

# NWCPRC

**Date:** 16 May 2019

**Time:** 12:30pm-2:00pm

**LIVE MEETING** or Dial-in: City of New Westminster Council Chambers, City Hall

**Attendees:** Sukhdeep Jassar (Fraser Health), Lisa Paterson (Ministry of Children and Family Development), Betina Wheeler (Community Member and Community Food Action), John Stark (City of New Westminster), Tristan Johnson (City of New Westminster), Doug Nisbett (Langara College Applied Planning Student), Ghada Tallia (Mosaic), Shanna Patrick (Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction), Murray Baker (Family Services of Greater Vancouver)

**Regrets:**

## Agenda/Meeting Notes

ITEM	TIME	PRESENTER	MATERIAL	DECISIONS/ACTIONS/COMMENTS
1. Introductions/regrets	5 mins	John/ALL		Everyone did introductions.
2. Committee Overview for New Members	15 mins	Lisa	Short term action plan	Held over for next meeting.
3. Lunch and Learn Recap – Engaging People with Lived Experience	15 mins	John/Sukhdeep		<p>John described the lunch and learn session that was held in April 2019 for the poverty reduction committee. Then, there was a discussion of how to better involve persons with lived experience. Consulting persons with lived experience will be a large part of both the Homelessness Needs Assessment and Housing Needs Report.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Claudia Freire (Social Planner – City of New Westminster) and John to bring a report to New Westminster City Council on July 8, 2019 describing involving persons with lived experience in consultation and planning. Viveca and Richard from the BC Poverty Reduction Network would also present at this Council meeting.</p> <p>John to look into the CAN (Community Action Network) doing workshops and training to teach us how to work with persons with lived experience.</p> <p>Lisa, John, SukhdeepTristan to look into future lunch and learn opportunities, with John asking for further lunch and learn funding from the Planning Division.</p>

			<p>The poverty reduction committee will consider involving CAN in actions #13 (“day in the life”) and #14 (arts or median exhibit related to lived experience) from the New Westminster Poverty Reduction Strategy.</p> <p>Tristan and Lisa to follow up with Richmond in regards to their experiences in working with persons with lived experience. Tristan and Lisa will also follow up with Chatham-Kent (Ontario) Prosperity Roundtable in regards to their Breaking Barriers Exhibit</p> <p><a href="https://www.wallaceburgcourierpress.com/2016/03/24/batling-poverty-through-art/wcm/be64ffce-baaf-c335-44a5-7606d3592775">https://www.wallaceburgcourierpress.com/2016/03/24/batling-poverty-through-art/wcm/be64ffce-baaf-c335-44a5-7606d3592775</a>).</p>
<b>4. Homelessness Needs Assessment Survey</b>	15 mins	John	<p>John discussed New Westminster’s Homelessness Needs Assessment process, which will be taking place during 2019. After the Homelessness Needs Assessment is completed, a Homelessness Strategy will be created in 2020. This work will be done through the New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society. John and Lisa have already gathered statistics from WINGS (Women in Need Gaining Strength) on women and children fleeing domestic violence.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <p>Tristan has created a homelessness needs assessment survey, which will be circulated to social service organizations during Summer 2019 and then analyzed by Tristan.</p> <p>Tristan will also be doing best practices research and pulling statistics to use for this needs assessment.</p> <p>John to bring a report to City Council on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the results of the Homelessness Needs Assessment.</p> <p>John and Lisa will work with WINGS on housing for women and children fleeing domestic violence as per action #8 of the New Westminster Poverty Reduction Strategy.</p>
<b>5. Truth and Reconciliation</b>	15mins	John	<p>Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is a new Strategic Priority for New Westminster City Council. Possible roles for the Community Poverty Reduction Committee in Truth and Reconciliation were discussed.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p>

