrix assessment for families (1 vote).
  - E.g., 2 similar families where one gets child support have different needs, so invest in family maintenance enforcement
  - Analyze the risk of homelessness and provide targeted support to prevent homeless
  - BC housing vulnerability assessment
- Families.
  - Let parents keep Child Care Benefit when kids are removed – set Child Care Benefit aside until children are returned (3 votes).
  - Cheaper to keep kids with their parents – support families vs. creating a need for emergency services (1 vote).
  - Secure housing for people with kids (1 vote)
- Services.
  - Mental health services first, police for backup – “mental health first responders” (3 votes).
  - Create regional hubs within city limits.
  - Linking of government programs would make it easier to access for people.
  - Creating regional hubs for services, employment, training, basic needs services where the people are (3 votes).
  - Available daycare! (3 votes)
- Affordability.
  - Affordable transportation and bus routes to reduce barriers (1 vote).
  - Low minimum wage creates a barrier, compromises for lifestyle – a \$15 minimum wage, plus child offers an affordable lifestyle where people want to live (7 votes).
  - Raise the PWD rates and IA rates (4 votes)
  - Livable shelter
- Governance.
  - Cities allowed making their own decisions with adequate funding and partnerships with other levels of government (3 votes).

- Bring privatized services back to government, make them public (2 votes).
- Amount of red tape that keeps people impoverished must change – simplify, consolidate, support people to access services, especially people who are not computer/services literate (2 votes).
- Supports.
  - Income tested housing/supported housing considerations must be in place for couples – income/pension sharing without claw backs.
  - Child benefits (CCB) continuity for parents with kids in care, or an alternative fund to allow families to maintain housing and income – KEY: parents can't lose their resources, they need these resources to get their kids back and keep the family cared for.
  - Mental health training and appropriate services, including training first responders.
- Adequate wages for everyone (2 votes)
  - People's wages will increase, but not for everyone.
- Transportation.
  - Provide transportation for medical treatment, e.g., cancer treatment (especially for those who have to travel out of rural communities)
  - Provide transportation for those living in poverty (3 votes).
  - E.g. going from one area to another in the community.
- Culture shift.
  - Awareness campaigns – communication, resulting in change, removing stigma and breaking down the divide.
  - Campaigns that are honest and have impacts.
  - No “scare” tactics, e.g. the opioid crisis.
  - Help increase empathy by hearing stories from people – increased connection to others.
  - Need this in school systems (i.e., homeless issues/awareness).
  - Needs to be done well, not just non-profit sector doing it.
  - Outreach to the public.
  - Clarify what benefits are offered, clear up the myths.
  - Costs more to deal with the issues than to create a plan or tax dollars, RCMP costs (e.g., costs \$1000/day to have someone in a hospital).
  - Reaching diversity – reaching out to the right people (e.g. politicians).
  - Social media is big right now; need personal stories.
  - Consistent message provided by all: respecting people, providing opportunities, shifting ideological beliefs.
- Affordability.
  - Affordable, safe housing – remove barriers (5 votes).
  - Affordable safe childcare (3 votes).
  - Remove barriers to healthcare, e.g. MSP, universal pharma-care.
  - Adequate wages for service providers, e.g., childcare access to families in mid-years, supports.
  - Affordable recreation for all ages.

- Access to education.
  - o Tuition fees reduction and skills training.
  - o Need to know where the jobs are coming up and train to fill those jobs in the future – e.g., IT.
  - o Targeted education where jobs are going to be
  - o Remove barriers to skill development and education (4 votes).
  - o Remove requirement for access to funding for school, e.g., PWD (labels are helping those right now, trigger for funding).
- Safe space
  - o People need a safe space, not necessarily housing specific.