



BC Communities Reducing Poverty (BC CoP) – Notes

Meeting date: Nov 19, 2019

Attendance

1. Anne Burrill, Williams Lake
2. Annelies Tjebbes, Vancouver
3. Averill Hanson, MCFD Surrey
4. Adrienne Yeung, Check Your Head, Vancouver
5. Colleen Hamilton, Vancouver
6. Danyta Welch, UBCM
7. Diana Gibson, Victoria
8. Don Kattler, Port Hardy
9. Donna Dean, Cranbrook
10. Kady Hunter, Nelson
11. Katrina Lehenbauer, Central Okanagan
12. Kirsten Hargreaves, Mission
13. Lisa Doff, Coquitlam
14. Leah Squance, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
15. Leslie Sherlock, Richmond
16. Lori Baugh Littlejohns, Invermere
17. Lori Pyne + 2 Whistler Community Services Society
18. Marcie DeWitt, Ucluelet
19. Marjie Lesko, Nelson
20. Morag Carter, Trail
21. Norris Miller, BC Government
22. Sara Jennings, Whistler Community Service Society
23. Trish Garner, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition
24. Jill Zacharias, City of Revelstoke Social Development Committee
25. Hannah MacDonald, Vibrant Communities
26. Justin Williams, Vibrant Communities
27. Natasha Pei, Vibrant Communities
28. Alison Homer, Vibrant Communities

Agenda Item	Description
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Who is on the line?
Presentation and Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introduction to the Government of BC's Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leah Squance, A/Executive Director, Strategic Policy Initiatives Branch, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction ○ Danyta Welch, Manager, Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What learning supports are needed from Tamarack and the Cities Reducing Poverty peer learning network to best support municipalities to plan for and prepare their applications?
Closing Announcements & Next Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upcoming Learning Opportunities ▪ Next call: Jan 21 at 10am PT

Meeting Notes

Presentation: Introduction to the Government of BC's Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program

Leah Squance, A/Executive Director, Strategic Policy Initiatives Branch, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

- \$5M grant to UBCM to support poverty reduction at the local level
- Minister Simpson – everyone must work on poverty reduction together
- This grant provides funds to support meaningful local action
- Stemmed from advocacy from many community groups and the associated need for investment
- Grant supports the 6 priority action areas of Together BC

Danyta Welch, Manager, Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities

- Applications must be focused on at least one priority action area of TogetherBC
- One year for projects from date of approval
- Looking for applications that demonstrate partnerships – community-based orgs, business, lived/living experience and local Indigenous orgs
- Regional districts eligible to apply (e.g. Regional Capital District) – higher funding max
- Expect cost effectiveness in each application and cost efficiencies especially in regional applications
- Funding streams – parallels age-friendly grants
 - Stream 1 – Planning stream – Understanding local context – can be either developing a new plan or revising an existing plan (e.g. OCP) to give a PR lens (revisit or renew).
 - Not to subsidize existing planning efforts but to add an incremental component.
 - Interested in planning process – bringing people together to inform plan

- Stream 2 – Implementing a plan that is already inclusive of PR principles
 - Flexible in terms of what actions would be most helpful in community
 - See program guide for example
 - Not a capital program (up to 25% of grant but only if directly related to activities e.g. community kitchen)
- Program Manager Sasha is very open to conversations before applications are submitted – her contact info is in the program guide
- Review of applications – all screened for eligibility and completion then working with evaluation committee (not yet established but reps from the Ministry and/or subject matter experts) and work together to score applications with committee. Include other criteria like distribution of grants across the province. Work together to determine who is successful.

Q&A

- Can a municipality apply for more than one application?
 - No – only one per community
- Can a Regional District be submitted as well as a Municipality that falls within that district apply for different streams?
 - Yes – providing that only one local government shows up in each application
- Does municipal government need to take the lead on the project, or can they hold the contract but contract with a community org to deliver?
 - Many third-party organizations and community groups end up being the ones to take the lead on the project – that is fine. UBCM will have the relationship with the local government and the local government would be responsible for all administration and reporting, but community group can plan/deliver.
- Will a second stream of funding be available in future years?
 - It is a \$5M grant over 3 years – if pool is delivered to eligible applications in round 1 it could all get distributed, if not, there could be a 2nd and or 3rd intake. Likely will be a second round.
- Is there research support in writing proposals (e.g. poverty levels around the province; best practices in priority areas)
 - Not directly via UBCM but conversation around Tamarack supports will follow
- Can funding be used to support funding to update bylaws (e.g. under housing)
 - Should be a fit providing that it fits within a priority action area
- Define expectation of sustainability
 - If grant is for planning process, what are the outcomes that will live on (e.g. how the plan will be rolled out so it won't sit on the shelf)
 - If grant is for action, demonstrate thought is being given to if program is successful (e.g. low cost recreation pass pilot) – how will it be sustained?

