



City of Prince George Select Committee on Poverty Reduction

Preliminary Recommendations & Community
Engagement Plan

January 2021

Presentation Outline

1. Purpose of presentation and strategic alignment with Council priorities
2. Background & Context
3. UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Grant
4. Overview of the Preliminary Recommendations
5. Overview of the Community Engagement Plan
6. Next steps
7. Conclusion



Purpose & Strategic Alignment

Purpose & Strategic Alignment with Council Focus Areas

- City Council identified a number of priorities for the 2020 term including identification of the City's role in implementing the Province's poverty reduction strategy – [Together BC](#).
- Council identified supporting initiatives that provide access to safe housing, healthy food, and community services, as a Social Health and Well-being focus area.
- The Select Committee on Poverty Reduction will deliver final recommendations (later in 2021) to Council concerning the City of Prince George's role in the implementation of a provincial poverty reduction strategy, informed by those living in poverty or with lived experience, as one means to address this focus area.



Background

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- In October 2019, Prince George City Council approved the formation of a Select Committee on Poverty Reduction to make recommendations regarding how the City of Prince George can support implementation of the Province's poverty reduction strategy, **TogetherBC**.
- November 2019 - November 2020, the committee met monthly to develop 22 recommendations regarding the City's role in implementation of the Province's **TogetherBC** strategy.

Background (continued)

- A comprehensive community engagement process, funded by a UBCM grant, is planned to gather feedback regarding the preliminary recommendations proposed by the Committee.
- The community engagement is scheduled to begin in mid February.
- Following the consultation period, the Committee will reconvene to consider feedback and amend recommendations as necessary.
- A final set of recommendations will be presented to Council later in 2021.

UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program

- The Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program, funded by the Province of BC and administered by UBCM, is designed to support local governments in reducing poverty at the local level and to advance implementation of the Province's poverty reduction strategy, called TogetherBC.
- The City of Prince George was approved for a UBCM 2020 Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program grant.
- Funding is supporting the design and implementation of a comprehensive community engagement to ensure a diverse composition of community residents provide comment on the recommendations for City action.



Preliminary Recommendations

Preliminary Recommendations - Process

- Comprehensive & deliberate review during each Committee meeting:
 - ✓ [Together BC](#) & [Profile of Poverty in the City of Prince George 2019](#)
 - ✓ 6 themes
 - ✓ 7 lenses
 - ✓ Mandate & jurisdiction for local government
 - ✓ Review of ancillary materials & background information specific to each theme
 - ✓ Subject matter experts presentations
- Preparation of potential recommendations for review and endorsement by the Committee at follow-up meetings
- Result: 22 preliminary recommendations – the foundation of the community engagement process

Preliminary Recommendations - Examples

THEME AREA	EXAMPLE
<p>Reducing Stigma and Discrimination (3 recommendations in total)</p>	<p>Increase and improve services in specific areas to build social connections and get more people involved. Targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• low income neighbourhoods• groups like seniors, single parent families, children and youth.
<p>Housing (affordability & suitability) (5 recommendations in total)</p>	<p>Advocate for Provincial and Federal government programs that help people buy an affordable first home.</p>

Preliminary Recommendations - Examples

THEME AREA	EXAMPLE
<p>Access to services and supports (5 recommendations in total)</p>	<p>Create a baseline inventory of current community services and programs. Identify gaps and recommend improvements.</p> <p>Encourage agencies to contribute to the local BC 211 service (a community and social services directory).</p>
<p>Education and Training/Employment and Jobs (2 recommendations in total)</p>	<p>Advocate for ways to support people who want to improve their education or access employment opportunities. For example, advocate for wage subsidies for ECE workers and assistance programs for post-secondary students.</p>

Preliminary Recommendations - Examples

THEME AREA	EXAMPLE
<p>Food security/insecurity planning (4 recommendations in total)</p>	<p>Support opportunities for sustainable food sources including community gardening, food kitchens and programming focused on food supply and education.</p>
<p>Transportation (3 recommendations in total)</p>	<p>Increase transit education and information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provide education sessions with an incentive such as a free transit day pass. Topics could be<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ how to ride the bus○ what transit services are available○ how to navigate the system.* <p>*Increase signage at bus stops and improve information provided for bus schedules (for example, make them easy and simple to understand, make print copies of the schedule more readily available).</p>



Community Engagement Process

Community Engagement Process

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

City of Prince George Select Committee on Poverty Reduction

1: Initial Recommendations



41 recommendations distilled to 22 for public participation. 7 lenses/audiences and Agencies identified for priority feedback (primary). General public included (secondary).

