



Transcript: Community Meeting on Poverty Reduction

Cranbrook, BC
February 8, 2018

Introduction and Event Summary

On February 8, 2018, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction hosted a community meeting in Cranbook, BC to discuss poverty and poverty reduction with local residents. The event brought together approximately 50 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 Dorothy Alpine of the First Nation, followed by opening remarks from Mable Elmore (Parliamentary Secretary on 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 Parliamentary Secretary for 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?

- Access to Ministry Services
 - o Cut backs adding to poverty
 - o Closing of ministry office in Cranbrook is unacceptable – we need that office
 - o East side of province needs an office
 - o Shouldn't have to phone all over province to get service
 - o Ministry computer lost my file and it took 6 weeks to get a cheque
 - o Lack of services and information between agencies
 - o People have a lack of awareness of programs/ services
 - o No one know who to turn to
 - o Sometimes Ministry staff do not listen
 - o People have to use an advocate if they are going to get anywhere
 - o People with cognitive disabilities need help
 - o System is too complicated and people give up – fall through the cracks
 - o We need our own local Ministry office with knowledgeable people
 - o Lack of humanity at all levels of government service
 - o Need to treat people with dignity (money not the whole answer)
 - o Bureaucracy involves too many steps
 - o Easy to get fed up and give up
 - o Disability office doesn't tell you can get a nutritional allowance
 - o No one knows about programs like SAFER
 - o Social workers give you inadequate information about services
 - o Need more government information for everyone
- Services and Supports
 - o Agencies have funding issues
 - o Lack of transparency
 - o Need more communication between agencies
 - o Need to have meetings with agencies (Urban Government Meetings)
 - o Street Angels and other organizations have suffered
 - o Street Angels needs more funding
 - o Community communication is needed to inform everyone
 - o The Salvation Army won't do harm reduction so it means some people have fewer choices where to go
- Homelessness
 - o Not enough housing for people
 - o People get pushed around
 - o Cranbrook has too few options (Salvation Army and Street Angels)
 - o Need to treat people with respect
 - o People/politicians need to be boots on the ground
 - o Confrontation with agencies in smaller community because of lack of choice in services

- Food Security
 - o Diet – can't get proper nutrition
- Training/ Life Skills
 - o Need more training opportunities
 - o Need more funding for training
 - o Education for life on the streets
 - How to use drugs/needles
 - Safe injection site
 - Sex education
 - o Nimbyism makes problem worse
- Housing
 - o Working 4 jobs and still can't find housing
 - o There are no rentals available in Cranbrook
 - o Rents keep going up
- Realities of Poverty
 - o Price of groceries and gas also goes up
 - o Always a game of catch up
 - o Shouldn't be stuck in poverty
- Employment
 - o No more mills, lack of jobs that aren't low wage
 - o Unstable employment
 - o Shutdowns are hurting Cranbrook
 - o Lack of industry and employment
 - o Employers that treat people like garbage
- Housing
 - o Housing is sub-standard
 - o Basement suite are illegal
 - o Mold, mildew, sewage, flooding
 - o Nowhere else to go
 - o Not safe
 - o Walls caving in from leaks
- Homelessness
 - o Shelters should help people with mental illness get a good home
 - o 4 fused vertebrae having to sleep on a cot/stretcher only makes things worse
 - o Get frustrated and you cannot deal with your frustration
 - o Anxiety and mental illness, you don't know what's going to happen tomorrow
 - o High uncertainty
 - o Need all day shelter and drop in centre--24 hours a day, 7 days a week
 - o Only one shelter in Cranbrook
 - o Fights and bullshit at the Salvation Army – caused in shelters
 - o Medical situation got worse because kicked out of shelter
 - o Need more shelters

