

DATE: February 19, 2020

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Councillor Murry Krause, Chair of Select Committee on Poverty Reduction

SUBJECT: Select Committee on Poverty Reduction Annual Report 2019

ATTACHMENT(S): Terms of Reference – Select Committee on Poverty Reduction

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

1. RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated February 19, 2020 from the Chair of the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction titled “Select Committee on Poverty Reduction 2019 Annual Report.”; and
2. APPROVES the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction 2020 Work Plan outlined in the report dated February 19, 2020 from the Chair of the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction.

PURPOSE:

In October 2019, Council approved the formation of the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction. The committee, an advisory body to Mayor and Council, was convened to make recommendations regarding how the City of Prince George can support implementation of the Province’s poverty reduction strategy, *TogetherBC*. The Select Committee will deliver preliminary recommendations to Council by June 30, 2020. Final recommendations, following public consultation, will be provided for Council consideration by December 30, 2020. This report outlines the associated 2020 work plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Committee convened its first meeting in November of 2019. The orientation session included an overview of local government jurisdiction in relation to poverty reduction, an introduction to *TogetherBC*, presented by Ministry personnel, and a summary of *A Profile of Poverty in the City of Prince George*, prepared by UNBC researcher, Alex Fraess-Phillips. This introductory information informed development of a 2020 work plan.

At each meeting, the Committee focuses on a specific topic. Administration prepares a briefing document summarizing key considerations in relation to the topic, and associated City of Prince George initiatives. Subject matter experts, when deemed appropriate, are also invited to present information that helps inform committee discussion. These inputs shape discussion and the formation of recommendations that relate to the topic.

The table below sets out the meeting schedule and topics.

Table 1. Select Committee on Poverty Reduction 2020 Work plan:

2019-2020 Meeting Schedule and Poverty Focus Areas for Discussion/Recommendation Development	
December 10 th , 2019	Stigma & Discrimination
January 14 th 2020	Housing (affordability, suitability)
February 11 th 2020	Access to Services & Supports (i.e. childcare)
March 10 th 2020	Education & Training/ Employment & Jobs
April 14 th 2020	Food Security
May 12 th 2020	Transportation
June 9 th 2020	Advocacy/Council Preparation
June 29 th 2020	Presentation of Preliminary Recommendations to Council

Administration is in the process of applying for a UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning and Action grant. If successful, the City will utilize this funding to plan and implement a comprehensive public consultation process to receive feedback regarding the Committee's preliminary recommendations. Particular attention will be focused on acquiring feedback from individuals with lived experience. This input will inform amendments to the recommendations. A final set of recommendations will be presented to Council at its December 7, 2020 meeting.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The 2020 Corporate Work Plan identifies priorities that address Council focus areas. The provision of the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction's recommendations to Council is one such priority.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The Select Committee on Poverty Reduction is utilizing a topic-based approach to develop recommendations regarding the City's role in implementation of the Province's **TogetherBC** strategy. Preliminary recommendations will be presented to Council by June 30, 2020. With anticipated funding from UBCM, a comprehensive public consultation period will follow. A final set of amended recommendations (reflecting input) will be presented to Council prior to December 30, 2020.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Councillor Murry Krause, Chair, Select Committee on Poverty Reduction

APPROVED:

Kathleen Soltis, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2020/03/09