

BC – Local Poverty Reduction Strategies 2021 Onwards – Promising Practices and Actions

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Summary

Municipal poverty reduction strategies from 2021-onwards (to account for COVID-19 pandemic impacts) for BC municipalities/regional districts/combinations of both with 10,000+ up to smaller than Vancouver/Surrey (for scalability and comparability reasons) were reviewed based on the BC Government’s list of poverty reduction grants. More reasons on these selection choices can be found in the methodology section of this report. The context of these communities relative to New Westminster is important, with information on some of the differences/similarities between New Westminster and these communities being noted in the methodology section.

The communities reviewed were: Comox Valley Regional District, Cranbrook+East Kootenay Regional District, Delta, Kamloops, Langleys (Langley City and Langley Township), North Shore (North Vancouver City, North Vancouver District, West Vancouver, etc.), Regional District of Nanaimo (including Nanaimo, Parksville, etc.), Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (including Port Alberni, Tofino etc.), City of Powell River+Qathet Regional District, Prince George, Richmond, Salmon Arm and Williams Lake.

Through the review of the reports and the websites of these communities, actions and other features of these plans and groups were noted, with a focus on actions that are of urgency to New Westminster and are not already established within our plan.

This review also gave some ideas for the report itself and engagement, namely:

- Include quotes and stories of people living in poverty throughout the report (many examples, with Langleys being one of the best examples and Powell River+Qathet Regional District being another one) to give a “face” to the stats and the writing;
- Include engagement methods that get strong response and set engagement goals for certain groups (one of the best examples is the City of Prince George, which had over 814 community members participate in their survey and had engagement goal targets - % of feedback from Indigenous voices, etc.). Keep in mind that we have more options for engagement than the majority of the comparison communities as their engagement was typically done during the COVID-19 pandemic when in-person gatherings were restricted;
- Consider translation of engagement materials into different languages, as was done in Delta;
- Make sure that the roles of different agencies in poverty reduction, such as different levels of government, community groups etc. are outlined clearly in the report (many examples, with Richmond being one of the best ones and the Langleys being another good one). Including an inventory of non-profit organizations, as was done in the North Shore example, may also be useful for providing a quick environmental scan to readers;
- Many communities set timelines for actions, with Langleys being a good example;
- Salmon Arm asked service agencies and their clients about barriers to service access, which is a good idea;
- In any engagement on poverty reduction, making sure to find out about assets that would help them (Powell River+Qathet Regional District is a good example)
- It may be good to frame poverty reduction in terms of values, etc. in the report – Williams Lake does a particularly good job of this with “poverty is a spectrum, not a line”; and,
- Statistics and graphs are important, but also providing context to some of the issues/caveats related to the statistics – Richmond does a good job of this with their discussion of a lack of wealth and asset stats for measurement.

In regards to actions, a game changer framework (as defined by Williams Lake as “priority area or strategy that not only aims to deliver on its own specific goals or outcomes, but also elicits an array of other significant, positive outcomes.”) is recommended and used by many of the communities. There are a variety of different actions listed, some of which New Westminster is already doing in other plans (e.g., affordable housing) or is already a leader in (e.g., CAN network, financial literacy work). Some actions that could address other areas for improvement in New Westminster that are mentioned in several plans or are particularly of interest

- Having volunteer led (or perhaps honorarium paid) community changemakers who can lead campaigns on areas of interest (this is the backbone of Powell River+Qathet Regional District’s approach) (e.g., asking employers to convert at least one position from part-time to full-time);
- Having mental health related actions, particularly getting feedback from the mental health consumers themselves (example from Powell River+Qathet Regional District) and working on the stigma around mental health and support (example from Williams Lake);

- Advocacy actions were a key cornerstone of many of the plans, given that municipalities and community organizations have limited capacity to address issues on their own. The Langleys have a particularly detailed and well-organized set of advocacy actions, as does Prince George;
- Getting a commitment in writing from different levels of government (MPs, MLAs) to address poverty would be an interesting way to build on poverty reduction relationships – this was done in Alberni Clayoquot Regional District through a protocol;
- Recognizing the achievement of businesses who “do good” in the community might also help get the business community involved (e.g., Comox Valley Regional District – recognition program for living wage employers);
- Consider actions that will help support non-profit organizations help people living in poverty – i.e., support for organizations themselves, as written in the Salmon Arm Social Impact Assessment;
- Actions to help people to navigate systems were mentioned in many plans – especially utilizing people with lived experience to help – with Comox Valley Regional District being one of the best examples in this regard, as well as the Navigators program at the North Shore Neighbourhood House program;
- Many plans included food programs and innovative ways of incorporating food programs into children’s programs, etc. such as Munchkinland and WOW Bus incorporation of food programs for young children in the Oceanside (Parksville and Qualicum Beach) part of the Regional District of Nanaimo; and,
- Development and support of social enterprises (New Westminster is already a leader in this area with I’s on the Street, but it should probably be clearly articulated as a goal/action in our plan).