- Need shelter – without preaching and moral judgement
- Need more shelters with no barriers
- It is wrong to kick people out and leave them in the cold
- Access to Government Services
 - Make the application process easy and accessible (e.g. RDSP forms)
 - Make the application process easy for the people who need services
 - Need access to information
 - Need to train staff on providing service/ information to clients
 - Agencies need to be aware of everything (e.g. how to fill out paperwork)
 - Lack of trust; need to increase understanding
 - Disconnect between social services and needs
 - Government saves money by contracting out a group of specific services for a time
 - Services advertised online but lots of folks don't have online access
 - Need computers or phone to access services
- Living in Poverty
 - People think only of survival, not prosperity, some turn to crime
 - Voice of poverty delivered by people in poverty
 - Poverty is not a choice
 - People don't understand all issues
 - High cost of living
 - Living here is more expensive
 - Giving people just enough is not a solution
 - Poverty is over-whelming
 - People cope in unhealthy ways. E.g crime/ staying in a relationship because of nowhere to go/drugs or alcohol /Prostitution
- Transportation
 - Lack of transportation (affordable)
 - There are a lack of busses on Sundays
 - Cheaper housing is not served by bus route
 - Vehicle needs winter tires
 - Rural areas are forced to have high costs (\$6000 additional) to run a vehicle in a rural area
 - Help people to get transportation to the shelter
 - Streets aren't cleaned in winter and are not accessible to people in wheelchairs
- Food Security
 - Getting fresh fruits and veggies not economical
 - It's more expensive to buy nutritious food
 - Money for bread and food (\$2.50 per day)
- Employment
 - Not a lot of full time employment but lots of part time employees (e.g. Super Store)
 - Jobs created can't support a family – minimum wage is too low
 - Employment ads say 'must be working'

- Childcare
 - o Unless you make enough for a sitter – you have to decide whether you pay for sitter or do you stay home?
 - o Childcare is challenging – cost and availability
 - o Cost of clothing for children
- Health Care
 - o Dental care is out of reach for children and everyone
 - o Dental coverage need beyond basic—they make people get a temporary fix, not a crown
 - o Service fees for chiropractor
 - o People on fixed income face a real crisis when they have unexpected medical or dental costs
 - o A lot of medical services force you to go Calgary (increased travel costs)
- Families
 - o Parents travelling to work – poverty affects parent to child connection
 - o Social exclusion has an impact on kids
 - o Kids notice when lunches are inadequate (not hot)
- Seniors and Social Isolation
 - o Poverty isolates seniors
 - o Senior people can't participate as easily especially if you are poor
 - o Can cause feeling of depression or hopelessness
 - o Stress of poverty causes fear of 'what if'
- Government Supports
 - o The amount of social assistance is low and never enough to cope/ get by
 - o Pensions have not gone up
- Food Security
 - o Eating unhealthy causes problems
 - o Foods available at the food bank means that you eat a lot of starch
 - o People on fixed income can't afford basic needs in life
- Lack of Supports
 - o Poverty causes youth to be displaced
 - o Lack of support for abused women/men
 - o Lack of help for the abuser (why is the person doing that?)
- First Nations
 - o Reconciliation is not actioned – government spent millions
 - o Services are not available on reserve and out of town
 - o Elders in FN may find it difficult if they don't know the people assisting them
 - o Residential schools and foster care have left a bad legacy
- Children and Youth
 - o Foster care is not a solution – making sure the child is safe is not good enough
 - o The amount of money poured into the foster care system should ensure better results
 - o Trauma and people are simply left to deal with it – passed onto kids (generational)
 - o Parents want to get kids back but the system works against this

- Child welfare is not a solution
- Kids looking for belonging yet feel as if they are in prison
- Poor parents are doing their best
- Give single parents more flexibility for employment and training
- If you want to change the future – you have to invest in kids
- Education
 - Give them education but they will also need much more money to break free of poverty
 - Lack of education is an obstacle
 - Strong start program is good but need to do more for kindergarten and early learning
- Transportation
 - There is a Handydart but it is not readily available
 - Interior Health runs a bus but transportation is a huge problem
- Programs and Resources
 - Resources and services have an income based user fees – income tested
 - It is hard to get help from a services coordinator (this role could be expanded)
 - Elder abuse goes under-reported
 - Programs often overlap
 - Lots of volunteer services/programs (e.g. shopping) but people don't know about them or how to access them
 - Seniors are hesitant and wary to trust new people --need people to advocate for seniors
- Housing
 - Low income seniors often have to live with family which can cause tension and abuse
 - Expensive rent and lack of affordable housing
 - Housing challenges for working poor
 - Discrimination in who gets housing
 - References required – this is restrictive against a class of people
 - No pets, no kids policy by some landlords
 - Ageist rental practices
 - Single person must live on \$750 but in Cranbrook rent is \$750 for 1 bedroom
 - Need student housing and more students coming in
 - Increase in housing options not related to the population increase
 - Had shortage, now bigger shortage
 - Poor quality rentals
 - City zoning restricts options
 - Can't increase height for greater density, or more housing options
 - Abandoned buildings could be used for housing
 - Shortage of senior housing (answer of private care not appropriate or desired by all, nor accessible or affordable)
- Stigma
 - Lack of awareness of poverty (“hidden problem”)
 - Poverty related events need to be better advertised
 - Stigma – “not in my back yard attitude”