- Given that many of the systemic issues underlying poverty require provincial policy change, will you be funding projects that build provincial advocacy at the community level (e.g. empowering local community members to raise their voice in advocating for increasing income assistance rates)
 - Danyta – potentially an outcome of the project but likely not in the program delivery.
 - Leah – not intended to fund advocacy program but intended to fund action

Discussion: What learning supports are needed from Tamarack and the Cities Reducing Poverty peer learning network to best support municipalities to plan for and prepare their applications?

Introduction – Tamarack's Supports

- **Tamarack's learning supports**
 - **Coaching** (1-on-1 Manager of Cities; Expert Coaching)
 - **Peer Learning** (Communities of Practice [CoPs], Peer-Input-Process [PiP] Troubleshooting Sessions), Mentoring)
 - **Face-to-Face Events** (Summits, Gatherings, Workshops)
 - **Online Learning** (Webinars, Website, Newsletter, Social)
 - **Publications** (Case Studies, Tools, Guides, Articles, Blogs)
- **Ideas for Tamarack learning supports**
 - **Coaching** (1-on-1 Manager of Cities; Expert Coaching)
 - **Peer Learning** (Communities of Practice [CoPs], Peer-Input-Process [PiP] Troubleshooting Sessions), Mentoring)
 - **Face-to-Face Events** (Summits, Gatherings, Workshops)
 - **Online Learning** (Webinars, Website, Newsletter, Social)
 - **Publications** (Case Studies, Tools, Guides, Articles, Blogs)
- **Stream 1 and 2 supports**
 - **Stream 1 – Developing a Community Plan** (*Expert and Manager of City coaching, 3-part CoP series, peer support, tools and guides*)
 - Engaging 4 sectors (including lived/living experience) in developing a community-wide common agenda and community plan:
 - Developing a Common Agenda: Who do we Engage?
 - Community Engagement: Building a Momentum for Change
 - Developing a Strategy and Writing the Plan
 - **Stream 2 – Implementing the Plan** (*Case studies, stories of success stories, troubleshooting strategies and connections from across the network*)
 - Addressing TogetherBC's Priority Action Areas:
 - Housing; Families; Children/Youth; Education/Training; Employment; Income; Social supports. Mental Health/Addictions

- Reduced-fare transit and recreation passes
- Financial security through tax-filing programs
- Awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and promote inclusion
- Social Enterprises that provide supportive employment
- Local food security initiatives (access; food-waste; kitchens)

Discussion

- Nelson - Making the case – planning process – how to structure it? Who and how to engage?
 - Opportunities for communities working on the ground in PR on the ground to approach municipalities to deepen that relationship. Planning stream sets the stage and makes sure PR gets to the council table
- City of Vancouver would appreciate bouncing ideas off of Tamarack to help refine them (e.g. given X idea, how to make it stronger based on best practices – 1-on-1 brainstorm)
- Communities should share their ideas to see if there's any overlap – support each other
- BC Poverty Reduction Coalition will be providing a support guide as well – include Trish on what municipalities plan to apply for
- Williams lake – interested in convening a specific conversation/call for rural communities
- Interested in accessing information on poverty rates around the provinces
- Interested in promising practices within the field

Resources

- [News Release](#)
- [Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program grants](#)
- [TogetherBC, British Columbia's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)
- Contact information
 - Sasha Prynn at 250 952-9177 / lgps@ubcm.ca
 - Danyta Welch 250 356 5193/ dwelch@ubcm.ca

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

- **WEBINAR | Authentic Engagement with People of Lived and Living Experience**
| November 25th from 1-2 pm ET | Guests: Cheryl Whiskeyjack and Jonathan Massimi
| [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **WEBINAR | Asking our Communities: A Journey to Understand Participation and Involvement** | November 26th from 1-2 pm ET | Guests: Lidia Kemeny and Paul Born
| [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **WEBINAR | A (Re-)Orientation to the Cities Reducing Poverty Membership | December 10 from 2-3 pm ET** | Moderator: Alison Homer | CRP members should find the invitation in their inbox – if you do not see the calendar invite [register here.](#)

Closing Announcements and next BC CoP call

- Next BC CoP call: Jan 21 at 10am PT
- Invite others to join the BC CoP:
http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/bc_reducingpoverty_cop

Have an idea for a future topic/speaker or a challenge to ask your peers via a peer-input-process troubleshooting session? Let Alison know at alison@tamarackcommunity.ca.