

What would work to help you and other community members out of poverty?

What are the issues facing you and your neighbours in poverty right now?

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON

POVERTY on the

Sunshine Coast

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Report

Sunshine Coast Community Services Society (SCCSS), Habitat for Humanity on the Coast, One Straw Society, Open Door Group, Sechelt Chamber of Commerce and Vancouver Coastal Health sponsored an in-person community meeting at Roberts Creek Hall on Thursday, March, 15, 2018 to discuss poverty on the Coast.

The purpose was to provide data to the British Columbia Poverty Reduction Strategy team regarding how poverty impacts people on the Sunshine Coast and ideas on how the BC government could best take action to improve people's lives.

This is the complete report of the ideas and solutions 80 members of our community shared at that meeting that has been submitted to SPARC BC.



Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

Date of event : March 15th, 2018

Community : Lower Sunshine Coast

of Participants : 75

of Organizations : 6 - Sunshine Coast Community Services, One Straw Society, Vancouver Coastal Health, Habitat for Humanity, Open Door Group & Sechelt Chamber of Commerce

About the Participants:

We did not receive demographics data from all participants; see below for the data collected.

Approximate Age Groups:

- 18 – 30 years of age: 15
- 30 – 55 years of age: 21
- 55 and over: 26

Communities on the Sunshine Coast:

- Langdale: 2
- Granthams Landing: 3
- Gibsons: 16
- Roberts Creek: 13
- Davis Bay: 4
- Sechelt: 14
- Halfmoon Bay: 4
- Egmont : 1
- Pender Harbour : 3

Social Profile:

- 2 single mothers attended with their children
- 1 person from the LGBTQ community
- 4 people from the Municipal Government
- 2 people from faith groups
- 1 differently abled person
- 2 indigenous people
- 3 local farmers
- 4 landed immigrants
-

of participants with lived experience : The total amongst all participants are unknown.

Issues: (*Question 1. What are the issues facing you and people living in poverty right now?*)

Please see the transcription from the flip chart notes below.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

Highlights and patterns :

- Housing issues especially for young families, single parents, seniors and youth including rental rates and shortage of rental housing and lack of long term rentals was listed at every table.
- Basic cost of living including food, utilities, childcare, healthcare and transportation is too high and working wages are too low. The living wage on the Sunshine Coast is \$19.25/ hour.
- Mental health is a concern on the Sunshine Coast and a direct link between poverty and emotional, mental and physical health paired with poor living conditions can hinder people from getting out of a “poverty cycle”.

Possible Solutions: *(Question 2. What would address these issues and help you and people out of poverty?)*

Please see the transcription from the flip chart notes below.

Highlights and patterns of solutions:

- Living wages that match the minimum wage.
- Low income housing and affordable housing that are government sponsored and policy changes for the development of affordable housing like tiny house villages and co housing.
- Provincial wide legislation to end homelessness.
- Access to healthy food via food hubs, gardens, community kitchens and community supported agriculture.
- Create more tax equity.

Solutions and Actions That Can Make a Difference:

Highlights and patterns of top solutions:

- Many of the top solutions from each table spoke to Universal Income.
- Many solutions highlighted affordable housing.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

Part (b) – Emerged as the top 3 solutions

Table 1:

1. \$10 per day child care.
2. Basic living space for every person affordably.
3. Basic living income/wage.

Table 2:

1. Housing portion of social assistance fluctuates to match market value of rent in a particular area.
2. As a community, 'take on an issue' and really invest in dealing with it.
3. Job creation assistance.

Table 3:

1. Info Hub / Resource hub – one stop shop – one website with info.
2. Change bylaws for community living – tiny homes.
3. Preventative care and measures. Sustainability – food/housing; put more money into mental health/physical health.

Table 4:

1. Social determinants of health across ministries.
2. Review/create best practices of global/international models of poverty elimination.
3. Government wage subsidies for small businesses. Local minimum wage = local living wage. Raise government support rates (disability/welfare).

Table 5:

1. Supports to address transitional housing situations through rent banks (crisis funding); subsidized housing.
2. Expanding public transit; expanding routes; improving access and availability.
3. Increase supply and affordability of childcare.

Table 6:

1. Change by-laws; allow tiny homes and RV parks.
2. Community hub safety net – washer, dryer, computer, wifi – build community.
3. Local, municipal, federal independent advocate holding government accountability for hydro, insurance, medical, transportation, seniors, daycare.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

Table 7:

1. Subsidized housing (home market housing).
2. Guaranteed basic income.
3. Increase taxes for the wealthy.

Table 8:

1. Affordable housing.
2. Developers encouraged / local government encouraged, to support the building of affordable housing.
3. Universal basic income.

