

East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty

March, 2023



poverty



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Advisory Committee

- Helen Baron
Executive Director, Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce
- Susan Clovechok
Regional District of East Kootenay, Area F Director
- Elaina Englesby
Director of Administration, NEXUS Community Support Society
- Alison Facey
Community Literacy Outreach Coordinator, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
- Mark Fercho
CAO, City of Cranbrook
- Donna Fields
Regional Coordinator, Cranbrook Office, United Way British Columbia, Southern Interior
- Laura Kennedy
Office Manager, Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce
- Ingrid Liepa
President, Kimberley Health Centre Society
- Erin Pan
Homeless Outreach & Prevention Coordinator, Community Connections Society of Southeast BC
- Austin Parisien
Executive Director, Kootenay Métis Housing Society
- Ron Popoff
Councillor, City of Cranbrook
- Tracy Pound
Homeless Prevention Coordinator, Community Connections Society of Southeast BC
- Wayne Price
Mayor, City of Cranbrook
- Nancy Reid
Executive Director, Community Connections Society of Southeast BC
- Rita Romeo
Program Coordinator, East Kootenay Child Care Resource & Referral
- Paul Vogt
President, College of the Rockies
- Kerri Wall
Healthy Communities Facilitator, Interior Health

Conference Planning Committee

Helen Baron
Executive Director, Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce

Susan Clovechok
Regional District of East Kootenay, Area F Director

Mark Fercho
CAO, City of Cranbrook

Laura Kennedy
Office Manager, Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce

Ron Popoff
Councillor, City of Cranbrook

Paul Vogt
President, College of the Rockies

Russell Workun
Project Lead/Coordinator

In addition to the guidance of the two Committees and delivered through the Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce the East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty project includes, but has not been limited to, the collective participation of:

- ✓ BCHousing
- ✓ City of Cranbrook
- ✓ Columbia Basin Trust
- ✓ Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
- ✓ Cranbrook Community Social Planning Society
- ✓ Cranbrook Office, United Way British Columbia, Southern Interior
- ✓ Deputy Ministers Council of British Columbia
- ✓ Interior Health
- ✓ Kootenay Metis Housing Society
- ✓ Ktunaxa Tribal Council
- ✓ Ministry of Education and Child Care
- ✓ Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
- ✓ Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- ✓ Mount Baker Secondary School
- ✓ Numerous non-profits and local governments throughout BC, Alberta and Ontario,
- ✓ Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort
- ✓ Project Manager, Union of BC Municipalities
- ✓ Regional District of East Kootenay
- ✓ The Tamarack Institute
- ✓ Tom Shypitka, Kootenay East MLA

Executive Summary

The East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty project evolved from the earlier Cranbrook and Area Poverty Reduction Plan that identified what was happening in our region, what changes we wanted to see and what we needed to do together. The focus of the new project was to develop a strategy to help people out of their poverty barrier.

Through various planning sessions a proposal was submitted and approved by the Union of BC Municipalities. The City of Cranbrook and Regional District of East Kootenay were the primary partners, Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce the Managing Partner, and College of the Rockies as a Partner for planning.

The program started with a two-day regional conference held in Cranbrook to hear about best practices in other communities. The event focused on four topics:

- Employment/Income
- Child Care
- Affordable Housing
- Mental Health

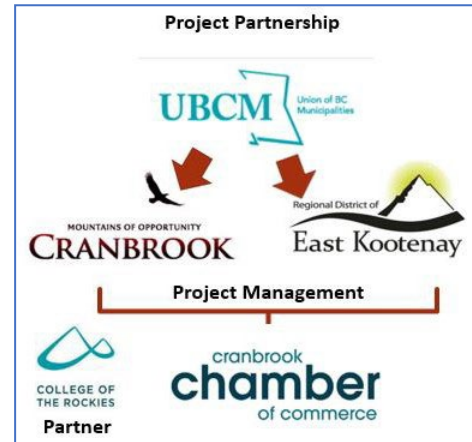
Invited attendees from the East Kootenay region heard guest speakers from various community agencies in BC and representatives from government ministries share their stories about the work they were doing to reduce poverty impact. In addition to questions and answers after the presentations, break-out sessions allowed the audience to discuss the topics and share their thoughts with the rest of the group.

From the examples heard about the programs in other communities, one common element appeared; each was started by having one person dedicated to the program who was not restricted by the limitations of any one society or ministry. They were able to collaboratively work with local government and agencies to pull in resources for the task at hand. The research conducted with numerous communities prior to the conference revealed similar beginnings. Often the one-person role grew into more staff or the creation of a non-profit society working at arm's length to local government. Modifying these community models into a regional replica became the focus for the next phase of the East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty.

The initial hypothesis was to develop a position that would interact with community agencies throughout the East Kootenay to provide additional local support. The premise was that helping people find help in their own community would reduce the need for travel to Cranbrook, where more social support is available. The concept, albeit still in a raw stage, was presented to the Cranbrook City Council and District of East Kootenay Board of Directors where permission was received to continue developing the next steps.

Further analysis determined this plan was not the best way to start. One person interacting with agencies in each community would be too challenging, and the scattered approach would have limited results. The Planning Committee determined a main regional issue must be identified so this person could focus on reducing the most urgent problem.

During recent years Cranbrook has seen an increase in people migrating to the city seeking help. The community is seeing more encampments along city waterways and locations not suitable for such activity. The numbers are expected to increase substantially with the warmer weather. Community feedback and



stigma has intensified, much of it concerned with growing petty crime, litter, abandoned drug paraphernalia, lack of washroom use, and growing aggressiveness. Social agencies attempting to help are at capacity.

Interviews with people living rough indicated all but two came from other communities in the East Kootenay region. Clearly Cranbrook, as the social hub for the East Kootenay, is forced to deal with a regional problem. This reality became the focus for developing the proposed position.

Recognizing Cranbrook is ‘Ground Zero’ for a growing regional problem indicates the challenge needs to be addressed in Cranbrook rather than in the communities individuals are leaving. Managing the influx and providing the help being sought requires a commitment from both the City of Cranbrook and Regional District of East Kootenay to provide resources to start and sustain the program. Both assemblies have agreed to the responsibility and made a financial commitment. A position has been created to work “boots on the ground” with applicable social agencies to help relieve the stress put on city bylaw, emergency first responders, and the Cranbrook Regional Hospital.

A second program has been developed to work on a broader scale with community organizations. The work will include identifying and suggesting policy changes about bureaucratic obstacles for poverty reduction. A proposal for this project has been submitted under the Union of BC Municipalities’ next phase of poverty reduction funding.

In conclusion, the work of the East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty has been successful in using the best practice examples from other communities to develop an innovative program applicable to the needs seen in this region. The collaborative work of the partners has resulted in commitments by the City of Cranbrook and Regional District of East Kootenay. Work on implementing the plan has started.

Russell Workun, MBA
Project Lead/Coordinator

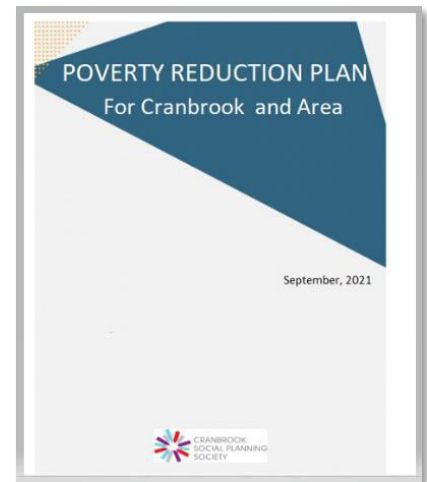


Introduction

The East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty follows the Cranbrook and Area Poverty Reduction Plan completed September, 2021. The earlier project examined the impact of poverty in the East Kootenay region through a focus on four questions:

- i) What is happening throughout the region right now?
- ii) What is the lived experience of poverty in Cranbrook and the Regional District of East Kootenay?
- iii) What changes do we want to see?
- iv) What can we do together?

We learned Cranbrook, as the largest community and regional hub of East Kootenay, is the primary location for many regional social service organizations, including the East Kootenay Regional Hospital. Unfortunately, poverty is not restricted to the hub city. Communities in the Columbia Valley and Elk Valley struggle with resources that are limited and overwhelmed to manage the local pressure. The lack of capacity to meet the needs of their vulnerable population results in a migration to Cranbrook out of necessity.



The growing numbers in Cranbrook stretch the capacity of the social service organizations. Many of the non-profits are underfunded with limited staff while attempting to address the increasing demand. Living experience individuals and families often wait for assistance while trying to cope with their struggle through whatever means available. The burden placed on staff impacts the level of service. A growing number of First Responders, for example, are on stress leave caused from the numerous calls about people under substance influence, overdoses, drug deaths, and impacts of severe weather on people living rough. Plus, we still see the impact of COVID on front line health workers, which adds to the wait time for addressing health issues of living experience people who are without a family physician.

