

Habitat for Humanity Kamloops Society		
BC Poverty Reduction Strategy Small Group Discussion		
Small Group Discussion Session Report		
Date:	March 26, 2018 at Henry Grube Education Centre	
Community :	Kamloops BC	
# of Participants:	19, plus 3 Staff, and 5 Volunteers	
# of Organizations:	5, Lived Experience Committee from My Place, New Life Community, Jump, Habitat Families, City of Kamloops Deputy Mayor	
# of individuals with lived experience who Participated:	18	
General Demographic & Age profile of participants:	30-65	2 in wheel chairs plus people on disability, pension, homeless
About the Participants:	one couple, single, seniors, homeless	
About the findings:		
Issues: # of Dots		
8	lack of affordable rent,	
4	access to affordable transportation. Lack of Transportation impedes ability to get to apts, groceries, access to resources etc	
3	affordable healthy food	
2	longer term emergency shelter	
2	Social Assistance, Income Assistance, Disability Assistance too low after rent is paid	
2	lack of Laundromats, showers, bathrooms	
2	entry level job requirements are too high	
2	entry level job requirements are too high	
2	not enough \$ as single person on Income Assistance	
2	pre-judged by employers - Stigma	
2	a living wage is not the current minimum wage	
2	stress/depression	
1	funding is lower if you do not have an addictions, or drinking problem. It is more difficult to get funding if you are on EI, but if you have an addiction or drinking problem its easier to get funding	
1	potential wait time for Social Assistance	
1	lack of Rent to own housing	
1	lack of BC Housing Units - Subsidized	
1	more care and sensitivity and less judgement	
1	no real long term solutions - Bandages	
1	lack of one's sense of self esteem, confidence	
1	renters don't cater to our kind, prejudice, stigma	
0	maximum you can earn on Social Assistance is \$400.00 extra. There should be financial incentives to work	
0	lack of enough day shelters	
0	lack of affordable entertainment in the winter	
0	homeless or poor people are treated terribly	
0	access to resources that are discreet/private and individualized. Resources should be flexible and cater to each person as an individual	
0	lack of knowledge of what resources are available	
0	lack of social network/family support. Can we create a resource that could take on the role of family support.	
0	high cost of short term shelter costs	

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Possible Solutions # of Dots		
6	increase funds for Income Assistance, Pension, Disability	
3	food cards more than \$10.00	
3	multi unit Habitat housing	
2	make "Chamber of Mine"s training programs available	
2	City of Kamloops to employ homeless people to run homeless shelters	
2	increase number of laundromats, showers	
2	tax incentives to encourage lower suite rentals for home owners	
2	transit - create sliding scale based on income	
1	more dry out & recovery centres	
1	convert shipping containers to living spaces	
1	create diverse, accessible resources that are individualized to tailored to each person	
1	more subsidized housing	
1	create a program for teaching basic finances and budgeting	
1	employment programs that provide: training, experience, awareness and reduce stigmas	
1	equality in resources/supports	
0	"My Place" drop in spaces working with City for 14 Bus passes for one month usage	
0	support education such as: Street School upgrade & TRU, Open Door Learning Group	
0	more job and life skills training	
0	learning to cook healthy foods	
0	Higher level of allowable earning Income Assistance and Disability assistance	
0	more affordable housing like Crossroads	
0	solutions need to be individualized/flexible	
0	set up one central location for assistance , making it convenient and easy access	
Top three Issues and Solutions		
Top Three Issues		
8	lack of affordable rent,	
4	access to affordable transportation. Lack of Transportation impedes ability to get to apts, groceries, access to resources etc	
3	affordable healthy food	
Top Three Possible Solutions		
6	Increase funds for Income Assistance, Pension, Disability	
3	food cards more than \$10.00	
3	multi unit Habitat housing	
Note of Interest		
We supplied tickets at no charge, which the Kamloops Transit Service accepted as bus fare We supplied a hot meal consisting of: pasta with meat sauce, meat balls in sauce, dinner buns with butter, fresh veggie and dip. For desert we had fresh fruit and cake. Coffee Tea and water . Along with a lot of love for this group.		
The left over food was donated to the New Life Community centre who feed the homeless people daily.		
We relied on Habitat for Humanity volunteers to assist with the discussion		
We had childcare available, but no one used the service, instead the adults took the coloring books home.		
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