Table 9:

1. Affordable housing – truly affordable (\$300/mnth); micro apartment (150 sq.ft.); functional/tiny/beautiful spaces i.e. Portland / Asia model.
2. Guaranteed income.
3. Childcare – universal childcare – more qualified ECEs; more money for ECEs.

Table 10:

1. Guaranteed basic income.
2. Affordable housing.
3. Low cost informal programs for kids.

Issues: *(Question 1. What are the issues facing you and people living in poverty right now?)*

Table 1:

- Housing plus very high rent. Shortage of long term rental; lots of short term rentals – winter only, must move out for summer.
- Single women and self-employed – lack of affordable and accessible housing.
- Bought 5th wheel with RRSP in camp ground – many others in campground are living in tents.
- Property managers' increase rent monthly.
- Postsecondary education very expensive.
- Cost of food on the Coast is very high.
- Low wage jobs does not equal cost of living.
- Jobs seasonal; people must work two or more jobs.
- Seniors on fixed income (Seniors Housing) OAS and CPP = \$1900. Rent = \$1248. Food = \$400. Car insurance? Other expenses?
- Pets make finding rent very hard.
- Anxiety, scared about future financial situation.
- Cost of living increasing yearly. Wages do not match.
- Mental health and poverty linked.
- Citizens don't take enough power to make changes.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Mental health, physical health, chronic conditions – often live in poverty due to lack of government services and support from public services.
- Transportation – not affordable or accessible. Isolated people – anywhere past Halfmoon Bay have no bus service.
- Transportation affects ability to get job and work.
- Daycare – affordability + not enough. Not enough staff – ECE's not paid living wages. Staff cannot find housing.
- Ferry costs commuting to work.
- Prescription costs too high – increased sickness – increased time off work.
- Desperation causes increased crime.

Table 2:

- Homeless families with children.
- Campground living.
- Kids without Breakfast.
- High rents; limited availability.
- Lack of personal space and resources.
- Social assistance rates – housing portion has not kept pace with price increases.
- Waiting lists for housing.
- Healthy food can be limited by social service providers.
- Cooking skills training.
- Crisis grants restricted.
- Limited/expensive childcare.
- Lack of advocacy for people with challenges and dealing with authority.
- Poverty is more 'hidden' on the Coast.
- Attitudes about poverty from the people in poverty and external viewers.
- NIMBY-ism.

Table 3:

- Low wages.
- Affordable housing.
- Rental shortage.
- Cost of food.
- Access to transit.
- Water shortage – watershed? supply?
- Only service jobs – pay minimum wage.
- Large pool applying for higher wage jobs.
- Limited opportunity for tenants – restricted.
- Short term rentals.
- Lack of income assistance (not enough)
- Lack of child care.
- Lack of preventative health care support. MSP limited; expensive extended health; medication too expensive and not covered; lack of mental health support.
- Lack of shelters – long term or short term.
- Shift attitude – share the wealth; it's about the people.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Minimal support for families in crisis. Fostering? Why are funds going there instead of family first?
- Mental and emotional struggles – not enabling the ‘ask’ for help.
- Lack of knowledge for province/staff?
- Shame = poverty.
- Lack of accessibility for disabled.
- People don’t know where to go or what is available – not enough information on programs available.
- Pension too low to afford rent/housing.

Table 4:

- Housing. Affordability, little product to rent. Folks living in undesirable conditions.
- Accessibility.
- Loneliness / Isolation.
- Folks cannot afford basic needs – because of lack of financial funding; welfare amount is unsustainable.
- After 30 years of community consultation and investment into this area of concern, the issues are worse than ever.
- Poverty is impacted by the incomplete transition from resource based economy.
- Disability income assistance on Sunshine Coast is too low.
- Living wage on Sunshine Coast is well above \$20 per hour.
- Child care is not affordable.
- Senior care is not affordable or available.
- Economic growth on the Sunshine Coast is low – lack of economic vision for sustainable jobs.
- Geographic as well as social.
- Unhealthy housing rentals – Subpar landlords taking advantage.
- Not enough social workers.
- Mental health resources are minimal on the Coast.
- Rising cost of living, food, utilities, transportation.
- Lack of education and resources available to folks living in poverty – lack of life skills / lack of coping skills.
- Living skills starts in school.
- Financial literacy.

Table 5:

- Lack of affordable childcare.
- Long term affordable housing.
- Poverty is created by everyone in the system.
- Lack of support for people being affected by mental health and drug abuse issues as well as their families and communities.
- Insufficient labour market for the new demographics (young families) on the Coast.
- Transportation issues – Connectivity ferry/buses.
- Cost of isolation.
- Air B&B replacing long term housing.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

Table 6:

- Thrift Store cost.
- Habitat for Humanity – making a profit.
- Air B&B change rents.
- Need more accommodation to rent.
- Social Services – passing people on.
- Food Security - \$60 = 1 bag of food.
- Medical costs.
- Insurance for landlords (long term) – increase 4K to 10 K. Need support, better regulation, it is a civil matter.
- Hydro (deposit needed).
- Childcare / Daycare.
- Cell phone costs.
- BC ferries costs.
- Sustainable, full time employment – cost associated with employing; red tape.
- Brain / social drain no cheaper areas.
- Stigma with renters (will they 'trash' place).
- Safety net for seniors.
- Support for mental illness.
- Building code and bylaws – no tiny homes.
- No "control of life".
- Isolation.
- Gentrification.