Our communities are looking for a way to help those most vulnerable. In most cases, the desired changes come through a sense of compassion; helping those who are in need. There is also an atmosphere for solving a civil problem, especially in Cranbrook where a portion of the vagrant population is involved with petty crimes of theft and vandalism, drug paraphernalia left on public grounds, and a growing aggressiveness towards women and seniors. Unfortunately, the actions of a few are causing a stigma labelled to the many. However, this negative perception has also helped to increase pressure for change. The status quo of working in organizational and community silos continues to stretch resources, which emphasizes the need for working together to develop collaborative solutions.

The East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty was developed with a vision to connect and inspire collaboration to eliminate poverty in the East Kootenay.

Process

The East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty was developed by a Project Committee representing the City of Cranbrook, Regional District of East Kootenay, Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce, College of the Rockies, and the previous Cranbrook and Area Poverty Reduction Plan. Consensus recognized the community already knows what the problems are; there is no need for another project to identify poverty indicators or how people in poverty are being supported. Over the last few years many of the non-profits engaged in workshops identifying poverty issues. The work of the Cranbrook and Area Poverty Reduction Plan helped clarify these issues by defining the current state of affairs and future demands. It was time to find a way to help people out of poverty.

The Project Committee agreed there would be value in hearing about best practices from other communities; to learn what others were doing to address their poverty challenges. The best way to share these stories was to hold a regional conference with guest speakers.

Through a series of meetings, a conference was planned for the end of June 2022, held at the College of the Rockies. The college has experience organizing, hosting, and marketing such an event. Onsite residences and college cafeteria provide lodging and meal options. In June students complete their studies, freeing use of the lecture theatre for group presentations and classrooms for break-out sessions.

While conference planning was taking place, the Union of BC Municipalities announced the next phase of poverty reduction funding, the 2022 Poverty Reduction Planning and Action program. Committee members submitted a proposal for a one-year project, starting with a regional conference and leading to an action plan(s) to develop a program(s) from the information shared during the event. On April 22, 2022 confirmation was received from UBCM that the East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty application was approved.

The approval, however, necessitated amendments to the initial planning. Although the planning for the East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty program began in February, an April confirmation date do not provide adequate time to organize the conference for the June date. In addition, the Province of BC, with the opportunity to make announcements of funding approvals under this program, requested information regarding this funding approval be kept in confidence until May 10, 2022. The program requirement for all project activities be completed within one year of approval meant waiting until next June to use college facilities was no longer an option.

The Planning Committee decided the Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce, with its expertise in organizing these kinds of events, would become the managing partner for the program. This decision was especially pertinent because the Chamber recently hosted two public forums about the impact of poverty in Cranbrook. Managing this project on behalf of the City of Cranbrook and the Regional District of East Kootenay would be a continuation of the community desire for action expressed in the forums. A Project Lead/Coordinator was designated and an Advisory Committee was established. The Advisory Committee consisted of the Planning Committee, most committee members from the previous project, and representatives for the Columbia Valley and Elk Valley. The UBCM Program Officer was informed the conference date would be changed from the June date indicated in the application to October.

The Conference

An invitational two-day conference was scheduled for October 28 and 29, 2023 at the Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort in Cranbrook to focus on four major topics intertwined with poverty:

1. Employment/Income
2. Child Care
3. Affordable Housing
4. Mental Health

Pre-conference activity included researching and communicating with local government administrators and non-profits throughout BC and Canada to learn about their innovative programs for helping people out of poverty. Engagement included discussions about how the solutions evolved, who were the participants, where funding was obtained, challenges faced and overcome, community perception, program sustainability, and results seen from the work. From this interaction speakers for each topic were invited to share their stories at the conference.

Ministry representation was considered important for the conference. The Deputy Ministers Council of British Columbia assisted in providing appropriate contacts with the Provincial Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADM's). Invitations to speak at the conference were sent through the ADM's offices and, once confirmed, arrangements were made for travel dates and accommodations.

Prior to the conference, a virtual meeting was held with the presenters to serve as an introduction and hear about the information each would present. This helped the transition from one presentation to the next.

The Planning Committee decided the two-day conference should be at no charge for invited attendees. The invitation list included community members from throughout the East Kootenay region involved with supporting vulnerable people. Their experience would contribute to the break-out sessions and help create action plans for moving forward with collaborative poverty reduction work. Through the Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce invitations with an electronic registration capability were emailed to non-profits, mayors and councils, candidates running in the October municipal election, RDEK Directors, local MLAs, local government administrators, indigenous organizations, people with lived/living experience, educators, RCMP, fire departments, businesses, and churches providing assistance to people who are struggling. Conference expenses were supported by sponsorship from the Columbia Basin Trust.



Unfortunately, the date of the region's municipal elections was thirteen days prior to the conference. Although earlier engagement with local mayors and councillors indicated an interest to attend, it was not possible to know who would be elected and who could attend. Those elected would not be sworn into office until their scheduled November meeting. However, arrangements were made with some

Conference Mission, Vision, Values

Vision: To connect and inspire collaboration to eliminate poverty in the East Kootenay.

Mission: A conference where the meaningful sharing of best practices, lessons learned, inspired conversations and commitments to collaborate inspires and creates action to eliminate of poverty in the East Kootenay.

Values: We value creativity
We value innovation
We value collaboration
We value respect
We value inclusiveness
We value solution thinking
We value community

communities to have a staff member present who would then report back to Council. Fortunately, Cranbrook’s Mayor and Councillors were able to attend in their formal capacity because they were sworn in October 27, one day before the conference.

The conference provided a work-experience opportunity for students in the Health and Human Services faculty at College of the Rockies. Two students and an instructor assisted The Chamber of Commerce with the registration desk at the conference, attended the sessions, and, along with volunteers, took notes during break-out work.

CONFERENCE DAY 1

Social Services Landscape

After opening prayers by a Ktunaxa elder and a parish priest, the first session of the conference provided a Social Services Landscape of the East Kootenay region. The audience was asked to write the names of organizations providing services to the public and use colored sticky notes to represent the Central (Cranbrook – Kimberley), Elk Valley and Columbia Valley regions. Once placed on the wall comparisons could be made to indicate the support available between communities. It was evident many of the services in the Central Area were not available in the other communities, meaning people looking for help from certain resources had to either travel or struggle without help. This would be an important factor in the action plan developed through the project.



Employment/Income

Martin Stegman, Director, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation provided an overview of current employment, income and tax statistics for Cranbrook and the Kootenays compared to BC averages based through recent 2021 statistics. Information was shared about reasons why people are not at work, including illness, school and personal / family responsibilities.

Labour Participation / Unemployment (2021)

Kootenay Labour Force Participation Rate of 61.0% vs. B.C. Labour Force Participation Rate of 65.3%
 For Cranbrook, this translates to 6,821 individuals aged 15+ or 1,941 individuals aged 15-64

Reasons for Not Looking for Work (BC)

Reason	2019	2020	2021
Illness	30.1%	17.3%	23.8%
Personal / Family Responsibilities	18.4%	11.2%	16.2%
School	21.2%	13.3%	13.3%
Await Recall / Reply	4.1%	11.2%	9.3%
Other	20.5%	28.2%	23.9%

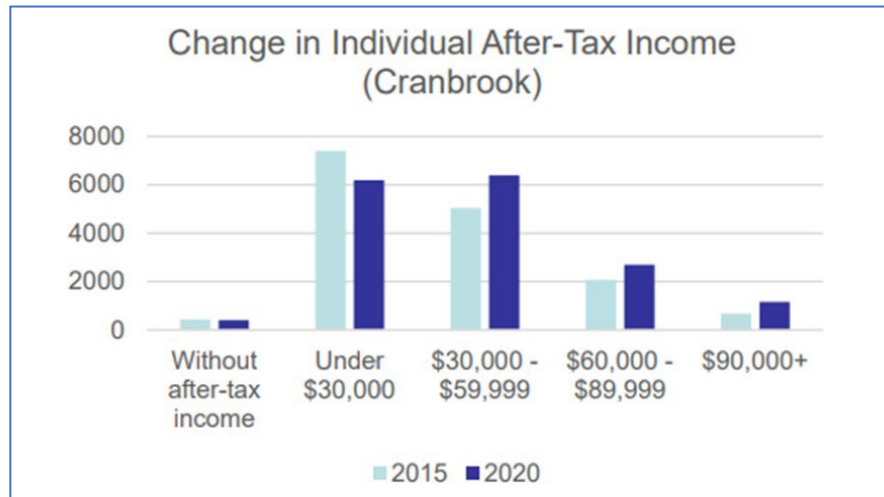
Ministry Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Income Growth

Individual After-Tax Median Income					
	2015	2019	2020	% Change 2015-19	% Change 2019-20
British Columbia	\$29,783	\$36,800	\$39,200	23.6%	6.5%
Kootenays	\$29,358	\$34,000	\$36,400	15.8%	7.1%
Cranbrook	\$30,837	\$34,800	\$37,600	12.9%	8.0%

Ministry Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Income Distribution



Ministry Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

The Future Ready: Skills for the Jobs of Tomorrow Plan to accelerate talent development and skills training across the province was explained as part of the Stronger BC Economic Development Plan.

