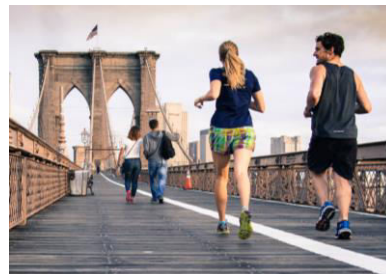


EXPLORING POVERTY REDUCTION GAME CHANGER SERIES

GAME CHANGER #5 - HEALTH

Affordable and accessible health care services that are not covered under provincial/territorial medical plans, and comprehensive, inclusive supports for physical and mental health.



The primary factors that shape the health of Canadians are not medical treatments or lifestyle choices but rather the social, economic and environmental living conditions they experience. These conditions impact an individual’s opportunity to make healthy choices. Consequently, education and the traditional health system are not enough to overcome pervasive health inequities. While Canada’s universal health program provides basic coverage to all citizens, there is a range of services, such as dental care, medication, eye care, mental health and physiotherapy, that are not covered under provincial plans. This leaves users to pay fees out-of-pocket. Improving affordability and accessibility of such health services, and focusing on preventative, high impact health policies, can address inequalities, improve quality of life, enhance participation, and reduce financial burden on our health care system.

**What is a poverty reduction Game Changer? Read: [Sometimes to hear the music you have to turn down the noise](#).
Have feedback or ideas on our Game Changer exploration? Let us know by filling out this [short survey](#).**

RECOMMENDATIONS ON BEST PRACTICES AND POLICIES

FEDERAL



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

[Interim Federal Health Program \(IFHP\)](#) – Provides temporary healthcare benefits to refugees and protected persons who are not eligible for provincial or territorial health insurance.

PROVINCIAL / TERRITORIAL



Ontario

[Open Minds, Healthy Minds: Ontario’s Mental Health and Addiction Strategy](#) –

Improves mental health and well-being, identifies and intervenes on mental health and addictions problems, and provides timely, integrated response.



[Accessibility 2024](#) – Ten year action plan focused on making BC the most progressive province in Canada for people with disabilities by 2024.

MUNICIPAL



[Killarney Health Centre](#) – Rural health centre

providing primary health services using distance communications such as examinations via video connection.



[Carnegie Community Centre’s Street and Homeless Outreach](#) – Assists vulnerable people who are unlikely to access

traditional services, including by connecting them to social, health, and housing services, and by providing emergency first aid, emotional support, and harm reduction supplies.

COMMUNITY



[The Alex Mobile Health Program](#) – Operates three mobile clinic busses (community health, youth health, and dental health) that remove barriers to health care by providing services, education, and advocacy free of charge to Calgary residents experiencing poverty and homelessness.