Table 7:

- Housing for seniors.
- Cost of housing for everyone.
- Access to affordable housing for people with pets.
- Lack of internet.
- Lack of TV.
- Lack of mailbox.
- Lack of hydro/utilities.
- Too much property owned.
- Cost of living.
- All money goes to housing, nothing left over.
- Low wages in BC.
- Not enough work available.
- Pension – no benefits.
- Limited long term rentals.
- Cost of moving – associated costs.
- Lack of transportation.
- Lack of child care.
- Low income families' children not ready; hunger affects ability to learn.
- Lack of food – malnutrition.
- Shame.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Isolation.
- Pension – OAS, CPP – not enough.
- Invisible.
- Hopelessness.
- Loneliness.
- Access to healthcare.
- No access to family doctor – transfer charts.
- Mental health issues.
- Food too expensive.
- Lack of hospice/palliative care.
- Lack of ability to get further education.
- Dependency on ferry – cannot afford.
- Taxing/penalties when unable to pay resulting in further poverty.
- Things cost more when poor – can't buy bulk, no storage, no transportation.
- Loss of time (especially waiting for ferries).
- Lack of good jobs.
- Living wage on Sunshine Coast \$20 – no jobs on Coast at that wage.
- Increased crime rate, substance abuse, domestic violence.
- Loss of self.
- Feelings of not contributing.
- Relationships suffer.

Table 8:

- Affordable housing – mortgages that are accessible for working class people.
- Landlord accountability – education for landlords, help them respect tenant rights.
- Landlord-up-keep at his/her property.
- Empty homes / Air B&B – tax on empty homes not just in Vancouver – vacation communities need empty home tax.
- Pet friendly rentals.
- Tenancy act to cover trailer parks – pad renters need rights.
- Affordable housing for seniors on pensions.
- Gap between cost of living and wages is too wide.
- More Greencourt/BC Housing/supported housing – not enough, no vacancies.
- What about if you're a senior and someone with a disability.
- What do other towns / provinces do for seniors / housing.
- People need to stay in the communities they call home – not have to move because of no resources/housing.
- People leaving the Coast because of lack of housing.
- CAPITALISM – leaving jobs, family, support systems.
- Taxes on empty homes etc. to go directly to housing that is affordable.
- Rent control – monthly rate.
- Different levels of disability.
- Child care subsidy for low income earner.
- More accurate poverty line.
- 4% hospitality tax – increase or better directed.
- Minimum wage should reflect living wage.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Increases in Hydro and ICBC rate plus gas tax but no increase in minimum wage.
- Social housing / apartment blocks.
- More responsive government policies and legislation.
- Long time Coast residents/locals – as they age, their homes are not going to locals because too expensive; homes are going to newcomers.
- More childcare spots / higher wages for ECE workers – motivate people to do ECE training. Four year degree and student loans not worth it at \$19 to \$21 per hour.
- Developers encouraged / local government encouraged to support the building of affordable housing.
- Re-education for people on disabilities.
- Support education – further education grants for seniors who still want to work.
- No MSP.
- More online courses.
- More on the job training.
- More local ways to get educated for jobs locally and still live here.

Table 9:

- Affordable housing – post and share stories of families looking for affordable housing – families that have rented for years and been evicted.
- Food quality – if don't have access to nutritional food it impacts ability to cope; impacts children; impacts medical system.
- Community doesn't know – people who are not dealing with poverty don't want to know.
- Affordable childcare – healthy food – easier to buy canned than fresh.
- Hydro bills – choose to cut off hydro and feed family instead.
- Right to live above the standard of poverty without having to ask.
- Stigma to having to ask for help – judgement within.
- Mental health and addictions – removing judgement – maybe not in poverty but are stretched and can't keep up.
- Childhood anxiety – parents are stressed so kids are feeling it too.
- Media's perspective – what images people see.
- Children's behaviour and health are showing us that we aren't living the right way.
- People need to feel comfortable to share and to participate – not to be judged.
- People who are supporting other get tired and sick.
- Education – using Capilano University reduces people going off coast
- Seniors living in poor conditions – many for housing and food on pension

Table 10:

- Housing – availability; rent.
- Child care.
- Health care – accessibility in a timely way; access to care (transportation).
- Food security – extra cost on Coast – healthy is expensive / unhealthy is less expensive.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Transportation costs impact access.
- Have to make choices re: money.
- Health care costs – some drugs; medical supplies.
- Mental health services lacking / inadequate.
- Welfare rates too low.
- Addiction drives poverty – poverty drives addiction.
- Activities for kids not affordable.
- Issues are the same and getting worse.
- Loss of hope.