- Increase Indigenous economic development: Collaborate on an Indigenous-led economic development organization to advance consultations and collaborations between First Nations and Indigenous people and the province on economic opportunities.
- Advance Small Business Diversity and Inclusion: Ensuring underrepresented business owners have the support needed to scaleup and export to a global market.
- Close the Digital Divide: Accelerating our commitment to providing high speed internet to all B.C. homes.

Londa Morris and Lory Joly of Kootenay Employment Services shared information about their training programs assisting people into the workforce. Kootenay Employment Services has been delivering employment services in the Central Kootenays (Creston) since 1990 with offices in Creston, Cranbrook, Invermere and Fernie delivering:

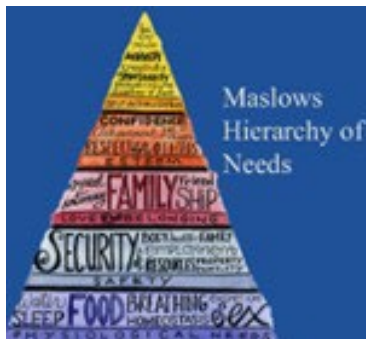
- WorkBC Program
- WorkSafeBC Program
- Service Canada Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program

- Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training programs for Older Workers, Youth (General), Youth (At-risk), Survivors of Violence/Abuse,
- Peers Program
- Daycare Facility “Blossom and Bud”
- Economic Action Partnership in the Creston Valley and Kootenay Lake
- P.A.R.T.Y. Program

The LINK Program funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training assists individuals experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

- 12-week program, mornings only
- Community partner-led workshops
- Personal counselling
- Breakfast program
- Community “peer” employment honoring lived experience of the clients
- Moving clients along the continuum of employment readiness. This is a “pre-employment” program, clients are not expected to achieve employment.

Over the last three years, there is seen a significant shift in clients with more significant barriers to employment, debilitating mental health, physical health conditions, violence/abuse, and housing instability. Lack of childcare is extreme in this region, for children under the age of 3, less than 5% of children will be able to access childcare in some of our communities.



Using Maslow’s hierarchy of needs as an example it was shown clients cannot job search effectively when they are faced with housing and food insecurity. The bottom rung of the hierarchy is where many clients find themselves. They lack the confidence to feel they are even worthy of the basic needs on the bottom of Maslow’s hierarchy. Many of the Kootenay Employment Services programs starts from there to build this confidence. It is necessary to think about employment supports in a holistic manner, to see the whole person, including their strengths and barriers, so the organization can put a comprehensive, often times long-term action plan in place. Connection is the most critical component of

all of our programs. For many clients, the relationships formed from these programs with staff, peers and the community shift their perception of themselves and what they are capable of.

Rona Park and Rosa Hohner of the Leadership Roundtable in Nelson, BC. shared the growth and success of their Four-Year Action Strategy to Reduce Poverty in Nelson 2022-2026. A key component of the program stresses the need for Financial Literacy Skills Training as a poverty reduction strategy. The program significantly alters the likelihood of living a life of poverty for low-income, poverty-vulnerable youth age 19-24 by:

1. Teaching financial literacy skills and providing some practical experience.
2. Provide resources to manage money and other tangible benefits.
3. Help strengthen employability opportunities by offering career mentoring and small educational bursaries.

Lessons learned through the program:

1. Financial literacy is a small but important part of an overall poverty reduction plan as it offers a good base for life.
2. Cannot separate financial literacy from the whole person.
3. Real life approach to the curriculum is essential to the success of participants feeling heard and respected as to their current life situations.
4. For higher level of engagement, participants should have a hand in designing the module topics relevant to them; find what motivates and inspires them.
5. Ensure a good basic level of math skills before starting (could provide an optional math upgrading module, for example).
6. Ensure there is enough time to go through tougher concepts (like compound interest) and enough social time.
7. Have policies in place in advance around stipends and bursaries.
8. Outreach to young men - or at least do more research into the value of co-ed vs gender specific groups.

Child Care

Michelle Kirby Manager of Partnerships and Engagement, Child Care and Community Services Branch, Child Care Division, Ministry of Education and Child Care shared financial support available through the Building Child Care in B.C. 2022 - Funding Available for BC Child Care 2021-2025:

- Provincial Dollars \$3.2 B
- Federal Dollars \$5.2 B

It was pointed out no proposals have been submitted from Cranbrook and the East Kootenay region,

ChildCareBC Plan progress:

- 30,500 new spaces under construction
- Services for up to 2000 more children needing extra support
- Reducing Parent fees by an average of 50% by the end of 2022
- \$10 a Day child care sites
- More ECE Dual Credit and Work Integrated Learning Programs
- Developing a wage grid and compensation standard
- Expanded ECE Wage enhancement of \$4/hour
- Early Learning and Child Care and ECE Legislation
- 20+ Seamless Day Kindergarten Pilot Programs

Early Childhood Educators of BC Bursary Funds

ECE Student Bursary
Up to \$500 per course, to a maximum of 8 courses, for a total of \$4,000 per semester to assist with tuition and living expenses while studying

ECE Workforce Bursary
Up to \$5,000 per semester to assist with tuition and other expenses such as loss of wages or travel

Community Workforce Response Grant
Provides funding for training a cohort of people who can fill a skill shortage in a community

Employer Training Grant Program

- \$10,000 per employee per fiscal year
- Employers are eligible to receive up to \$300,000 per fiscal year Work BC Training Funding

ChildCareBC Programs

- Operator Funding
- New Spaces Fund
- Major capital funding to build, renovate, or add new child care spaces Maintenance Fund
- Assists licensed providers in emergency circumstances
- Child Care Operating Funding
- Base payments for day-to-day costs of providing licensed child care
- Reducing Parent Fees

Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative

- Operating funding to providers to reduce fees
- Affordable Child Care Benefit
- Monthly payment to help eligible families with the cost of child care
- ChildCareBC \$10aDay Centres, Reduces the average cost of child care to \$200 a month (\$800 savings a month/child)

ChildCareBC Initiatives

- Supports Child Care Resource & Referral Centres
- Provides information and support to parents and child care providers
- Workforce ECE-Wage Enhancement
- \$4 an hour wage enhancement for eligible ECEs
- ECE Education Support Fund
- Bursary funding for ECE certification

ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund

- 100% provincially funded projects for public sector applicants
- Ongoing intake - No deadline for applications - No maximum funding caps,
- Prioritizing projects with a cost per space of \$40,000 or less
- Planning costs are now eligible for reimbursement with a successful application
- 6-8 weeks for processing a complete application
- Child care can be operated directly by public sector organization, or in partnership with a non-profit child care provider

ChildCareBC Operating Funding

- Child Care Operating Funding
- Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative
- Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement
- Affordable Child Care Benefit
- \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres

Morag Carter, Executive Director, The Skills Centre, Trail BC described the need for extended hour child care through recent surveys in the Lower Kootenay Region.

Employee Survey – 2,646 total personnel

- 1,400 Trail Operations personnel plus 40 Teck Resources Ltd. personnel working in Applied Research and Technology (A.R.T.)
- 1,246 Interior Health Authority personnel (Kootenay Boundary Hospitals and Communities Integrated Services)
 - 900 Acute Care and 346 Community Services personnel in Trail, Castlegar and area)

Employee Survey Highlights

- 13.4% response rate (360 responses)
- 75% of respondents live in the LCR; 20% in Castlegar; 5% elsewhere
- 61% of the respondents were female; 39% were male
- 70% of the respondents indicated being a parent/guardian/primary caregiver
- 8% were other family members helping with child care
- 20% were future parents
- 48% indicated having children

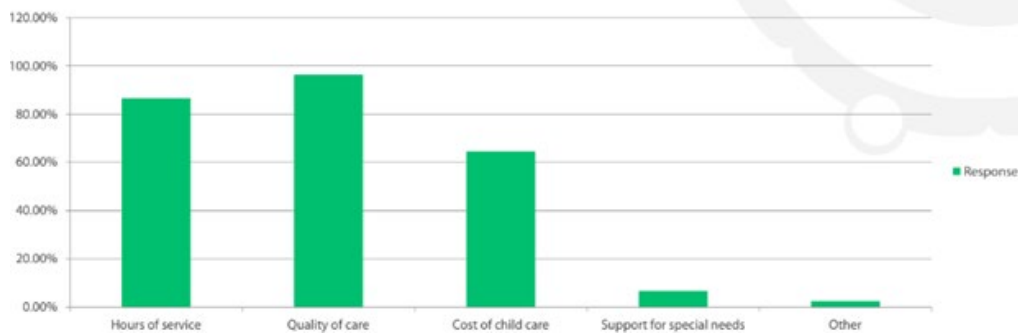
Impact on Employers and the Labour Market (Lower Columbia Region)

- 40% reported that they or their partner had decided not to seek employment
- 21% had decided to leave the workforce
- 38% had declined a job offer
- 56% had decided not to pursue other career opportunities
- 22% had decided not to return to work following parental leave