As many of these plans were from 2021, there has been some time for some of the actions to be achieved. Even if an action appears in a plan, that doesn’t mean that the action was necessarily achieved (there are many examples from our own poverty reduction strategy in New Westminster of this). Therefore, in regards to promising actions, as well as other items, it is recommended that we follow up with the communities that had these actions in their plans to find out if these actions were implemented and if yes, any learnings from their implementation, as well as any reasons why these actions haven’t been implemented if not implemented.

All of the plans had their own strengths to offer for us to learn from. The Powell River+Qathet Regional District and the Langleys have the two plans that may provide the best blueprints for New Westminster’s new plan, although most of the strategies reviewed were quite long 50+pages and it would be ideal for the main part of New Westminster’s strategy to be shorter so more people would read it.

Methodology

Local poverty reduction strategies from 2021 and onwards in BC were analyzed. Earlier poverty reduction strategies were not analyzed as the context of 2020 and earlier would not fully reflect many items that impact poverty reduction such as the COVID-19 pandemic and related income supports, inflation, increasing food security issues, increased homelessness, increased drug toxicity deaths and mental health issues, and an increased focus on racial and social justice (Truth

and Reconciliation, Black Lives Matter etc.). Many of the strategies reviewed were from 2021, so they will not fully take into account the high levels of inflation and subsequent increases in food security challenges related to this inflation.

Although Metro Vancouver municipal poverty reduction strategies were given extra attention due to their geographic proximity and similarities (economically, etc.) with New Westminister, other BC municipal poverty reduction strategies were also reviewed (due to the limited number of recent Metro Vancouver municipal strategies in part), particularly ones in municipalities of similar size to New Westminister (e.g., Kamloops, Nanaimo, Prince George size). Only municipalities with populations of 10,000+ were considered, as smaller municipalities than this size do not have the capacity to typically do similar actions to what New Westminister could do. On the other end, Surrey and Vancouver were not researched as they have capacity far beyond what New Westminister has and thus, many of their actions would not be feasible given New Westminister's staffing levels and budgetary constraints. In some cases, municipalities worked together with regional districts on poverty reduction strategies; these strategies were reviewed as well.

Actions that relate to issues related to poverty reduction in New Westminister such as food security, homelessness, cost of living in general, communication/public engagement, lived experience and housing were reviewed in extra detail. Actions that were already being done by New Westminister to the degree that we are leaders in that area (e.g., CAN network – lived experience committee) were not added to the list of actions, unless they added something new and innovative from the ways in which New Westminister is doing work right now.

This research was done solely using online resources and no interviews or follow-up emails to the organizations were done. Meeting minutes and follow-up documents, when available on websites, were reviewed to see if the actions in these plans were actually actioned upon. However, in many cases, no follow-up minutes or documentation of achievements after the plan were available, so it is unclear as to whether or not many of the actions were achieved.

A list of BC Poverty Reduction Strategies were reviewed based on the [UBCM. Poverty Reduction Planning and Actions List \(Approved Projects 2020-2023, as of August 2023\)](#).

Prior to reviewing the plans, a quick review of demographics, housing situations, access to services etc. of these communities was conducted to see the differences and similarities in context between New Westminister and the other communities, as these differences can result in differences in strategy and priority. Different demographics and context were reviewed through [Statistics Canada – 2021 Census Profile](#), [CMHC – Housing Market Information Portal](#), real estate board data, [BC Homelessness Services Association – 2023 Homeless Counts](#), [WalkScore](#), [BC Housing – Housing Listings](#), and Google Earth. New Westminister's context varies from these other communities as follows:

- New Westminister's population was larger than some of the communities (e.g., Salmon Arm) but smaller than some of the communities (e.g., Richmond), which means that New Westminister fits in the middle of the communities in terms of the size of population served and likely staffing resources to address actions;
- New Westminister's population grew more quickly between 2016 and 2021 than most comparison communities (with the Langleys being a notable exception) which means that New Westminister may face more scale-up challenges and needs than most communities (although all comparison communities did see population growth in the 2016-2021 period to some degree);

- New Westminster had a lower percentage of children and youth and seniors than many of the communities, which means that there is a need in New Westminster to also consider the needs of the working-age population in actions;
- New Westminster had a much higher percentage of Visible Minorities and recent immigrants than most of the comparison communities (although Richmond was notably much higher than New Westminster) and had the highest proportion of Black residents of any of the communities. Therefore, actions for New Westminster should perhaps consider diversity-related impacts more so than the comparison strategies;
- New Westminster had a lower proportion of Indigenous residents than some of the communities, particularly outside of Metro Vancouver (especially Williams Lake), therefore some of the actions related to the Indigenous peoples may have more urgency in other communities demographically, although still a part of Truth and Reconciliation in New Westminster;
- It was difficult to compare low income rates between New Westminster and some of the comparison communities due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and supports on low income rates and some of the challenges in measuring poverty in Richmond and West Vancouver (which may have hidden income measurement issues);
- New Westminster residents had higher levels of education than most comparison communities, which means that education related actions may be less of a priority in New Westminster;
- New Westminster had a relatively low reliance on primary industries compared with communities outside of Metro Vancouver, which means that any employment related actions due to industry downturns in these communities had less relevance to New Westminster than these communities;
- New Westminster had a much higher Walkscore than any of the comparison communities (although Walkscore is flawed in that it does not take into account elevation changes) and no rural areas, which means that transportation access may be less of an issue in New Westminster than comparison communities;
- Some other communities such as Kamloops, Nanaimo and Prince George had more notable neighbourhood disparities in socio-economic well-being than New Westminster, but there were still neighbourhood disparities in New Westminster, so actions related to neighborhood disparities may still be worth investigating;
- Most other comparison communities had also seen large increases in homelessness in recent years, so there may be actions addressing homelessness that may be transferrable from other plans to New Westminster;
- New Westminster had a much higher proportion of renters than most comparison communities (only North Vancouver City had a higher proportion of renters), which means that New Westminster's poverty reduction actions should be more cognizant of renter related challenges than other communities;
- New Westminster had higher housing prices than the non Metro Vancouver comparison communities, but similar or lower than some Metro Vancouver comparison communities, homeownership is far out of reach here for people living in poverty so there is relatively less need here for any actions related to affordable homeownership for low-income populations; and,
- New Westminster, like most of the communities, had low rental vacancy rates. Rental supply is an issue that should be noted. Rents in New Westminster were higher than in non Metro Vancouver comparison communities, but similar or in some cases lower than in Metro Vancouver comparison communities.

Results Table

Community and organization leading (if not government)	Poverty Reduction Strategy Name and Link	Year Adopted	Actions	Notes
Comox Valley Regional District	Comox Valley Regional District Poverty Reduction Strategy and Assessment Comox Valley Regional District Working Together to Reduce Local Poverty Website	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game changer workshop (with 45 participants) to identify actions and self guided tool kit for groups to host own conversations with organizations with clients (68 participants) (p.18) (*keep in mind that these actions occurred during COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, so that may have reduced participation). • Convene and align community partners to advocate for Federal and Provincial governments changes income support limits and process, including the consideration of creating a Universal Basic Income Program (p.46). • Create a recognition program for living wage employers (p.47) • Create a community navigators program that employs people with lived experience of poverty to help connect individuals and families with appropriate resources (p.50) 	<p>Comox Valley Regional District includes Comox, Courtenay, Cumberland, various electoral areas, and various First Nations. Seven focus areas for the strategy were adapted from Province’s Together BC plan (p.2 – executive summary). They also have a poverty mythbusters (various parts of document). Poverty Reduction Strategy follows a systems change approach and game changer approach (p.14-p.15). The final survey report included quotes and impact stories (p.10 – survey; p.106 – pdf reader).</p>

