

2018

Building Health and Prosperity in the Alberni Clayoquot – Poverty Reduction Community Engagement 2.0



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

The January 19th Building Prosperity and Health in the Alberni Clayoquot – Poverty Reduction Community Engagement event combined the signing of the Poverty Protocol Agreement with an opportunity for community members to come together. The event was co-sponsored by the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network, MP Gord Johns and MLA Scott Fraser and featured:

- Welcome remarks from Tseshaht Chief Elected Councilor Cynthia Dick and Sharean Van Volsen of Hupacasath First Nation
- An address by MP Gord Johns and MLA Scott Fraser
- A panel discussion with a diverse group of local, regional and provincial advocates
- Signing of the Alberni Clayoquot Poverty Reduction Protocol Reduction Agreement by local leadership tables who have made endorsements
 - City of Port Alberni
 - District of Tofino
 - District of Ucluelet
 - Alberni Clayoquot Regional District
 - Toquaht Nation
- Community engagement activities to gather feedback and input from all participants

NEXT STEPS

Rich feedback was received through conversation and community engagement activities. Information has been cumulated in this report and will be incorporated into further action plans, areas to highlight for provincial and federal advocacy as well as for ongoing work around issues identified to make a real impact. Building prosperity is a long term goal and this is just one of many steps towards this goal. In order to see change the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network commits to:

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

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE

INTRODUCTION

The January 19th 2018 Building Health and Prosperity In the Alberni Clayoquot Community engagement and poverty reduction protocol signing brought together over 100 representatives from local municipalities, nations, organizations and communities. The event combined the public signing of the Alberni Clayoquot Poverty Reduction Protocol Agreement with opportunities for education, discussion and community engagement.

BUILDING HEALTH AND PROSPERITY IN THE ALBERNI CLAYOQUOT – POVERTY REDUCTION COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2.0

Port Alberni Friendship Centre
January 19, 2018
5pm to 9pm

AGENDA

5:00 PM – WELCOME AND OPENING

5:30 PM – DINNER AND DEEPER DIVE

6:00 PM – PANEL DISCUSSION

7:30 PM – PROTOCOL SIGNING

8:00 PM – 9:00PM – OPEN SPACE – NETWORKING, EDUCATION AND EXPLORATION

WORKSHOP SUMMARY



Event participants were welcomed by Tseshaht Chief Elected Councillor Cynthia Dick and Sharean Van Volsen of Hupacasath First Nation. Opening remarks from MP Scott Fraser and MLA Gord Johns followed. All opening speakers highlighted the need to work collaboratively to address the many issues and opportunities to build health and prosperity in the region mentioning regional statistics, personal experiences and passion, work performed to date and ways forward. Participants introduced themselves around the room and shared a meal before commencing the panel discussion.

PANEL DISCUSSION

The panel discussion drew insights from five individuals with a wide range of knowledge from local, personal and provincial perspectives:



- **Darlene Leonew** – Port Alberni Friendship Centre
- **Cris Martin** – Food Bank on the Edge
- **Cynthia Dick** – Tseshah First Nation
- **Deanna Ogle** – Living Wage for Families Campaign
- **Dr. Paul Hasselback** – Medical Health Officer

To begin the session panelists were asked three questions by the moderator and then the floor was opened to the audience for additional questions which ranged from the role of economic development to insights on programs, initiatives and experience.

- Recognizing that poverty is a complex issue how do you define it?
- What interventions are most effective to help individuals move out of poverty?
- If we could do one thing to assist individuals to break the cycle of poverty what might that be?



Panelist spoke to priorities of housing, livable wages, provision of basic needs and ongoing support by sharing data, experience and research insights. Participants spoke to important aspects of building a prosperous community emphasizing dignity, collaboration and mutual responsibility to developing solutions.

PROTOCOL SIGNING, NETWORKING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The ACHN Coordinator provided participants with an overview of feedback opportunities and activities prepared to gather voices and input which included an overview of planning, actions and events preformed to date. Questions around additional successes, opportunities and opinions were presented throughout the room, feedback gathered is presented below with a summary of the engagement activity to assist in gathering feedback and presenting opportunities forward.