Feasibility and Gap Analysis

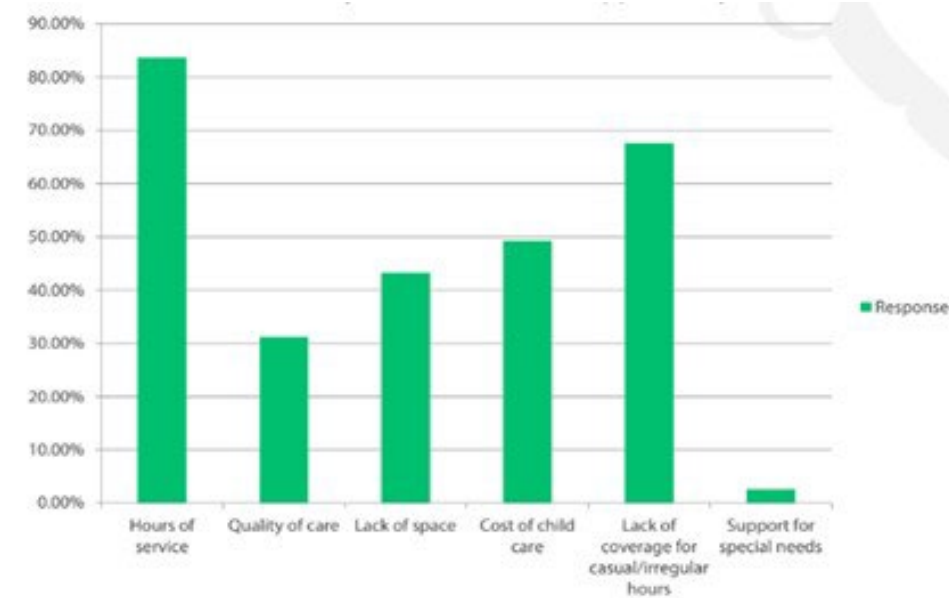
- On top of an overall shortage of child care spaces, there is a general lack of child care services prior to 7:30 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. as well as on weekends and during school holidays
- Shortage of qualified child care workers
- The report indicated a need for increased operational subsidies from the province, an issue which is now being addressed with improved funding for childcare by senior levels of government
- Capital funding is required to cover the full cost of facility purchase and either construction or renovation

Priorities for Choosing Child Care



Greater Trail and Castlegar Child Care Resource and Referral Survey

Challenges Experienced Accessing Child Care



Greater Trail and Castlegar Child Care Resource and Referral Survey

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Extended hour child care services are needed to support a rural, resource sector economy
- An extended hour child care centre is feasible with support from:
 - local employers
 - BC Government in the form of additional operating funding that recognizes the challenges of providing care outside of regular weekday hours; and
 - various funding sources and partners to address the initial capital costs of establishing a centre.

Jill Zacharias, BC Manager of Growth and Impact – Communities Ending Poverty, Tamarac Institute.

The informative presentation about poverty reduction included the following excerpts:

The Tamarack Institute is a connected force for community change – the vision is to help build the capacity of changemakers in cities and communities, within Canada and around the world. When we are effective in strengthening our collective capacity to engage citizens and lead collaboratively, the work of all of us contributes to the building of peace and to a more equitable society. We work as a field catalyst, to try and help make your work easier and more effective.

Many times, I've heard Tamarack's founder Paul Born say, *if what we were already doing was working, we would have ended poverty by now*. I've always loved this, because in a few short words it simultaneously catalyzes the need to question the status quo and analyze why what we are already doing isn't working, underscores a desire to think outside the box and explore new ideas and new ways of doing things, while at the same time articulating a clear vision of the end goal. Ending poverty. Simple words, big impact.

Poverty is one of the most complex social and economic problems of our time. Complex issues need a different kind of traction, but I think with poverty and affordability, we are beginning to see that traction. We are heading in the right direction and are beginning to see clear outcomes:

- In addition to strategy development, we have seen significant policy changes from higher levels of government- from minimum wage increases to child care cost decreases
- At the local level, through planning and advocacy, communities are building awareness of their local poverty challenges and what it's going to take to address it. Now, more than ever before, we are seeing more and more local governments across the country leading the work, better understanding their own levers and best practices.

At Tamarack, we don't see Collective Impact as the one silver bullet, but a way of working that is linked together with other interconnected practices: ongoing, meaningful community engagement, shared leadership and collaboration, a real commitment to innovation and a process of constant evaluation – we have tested and seen this approach effect positive, long-term change.

Dinner Entertainment: Mount Baker Secondary School Music

CONFERENCE DAY 2

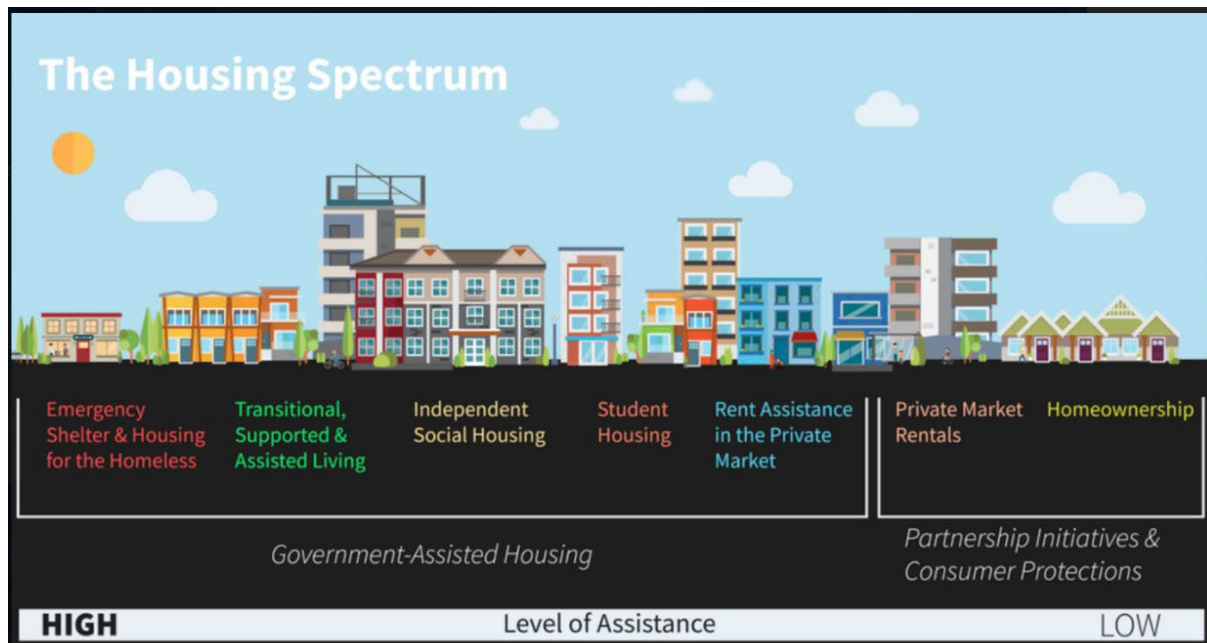
Affordable Housing

Jesse Tarbotton, Development Manager, BCHousing

The Nigel Valley project is a unique nine-acre parcel of lands. They are owned and operated by a collection of five housing and care operators that serve the needs of a variety of populations, including seniors, families, adults recovering from a mental illness and adults with developmental and physical disabilities. The partners recognized that by working together they could realize a better and more cohesive neighborhood plan, with less of an impact on existing tenants and clients, than each operator proceeding with redevelopment on their own. The province, through BC Housing, is leading the redevelopment in partnership with the federal government, Broadmead Care, Garth Homer Society, Garth Homer Foundation, Greater Victoria Housing Society, and Island Community Mental Health Association. The Nigel Valley redevelopment will be completed in three phases over the next decade. The phased approach will allow current residents to remain in their homes until construction of their new homes is complete.

The redevelopment will provide hundreds of new homes for individuals, families, seniors, veterans, people living with disabilities and people with mental-health challenges. This includes:

- Approximately 440 affordable rental homes;
- Approximately 255 units of market housing;
- 41 long-term care beds;
- 37 homes with supports for seniors and veterans; and
- 25 homes with supports for people with mental-health challenges.