Community and organization leading (if not government)	Poverty Reduction Strategy Name and Link	Year Adopted	Actions	Notes
Cranbrook and Regional District of East Kootenay (Community Social Planning Society of Cranbrook and Area)	The City of Cranbrook and Regional District of East Kootenay Poverty Reduction Strategy Cranbrook. Project Reduction Project.	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement included talking with poverty reduction staff in communities throughout BC (p.8) Includes quotes and stories of people living in poverty (p.28-30) What we want to see: “support for an individual to plan and implement action to exit the poverty cycle” (p.33). The City of Cranbrook includes a free low-income bus pass in their Leisure Access Program (p.37). Educate people about poverty (p.50). Hosting a conference with participants from other communities as well as representatives from various levels of government to speak about different programs (March 2023 report). 	<p>East Kootenay Regional District includes Cranbrook, Kimberley, Fernie, Sparwood, Elkford, Radium Hot Springs, Invermere, various First Nations and various electoral areas. The East Kootenay Collaborative for Reducing Poverty was formed during a two day conference (no charge) on October 28 and October 29, 2022 – session for hearing about innovative projects elsewhere and making key recommendations for East Kootenay (March 2023 report). There was an interesting graphic on p.21 to show events that may move people around a housing continuum (backwards or forwards).</p>
Delta	Delta. Poverty Reduction Action Plan. May 2, 2022 Council Report. Poverty Reduction Delta	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free recreation facility for youth between the ages of 10 and 18 (Youth Admission Pass) (p.3 – council report) Free Seniors Bus program (p.3 – council report) Delta sets timelines for its actions (short-term =< 1 year, medium term = 1-3 years, long term = 3-5 years, ongoing) (p.34 of action plan) Build advocacy frameworks into existing policies and plans (medium-term and ongoing) (p.36 of action plan) 	<p>Delta broke down the community engagement participants by method by lived experience of poverty (to determine how to best reach lived experience members – p.11 of poverty reduction action plan). Community survey on poverty was translated into Punjabi, Spanish and Tagalog (p.12 of action plan). Delta has various quotes from survey results on different topics (e.g., housing) interspersed throughout the poverty reduction action plan. Positive language about fostering community well-being, not just eliminating poverty, was also discussed (p.31 of action plan).</p>

Community and organization leading (if not government)	Poverty Reduction Strategy Name and Link	Year Adopted	Actions	Notes
Kamloops	Kamloops Food Policy Council. "Changing the Face of Poverty Report".	2021 (not adopted, just released)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kamloops Food Policy Council worked with a videographer in 2021 to create an anti-stigma video around poverty ("Don't Fight the Poor, Fight Poverty" - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kq-QFiybJew) (944 views) 	<p>Not technically a poverty reduction strategy but does include recommendations. It wasn't adopted by Kamloops City Council.</p> <p>The issues raised in the report are also may be of relevance to consider in New Westminster (p.10): "We noted a lack of capacity among members to take on sub-committee work or a leadership role within the CFP. The increasing urgency of issues social services organizations are grappling with is a contributing factor. In addition, there are a growing number of municipal and non-profit led roundtables and committees that have mandates that overlap with CFP."</p>

Community and organization leading (if not government)	Poverty Reduction Strategy Name and Link	Year Adopted	Actions	Notes
Langley City and Langley Township (Langley Poverty Reduction Task Group)	Langley City. Poverty Reduction Strategy. Township of Langley: Living Well Living Well in Langley. Poverty Reduction Strategy 2022-2027. Living Well In Langley: Poverty Reduction Strategy 3 Minute Video (Youtube)	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Well in Langley created 3 minute video to discuss their poverty reduction strategy and show highlights (159 views) • Free mobile digital literacy training service (2:26 of video and p.31 of report) • Community navigators program with peer-to-peer referrals (2:17 of video and p.28 of report) • The plan clearly states the roles of different groups (Government of Canada, Province of British Columbia, City of Langley and Township of Langley, Land-based First Nations, Local sectors, health, education sectors etc.) in poverty reduction (p.8-p.9 of report) • Langley sets timelines for its actions (quick start – next one to two years; sustainable solutions – next two to five years; building blocks – scale up initiatives within five years; advocacy) (p.23 of report). Each action has potential partners listed and type of action listed as well. • List of advocacy actions for advocacy to provincial and federal governments (p.35 of report) (some include increasing income and disability coverage, increasing access to fair pharmacare, mental health supports etc.) 	<p>“The Task Group is comprised of public and non-profit organizations working together to help eliminate poverty in Langley. The Task Group is a sub-group of the Langley Healthier Community Partnership, a joint initiative of the City of Langley, the Township of Langley and Fraser Health.” There are 8 game changer areas (income, jobs and financial empowerment; health and wellness; housing; community services; transportation and mobility; food security and justice; learning, education and training; belonging and reconciliation). The plan also shows four fictional stories of households experiencing poverty (with supporting facts and processing mapping for paths in and out of poverty) (p.14 – p.21 of report). The report has a series of maps showing poverty indicators (p.60-p.63 of pdf reader) (LIM-AT %, Unemployment Rate %, Core Housing Need %, Change in Core Housing Need Status %)</p>