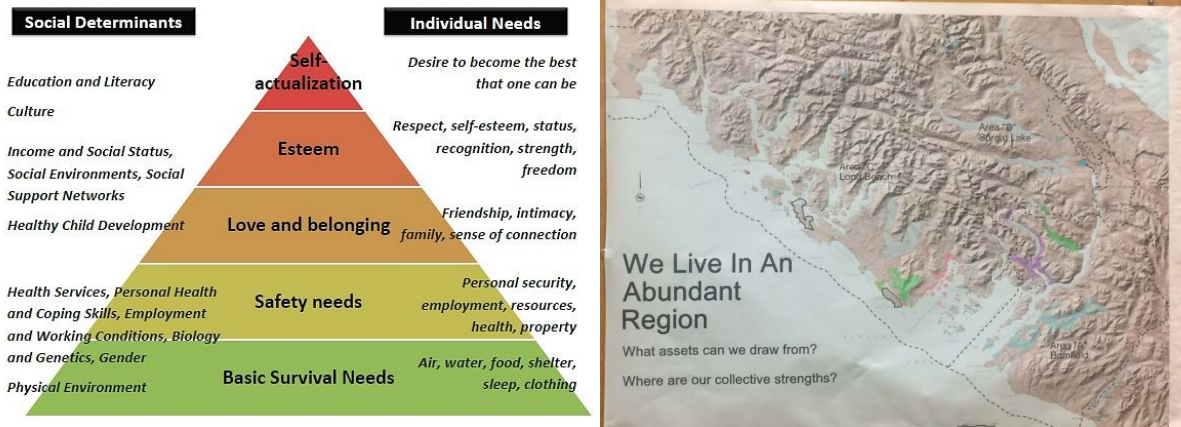
Participants were thanked for joining in the meal and panel discussion then invited stand up, network, engage further by providing their feedback and witness the signing of the protocol agreement.

Representatives from the City of Port Alberni, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District and District of Tofino were welcomed to the front of the room for the signing with the MLA and MP who had endorsed the protocol in April 2017. Representatives from the District of Ucluelet and Toquaht Nation who had also endorsed the protocol were detained due to weather but signed together on February 6th, 2018.



ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

In order to ensure all voices had a chance to be heard in the short timeline of the event a variety of engagement activities and visuals were set up for participants to provide feedback and share stories. A visual timeline of the events and activities undertaken by the ACHN to raise the profile of poverty reduction work in the Alberni Clayoquot was presented for information; the timeline of events will be kept up to date online [here](#).



A visual of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs with corresponding Social Determinants was presented for background information to participants on the importance of basic needs, safety and dignity to assist people in moving out of vulnerable situations. A map of the region with questions around our various assets and strengths was also created to prime participants into thinking about what solutions are already present.

SHARE YOUR STORY – EXPERIENCE, INSIGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Participants were asked to share their experience, insights and observations



- We at the Bread of Life centre reclaim tons of food from the grocery stores in Port Alberni per week. There is no lack of food here. There is a lack of fresh health food/ethnic food and food distribution. Tons of bread doesn't do more than fill bellies. They do not really nourish

- All of the current volunteers are aged of aging. Where are the young people?
- We are here, working hard to get our voices heard. Believe in us!
- Turned 60 Dec 2017. Requested and received hardship assistance for 2 months until I found out with 2nd

cheque that I now owe government of BC \$1410 did not request assistance since

- Have worked in the field as an advocate and agency head for homelessness and disability for 40 years

ACHN THEORY OF CHANGE ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS



During a workshop in May 2016 community partners sat down to begin to identify outcome areas which the Alberni Clayoquot region could focus on in order to begin addressing poverty. From this workshopping a Theory of Change emerged, but this is just the first step. In order to gain more insight and awareness we need to work closely to identify additional needs, strengths and opportunities.