- People think of homeless in tent cities
- Need for stats on poverty (good data would lead to more stable, higher funding)
- People aren't aware of just how pervasive poverty is in communities
- Services
 - Funding for non-profits inconsistent
 - No stability for agencies or clients
 - Low funding, low staff, but high needs
 - "Even when funding is cut, you don't lose number of people who need services"
 - Street Angels forced to shut down 2 days a week
 - Clients forced to seek shelter at library/stores etc.
 - The services provided are focused on a particular population. The coverage provided is inadequate for population in need
- Seniors
 - Lack of funding for medical services
 - No funding to buy equipment like walker or hearing aid (walker = \$200, hearing aids = \$4000-\$5000)
 - Hearing aids need to be replaced approx. every 6 years
 - Pensions are not adequate for living, especially in the context of increased medical expenses
- Food Security
 - No place that hands out food vouchers when people are in need/ hungry
 - Sometimes not able to eat for days
 - Food bank is only available once every 30 days
 - The amount of food that people can have is only sufficient for 1 week
 - Food vouchers are only available to participants in certain meetings
 - Cost of food is too high
- Transportation
 - Taxi are too high priced, therefore some people have to walk which requires a certain level of ability or they have to go without
 - Curbs are not accessible, so it can be difficult
 - Bus service is inadequate, there are not enough routes
 - It can be icy and dangerous to walk in winter
 - People can't access sports/leisure activities/arts/music (due to lack of transport)
 - There are only limited transportation vouchers
 - No transit to lakes
 - Cranbrook is gorgeous and has lots of private transportation to access it
 - No public transportation to Jim Smith Provincial Park
- Children
 - Funding for kids/families is limited
 - School fees in public schools can be a real barrier
 - Fees can mean that poor children are shut out

- Parents have to pay to rent musical instrument with credit card to take part in band class
- Social Inclusion
 - Important to address community inclusion
- Housing
 - Need safe, affordable housing province-wide
 - The cost of utilities is too high
 - Depending on the housing, utilities can cost anywhere from \$100-\$200 to \$400-\$500 per month
 - BC Housing needs to provide support
 - Need more second stage housing
- Addictions/ mental health
 - Need for home care supports
 - Need for housing with supports
 - Outreach
- Life skills
 - People need life skills support when moving into housing
 - People need basic life skills training
 - Some need support to deal with issues of hoarding
- Employment
 - More support for workers
 - People are overworked and underpaid
- Services and Supports
 - Ministry government programs being cut or given to non-profits
 - Offices are being closed
 - No-one will help address generational poverty
 - Government funding cuts to social/non-profit programs and organizations have reduced the capacity of the sector to respond
 - Non-profit development for community workers
 - People need money in pockets to meet their basic needs
 - Lack of long term strategy for addressing poverty – government policy
- Access to Services
 - There is a lack of social workers in Ministry offices
 - Cut backs mean that staff are now clerks instead of social workers
 - You don't know all the resources
 - Workers often don't connect the people to the right services
- Daycare
 - High day care costs
 - Lack of daycare places
 - The costs of daycare in Cranbrook (12 hour pre-school, \$150 per month)
- Geographic Differences
 - Urban/rural divides