Possible Solutions: *(Question 2. What would address these issues and help you and people out of poverty?)*

Table 1:

- Provincial/Federal politicians need 'will' to address issues.
- Citizen engagement to push political changes.
- Housing Sharing – register for people looking for housing; people looking to share housing. Safe regulated program to vet people looking to share housing/looking for shared housing. Government run/funded (?)
- Legislation to eliminate poverty in BC (NOW!).
- Look to Alberta's 'Housing First' act.
- Regulations on Rent Costs and increases.
- Supported housing for mental health.
- \$10 per day childcare.
- Provincial and federal strategies to support affordable/accessible housing.
- Zoning and bylaw changes for Tiny homes.
- Incentives for property owners to create rental suites.
- Reduced ferry rates.
- Basic living space for every person's affordability.
- Limits on Air B&B in communities.
- Higher taxes on empty houses and investment buying.
- Basic living income/wage.
- Strategies need to be fully inclusive of all citizens.
- Reduce income gaps.
- Fair pharmacare.
- Cap the cost of food; subsidize fruits and vegetables.
- Increase social assistance.
- Decrease postsecondary education / loan forgiveness.
- Creative financing for alternative housing.
- Access to more free/subsidized mental health counselling.
- Sunshine Coast should be included in speculation tax and foreign buyers' tax.
- Poverty stats on Coast – what does it look like; show numbers publicly so we can know our community.
- Easier access to Rental Board of BC.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

Table 2:

- 'Match-making' type of service for making direct assistance.
- Street ambassadors who could help with providing information to those in need.
- Rent controlled buildings
- Housing portion of social assistance that fluctuates to match market value of rent in a particular area.
- Foreign buyer tax should apply on the Sunshine Coast (empty home tax too).
- Low income houses built on vacant land (government sponsored).
- Repurposing old mobiles – creation of more mobile home parks.
- Street level renters reserved/prioritized for those with disabilities.
- More retail establishments for recycled/repurposed items.
- Low cost/affordable housing component of developments should be scaled to the economic conditions of the community.
- Policy for older mobiles that have passed inspection being used.
- Breakfast programs at schools.
- Cooking skills training.
- Community gardens at schools.
- More/frequent community dialogues.
- As a community, 'take on an issue' and really invest in dealing with it.
- Story telling about poverty that is more consistent; plus solution proposals.
- Government assistance with affordable housing.
- Revising the reporting process of disability benefits.
- Simplify the processes of disability and social assistance.
- Government encourages additional housing/suites on larger properties (tax breaks?).
- Affordable childcare / eldercare services.
- Job creation assistance.
- Centralized media platform for assistance services (for sharing information).

Table 3:

- More education/general knowledge to advocate each of us to take on the/more responsibility.
- Hotline for homeless (?) – Government? Volunteer? Volunteer organization to gather knowledge and educate public and those in need. One stop shop – one website with information (Community Services). INFO HUB.
- Text options for help (as an App). Cell phone program – donated / \$10/month, access to information etc.
- Change bylaws for community living / tiny homes; alternate housing options; empty houses (Sechelt Regional District, District of Sechelt, Town of Gibsons).
- "It takes a village" concept.
- Crown land use for small housing / village.
- Build smaller but more – Habitat for Humanity (?).
- Incentives for developers to build small houses.
- Food sustainability.
- More community gardens – crown land, donated land, protect ALR land.
- Better healthcare – more specific to needs instead of general services.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Pension restructuring.
- Cost of living – cap hydro/phone – more competition needed.
- Preventative care and measures. Sustainability – food/housing; put more money into mental health/physical health instead of reactive – provincial/federal.
- Better programs at Capilano University – 1st year courses to retain youth.
- Trade schools needed.
- Guaranteed annual income.

Table 4:

- Health inspectors need to check on rentals.
- Need to hire inspectors to follow the current rules/regulations.
- Protection for tenants who are forced to relocate because of unhealthy living environments.
- Ministries in Housing and health need to work together, identify common tasks in service plans.
- De-silo the ministries so they work on health collectively – social determinates of health.
- Government wage subsidy for small business.
- Minimum wage = local living wage.
- Raise government support rates – disability/welfare.
- Social network – non-judgmental, government supported.
- Bring back access to social support systems i.e. legal aid.
- Initiate awareness of the economic impact of poverty on the Sunshine Coast.
- Review best practices of other like sized communities globally who have addressed poverty i.e. Norway.
- Decreasing barriers to alternative housing – tiny houses etc.
- The closure of Riverview/Woodlands has failed; need more supportive housing for folks with mental health.
- Addiction strategies.
- Intentional communities.
- Co-op living – Food strategies, community gardens, ALR land.
- Healthy communities – develop a strategy that is holistic and not ministry siloed.
- Understand the face of poverty and develop anti-discrimination to poverty.
- Access to nutritional affordable food.
- Create a 'taking care of our own' strategy on the Sunshine Coast – food, clothing, etc.