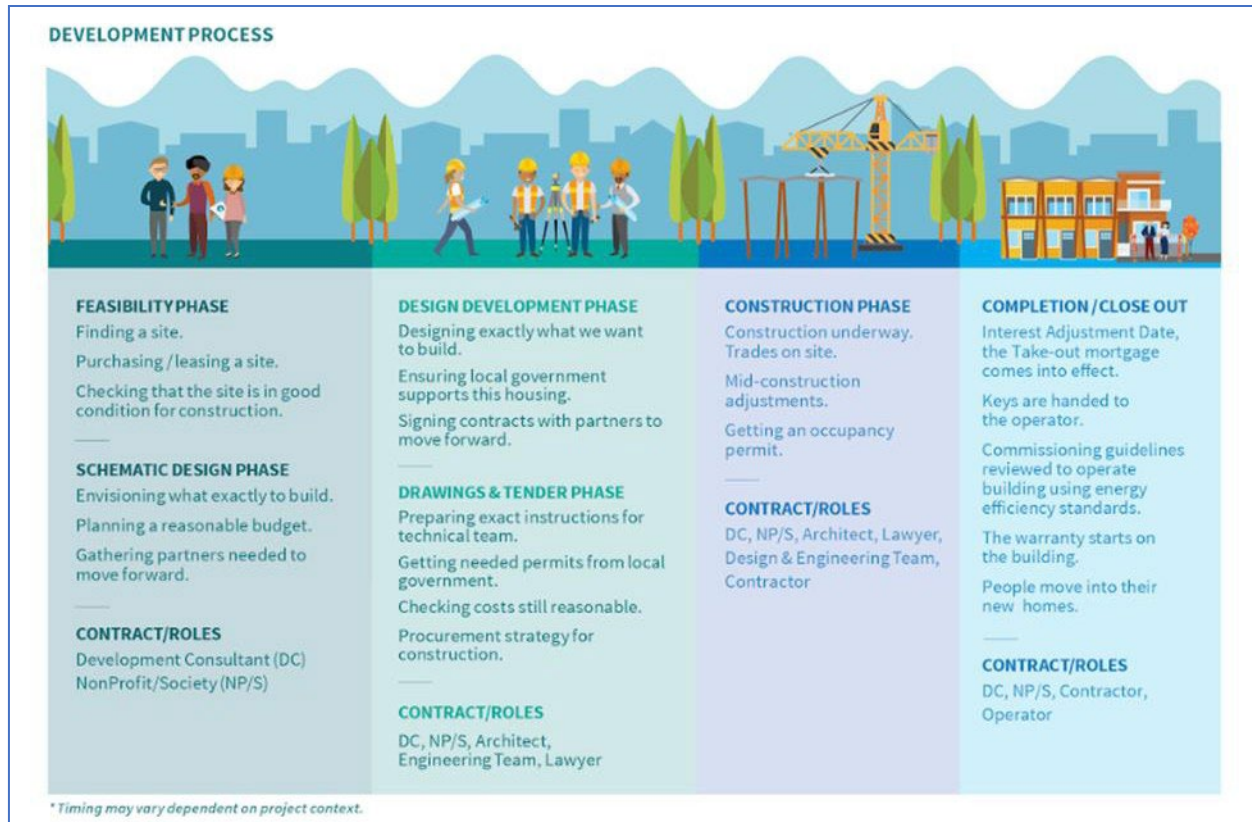


BCHousing Infographics supplied by Jesse Tarbotton



BC HOUSING FUNDING AND APPROVALS PROCESS

	INITIATED Proposal (PRO)	UNDER DEVELOPMENT Provisional Project Approval (PPA)	IN CONSTRUCTION Final Project Approval (FPA)	COMPLETE / ACTIVE
	Project development funding approved	Capital grants provisionally approved	Capital grants and construction financing approved	Take-out mortgage and operating subsidies approved
	15% OF PROJECT	30% OF PROJECT	50% OF PROJECT	5% OF PROJECT



BC Housing Infographics supplied by Jesse Tarbotton

After the conference Jesse shared the Development Services and Operations Contacts and Funding programs that may be useful moving forward with action plans.

John McEown
Associate VP, Development Services
jmceown@bchousing.org

Tyler Baker
Director, Regional Development, Interior Region
tbaker@bchousing.org
236-833-3374

Nanette Drobot
Regional Director, Operations, Interior Region
NDrobot@bchousing.org
250-487-2524

CMHC ahc_bc@cmhc-schl.gc.ca – They indicate that if you reach out via this email address an appropriate CMHC specialist will reply. Also, they have an outreach team, so for your next event you can request they make a presentation. This would be a good place to start for predevelopment funds.

BC Housing Funding programs: [Building BC | BC Housing](#)

CMHC Funding Programs: [Funding Programs for New Construction and Renovation Projects | CMHC \(cmhc-schl.gc.ca\)](#)

Austin Parisien, Executive Director, Kootenay Métis Housing Society presented How to Work Around Barriers to Get Things Done...OR... What Have I Learned About Developing Affordable Housing?

The Aqanttanam Housing Society, (AHS) completed the first purpose built Affordable Housing project in Cranbrook, a 39-unit building at Hurry and 6th St. NW in Slaterville called Chief Agnes McCoy Centre. That increased the units AHS owned and managed from 56 to 95.

The process of rezoning the property for the development of Chief Agnes McCoy Centre required a Community Consultation. The process included the city sending letters to all the homeowners in a two-block area. Everyone in a 4-block area was visited by Austin to discuss the planned development.

Two open houses gave everyone that attended an opportunity to discuss the plans. The most surprising questions asked:

- Why are you building this and who are you going to house?
- Are you moving refugees from the larger centers to fill the vacancies?

A petition was signed by over 100 people, yet only 18 lived in the Slaterville area, few of whom even voiced any objection to the project. Accusations were made of turning the area into a drug infested shopping cart and garbage littered ghetto that would lead to neighborhood crime and reduce property values. However, the completed project is a beautiful 3 story, \$10 Million building. Property values have gone up, not down. People that live there are peaceful and respectful and thankful to have a clean, safe, and affordable place to live and bring up their families.

That is why Community Education must be a top priority.

What is Affordable Housing?

Housing that tenants can afford with rents not exceeding 30% of their household income. The people that are housed are the fortunate ones and are either on fixed incomes or social assistance and receive as little as \$375 monthly for housing. For individuals earning \$1,000 to \$2,000 per month, usually working at low paying minimum wage jobs, they find it hard to afford housing let alone food and clothing and the necessities of life.

There are less than 200 Affordable Housing units in Cranbrook. There are another 200 plus people in desperate need of affordable housing today. Those are the ones we know about.

The guidelines for building new affordable housing with grants from BC Housing are that the rent for about 1/3 of the units be at 30% lower than market rent, with 1/3 be market rent to offset the 1/3 that require deep subsidies.

It should not only be the Affordable Housing Non-Profit Societies who exist to deliver the service, but the three levels of government, Federal, Provincial and Municipal must be involved. If the Municipality and Council do not have a strategy and work with the other two levels of government, then they are leaving it to the Non-Profit sector to solve.

A collaborative Non-Profit Affordable Housing Society could organize, coordinate, complete all the work necessary to pull together the proposal, budgets, apply for Provincial or Federal Grants, be responsible for contracting and overseeing construction, work with the City to rezone the property, apply for seed funds and construction, take out mortgage and insurance, and eventually manage the property and care for the tenants.

Ministry Presentation

Whitney Borowko, Executive Director of the Strategic Poverty Initiatives Branch, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

Julie Free, Community Integration Specialist, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Legislation: Clear Targets & Accountabilities

The *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act* passed unanimously in 2018

- Commits to **reducing the poverty rate** by:
 - 25% for all persons living in poverty by 2024
 - 50% for children (under 18 years old) by 2024
- Targets based on the 2016 **Market Basket Measure – Canada’s Official Poverty Line**
- Requires annual reporting and strategy updates every 5 years

MBM:

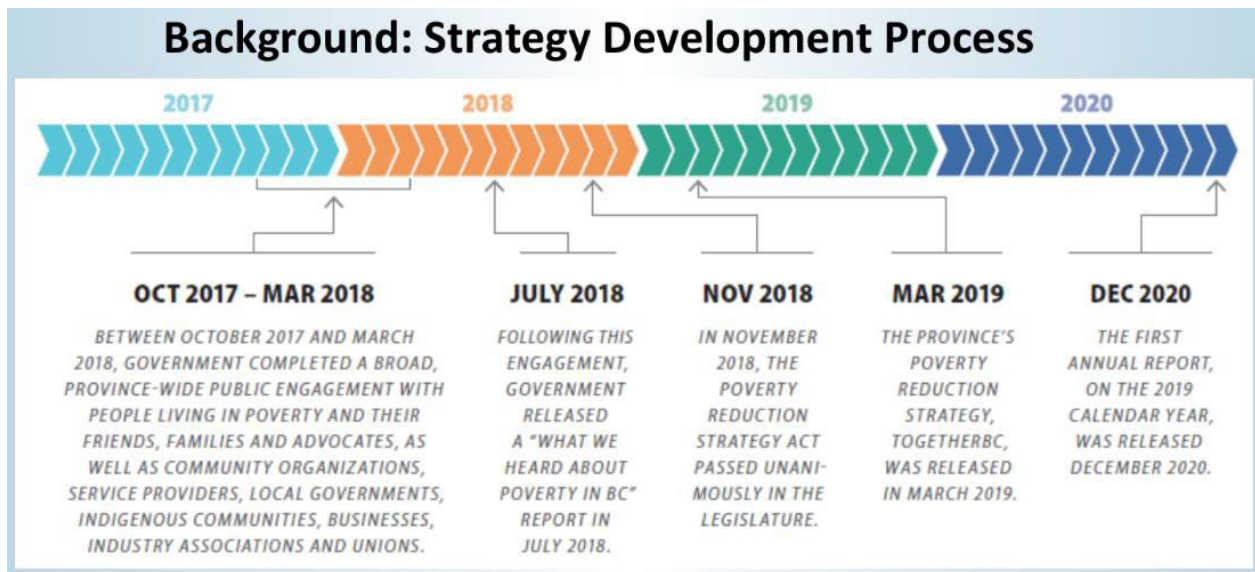
- Cost of a specific basket of goods and services
- Represents modest, basic standard of living
- Differs by location. E.g. for a two parent-two child family:
 - In Vancouver, the MBM is \$50,055/year
 - In Port Hardy, the MBM is \$42,628