- Money goes to bigger communities
- Smaller communities suffer lack of programming
- Food Security
 - Food costs rising in Cranbrook and rural communities
 - Dental fee guide for dental work, but no caps for food prices
 - Can't live without food yet food prices raised at holidays/ cheque day
- Health Care
 - No walk-in clinic in town
 - If you don't have family doctor, you have to go to emergency
 - Can't afford deductible for medical expenses
 - Rising cost of medication (\$2000/month with 80\$ reduction)
 - People can't afford medication so they cut or eliminate medication
 - Doctor's pick and choose their patients
 - Poor people forced to go to hospital
 - Can't access a doctor to fill out forms
 - Can't access support services
 - Can't get disability form signed
- Intergenerational Poverty
 - Singles moms, grandparents in poverty are raising children in poverty
 - Stereotype of what is poverty, single vs. family (divorces need to be separated)
- Mental Health and Addictions
 - Need more mental health nurses/ services
 - Addiction issues are prevalent
 - Lack of prevention --provide kits but lack of funding for prevention
 - It is a waste of resources to enable people with addictions
 - Addictions results in higher emergency costs
 - Lack of support for people with addictions issues
 - Nowhere for them to go
 - Lack of support can lead to overdoses multiple times
 - In justice system, dealers need to be prosecuted
 - More money in prevention is needed
 - Quick fix/ low cost budgets can leave people further behind and cost more
- Education
 - Poor education creates more poor education - a vicious cycle
 - Children aren't getting supports at home, suffer in school
 - Early childcare education: kids being parented at school
 - Multiple children from same family in care
 - More investment in education and prevention
- MCFD and Support for Families
 - Families not able to support their children
 - Decrease cost of birth control
 - Mental health supports for prevention is needed

- MCFD provides supports and services to kids in care but not grandmothers
- Need to recognize the unique family situations
- Judgement from workers who are often skeptical of what clients need
- Access to Ministry Services
 - Clients banned from the Ministry offices and they cannot access services they need
 - Lack of social workers or people with training in the Ministry/local office in Cranbrook
 - Need the ability to customize policies to clients
 - Need to look at how people are treated in local office, dignity and respect have been stripped away
 - Workers are doing the best they can with limited resources
 - It is also necessary to recognize the realities that there are excellent workers, however, however it is a completely impersonal system now with phone and on-line service orientation
 - System is impractical and impersonal
 - There is not enough money to go around, need to work smarter. Can't provide services and need a tax increase to support needs
- Health Care
 - There is a shortage of services in healthcare
 - Need to hire more doctors/nurses
 - Lack of doctors, especially for low income
- Housing
 - Pets are family, but pets aren't allowed in subsidized housing "I'd rather live in my car"
 - Unsafe
 - No availability
 - Lack of options
 - A lot of homelessness
 - Affordability issues
 - Low subsidy and no increase in subsidy
 - Need help right away to find safe housing
 - Seniors face real housing challenges
 - Replacing appliances is expensive
 - Affordable housing is not available
 - High cost of living
 - BC Housing stopped building affordable housing
 - Coordination between organizations and the city is lacking
 - Zoning/lack of land/cost of building
- Employment
 - Many barriers to employment
 - Need training for all ages (not just for youth)
- Childcare
 - No childcare so parents have to stay home (unable to work)
 - Costly

- Lack of legal/proper daycare spaces
- Not enough after school programs
- Long waiting lists
- Lack of early childhood education – wages too low
- Income
 - All sectors including social sector have low wages
 - Minimum wage – living wage locally
- Loan Sharks
 - Loan and pawn shops prey on people with low income
 - They are not regulated
- Issues of Poverty
 - Substance abuse
 - Low self-esteem
 - Health issues
 - Mental health
 - Cost of prescriptions
 - Low quality of life
 - Jail and crime
 - Health
 - Not enough food
 - Stress levels
- Schools/ Education
 - Free breakfast and lunch not available
 - Cuts in grants
 - Cuts in budgets for schools/programs
- Stigma
 - Lack of awareness
 - People don't see homelessness
 - Lack of communication
 - People in poverty are expected to always have gratitude for the handouts
 - Lack of support from community (lack of knowledge)
- Employment
 - Lack of entry level jobs
 - Not enough employers willing to hire employees
 - Need support and encouragement of the business community
 - Businesses are unaware of the issue of poverty
 - Businesses are fundraising for other causes, not poverty
- Children and Youth
 - Intervention in school system
 - Kids dropping out of school
 - Suicide rates increase
 - More emphasis on emotional intelligence

- Too much stress
- Poverty Cycle
 - Need to learn how to break the cycle
 - Increases to income assistance leads to increase in rent, food, etc. so never get ahead.
 - A lot of factors come together to keep people locked into poverty
 - Government decides your destiny, takes away choice
- Seniors
 - Elder abuse a big issue
 - Aging population--People over 55 face unique challenges (health, employment, etc)
- Food Services
 - Price of food
 - Difficulty getting healthy food
 - Can't feed children properly
- Employment
 - Low wages
 - Part time only
 - 20 hours per week
 - The employment that is available is unstable, unpredictable
 - Can't afford childcare to access work opportunities
 - More and more people losing jobs/ending up in poverty
 - Automation taking over low skill jobs (nothing else available)
 - Community is losing momentum
 - Things getting worse for those seeking employment
- Housing
 - Lack of safe places to live in Cranbrook
 - Affordability in Cranbrook: \$350,000 to buy; average rent \$1500/month
 - Discrimination from landlords
- Mental health
 - Lack of support
 - Poverty related mental health illnesses common

