

# Community Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee

## Proposed Action Plan for January 2019 to June 2020

Based on the Community Poverty Reduction Strategy, it is proposed that the following actions be implemented over the 18-month period between January 2019 and June 2020. It is also proposed that the following two working groups be established – i.e., Financial Literacy and Empowerment (FLE) and Public Awareness and Education (PAE). These working groups will facilitate direct and focused involvement by Committee members. These working groups will also be open to community members and stakeholders who may not have time to be a member of the Committee but may have an interest in a specific action or actions.

| Areas of Focus and Priorities  | Year(s) | Responsibility                         | Steps   |
|--|---------|--|---|
| <b>Community Poverty Reduction Committee</b>   |         |  |   |
| 1. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee continue to augment its membership, including from the Aboriginal, business and faith communities.   | Ongoing | MCFD Consultant                        | Prepare and update orientation package.                                       |
| 2. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee form strategic alliances with other jurisdictions involved in poverty reduction.   | Ongoing | MCFD Consultant, City Staff, Committee | Share information, including best practices.                                  |
| 3. That the City of New Westminster and School District #40 endorse the Vibrant Communities Canada's 'Cities Reducing Poverty Charter.'  | 2019    | MCFD Consultant, City Staff, Committee | Prepare an accompanying report.   |
| <b>Employment, Income and Financial Literacy</b>   |         |  |   |
| 4. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee continue to raise awareness about and facilitate access to the Canada Learning Bond and the BC Training and Education Savings Grant.   | 2019    | FLE Working Group                      | Continue to promote the benefits in order to increase enrollment.             |
| 5. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee continue to increase awareness about the importance of and potential benefits to be derived from filing a tax return.  | 2019/20 | FLE Working Group                      | Host and promote clinics, including upcoming clinic in Queensborough.         |
| 6. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee work with the Lower Mainland Purpose Society and other local non-profit organizations to access adequate and sustainable funding for the New West Rent Bank, including from the senior levels of government. | 2019/20 | FLE Working Group                      | Advocate for adequate and sustainable funding.                                |
| 7. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee work with mainstream financial institutions to develop and/or promote alternative short-term, low-interest loan products.  | 2019/20 | FLE Working Group                      | Learn about products and assist in their promotion to vulnerable populations. |

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|---|---------|--|---|
| <b>Housing and Shelter</b>  |         |  |   |
| 8. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee work with the New Westminster Community Coordination for Women's Safety Committee to advocate for enhanced access to transition, second stage and non-market housing for women and children fleeing abuse.  | 2019/20 | MCFD Consultant, City Staff, Committee | Provide research and statistical support, and assistance in preparing funding applications. |
| <b>Information, Services and Support</b>  |         |  |   |
| 9. That the City continue to update the Community and Social Services Asset Map, which provides access to information, including that related to low, no cost and non-profit services.  | Ongoing | City Staff                             | Launch map with assistance of Committee.  |
| 10. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee, in collaboration with the Homelessness Coalition Society, advocate for the restoration of funding for housing outreach, referral and advocacy programs. (Over the past four years, annual funding cuts to these programs amount to \$382,000 in New Westminster.) | 2019    | MCFD Consultant, City Staff, Committee | Prepare letter to BC Housing and the Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development. |
| <b>Public Awareness, Empowerment and Mobilization</b>   |         |  |   |
| 11. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee continue to update the Poverty Profile, which includes city-wide and neighbourhood information related to poverty and low incomes.   | 2019    | City Staff                             | Share with local non-profits to apply for funding and target interventions.                 |
| 12. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee explore means by which to increase participation in elections by people who are homeless and people living in poverty and with low-incomes.  | 2019    | PAE Working Group                      | Work with Legislative Services, Elections BC and Elections Canada.                          |
| 13. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee, in collaboration with the Homelessness Coalition Society, host a "Day or Night in the Life Of" poverty simulation or 'Experiential Tour' targeted at elected officials and business and faith leaders.  | 2019/20 | PAE Working Group                      | Solicit interest, develop proposal and seek external funding sources.                       |
| 14. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee, in collaboration with the Arts Council of New Westminster and the New Westminster Museum and Archives, hold an arts or media exhibit related to the lived experiences of people living in poverty and with low incomes.   | 2019/20 | PAE Working Group                      | Solicit interest, develop proposal and seek external funding sources.                       |
| <b>Social Connectedness</b>   |         |  |   |
| 15. That the Community Poverty Reduction Committee inform the City's Social Equity Policy, which is intended to enhance access to civic facilities, infrastructure, programs and services.  | 2019    | MCFD Consultant, City Staff, Committee | Inform the policy, using a poverty lens.  |