2016 BC Snapshot

15.3% - Overall Poverty Rate

17% - Child Poverty Rate

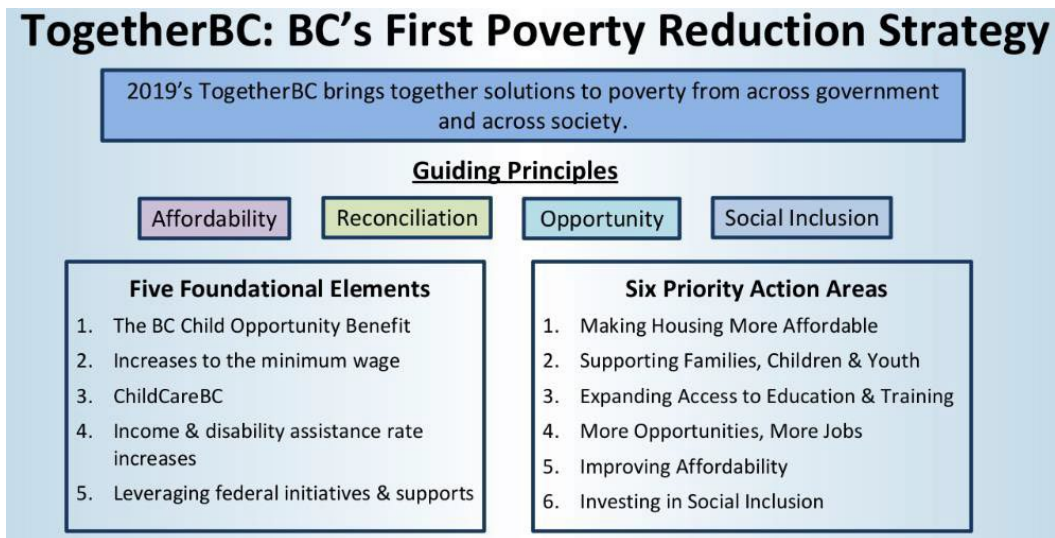
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction



Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Progress from 2016 to 2020:

- 378,000 fewer people living in poverty including 104,000 fewer children.
- Overall poverty rate dropped from 16.0% to 7.6%.
- Child poverty rate went from 17.4% to 5.0%.



Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Union of B.C. Municipalities Poverty Reduction Grants (UBCM Grants) have supported key initiatives such as:

- Food Security Projects
- Urban Revitalization Projects
- Environmental Disaster Relief Projects
- Affordable Housing Projects

Cranbrook UBCM Grants:

- 2020: The Cranbrook & Area Poverty Reduction Plan¹

This initiative focuses on social inclusion and consists of two over-arching activities:

- Developing a region-wide common agenda; and
- Drafting the Poverty Reduction Plan.
 - 2021: East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty
 - For this initiative, Cranbrook is partnering with the Regional District of East Kootenay and other local governments within the regional district on a collaborative approach to reduce poverty in the region.

Community Integration Specialist

The Community Integration Specialist (CIS) team (formerly referred to as Outreach) is focused on connecting B.C.'s most vulnerable citizens with financial assistance and community supports. The ministry works in collaboration with other government and community agencies to create positive outcomes for affected clients and their communities. Services include:

1. Expedited Intakes
2. Shelter and Health Requests
3. Intensive Case Management
4. Referrals and inquiries from community partners and the coordination of services.

The ministry recognizes that traditional channels of accessing ministry services (via office or phone) don't work for some of our clients, we need to go to where our clients are at. This work is performed by CIS's using one of the four service delivery models:

1. Community Hub
2. Direct Service
3. Specific Focus
4. Remote Hub

Community Hub Model

The client is in the centre, and community partners provide supports and resources (e.g., Access to physicians, mental health, Indigenous leaders and partners, housing, pharmacists, other community supports). The client builds a relationship with a person or organization and then that person/organization represents the clients' interest at the table. In this model, clients tell their story once and the partners

Direct Services Model

Dedicated follow up over varying lengths of time, assisting with processes and connecting with other service providers. In this model, the integration teams maintain a case-load for individuals requiring more 1:1 service. The CIS teams work closely with clients in this model to support them as they work toward increased independence and enhanced health providing the supports and resources that are required.

¹ The name has been corrected. The speaker identified the project as The Cranbrook & Regional District of East Kootenay's Poverty Reduction Plan.

Specific Focus

Wrap-around services, but focuses on the clients' priorities at that given time. For example, this hub may consist of a group of housing partners who are able to identify available housing or housing supports to help a homeless client.

Remote Hub

The remote hub model is an evolving model. It provides support and navigation for clients and or their advocates based on need. Workers on the ground may also carry the responsibility for other remote communities and connect with partners/stakeholders in those remote areas to streamline services for mutual clients. Flexibility to meet the client needs in smaller remote communities

The CIS in the East Kootenays can be found at the local homeless shelter, Travel Lodge, every Wednesday from 9:30am-12:30pm, in Creston every other Thursday, and reachable by phone or email throughout.

250-919-6472 cell, 250-420-6169 office, Julie.Free@gov.bc.ca

Mental Health

Jennifer Wright, MSc. CMHC, Registered Clinical Counselor, Certified Clinical Trauma Professional Columbia River Counselling and Neurofeedback.

Shortcomings of the Health Care System:

2 million people in Canada have a mental disability, 8.3% live in BC. This is the highest in Canada.

Labels must be chosen correctly; patient, client, disorder, disability. Diagnosis such as schizophrenia are terms of the symptom not of the person. A person with schizophrenia is not a schizophrenic, they are a person living with schizophrenia. A person is not an addict, they are a person living with an addiction.

Homelessness, incarceration, chronic medical conditions, and early death are often the consequence of mental illness left untreated.

On any given night, a young person with psychosis who needs to be in a health care facility has a 50% chance of being incarcerated, 25% chance of being homeless, or 25% chance of being forcefully hospitalized.

80% of the homeless have a mental health condition. 3 out of 4 people in BC prisons have a treatable mental health disorder.

Four goals for removing stigma:

1. Eliminate workplace discrimination against people living with mental illness.
2. The development of government policies to end stigma.
3. Developing curriculum for health care workers and educators that is led by people living with mental illness.
4. The removal of stigmatizing content from the media.

Medications cannot fix the problem. They can suppress the effects but cannot train the brain to function optimally.

75% of people with mental illness report the onset before the age of 25, yet there is no mental health care system for children.

84,000 children and youth in BC have a diagnosed mental illness. Less than 1/3 those seeking help are receiving mental health services

58,000 are not receiving the treatment they need. BC has 24 publicly funded beds for the 84,000 children.

Failures of mental health care system:

- Training
- Accountability and regulation
- Fragmented care

Solutions:

1. Trauma Informed System
2. Early Intervention
3. Community Human Rights Agenda
4. Coordination of Services
5. Community mindset

Economics:

Mental health services are provided on the most expensive way possible because of long waits to provide access to services that work. Waiting until people suffering with mental illness are in crisis and relying on inadequate medical resources provided by a fragmented and unregulated, untrained workforce result in the most expensive care:

- Hospitalization
- Medication
- Incarceration

The Annual Economic Cost of Mental Illness in Canada is \$50 Billion per year. This does not include \$40 Billion spent on substance abuse.

The Annual Economic Cost of Mental Illness in British Columbia is \$6.6 Billion per year.

We have more medication more treatment, more people working on the problem, more entering into treatment, and more people suffering and dying. We don't need to wait for science to create another medicine, another treatment or modality, another breakthrough in understanding the genetics, or more cultural awareness to start making better progress.

We won't make significant progress on poverty without addressing the mental health crisis.

The valuable people in our community with mental illness do not need a breakthrough in medical science or psychiatry. They need social connection, they need someplace safe and consistent to go to, and they need a sense of purpose.

*Jennifer Wright MSC.CMHC, RCC
Columbia River Counselling &
Neurofeedback*

Dr. Harshal Awasthi, Manager- East Kootenay MHSU Services, Manager- East Kootenay Mental Health Housing, Interior Health Authority. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

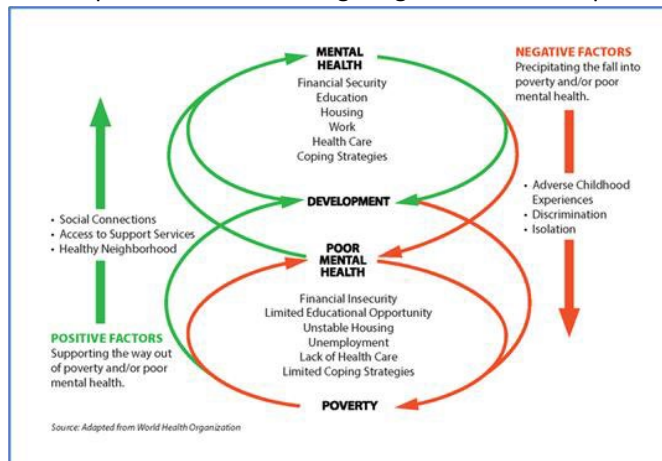
There is a complex two-way relationship between mental health and poverty. People experiencing mental illness and/or substance use are at an increased risk of living in poverty because of stigma, discrimination, social exclusion, additional healthcare costs, and barriers to employment. Conversely, people living in poverty face an increased risk of experiencing stress and trauma, which has a strong correlation with mental illness and problematic substance use. Economic security is a key determinant of mental health and wellbeing.