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

- Access to Government Services
 - o Need to have a Ministry office in Cranbrook
 - o Need more help for this part of the province
 - o So many problems because government/ Ministry paperwork is too slow. (2 dots)
 - o Victoria needs to upgrade how it thinks about people
- Homelessness
 - o 24 hours a day drop in centre so people have a place to go (5 dots)
 - o Need help in the shelter with food
- Health Care
 - o More doctors and nurse practitioners needed
 - o Acknowledge pot use for medical purposes
 - o Let nurse practitioners fill out paperwork to get medicinal pot
 - o Empower nurse practitioners (2 dots)
 - o Need a walk in clinic – all doctors are full (3 dots)
 - o Need more nurse practitioners to help people on the streets
 - o Make sure people can get dental care
 - o Dental care for seniors and other health supports
 - o 100% drug coverage
- Housing
 - o More housing needs to be built – keep those promises (5 dots)
 - o All types of housing needed
 - o Need to cap rents (e.g., \$400 10 years ago, \$900 now) (2 dots)
 - o Need housing and landlords to accept pets
 - o More accessible housing (ramps, elevators, grab bars, etc)
 - o Expand senior assistance program
- Services and Supports
 - o Make social assistance rates adequate to live on
 - o Stop cutting people off assistance (e.g. disability)
 - o People need to be able to speak up without fear that they will be cut off
 - o Different people have different needs
 - o More education and information – give people proper help
- Local Government
 - o City needs to recognize that there is a problem in Cranbrook and that people need more help
- Income
 - o Livable minimum wage
 - o Guaranteed Annual Income for everyone (not just for social assistance)

- Education
 - o More support for education
 - o Help for young people to get into a career
- First Nations
 - o Work in collaboration with First Nations
 - o Government working with FN to include them in society
 - o Education for non-FN to help them understand reconciliation/history of discrimination
 - o True collaboration involves time and understanding
 - o Build relationship with school district
 - o Workshops where people come to learn
 - o Share knowledge of traditional food/plants
 - o Walk with FN around town and talked about their history and their story
 - o Start working with community in FN territory
 - o Educate community and bring funding
 - o How can we all work together to understand FN reconciliation
- Employment
 - o Government should reward businesses that give low income people work
 - o Incentive/ tax breaks – instead of giving bonus to executives
- Housing
 - o Create more affordable housing
 - o Housing is biggest cost
 - o People spend 80% of income on housing.
 - o Government should help people in low income access housing
 - o Monitoring of landlords (3 dots)
 - o Must follow Tenancy Act, not allowed to be discriminatory
 - o Follow safety and cleanliness standards
 - o Age restricted or ability –restricted rentals not permitted
 - o Town hall meetings with landlords and renters to air issues/ concerns
 - o More low income housing (5 dots)
 - o Build low cost steel container houses
 - o Rental caps
- Food Security
 - o Discourage food waste
 - o Community gardens on abandoned lots (leads to purpose, inclusion, access to healthy food)
 - o Encourage stores to offer expiring food to those in need
- Seniors
 - o Educate people on elder abuse
 - o Care networks that are paid instead of volunteers (preventative)
 - o Prevent falls/mental health abuse/healthcare/ check ins
 - o Better safety net so seniors don't fall into poverty – maybe a crisis fund? (2 dots)
 - o More home visits unless palliative care – no home visits