Table 5:

- Consider banning most Air B&Bs.
- Stop giving welfare to rich corporations – tax them fairly.
- Eliminate salaries for politicians for life.
- Increase the supply and affordability of childcare.
- Creating an attractive environment for businesses that create employment opportunities for employees to thrive. Business opportunities servicing seniors, creating jobs for younger population.
- Subsidized market based housing.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Rent bank – short term loans to bridge a gap.
- Building co-op housing.
- More bus routes. Expanding service to all parts of the Coast.
- Building transitional housing.

Table 6:

- Government incentive to rent (to landlords).
- Lease crown land.
- Gas co-op.
- Information sharing.
- Food co-op.
- Youth centre.
- Community centre – free store, community kitchen.
- Community hub – washer, dryer, computer, wifi – build community.
- Change bylaws – allow tiny homes and RV parks.
- Community gardens.
- Spring clean-up – all share things they no longer need.
- Affordable childcare.
- Labour pool.
- Conversation about Air B&Bs.
- Reduce insurance costs for landlords.
- Affordable housing program – BC Housing.
- Local, municipal, federal, independent advocate holding government accountability for hydro, insurance, medical, transportation, seniors, daycare.
- Introduce competition to hydro.
- Safety net programs for elderly and mentally ill – bus tickets.
- More community events / training.
- Limited income card.
- WWOOFing (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farming).
- RV trailer parks.
- Think tank.
- Habitat for Humanity – things not sold – reduce costs.
- Legalize hemp.

Table 7:

- Subsidized housing (home market housing).
- More awareness – problem is invisible.
- Guaranteed basic income.
- Address childcare crisis – 100% subsidized.
- Mandatory benefits (even if part time).
- Increase OAS, CPP.
- Change system where you need to work casual (without benefits) for a while before getting permanent work (with benefits).
- Free postsecondary education.
- Better public transit.
- More restrictions on Air B&Bs/VRBO.
- Zoning to be changed.
- Eliminate politician's pensions.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Buy local – support local business.
- Keep money in the community.
- Resident fares cheaper for ferries; priority boarding; 10 free rides.
- Co-housing.
- Educate children, morals.
- Barter system.
- Relax regulations for home based baby-sitting childcare.
- Easier access to small business loans.
- Less regulations around selling locally grown produce at grocery stores.
- A significant homeowners grant for second homes linked to proof that home is rented to a long-term tenant – long term tenancy grant.
- Increased taxes for the wealthy.
- Relax restrictions/regulations on tiny homes/micro dwellings.
- Improve legal aid services.
- Increase tax on vacant homes, second homes, vacation homes.
- Employers to offer better wages.

Table 8:

- Workplace supported childcare centres.
- Local job needs are not being filled by local residents.
- Community gardens – community kitchens.
- Financial support for learn to grow food.
- Seed exchange.
- Better dental for low income/seniors – dentists to become part of medical system.
- Universal basic income.
- Free postsecondary.
- Increase mental health and addiction services.

Table 9:

- Affordable housing – truly affordable (\$300/month); micro apartment (150 sq ft) – functional, tiny, beautiful spaces. Re: Portland / Asia model.
- Guaranteed income.
- Taxes have to change – lower income are paying disproportionate amount. Starting until you hit 30K/50K for family.
- Pensions should not be taxable.
- Food sharing/bartering – quality food.
- CSA – making them a bit more affordable – gait support/tickets – food curriculum.
- Universal childcare – more qualified ECEs; more money for ECEs.
- MSP – Pharmacare program; dental; optometry.
- Transportation – bus passes for low income.
- Raise the minimum wage – look to other provinces.
- Removing stigma so there isn't embarrassment in accessing services.
- Education incentives – being able to increase skills; change jobs. Guaranteed income.
- Medicine Hat model – no homelessness. They find homes for everyone, no barriers. More expensive to have people homeless than to support people.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Removing barriers for people with addictions.
- Educating youth about poverty – to take stigma away.
- Transfer knowledge – communicating so power structures understand.
- Communicating with government to show them these solutions can be cost neutral.

