

# POVERTY REDUCTION PROTOCOL BRIEFING NOTE

## BACKGROUND

Recognizing that poverty is a complex issue which cannot be addressed by any one organization or initiative, leaders in the ACRD have begun to bring together local stakeholders to discuss, identify opportunities and plan around poverty reduction.

- November 2015 Community Response to Poverty Forum in the Alberni Valley organized by MLA Scott Fraser
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Poverty Forum – February 2016
- Local Mayors, Regional District Directors and organizational leads convened to identify next steps January 2016
- Working Together to Reduce Poverty Workshop, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 organized by the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network
- Identification of 5 Outcome areas and development of Theory of Change to Reduce Poverty in the ACRD, presentation to local groups and leaders Fall and Winter 2016/2017.
- Creation of the Alberni Clayoquot Working Together To Reduce Poverty Protocol Agreement
- Presentation of work to date at local leadership tables to gain resolutions to endorse the Poverty Reduction Theory of Change and Protocol Agreement.
- Currently endorsed by District of Tofino, District of Ucluelet, City of Port Alberni, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, Toquaht Nation.

## LOCAL STATS

While there are many factors which contribute to the complex issue of poverty in our region here are a couple key statistics which point to the need to mobilize action.

- The Alberni Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) is currently experiences the 4th highest rates of poverty out of 29 Regional Districts in BC with 22.1% living in low income homes
- A child poverty rate of 30.6% and 36.3% of children and youth in the region living in low income homes
- A core housing need of 14.8% with 46.4% of renters spending more than 30% of their income on housing and 12.7% of dwellings requiring major repairs.
- A significantly lower life expectancy.
- Significant barriers around housing, transportation, food and health access which vary between urban, rural, remote and First Nation communities.

## POVERTY PROTOCOL SIGNING EVENT – JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2018

- Signing of the Alberni Clayoquot Poverty Reduction Protocol Agreement by local leadership tables who have endorsed to date.
- Provide an opportunity for more information sharing to other leadership tables and community members.
- Increase education on the activities leading up to this event.
- Engage community and get feedback on next steps and opportunities.
- Hear from a broad group of individuals with experience in poverty, poverty reduction or programs aimed at addressing poverty.
- Share a meal and celebrate the small wins.

## NEXT STEPS

Reducing poverty is a long term goal and this is just one of many steps towards this goal. In order to see change we need to:

- Keep the conversation moving.
- Increase collaborative opportunities to identify and plan meaningful actions and change.
- Put resources behind solutions which support individuals to meet their basic needs.
- Increase education around poverty in our region.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Check out some of our local statistics and information resources locally and beyond.

- Vital Signs Reports for the [Alberni Valley and West Coast Communities](#)
- Living Wage calculation for [Huu-ay-aht First Nation](#) and 2017 report for [West Coast communities](#)
- [Local Health Area 70 Profile](#)
- BC Stats – [Alberni Clayoquot Socio Economic Profile](#)
- Statistics Canada – [ACRD Census Profile](#)
- [Canada Without Poverty](#)
- [Provincial Poverty Profile Report](#)
- [2016 Child Poverty Report Card](#)