			<p>John will look into the possibility of community members and social service organizations receive Truth and Reconciliation training (that the City staff and Council will also receive) if space in the training sessions allows. The Community Poverty Reduction Committee will look into creating a Truth and Reconciliation Mythbusters to combat stereotypes around Indigenous Peoples.</p>
<p><b>6. Updates:</b>  - Basic Income Pilot Submission  - Tax Filing Work Update</p>	<p>20 mins</p>	<p>Lisa/Murray</p>	<p>Basic income: Lisa described the concept of basic income (some basic information can be found on the Tamarack Institute website: <a href="http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/library/webinar-the-end-of-working-poverty-strategies">http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/library/webinar-the-end-of-working-poverty-strategies</a>). Some members of the Community Poverty Reduction Committee (Sukhdeep, Tristan, Lisa Betina Wheeler and Wes Everaars (Lookout Housing Society) prepared our comments and recommendations on basic income in February 2019 and sent these comments onto the BC Provincial Government.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b>  Lisa will have a 30-minute meeting with the BC Provincial Government’s expert committee on Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> about basic income.</p> <p>Taxfiling workshops: Lisa and Murray provided an update on three taxfiling workshops that the Community Poverty Reduction Committee supported through Family Services of Greater Vancouver in March and April 2019 (two at the Queensborough Community Centre and one at the River Market). The success of these taxfiling workshops was noted, as well as the demand for further services. Communication around taxfiling workshops was discussed, as there are multiple sources of information, including the CRA (Canada Revenue Agency) website, lists at Union Gospel Mission, and a list that the New Westminster Community Poverty Reduction Committee has promoted that was created by the New Westminster Public Library. (<a href="https://www.nwpl.ca/database/files/library/Community_Volunteer_Tax_Program_Final_Feb_2019(6).pdf">https://www.nwpl.ca/database/files/library/Community_Volunteer_Tax_Program_Final_Feb_2019(6).pdf</a>)</p> <p><b>Actions:</b>  The Community Poverty Reduction Committee, through our Financial Literacy and Empowerment (FLE) sub-committee,</p>

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will examine the possibility of having further taxfiling workshops in the year, including workshops at the Union Gospel Mission and at the New Westminster Public Library. Tristan will send out a survey (as was done in February 2018) to free taxfiling clinics in May 2019 to find out the number of people helped, number of volunteers involved, demographics served, gaps observed and other items. This survey will inform a gap analysis. Partnerships with New Westminster library and Douglas College are also being explored. Family Services of Greater Vancouver will be seeking grant funding from various sources for continued and expanded taxfiling workshops and projects in New Westminster in 2020.

Financial literacy: Murray spoke to a campaign that Family Services of Greater Vancouver as part of the FLE group ,will be launching on financial literacy, especially around payday loan alternatives from Vancity and Westminster Savings Credit Union. Project will include a financial crisis kit and YouTube videos about payday loan experiences and alternatives.

**Action:**

The FLE sub-committee will continue to work on this campaign.

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**7. Other business**

5 mins

All

- Next meeting
- Tamarack Citizens at the Centre
- Vibrant Community Poverty Mythbusters
- New Westminster Public Library Free Services

Community Poverty Reduction Committee website: Tristan showed the Community Poverty Reduction Committee website

(<https://www.newwestcity.ca/community-poverty-reduction-initiative#resources>) to the Committee.

Embers: Shanna discussed Embers. Embers (non-profit day labour company, labour training) is looking at establishing in New Westminster (currently in Surrey and Vancouver) (<https://www.embersvancouver.com/>). Ember is hoping to have an additional location in New Westminster in 2019.

Tamarack Citizens at the Centre: Betina and Sukhdeep attended the Tamarack Citizens at the Centre, which was about how to engage citizens on community practices,

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including Citizens Juries.

Poverty Mythbusters presentation: Tristan presented on Poverty Mythbusters ([https://www.newwestcity.ca/database/files/library/Poverty\\_Myth\\_Busters.pdf](https://www.newwestcity.ca/database/files/library/Poverty_Myth_Busters.pdf)) in April 2019 as part of a webinar held by Vibrant Communities.

Vibrant Communities website: Vibrant Communities has various resources that are useful for our groups (<http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/vibrant-communities>). The City of New Westminster is a member of Vibrant Communities.

New Westminster Public Library resources:  
Betina discussed all of the resources that the New Westminster Public Library has (<https://www.nwpl.ca/>) –  
**Action:**  
John will connect with the Library to better promote their resources.

Food Security exhibit: Betina discussed the new food security exhibit ([https://www.newwestcity.ca/services/arts-and-heritage/museums-and-archives/sb\\_expander\\_articles/1501.php](https://www.newwestcity.ca/services/arts-and-heritage/museums-and-archives/sb_expander_articles/1501.php)) that opens at the New Westminster Museum tonight.

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