Table 10:

- Guaranteed basic income – indexed.
- Fair taxation system.
- Incentive to develop affordable housing – purchased and rental.
- Government enforcement of mandate for developers.
- Regulation of offshore property investment.
- Better pharmaceutical coverage.
- Limit Air B&B.
- Welfare/disability rate – significant increase.
- Infill housing.
- Redirect tax revenue to people, not corporations.
- Mental health advocate easily accessible.
- Wage purity throughout BC.
- Low cost informal programs for kids.
- Engage stakeholders – awareness that poverty affects everyone.
- Public education – cost of poverty; cost of mental health issues.
- Program for kids to encourage empathy – after school programs.

Solutions and Actions That Can Make a Difference:

Part (a) – *Solutions individuals identified as most important to them*

Table 1:

- Legislation to eliminate poverty in BC.
- \$10 per day childcare.
- Basic living income/wage.
- Basic living space for every person, affordably.
- Poverty stats on Coast; what does it look like – show numbers publicly so we can know our community.
- Provincial/Federal political will to address issues.
- Housing Sharing – register for people looking for housing; people looking to share housing. Safe regulated program to vet people looking to share housing/looking for shared housing. Government run/funded.
- Higher taxes on empty housing and investment buying.
- Cap the cost of food – subsidize fruits and vegetables.
- Creative financing for alternative housing.
- Access to more free/subsidized mental health counselling.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

Table 2:

- Housing portion of social assistance that fluctuates to match market value of rent in a particular area.
- As a community, 'take on an issue' and really invest in dealing with it.
- Government encourages additional housing/suites on larger properties – tax breaks.
- Job creation assistance.
- Rent controlled buildings.
- Low income houses built on vacant land – government sponsored.
- Low cost/affordable housing component of developments should be scaled to the economic conditions of the community.
- More/frequent community dialogues.
- Story telling about poverty that is more consistent plus solution proposals.
- Revising the reporting processes of disability benefits.
- Simplify the processes of disability and social assistance.

Table 3:

- Change bylaws for community living/tiny homes.
- Hotline for homeless – Government? Volunteer? Volunteer organization to gather knowledge and educate public and those in need. One stop shop – one website with information (Community Services). INFO HUB.
- Pension restructuring.
- Better healthcare – more specific to needs instead of general services.
- More education/general knowledge to advocate each of us to take on the/more responsibility.
- More community gardens – crown land, donated land, protect ALR land.
- Preventative care and measures. Sustainability – food/housing; put more money into mental health/physical health instead of reactive – provincial/federal.
- Cost of living – cap hydro/phone – more competition needed.

Table 4:

- Review best practices of other like sized communities globally who have addressed poverty i.e. Norway
- Minimum wage equals local living wage.
- Develop a strategy for healthy communities that is holistic and not ministry siloed.
- Co-op living – food strategies, community gardens, ALR land.
- Raise government support rates – disability/welfare.
- Intentional communities.
- Health inspectors need to check on rentals.
- Access to nutritious affordable food.

Table 5:

- Subsidized market based housing rent bank. Short term loans to bridge a gap.
- More bus routes. Expanding service to all parts of the Coast.
- Building transitional housing.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Increase the supply and affordability of childcare.
- Creating an attractive environment for businesses. Business opportunities servicing seniors, creating jobs for younger population that create employment opportunities for employees to thrive.

Table 6:

- Change bylaws; allow tiny homes and RV parks.
- Community hub safety net – free store, community kitchen, washer, dryer, computer, wifi (build community.)
- RV trailer parks.
- Lease crown land.
- Reduce insurance costs for landlords.
- Affordable housing program – BC Housing.
- Introduce competition to hydro.

Table 7:

- Increase taxes for the wealthy.
- Subsidized housing (home market housing).
- Buy local / support local business.
- Guaranteed basic income.
- Relax restrictions/regulations on tiny homes/micro-dwellings.
- More restrictions on Air B&B/VRBO.
- Eliminate politicians' pensions.
- Keep money in the community.
- Home owners grant for second home with long term tenants – long term tenancy grant.

Table 8:

- Universal basic income.
- Affordable housing.
- Local job needs are not being filled by local residents.
- Social housing / apartment blocks.
- No MSP.
- Landlords up keep of property.
- Workplace supported childcare centres.
- Pet friendly rentals.
- More Greencourt / BC Housing / supported housing – not enough; no vacancies.
- People need to stay in the communities they call home – not have to move because no resources/housing.
- More local ways to get educated for jobs locally and still live here.

Table 9:

- Affordable housing – truly affordable (\$300/mnth); micro apartments (150 sq. ft.) – functional, tiny, beautiful spaces i.e. Portland / Asia model.
- Guaranteed Income.
- Childcare – universal childcare – more qualified ECEs; more money for ECEs.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Taxes have to change – lower income are paying disproportionate amount – starting until you hit 30K / 50K for families.
- Food sharing / bartering – quality food.
- MSP – pharmacare program – dental – optometry.
- Transportation – bus passes for low income.
- Education incentives – being able to increase skills / change jobs; guaranteed income.
- Removing barriers for people with addictions.
- Educating youth about poverty – to take stigma away.
- Transfer knowledge – communicating so power structures understand.