In addition, an adequate standard of living is a critical necessity to support the recovery of a person experiencing mental health or substance use-related illness.

Across the East Kootenay Communities, MHSU has presence in the communities of Cranbrook, Kimberley, Creston. Fernie, Sparwood, Elkford, Golden, and Invermere. The area is served by over 100 MHSU healthcare workers, including casual staff. Our service offerings are wide ranging and diverse.

Preventing risk factors for poverty.

Addressing mental health concerns in early life, reduces the likelihood of progressing to a chronic mental illness, or substance use disorder, and over the course of an individual’s life, promotes occupational functional and independence. Thus, mitigating risk factors for poverty later in life. For instance, Child and Adolescent



Mental Health – Research evidence indicates that a number of factors influence the person’s mental health from before birth until early adulthood, after which mental health can still be significantly modulated but to a lesser extent. Meeting the child’s physical (i.e., healthy nutrition), psychological (i.e., stable and responsive attachment relationships), and social (i.e., supportive and safe environments) needs is key element to support optimal brain development, emotional regulation, and higher order cognitive function, with long-lasting health benefits.

Youth Substance Use Services

Youth Engagement and Outreach – Early destigmatization, education and awareness among youth about substance use, is our best opportunity for prevention of substance use related dysfunction in later life.

Early identification, accurate diagnosis and effective treatment of mental health and substance use conditions can alleviate enormous suffering for people and their families dealing with behavioral health challenges. Providing early care can help young people to more quickly recover and benefit from their education, to develop positive relationships, to gain access to employment, and ultimately to lead more meaningful and productive lives.

Early Psychosis intervention of psychosis involves:

- Early detection and treatment of the first-episode of psychosis
- Sustained treatment during the “critical period”
- Early detection and treatment of any psychotic relapses
- Youth substance use programs



Cranbrook Services

In January 2022, Cranbrook was funded for 7 new positions for Early Psychosis Intervention which includes a Clinical Team Lead, Registered Nurse, Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, Vocational Therapist, a Life Skills Worker and a Peer Support Worker. They are supported by regionally shared resources of a Clinical Psychologist and a Psychometrist. As of yesterday, we have completed hiring into all but one position in Cranbrook. The service is now live and we are engaged in vigorous awareness/education efforts to increase referrals.

GOAL- We seek to reach all individuals experiencing first episode psychosis in the region.

As of October 2022, we have, after months of efforts and with funding support from the province, now established 10 substance use beds in East Kootenay Region. Five of these beds are withdrawal management/detox beds for adults, while 5 of these are Substance Use treatment beds for Young Adults (Ages 19 to 24). These bed-based services are provided by our contracted partner, Recovery Ranch by EHN Canada, in Fort Steele, BC. These beds are live as of October 2022, and many community members have already accessed these beds.

We have initiated multiple honoraria based as permanent positions and the engagement of peers with lived experiences into healthcare services. The peers work closely with our MHSU clinical teams, and bring a unique lens to our services. Peer engagement is currently active within Early Psychosis Intervention Team, Episodic Overdose Prevention Team and Integrated Treatment Team.

Nurse Prescribers is a new service which allows trained Registered Nurses to prescribe Suboxone prescriptions. We now have 3 fully trained Nurse Prescribers, and we are very proud to say that our Nurse Prescriber clinic in Cranbrook is leading IH in terms of number of prescriptions rendered since launch.

All individuals with an Opioid Use Disorder, presenting to the emergency room now have access to 72-hour take home Suboxone supply. This gives them enough time to get an appointment with other outpatient OAT resources.

Action Plan

The mission statement defined *a conference where the meaningful sharing of best practices, lessons learned, inspired conversations and commitments to collaborate inspires and creates action to eliminate poverty in the East Kootenay*. The conference was the first step of the East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty project, providing examples from speakers that could be used to initiate action for helping people out of poverty.

Conference attendees were invited to fill out a Commitment Form indicating how they may want to be involved with helping people out of the poverty barrier. Options included:

- Reduce the impact of finding affordable housing for families and individuals through collaboration and systems improvement.
- Take action to improve the availability of child care through collaboration and system improvement.
- Create a Community Task Force to address a common agenda.
- Join a group of individuals that will work with the existing community organizations to establish and track progress toward the common agenda.

- Organize a community engagement event to identify available resources to help 2 or 3 individuals/families out of poverty.
- Work on developing or expanding a project or program.

This information would facilitate innovative work to evolve through the remainder of the project, aiding the Project Lead/Coordinator to develop an initiative from ideas and discussions created through the conference.

Outcomes

Conference

The conference provided an opportunity to learn about programs that are working to reducing poverty. To an audience of people who are actively engaged in community social issues, speakers shared stories about their programs, the challenges and outcomes experienced through innovative concepts providing support.

Recent trends in employment and economic recovery for the region, supported by information about programs providing people with work skills to obtain employment, help understand the difficulties some people face to enter the workforce. Hearing how the programs have options to branch out to smaller communities and work with people having learning barriers will help extend this kind of support throughout the region.

Financial literacy skills are a key component to poverty reduction. This is especially important for low-income poverty-vulnerable youth age 19 – 24.

Understanding how the migration of child care under education will have benefits to parents and children will help develop more child care options. The announcement of available funding for the region inspired discussions for additional facilities, partnerships and training for child care workers. The Ministry speaker stayed in the East Kootenay region for a number of days after the conference to meet with people in the communities and help initiate project action.

Knowing about the resources available through the Tamarack Institute and how the experience and knowledge can be accessed by communities and organizations, provides support for a wide range of community social development work. National podcasts, training programs, conferences, and networking opportunities are available, many at no cost, to membership organizations.

The multi-building housing development in Victoria displayed a collaborative approach to affordable housing by collaborating with appropriate agencies with experience in specific housing options including affordable rental homes, market housing, long term care beds, supports for seniors and veterans, and supports for people with mental health challenges.

Building a neighborhood answering to the different levels of housing requirements reinforces people through a sense of community and a dignified approach for transitioning upward from one level of housing to the next.

Housing developments come with challenges, many of which arise from local government policies and practices. The process can be especially frustrating for a non-profit with limited resources. Challenges such as parking requirements, rezoning, sidewalks, landscaping, and utility hook-ups, are a few of the obstacles faced because of policies. Local government can become a partner in affordable housing by addressing

bureaucratic barriers that cause delays and add to the costs of construction. Utilizing vacant government buildings and land for housing sites would have a positive impact on overall costs.

The provincial government is providing support for programs working towards projected goals for reducing poverty in BC. Most non-profits were unaware the Ministry of Social Services and Poverty Reduction had a paid employee in Cranbrook. The announcement led to invitations for the worker to make presentations to the non-profit organizations.

More resources must be applied to mental health. Homelessness, incarceration, chronic medical conditions, and early death are often the consequence of mental illness left untreated. BC has the highest percentage in Canada of people living with a mental disorder; 80% of the homeless have a mental health condition, and 3 out of 4 people in BC prisons have a treatable mental health disorder. Poverty reduction must address mental health issues.

The number of people living with mental health and substance addiction issues is growing. In response Interior Health has hired and trained more health care providers and added to post-hospital care facilities. However, the system is strained and work is continuing to provide more levels of support.

In addition to the exchange of valuable information, the conference provided a networking opportunity. The newly elected Cranbrook mayor and councillors interacted with non-profit personnel and established relationships with key government representatives at the conference. The social services landscape framed the regional support and enabled non-profits to better understand the support available, and missing, in the region.

Most important, the conference provided the foundation for moving forward towards an action plan(s) for reducing poverty.

Post-conference

One of the expectations from the conference was to have defined community action plans, with committed participants, identified through the East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty Commitment Form². This did not happen. It was a pre-mature assumption that the participants, after listening to speakers and sharing break-out discussions, would have so quickly identified a project they would develop. Most attendees filled out and signed the Commitment Form, but in all cases the “Yes I want to...” boxes were all checked. It became evident no one was prepared to identify what the project would be, but all agreed to want and support some project or program that was developed as a result of the conference. No one wanted this to be the end.

The examples shared by speakers about the work in other communities and those researched for the conference had a common element; they started with a dedicated worker coordinating resources for community issues. This individual was not restricted by any local non-profit mandate or with the scope of any Ministerial guidelines, and often worked at arm’s length from the local government. The Project Committee determined the next step of the project is to develop a similar position for the region; helping people access help in their own community rather than heading to Cranbrook.