2: Engagement & Participation



Feedback garnered through online / in-person survey & agency/partner-led Interviews/FG*
*All in-person strategies COVID-dependent.

3: Comparative Analysis



22 recommendations prioritized by public. Ranked by importance/impact and priority/urgency. Comments encouraged, stories shared.

4: Informed Recommendations



Select Committee recommends Action, Advocacy and Facilitation to Council, based on public participation data collection.

5: Action & Communication



City implements actions and feedback is communicated to participating stakeholders and public.

Community Engagement: Key Components

Running February 11 until March 19, the community engagement features:

- Online survey
 - Stakeholder interviews
 - Focus groups
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- ✓ Accessibility options are available for those unable to complete the survey online.
 - ✓ Feedback from those with lived poverty experience is being diligently sought and prioritized.
 - ✓ 16 community partners and agencies are supporting the engagement work at the local level.



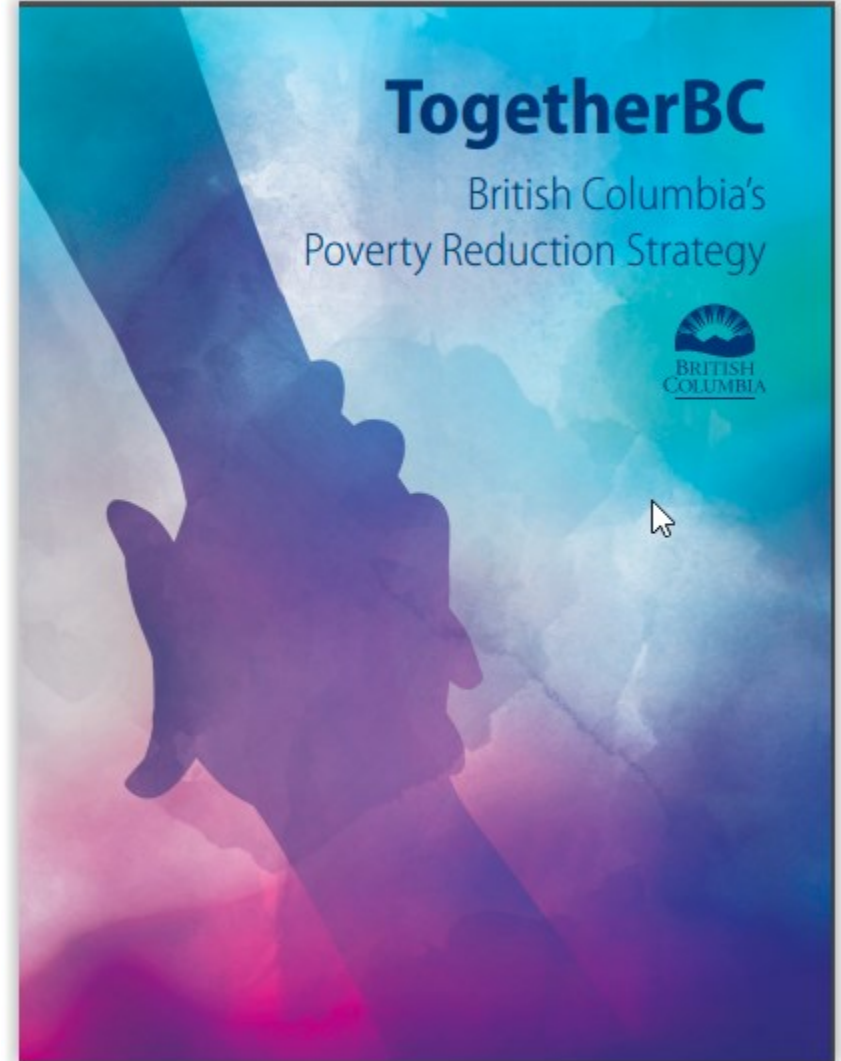
Next Steps & Timelines

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- **February - March 2021:** Community engagement period.
- **April 2021:** Committee re-convenes once the community engagement feedback is collected/analyzed, possible editing and confirming the recommendations for Council.
- **April - May 2021:** Final recommendations presented to Council.
- **May 2021:** Report to UBCM on the Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Grant.

Conclusion

- The engagement process will provide feedback on the 22 preliminary recommendations.
- The feedback will ensure final recommendations for City actions to reduce poverty at the local level will have a positive impact.
- It will contribute to advancing the 2021 Work Plan priorities, specifically the City's role in reducing poverty at the local level.





Thank you and questions