WHAT WE HEARD ON JANUARY 19TH SUMMARY

- We need to reframe the conversation – Building Prosperity rather than Poverty Reduction
- Housing is a big issue which requires more attention – it is bigger than just social housing!
- Food Security is a big issue and one we can work on together not just for children and youth
- There is a community will to explore the issues, solutions and opportunities
- Use the 'starfish story' as a basis for success

FEEDBACK ON OUTCOME AREAS:

- Rename
 - Increase prosperity. All 'poverty reduction' does is make more jobs for social workers
- Increase awareness of poverty issues
 - Address AV Ministerial 8 – 10 churches
- Increase Number of social housing units
 - PA city needs to purchase land for subsidized housing and work with first nations and over governments
 - City needs to require 20% of all housing projects to be affordable as part of their zoning

WHAT IS ALREADY HAPPENING?

- Many committees
- Transition house

WHO IS ALREADY WORKING ON THIS?

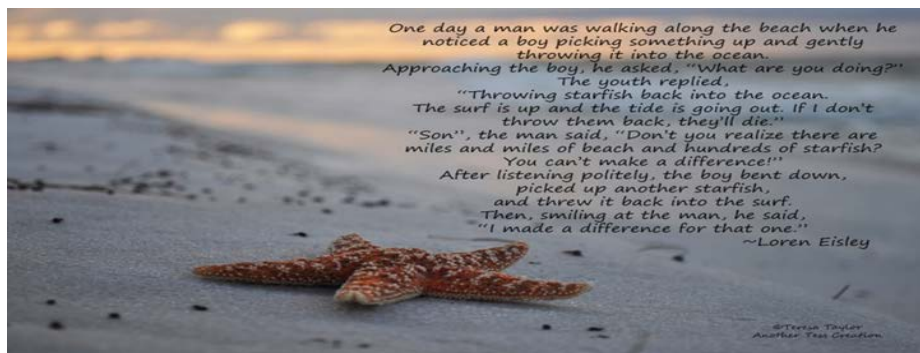
- ADSS breakfast club
- CMHA Healthy Harvest Farm
- Basic Cooking Classes
- Hupacasath family and children support program

WHAT IS MISSING?

- Food security through implementing micro financing for North America creating income purpose interdependence and community resilience
- Basic Income Canada network honour our human dignity with a basic income that eliminates poverty get the pilot project for the ACRD and Nuuchalnat territories
- Collaboration
- Engage with youth in a meaningful way what sparks their interest. Support their dreams
- Export tax on all raw resources 80%
- Taxing foreign investors it is no longer feasible to allow tax payers to pay 100% of what is obviously legislated poverty
- Support for women
- Provide more opportunity for people to feel connection
- Immigration
- Free education for student with a B average through university or tech schools
- Decrease all hungry people
- Lobby government to bring housing back down to an affordable level
- Reduce Elder homelessness
- Jobs, work at a living wage

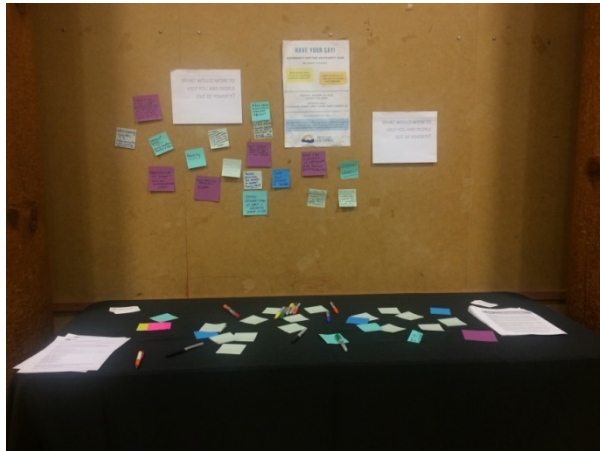
HOW DO WE DEFINE SUCCESS

The Starfish Story:



FEEDBACK TO THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

The Ministry of Social Reduction and Poverty Reduction is hosting an additional opportunity to engage the Alberni Valley around poverty reduction to inform provincial plans. This opportunity is taking place January 23rd and we have teamed up to ensure our events complement each other. We posed the two big questions asked for this engagement opportunity to participants and got the following responses.