Table 10:

- Guaranteed basic income – indexed.
- Incentive to develop affordable housing – purchased and rental.
- Low cost informal programs for kids.
- Engage stakeholders – awareness that poverty affects everyone.
- Fair taxation system.
- Regulation of offshore property investment.
- Dental coverage.
- Limit Air B&B.
- Infill housing.
- Mental health advocate easily accessible.
- Public education – cost of poverty – cost of mental health issues.

Additional information collected:

Prior to the poverty reduction event on March 15th, we sent a photographer to different local events with differing demographics to promote the event and also collect data by having people write down their answers and then be photographed with it.

We asked 3 questions:

- What does Poverty mean to you?
- How does Poverty affect you?
- What is a solution to end poverty on the Sunshine Coast?

The documented photos can be viewed here

: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AiDsZr5dILyYzKWwfxS5cS3HnM41s2Vq?usp=sharing>

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

Following is the rest of the data we collected:

Question 1: What does poverty mean to you?

- Unequal benefits plus unequal justice.
- Poverty often breeds crime in communities – often the case of what came first, the chicken or the egg.
- Poverty also contributes to poor nutrition; which contributes to poor health.
- Poverty = stifled potential. The problem is greed.
- Poverty affects negatively everyone especially the mentally ill. I knew a woman who was so worried about where she was going to live that she was delusional, believing people were pointing guns at her and that she was being attacked through her microwave. When she found a stable place to live she was a different person altogether.
- Poverty affects the community in many socio and economic areas. Individually it restricts ability to meet basic needs. Communally it puts pressure on services and political policy.
- People sleep outside in the cold.
- Poverty means more abandoned pets.
- The equation of wages and living costs does not work, especially for those on minimum wage, and those who do not own their own home. The bigger picture of our lives needs to be carefully examined. Everyone should have a way to create work, shelter, food, clothing and transportation needs, in a positive light. It must be pretty scary for many people, the way the world is right now.
- Lack of affordable housing.
- Less money for essentials i.e. food, medication and transportation.
- Lack of opportunities.
- Isolation.
- Poverty means that some are entitled to nothing and must justify their entitlement to every shred of that which is necessary to survive to those who believe they are entitled to these things by virtue of the privilege of their birth.
- Something that should be a top priority for eliminating.
- Poverty means limited choices, unfulfilled potential, discouragement, abandonment.
- Poverty is often of the soul with community and sharing poverty can be avoided.
- Poverty means constant worry about having enough money to pay the rent and buy food.
- Poverty means oppression – lack of choice about what to eat, how to spend time etc. Inability to live with dignity.
- Restricted opportunities.
- To see this level of poverty in Canada is very emotional for me personally. Having come from India in 1965 I have seen how it affects your intuitive self-esteem and self-confidence. Surrender to things beyond your control.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Helpless and sadness. I served at the food kitchens in Winnipeg since early 1969 and the first time when I came out I cried sitting in my car outside. In Canada we need not see people going through it.
- Insecurity, fear, hunger, lack of options. I would like to see everyone able to be free to explore their potential without having to worry about these things.
- Poverty means not having enough money to live. There are no homes that are affordable to rent on a pension.
- I'm preparing to be homeless – lovely at my age.
- To me poverty means Canada, we should and need to help those at home that can't afford basic necessities.
- Food, clothing, housing. Our children should not be without the basics. Our seniors are affected as well in regards to basic needs – getting to the market, lack of companionship, is poverty as well. No one should be judged for having less.
- Your basic needs are not supplied by your community, therefore you are never able to relax and offer your gifts.
- A lack of community support.
- Over populated; lack of employment; housing crisis; drug and alcohol abuse.

Question 2: How does poverty affect you?