<p>North Shore (West Vancouver, North Vancouver City and North Vancouver District, Bowen Island, Lions Bay etc.) (North Shore Poverty Reduction Strategy Task Force)</p>	<p>North Shore Poverty Reduction Strategy.</p> <p>City of North Vancouver – Poverty Reduction Strategy Website</p>	<p>2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Shore Neighbourhood House has a Navigators Program: “The Navigators are here to help you identify needs, goals, and assist you in accessing community resources and support from existing service providers. Our aim is to support folks cycling out of poverty with issues ranging from housing, food, basic needs and the multitude of barriers that may arise when navigating systems.” • The North Vancouver City library has an Open Door Community Hub (funded through Strengthening Communities grant and now SPARC BC) that has dedicated, staff space and specialized programming for individuals experiencing homelessness. • Action 5.3 (p.26): “Advocate to funders to align grants, core funding, and other financial investments with poverty reduction initiatives such as the strategies and actions outlined in this Poverty Reduction Strategy.” • Action 10.1 (p.29): “Advocate to senior levels of government for improvements to systems and programs outside of the local government and Nation’s jurisdiction, such as healthcare, education, employment, and training.” • Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the minimum wage to a livable wage • Increase income and disability assistance • Explore universal basic income • Fast-track credential recognition • Regulate payday loan institutions • Expand Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage (e.g. dental care, pharmacare) • Expand the \$10 per day and fee reduction child care programs.” 	<p>North Shore includes West Vancouver, North Vancouver City, North Vancouver District, Bowen Island, Lions Bay, and various First Nations. Stories and anecdotes of people living in poverty are woven throughout the strategy. There is a section in the report (p.16) that discusses the role of libraries in addressing poverty and how they help people in need. The strategy has a section where it lists the main non-profit organizations, local governments, etc. and what they do (environmental scan) (p.20 – p.23)</p>
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Community and organization leading (if not government)	Poverty Reduction Strategy Name and Link	Year Adopted	Actions	Notes
Regional District of Nanaimo (in partnership with local governments, first nations, etc).	Regional District of Nanaimo Social Needs Assessment Get Involved. Regional District of Nanaimo. Social Needs Strategy.	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The social needs assessment/strategy was informed by sharing circles, among other methods (p.8 – report). • One of the recommended actions that may be good from an information point of view is: “Hosting an annual, region-wide, community social infrastructure/ social services event to share data on the targets, convene stakeholders to inform them of progress, and assess where more work is needed” (p.13 – report). • The social needs assessment/strategy mentions “game changing actions” (p.24 – report). The game changer workshop results section of the report (p.236 – p.242 has a table that has a good amount of detail on this topic). • Learning from COVID-19 pandemic: ensure internet access is available for all residents (p.29 – report). • The report mentions the Nanaimo Foodshare Society as a game changer (p.103 – report) for its food skills and learning, resource sharing, etc., being both advocacy and action based. • First 2000 days and beyond program (from Oceanside – Parksville/Qualicum Beach is of interest to early childhood development (report and video) report discusses food security programs at various school and early years programs such as Munchkinland and WOW Bus (these also have outdoor learning components) (p.5 – First 2000 days report), also focus on prevention of childhood trauma (p.10-p.11 – First 2000 days report) 	Regional District of Nanaimo includes Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville, Qualicum Beach and various electoral areas (such as Gabriola Island) and First Nations. Social Needs Assessment isn’t technically a poverty reduction strategy but contains many similar elements so it was reviewed. “It is supported by community partners including the Oceanside Health and Wellness Network, Nanaimo Area Health Network and the Gabriola Health and Wellness Collaborative.” They did a workshop on the social needs assessment with elected officials. They developed a full engagement plan for the needs assessment/strategy. Quote from report (p.48): “social needs are better addressed through poverty reduction not alleviation”. The report (p.63) identifies existing collaborations within the community (e.g., Nanaimo Homeless Coalition, Nanaimo Food Policy Council). The report has quotes from people’s experiences (e.g., on housing – p.84).