- Supports and Services
 - o More preventative services
 - o Understand obstacles that people in poverty face – rules become obstacles
 - o More funding for non-profit staff
 - o More vouchers for food, activities, transport
- Health Care
 - o Free medical and education like in Norway
 - o Mondays/ or some day of the week should be set aside as a day when people could get free medical/ dental care. (E.g. subsidized by Government on Mondays at Dentists) (2 dots)
- Community
 - o Collaboration between services/agencies
 - o Agencies come together to identify gaps and then work together to produce complete service needs of community
 - o More awareness of resources needed in community. Hold regular meetings to discuss (3 dots)
 - o Encourage philanthropy in town and people helping people/ volunteers
- Stigma
 - o Getting, spreading, educating on poverty (stats are important), including senior poverty (5 dots)
 - o Inclusion language around not only age, race, gender, religion but also class/ poverty
- Transportation
 - o Provide affordable and accessible transit
 - o Increase running times/frequency of regional bus (usually hits each town only twice per week)
 - o Public transit to specialist medical services (e.g. some services in Calgary)
 - o Increase bus routes and times (“I have to walk home from work at night by myself and I don’t feel safe”) – should be smaller but more buses. Ideal time would be 6am – Midnight. This would employ more bus drivers!
- Health Care
 - o Publicly funded program to help seniors pay for necessary medical expenses (e.g.: hearing aids every 5 years, glasses, walker) (4 dots)
 - o Allow people to have individual care plans or make individual choices
- Food Security
 - o Grocery food cap
 - o Grocery stores food waste – find ways to use food leftover/thrown out
 - o Food security nutrition education (3 dots)
- Inequality
 - o Make the system more fair/equitable “80% of all income in top 2%)
- Life Skills
 - o Better life skills education needed
 - o Money management to be taught in school

- Government Policy and Services
 - o Look at others to find success – what is working in other countries/provinces
 - o Government to put more money into education system, extracurricular, food programs
 - o Address generational poverty, systemic issues
 - o More social workers, qualified workers within the local offices who can work with clients and advocate for them
- Supports
 - o Provide more funding for non-profit workers, for professional development
 - o Continue funding programs that are working. E.g. pilot programs
 - o Provide more money for families, people don't have enough to live on
 - o Offer extracurricular activities for kids/families (inclusion, mental health)
 - o Access to immediate support
 - o Funding (sustainable/operational)
- Mental Health
 - o Prevention and education in all aspects – mental, emotional, physical
- Child Care
 - o Childcare rates too high
 - o There is the need for childhood educators (3 dots)
 - o Lack of day care
 - o Increase income limit for subsidy
- Housing
 - o Affordable/low cost housing needed
 - o Increase in shelter rates needed
 - o Housing – build more housing units, broad spectrum of options
 - o Rental subsidies – stable long term, non-project funding
- Employment
 - o Remove barriers to employment
 - o Training/education
 - o Provide transport to places of employment
 - o Create opportunity for low income
 - o Increase employment, better working condition and living wages (living wage) (4 dots)
 - o Businesses more involved in supporting workers “employees shouldn't be on welfare”
- Health Care
 - o Hire more doctors
 - o Counselling services
 - o Change PWD policy so nurses can do it; more health care professionals
- Education/awareness
 - o Awareness of issues
 - o More leadership from government
 - o Increase awareness of what is available
 - o Free or subsidized medical and education

- Housing
 - o Need a housing committee
 - o Communication between stakeholders needs to be better
 - o Everybody deserves a place to live
 - o Speed up process for building social housing
- Homelessness
 - o Have a shelter open year round (currently only open in October through March) (2 dots)
 - o Use empty buildings to create shelters
 - o Build a shelter with lounging area and space for drop in during the day
 - o Need for places in the community where homeless people can be made comfortable/relax
 - o Lack of operational budget to keep programs and places going
- Food Security
 - o Teaching people how to budget
 - o Community gardens
 - o Gardens in schools
 - o Cooking classes on a budget for families and children/ high school students
- Life Skills
 - o Teach life skills for teenagers
 - o Budgeting courses
 - o Teenagers working to support family
 - o Parenting workshops
 - o Friendship centres/community centre/free activities
- Housing
 - o Portland declared homelessness an emergency and all resources were put towards it
 - o Legislate for and develop more tiny houses
 - o Provide individual/safe place
 - o Change legislation for people to donate
 - o More affordable housing (5 Dots)
 - o Legislation (housing/against poverty)
 - o More safe, appropriate and affordable low income housing
- Stigma
 - o Landlords discriminate against people with disability
 - o Make awareness a priority (1 dot)
- Transportation
 - o Increase bus routes and times
 - o Some people have to walk home from work at night and don't feel safe
 - o Transportation to community events, lakes, skating, senior card nights
 - o Transportation from rural area to city for groceries, medical appointments, work, etc.
 - o Transportation service would help with employment