- How poverty affects the community – considerable energy is put out by various community minded people to assist those in vulnerable situations. Poverty is a vicious cycle for many families and the work done by many is like a band-aid that covers a wound requiring stitches. The time has come to bring everyone together, especially the vulnerable, to determine best methods to climb over the challenges of poverty that will lead to greater connectivity, resilience and healthy community.
- It ignites creativity and tolerance in those that live with love and abundance. It ignites paralysis by analysis and segregation in those that live in fear and scarcity. It is a catalyst that crushes and liberates, but it does so with bias.
- It affects everyone. The people living in shelters/who are homeless are not just those living with addictions/mental illness; but are the 'working poor'. I have a "cushy union job" and yet my annual income falls below the poverty line. It makes it hard to afford housing, as well as other areas, like having to choose between paying the hydro bill or eating.
- Being self-employed I deal with "poverty" every day. I also teach music and see it from a "family with 'less'" point. I try to keep things affordable, thus keeping myself in the "poverty" zone. But we all dig in and survive.
- Learn to live with less...not more.
- I am 82 years old; I have lived for 40 years in poverty. I am tired of seeing homeless people on the Sunshine Coast. Our government selling properties to foreign investors. Since 1990 no affordable houses have been built. Homeowners can charge any amount of rent for any square footage of living space. I pay \$1000 for 500 sq.ft.
- Thank you volunteers for bringing injustice out in the open. Shame on our government, shame on allowing poverty in Canada.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- It affects me on the amount of energy I have to give after I'm done working.
- As a senior – cold winters (single pane windows); prescription drugs cost.
- Being able to build a savings shouldn't mean having to work 7 days a week at 2 jobs.
- I feel sadness and apathy over how much of a gap there is between rich and poor.

Question 3: What is a solution to end poverty on the Sunshine Coast?

- Create and publish a local poverty index in the paper each week.
- Guaranteed minimum income.
- Raise minimum wage. (mentioned multiple times)
- More low income, subsidized housing, more rental subsidies for housing. (mentioned multiple times)
- Can there be temporary housing and transition plan for at risk people and homeless people.
- Container homes – tiny homes – fair prices.
- Adequate housing.
- Community support – allow homeless to use basement.
- Outlaw Air B&B or charge air B&B tax (mentioned multiple times)
- Unused nation building sports club house, closed down school building – renovate into something liveable for a single person.
- Rent control.
- Tax vacation homes and vacant homes.
- Ban foreign ownership.
- Incentives for landlords of long term rentals.
- Foreign owners' tax.
- Universal basic income. (mentioned many times)
- Plant more food.
- Employment – pay for mortgage/food.
- Mental health resources.
- Farm program where individuals can trade time and hours for fresh local produce, nourishment, community, education, wellbeing.
- Free dental.
- Centralized kitchen that uses grocery store food waste to serve meals to the impoverished and teaches cooking and nutrition.
- Rent – jobs part time/low-pay – government assistance – ferry-no emergency assistance.
- Raise welfare rates.
- More mental health resources.
- More government sponsored housing; less expensive investor-driven building projects left vacant by nonresidents.
- Provide self-employment subsidy grants/loans.
- Increase PWD allowable income.
- Government subsidized labour programs.
- Improve local transit for all to get jobs distant from home (mentioned multiple times).

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Improve car share program.
- Loans for electric bikes and tiny homes.
- Story time at the Gumboot; stories by the young, old, rich, poor and everything in between.
- Easier on boarding for programs teaching skilled trades.
- Food bank delivery.
- Pet friendly rentals.
- Community work programs to supply employment opportunities.
- Affordable housing for locals.
- Job creation with sustainable living projects – growing food in community; working together in building affordable housing.
- Easier ride share.
- Connectivity – community outreach programs and festivals.
- Legalization of cannabis will create more jobs.
- Through the creation of local employment. Limiting foreign business from buying or opening their businesses on the Coast; instead, help local entrepreneurs with their project with the compromise of employing people from the Coast.
- Solutions start by catching and helping young who are poor, with more community resources.
- The solution lies in educating for equality.
- More frequent ferry sailings. People need the ferry to get jobs. No ferry = no jobs. Too many people have to quit
- Move to a more social based economic system moving away from the commodification of basic human needs such as food, shelter, and health care.
- Cold weather shelter.
- Redistribute wealth via massive tax reform.
- Equal access to education for all.
- Streamline food distribution through grocery store food waste.
- More sharing in general will be required.
- Access to – fresh and local food; affordable housing; connections to community; health services; transportation;
- Free education.
- For separated families the child tax benefit should not be shared when one parent's income is significantly lower than the other.
- I want a more equitable society – how can I be well off when others are not.
- Less government meddling. Free land for focused people to homestead and land steward.
- The tiny home movement is moving here. Government needs to get on board and encourage this movement on the Coast. There is lots of land and lots of enthusiastic dreamers who need homes. It's important these people are not squelched or stopped from filling a need on our Coast.
- Affordable rent; liveable minimum wage; universal day care; free transit; universal income.
- Living wage – if Australia can do it, we can do it. Housing – targeted support for single parents.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Funding Reporting

- Raise OAP; no MSP fees; housing for elders; subsidize prescription drugs; support trash pick-up when seniors don't have a truck to take large items to the dump.
- Change the way you feel about money and caring for each other.
- Educating about gardening, growing your own food and learning about nutrition and the food system. The way food is distributed is so important. Growing your own food, making, canning, baking; make accessible in communities; this would help to make healthy food solutions accessible. Share food, knowledge and environmental sustainability starting with children's education with knowledgeable adults.
- Increase supply and affordability of childcare.