

DATE: October 7, 2019

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Chris Bone, Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships

SUBJECT: Poverty Reduction

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. A Profile of Poverty in the City of Prince George 2019
2. Proposed Terms of Reference – Select Committee on Poverty Reduction

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council:

1. RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION, the report dated October 7, 2019 from the Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships titled “Poverty Reduction”;
2. ESTABLISH a Select Committee on Poverty Reduction;
3. APPROVE the proposed Terms of Reference for a Select Committee on Poverty Reduction;
and
4. APPOINT two (2) members of Council as Council Representatives on the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction.

PURPOSE:

In March of 2019, Council received an update regarding actions undertaken by Administration to address poverty reduction, an identified strategic priority. The update proposed development of a profile of poverty in Prince George and the formation of a committee to review the completed profile and related data in order to make informed recommendations to Council about how the City might address poverty, guided by its mandate and jurisdiction. The purpose of this report is to share the recently completed profile titled, *A Profile of Poverty in the City of Prince George 2019*, and to request that Council establish a Select Committee on Poverty Reduction.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Council has identified areas of focus that support social health and community well-being, as well as economic growth and development. These focus areas informed the identification of strategic priorities, including the determination of the City of Prince George’s role in implementing the Province’s Poverty Reduction Strategy.

DISCUSSION:

Bill 39-2018, the Province’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, required the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to develop and post a strategy to reduce and prevent poverty in BC by March 31,

2019. In anticipation of the tabling of this strategy, Council identified poverty reduction, specifically the role of local government in eradicating poverty, as one of its strategic priorities.

Following the release of **TogetherBC**, the Province's poverty reduction strategy, the City contracted Alex Fraess-Phillips, a PhD Candidate, UNBC Instructor, and skilled researcher to develop a profile of poverty in Prince George. The completed profile, which is attached to this report is structured to mirror guiding principles and key priorities outlined in **TogetherBC**. Priorities best suited to the mandate and jurisdiction of municipal government, including affordability of housing, childcare, transportation and food security, are emphasized in the profile.

The profile, together with other related documents, is intended to inform the identification of actions that the City of Prince George can take to support implementation of the Province's comprehensive strategy. For that reason, Administration is asking Council to establish a Select Committee on Poverty Reduction, comprised of members who can bring their related expertise and experience to an analysis of many qualitative and quantitative inputs. A proposed Terms of Reference for the Select Committee is attached for Council's consideration.

If Council approves establishment of the Select Committee, Mr. Fraess-Phillips has agreed to provide members with an in-depth overview of the Prince George poverty profile, and to answer any related questions.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

As reported in March of this year, work is progressing to advance Council's strategic priority to determine the City's role in implementing the Province's **TogetherBC** Poverty Reduction Strategy. A profile of poverty in Prince George, aligned with identified provincial principles and key priorities, has been completed. Administration is requesting that Council establish a Select Committee on Poverty Reduction to consider the profile and other related information in order to make recommendations, for Council's consideration, about how the City might address poverty.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Chris Bone, Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships

APPROVED:



Kathleen Soltis, City Manager
Meeting date: October 7, 2019