A concept a position serving the East Kootenay region was drafted and presentations were made to the Cranbrook City Council and Regional District of East Kootenay Board of Directors to receive permission to

² Appendix B

Conclusion

The East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty was developed with a specific outcome to create a collaborative approach to reducing poverty in the East Kootenay. Through a vision *to connect and inspire collaboration to eliminate poverty in the East Kootenay* this outcome was achieved.

Hearing about successful programs developed in other communities and available provincial support was significant for initiating local government action towards improving the experience outcomes of various homelessness support services. From the project's start-up conference through engagements with program partners, concepts were reviewed, corrected and fine-tuned until a collaborative action plan was developed for addressing a regional problem whose burden has fallen upon Cranbrook.

The project recommended local government coordination and investment to reduce the increasing poverty impact from the growing regional migration to Cranbrook. This suggestion has become the premise for a two-stage program partnership between the City of Cranbrook and Regional District of East Kootenay towards developing a community engagement strategy on homelessness, and advising and leading the coordinated efforts of community agencies focused on homelessness.

Stage 1 involves hiring an individual to address the expected increase in homelessness and outdoor camps within the city and take the lead in areas of homelessness affecting municipal services currently adding to the workload of Bylaw Services, Fire and Emergency Services and the RCMP.

Stage 2 involves a program working beyond the issues of the day to secure long term funding addressing housing attainability and land use, social planning, complex needs, homelessness shelter services, transitional housing, poverty and harm reduction, vulnerable populations, community health and wellness, food security and community building. The individual will make recommendations on policy and future programming priorities.

Both positions involved interaction with community organizations.

A secondary project outcome was networking. Through the conference personal contacts were made among key provincial government ministries, local elected officials, municipal administrators, and individuals from organizations providing support services. Building these relationships is key to providing better assistance to people trying to get out of poverty their struggles.

The conference and follow-up work became instrumental for local government's active participation in poverty reduction strategy and work. Previous, this burden was solely upon the non-profits. This in itself is a successful outcome of the East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty.

Russell Workun, MBA
Project Lead/Coordinator
rworkun2@telus.net



Conference Agenda

East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty

Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort, Cranbrook, British Columbia

[Friday, October 28, 2022]

[1:00 pm] to [1:20 pm]	[Welcome, Opening Prayer, Introduction of Planning Group and Advisory Committee, Video]
[1:20 – 1:45]	[Social Services Landscape] Helen Baron, Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce Susan Clovechok, RDEK Director, Electoral Area F
[1:45 -2:45]	[Employment] [Martin Stegman, Director, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation] [Londa Morris, Lory Joly, Kootenay Employment Services] [Rona Park and Rose Hoher, Leadership Roundtable, Nelson, BC]
[2:45 – 3:00]	[Break]
[3:30 – 4:15]	[Child Care] [Michelle Kirby, Manager of Partnerships and Engagement, Child Care and Community Services Branch, Child Care Division, Ministry of Education and Child Care] [Morag Carter, Executive Director, The Skills Centre, Trail, BC] [Break-out Session] [Dinner]
[4:14 – 4:45]	Keynote Address: Jill Zacharias, BC Manager of Growth and Impact –
[5:00 – 7:00]	Communities Ending Poverty, Tamarack Institute Entertainment: Mount Baker Secondary School Music

[Saturday, October 29, 2022]

[9:00 – 10:00]	[Affordable Housing] [Jesse Tarbotton, Development Manager, BCHousing] [Austin Parisien, Executive Director, Kootenay Métis Housing Society]
[10:00 – 10:30]	[Break-out Session]
[10:30 – 10:45]	[Break]
[10:45 – 11:30]	[Whitney Borowko, Executive Director of the Strategic Policy Initiatives Branch, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction]
[11:30 – 12:00]	[Break-out Session, Discussion]
[12:00 – 1:30]	[Lunch]
[1:30 – 2:30]	[Mental Health] [Jennifer Wright, MSc. CMHC, Registered Clinical Counselor, Certified Clinical Trauma Professional Columbia River Counselling and Neurofeedback] [Dr Harshal Awasthi, Manager- East Kootenay MHSU Services, Manager- East Kootenay Mental Health Housing, Interior Health Authority]
[2:30 – 3:00]	[Break-out Session]
[3:00 – 3:15]	[Break]
[3:15 – 3:45]	[Group work to develop Action Plan for moving forward]
[3:45 – 4:15]	[Sharing Actin Plans]
[4:15 -4:30]	[Closing Remarks]

Thank you for your participation.

Appendix B East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty Commitment Form

How do you want to continue to be involved in the EK-CARP mission to improve affordability and reduce the impact of poverty on families and individuals through collaboration and systems improvement?

Please check as many options as you are interested in.

- **Stay Informed:** Be added to the EK-CARP email network enabling you to receive communications and stay up to date on the latest activities and information.

Yes, I want to stay informed about EK-CARP: _____

Email: _____

- **Create a Community Task Force:** Join a group of individuals or organizations working collaboratively to address EK-CARP's common agenda. These groups are time limited and work on specific projects.

Yes, I commit to being a Task Force member in my community: _____

Our task force will work to support (check all that apply):

- Shelter _____
- Transit and Transportation _____
- Income and Employment _____
- Food Security _____
- Education & Lifelong Learning _____
- Innovation & new ideas _____
- Other (please explain) _____

- **Create a Community Team:** Join a group of individuals that will work with the existing community organizations to establish and track progress toward the common agenda.

Yes, I commit to learning about my potential role as a Community Team member: _____

- **Join the Leadership Roundtable (LRT):** Join a group of individuals representing different sectors who provide overall strategic guidance and leadership to our collective work.

Yes, I commit to learning about my potential role as a LRT member: _____

Name:

Organization (optional):

Email:

Phone:

Appendix C Resources

Collective participation for project research includes:

ANKORS, Cranbrook

BC Associate Deputy Minister, Housing, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism

BC Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Public Service, Office of the Premier

BC Deputy Attorney General

BC Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

BC Ministry of Children and Family Development

BC Ministry of Education and Child Care

BC Ministry of Health

BC Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

BC Ministry of Labour

BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs

BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

BC Office of the Premier, Strategic Initiatives

BCHousing

BGC Okanagan

Calgary Enough for All

Calgary Social Policy Collaboration

Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

Canadian Poverty Institute

Chilliwack Poverty Reduction Task Team

City Of Airdrie, Community Support Services

City Of Chestermere, Social Planning and Development

City of Cranbrook, Council and Administration

City Of Edmonton, End Poverty Edmonton

City of Kamloops Social and Community Development

City Of Prince George Select Committee on Poverty Reduction

City Of Spruce Grove, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)
City Of St Albert Community Social Development
City of Terrace Social Development Program
City Of Vancouver Strategic Initiatives Team
College of the Rockies
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Community Connections Society of Southeast BC
Community Futures East Kootenay
Community Planning Society of Cranbrook and Area
Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce
Cranbrook Food Bank
Custom Fit Inclusion and Employment Services
Deputy Ministers Council of BC
District of Invermere, Council
District of Kimberley, Council
District Of Mission, Social Development
District of Sparwood, Administration
District of Tofino Housing Corporation
Doug Clovechok MLA Columbia River-Revelstoke Constituency Office
East Kootenay Addiction Services
East Kootenay Child Care Resources and Referral
Golden Social Justice Advocate Program
Interior Health
Jasper Community Team Society
Kimberley Health Centre Society
Kootenay Metis Housing
Lloydminster Community Development
Lower Columbia Thriving for All
Nelson Voices For Change

New Westminster Poverty Reduction Committee
NEXUS Community Support Society
Operation Street Angels
Penticton Social Development Network
Phoenix Foundation of The Boundary Communities
Port Hardy Community Poverty Reduction Initiative
Powell River Social Action Planning Committee
Regional District of East Kootenay
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Community Plan on Homelessness
Revelstoke Child Care Society
Revelstoke Poverty Reduction Working Group
Revelstoke Social Development Committee
School District No. 8 Kootenay Lake
Social Planning Council for North Okanagan
St. John NB – Living SJ Impact Strategy
Stewart Community Poverty Reduction Initiative
Strathcona County Social Framework
Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition
Tamarack Vibrant Communities
Together Nelson
Tom Shypitka MLA Kootenay East Constituency Office
Town Of Canmore Community Social Development
Town Of Cochrane, Social Support Services
Town Of Drumheller, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)
Town Of Stony Plain, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)
Town Of Strathmore Community and Social Development
Trail Skills Centre
Ucluelet, Westcoast Community Resource Society
Union of BC Municipalities

East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty

United Way British Columbia, Southern Interior

United Way Community Impact and Poverty Reduction

Vernon Housing Strategy

Vibrant Lethbridge

Vibrant Revelstoke - Affordability for All

Village of Radium Hot Springs

Williams Lake Housing Authority

Williams Lake Pathways Out of Poverty into Jobs

Williams Lake Thrive