Community and organization leading (if not government)	Poverty Reduction Strategy Name and Link	Year Adopted	Actions	Notes
Port Alberni and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District	Alberni Clayoquot Health Network. Poverty Reduction. Alberni Clayoquot Health Network. Building Prosperity in Alberni-Clayoquot.	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Alberni Clayoquot Health Network has a protocol that different organizations can sign to be involved in poverty reduction work, assist in events, lobby for resources, consider poverty and health outcomes etc. (this protocol was signed by both the local MP and the local MLA, as well as Port Alberni City Council) • Many of the actions are advocacy based and support based (p.7) – two of note are: “Support initiatives which increase access to healthy foods” and “Advocate and support funding mechanisms which will enhance individuals access to treatment and care”. • Poverty reduction action plan specifically references UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (p.16). • This plan has strong health actions (p.52), including advocacy actions such as: “Advocate for and support navigational programs that assist people to access health, social, and mental health supports with ease and dignity. Supports include general advocacy, forms and referral assistance, knowledge of supports available, and connection to appropriate supports” and “Advocate for and support training and interventions in health, social services, and mental health care that address stigma for individuals experiencing mental health and addictions, or stigma associated with race, gender, or income.” 	<p>Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District includes Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet, various electoral areas and various First Nations. Meeting minutes for past few years also available from Alberni Clayoquot Health Network (reviewed 2022 notes for information on how implementation of poverty reduction actions is going). As part of engagement, 53 interviews were conducted with people with lived experience in partnership with local organizations (even during challenges of pandemic) (p.13). Report has various quotes of lived experiences sprinkled throughout, as well as information on actions underway.</p>

<p>City of Powell River and Qathet Regional District</p>	<p>City of Powell River. Poverty Reduction</p> <p>Qathet Region Ending Poverty Strategy: Imagine our community without poverty</p> <p>Qathet Region Ending Poverty Strategy: Imagine our community without poverty - appendices</p>	<p>2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the targets of the strategy is having no more than 10% of the residents scoring below 6 on the Thrive-Survive scale (p.39). • One economic progress action is “Organize a living wage campaign together with all major businesses and local governments” (p.43) • Another economic progress action was to “Adjust the property tax exemption program to encourage organizations to take tangible actions to reduce the impact of poverty, i.e., only exempt church organizations from property taxes when they provide, for example, free food, clothing, employment to at risk groups, or community garden space.” (p.43). • There are some actions around mental health (p.44): “Social Planning Research & Services – Work with the Community Action Committee to improve mental health support and increase accessibility to treatment – Ensure that people with lived experience of poverty who utilize mental health supports are included as committee members.” • Concept of change making action teams (p.46-p.47) includes: “recruit and orient community members who volunteer to be Changemakers – approach local organizations and employers and arrange for backbone support for Changemaking Actions Teams. This may include administrative support and other resources.” These change making action teams will identify their interests and develop an action or a campaign (involving breakdown into smaller steps etc.) (organizing rallies etc.) • Design and implement a campaign to motivate employers to take ONE action that contributes 	<p>Qathet Regional District includes Powell River, various electoral areas and various First Nations. The strategy uses the concept of the implementation of citizen-led changemaking action teams for short-term, community-driven poverty reduction initiatives (p.5 – report). The report set targets for reducing poverty rates (p.6 – report). The report contains individual stories of different people struggling with poverty with statistics interspersed throughout the story (e.g., seniors story of May – p.25). Within the survey, there was also a question about asking about assets that were most important to support the wellbeing of people in their region (p.33).</p>
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Community and organization leading (if not government)	Poverty Reduction Strategy Name and Link	Year Adopted	Actions	Notes
			toward reducing poverty. For example, take one position from part-time to full-time” (p.48)	
City of Prince George	Prince George. Social Plans and Strategies. Prince George Select Committee on Poverty Reduction’s Final Recommendations Report. May 2021	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince George divided actions up into “now” (immediately within the next year), soon (within 6 months – 1 year) and later (1-3 years), as well as advocacy (always) (p.3 – pdf reader unless otherwise specified). • “Advocate to keep adult basic education and English language learning courses free.” (p.5) • “Support development of a Navigation Hub. A person (the “navigator”) will be available to help people access services and supports.” (p.5). • Engagement system used a ranking (likert scale) for ranking recommendations (p.14). • The report consists of possible advocacy avenues and tactics for local government (e.g., UBCM – presentations at UBCM) (p.19-20). 	<p>Strong community participation in the survey (over 814 community members) (p.11 – p.12-) including setting engagement goals (number of community engagement partners, % feedback from Indigenous voices etc.) and finding mitigating strategies for community engagement challenges (e.g., COVID-19 challenges). The report clearly outlines the City’s role (act, facilitate, advocate) (p.16). Quotes from survey participants were interspersed throughout the report. Excellent quote from report (p.21): “You will never truly understand what it’s like to live in poverty unless you’ve experienced it.”. The report has a list of partners that helped to engage the various target lens/groups (p.86).</p>

