

POVERTY REDUCTION ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY

Board Presentation

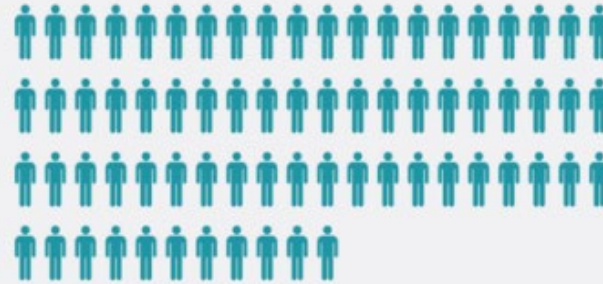
October 5, 2021

Strategy Purpose & Goal

- Opportunity for the CVRD to define its role and responsibilities
- Creates a common purpose and supports continued collaborative efforts
- Provides focus toward reducing poverty across the region 25% by 2024

Myth: Poverty Doesn't Exist in the CVRD

Truth: 15% of people living in the CVRD are living in poverty



71 would have an income below \$49,000



61 would be between the ages of 15 and 64



10 would be in core housing need (5 of those would be in extreme core housing need)



25 would be seniors



14 would be children



56 would be in the workforce (4 of those 56 who are looking for work can't find it)



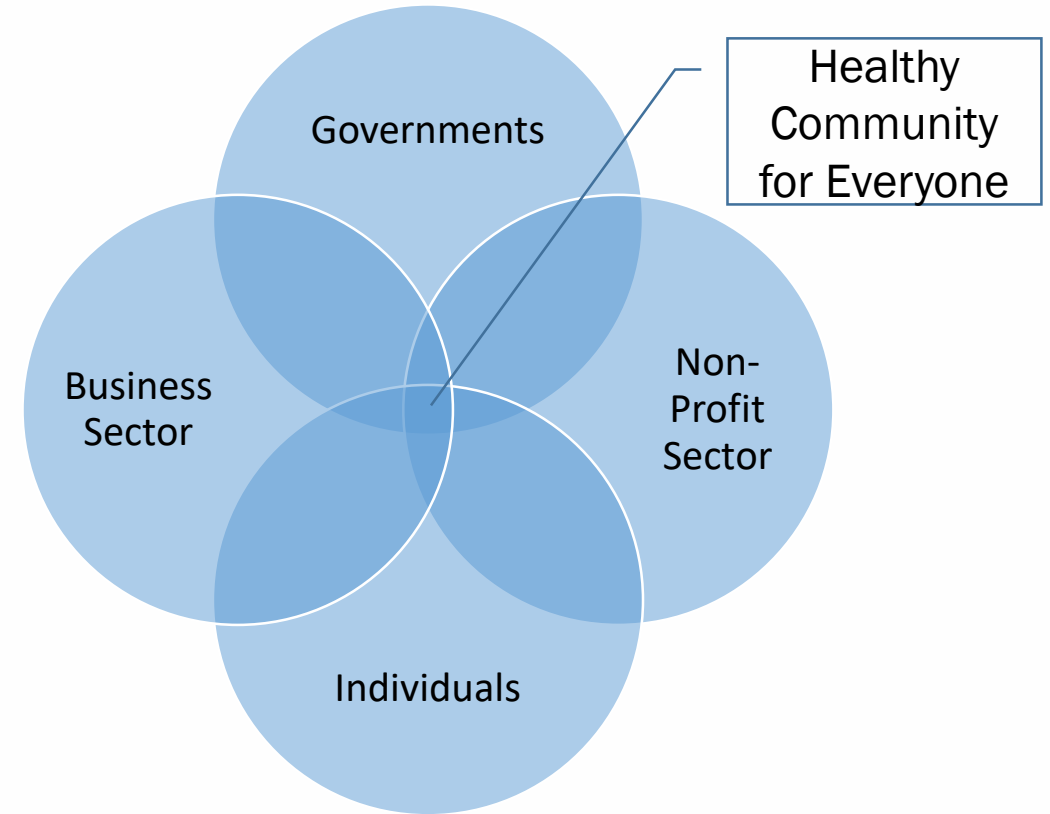
15 would be impoverished on the low-income measure

Trade Offs and Tough Choices

- The cost of housing leaves little money left for food and other basic needs, so people must choose between suitable housing and their other needs.
- Families need employment to cover the cost of childcare but cannot participate in employment or access educational opportunities without childcare.
- People are having to choose between choices that make them feel unsafe (like using public transportation systems at night) or spend a large portion of their income on transportation (like owning and maintaining a vehicle) in order to access employment, education, and social supports.

Collaborative Action

- Focus on systems level changes by involving everyone
- This helps to
 - Strengthen and build new relationships
 - Connect different parts of the system
 - Initiate action
 - Foster new ways of working together
 - Centre people with lived and living experience of poverty in the change process



Game Changers

Transformational
Impact



Community
Services
and
Supports



Equitable
Systems
of
Capital



Power
Dynamics -
Social
Inclusion



Families,
children
& youth



Housing



Social
supports



Liveable
incomes



Food
security



Affordable,
accessible
transportation



Social
Inclusion

Game Changers



**Social
Inclusion**

1. People with lived and living experiences of poverty meaningfully contribute to all aspects of poverty reduction in the Comox Valley.
2. Processes, systems, and institutions are actively working towards decolonization.
3. An equity lens is applied in all regional and local government programs and services.

Game Changers



Housing



Liveable
incomes

4. New non-market housing is incentivized and constructed, and there is a system planning approach applied to the coordination and management of the housing
5. Implementation of Universal Basic Income
6. The Living Wage for Comox Valley is recognized and upheld by employers.

Game Changers



Families,
children
& youth



Social
supports



Food
security



Affordable,
accessible
transportation

7. Childcare is affordable and available.
8. Social Support Services are coordinated across multiple organizations, institutions and governments.
9. Neighbourhood hubs provide community connections to services, supports, and resources.
10. Individuals experiencing mental health, poverty and/or substance use challenges live, work, and play in stigma free environments.
11. Newcomers to the CVRD have access to services, supports, employment, and community activities.
12. Everyone has access to adequate and healthy food.
13. Transportation Network Planning is aligned within an equity framework.
14. Public spaces (indoor and outdoor) are designed to be inclusive from physical, social, and cultural perspectives.

Local Government Opportunity

01

Ensure policy and procedures are reviewed from a poverty impact assessment and GBA+ lenses

02

Communicate with stakeholders and share data/ resources

03

Create conditions which enable successful collective impact

Next Steps and Determining How to Work Together

- Communicate broadly the intent to reduce poverty in partnership with the community
- Integrate a poverty and social impact analysis tool into decision making processes
- Collaborate with community partners that support focus area action and measures progress
- Involve lived and living experience voices in solutions and evaluation

Recommendation

THAT the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board authorize staff to report back to the project participants to explore implementation options for the Regional Poverty Reduction Assessment and Strategy (Draft), dated September 2021, attached as Appendix A to this staff report dated September 24, 2021, including identifying key players and roles in the advancement of the poverty reduction “Game Changers”;

AND FINALLY THAT staff report back through the Regional Growth Strategy 2022-2026 financial planning process to identify potential implementation actions for the CVRD.