Community and organization leading (if not government)	Poverty Reduction Strategy Name and Link	Year Adopted	Actions	Notes
City of Richmond	City of Richmond. Accessibility and Poverty Reduction. Policy Page City of Richmond. 2021-2031 Collaborative Action Plan to Reduce and Prevent Poverty in Richmond. Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition. Strategic Plan.	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate to BC, Federal Government for funding for universal school meal programs (as per Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition – Strategic Plan). • Advocate for no claw-back on seniors and PWD supplements (as per Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition – Strategic Plan). • Richmond’s actions list potential partners, City’s roles, and associated timeline for completion (p.43). • Action that may be of interest: “Develop social enterprise opportunities in the community to stimulate job creation for populations at risk of or living in poverty.” (p.44 – action plan). • Richmond’s action plan also lists other City plans and how the Poverty Reduction Strategy ties into these plans (p.52-p.56) 	Richmond also has a Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition (which is more activist and sometimes will advocate to City of Richmond), that participated in the action plan work as well. They also have their own strategic plan (separate from the City of Richmond Plan). There is also a community poverty reduction and prevention table. The action plan has a glossary of definitions (p.6 – p.9). The Richmond Action Plan clearly delineates the roles and responsibilities of different organizations (including governments) (p.15-p.18). Definition of standard measures of poverty in action plan note that income measures don’t include assets (p.22), as well as discussion of wealth and assets (p.35).
City of Salmon Arm.	Salmon Arm. Social Impact Assessment.	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The social impact assessment had some comments (from service providers) on how to help social service providers (p.61-p.62), such as “Funding should be for the whole running of operations rather than a targeted area”, “Access to spaces for rent or purchase at below market rates”, and “Consider funding food security initiatives that are not only providing emergency food aid”. 	Social Impact is related to poverty reduction. Salmon Arm has a social impact advisory committee . For the assessment, a survey was done for service users – with a very interesting and important question asked on barriers or challenges in accessing services (p.34). The service providers were also surveyed and asked about barriers for clients (p.37).

Community and organization leading (if not government)	Poverty Reduction Strategy Name and Link	Year Adopted	Actions	Notes
City of Williams Lake	Williams Lake. Thrive Poverty Reduction Strategy. Williams Lake Social Planning Council. Initiatives. Williams Lake Social Planning Council. Documents. Reports.	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier one priority action: “De-stigmatize mental illness and support increased access to early intervention and support for individuals experiencing mental health and substance use challenges” (p.6) • Implementation action: “Inspire community engagement through awareness/education campaigns and engagement of individuals” (p.6). • The Williams Lake Thrive Strategy follows a Game Changer Framework (p.13) (“priority area or strategy that not only aims to deliver on its own specific goals or outcomes, but also elicits an array of other significant, positive outcomes.”). • Offer Community Navigator Training (p.21). • “Advocate for increases to income support and supplement programs to levels that ensure people are able to meet their basic needs” (p.22) • “Support the development of Social Enterprises, particularly those that provide supported employment, training and laddering to the mainstream labour market for youth and those with barriers to employment” (p.25). • There are also actions around food security such as school food programs and the Loop – “partnership with Save-On-Foods to share unsold food that is still safe to eat but no longer saleable.” (p.29) 	<p>“The Social Planning Council is a nonprofit organization made up of volunteers from around the community”. Interesting quote from the guiding values and principles (“poverty is a spectrum, not a line”) (p.9). The role of different organizations and governments in addressing poverty is listed in the report (p.11-p.12).</p>