WHAT ARE THE ISSUES FACING YOU AND PEOPLE IN POVERTY RIGHT NOW?

- Housing
- Understand and address correlation between loneliness and poverty
- Provide connection for people to support dignity and pride

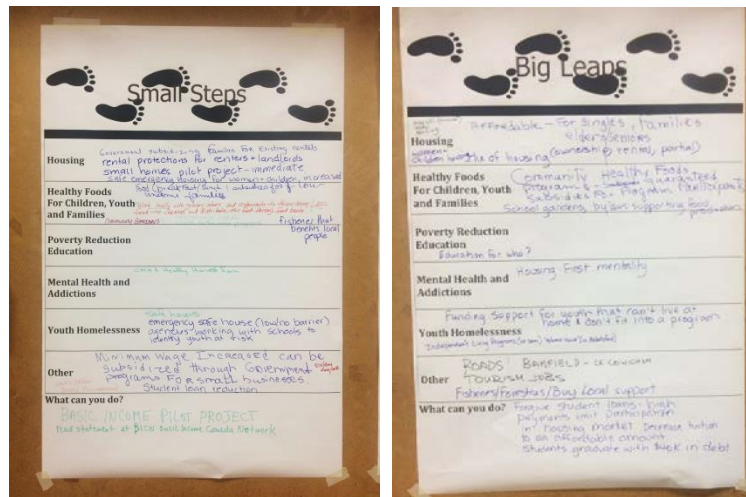
WHAT WOULD WORK TO HELP YOU AND PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY?

- A fair return on our natural resources \$ for government
- Export Tax on raw resources
- Complete moratorium on foreign investment of housing

- Tax out of province investors
- A social planning commission of the city would help filter city activities through a poverty reduction lens
- Sense of pride – giving homeless education/jobs
- Educating youth and informing them with what is going on in BC
- Invest in our children and youth so that future generations have the confidence and life skills to give back to our community and continue the fight against poverty
- Assistance to start social enterprise ideas
- Free contractor training
- Move forward from natural resources jobs, start investing in other avenues
- Develop network and map of safe and welcoming spaces in PA
- Create social enterprise \$ structure
- End the claw back of CPP benefits from provincial disability benefits
- Support women
- Customize programs and service support to fit people's needs, not visa versa
- Listen to people's needs and work with them to find answers

SMALL STEPS BIG LEAPS

Lastly, before checking out participants were asked to provide their thoughts on next steps - small steps and big leaps which could make an impact. Personal pledge cards were at the table for participants to record thoughts on what they could do to make an impact acknowledging that change is a collaborative effort.



SMALL STEPS FEEDBACK:

HOUSING

- Government subsidizing families for existing rentals
- Rental protections for renters and landlords
- Small homes pilot project – immediate
- Safe emergency housing for women and children increased

HEALTHY FOODS FOR CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES

- Food (breakfast/lunch) subsidies for low income families
- Work locally with grocery stores and restaurants to throw away less food – channel and distribute their food through food banks
- Get schools involved create sustainable programs
- Community gardens
- Fisheries that benefit local people

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS

- CMHCA healthy harvest farm

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

- Safe havens
- Emergency safe house (low/no barrier)

- Agencies working with schools to identify youth at risk

OTHER

- Minimum wage increased can be subsidized through government programs for small businesses
- Student loan reduction
- \$10/day childcare
- Government and other social procurement

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Basic income pilot – read statement at Basic Income Canada Network (BICN)

BIG LEAPSFEEDBACK:

HOUSING

- Molehill (Vancouver) model housing
- Affordable – for singles, families, elders/seniors
- Mix of housing – ownership, rental partial
- Women and children housing

HEALTH FOODS FOR CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES

- Community health foods programs – guaranteed subsidies for program participants
- School gardens, bylaws supporting food production

POVERTY REDUCTION EDUCATION

- Education for who

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDITIONS

- Housing first mentality

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

- Funding support for youth that can't live at home and don't fit into a program
- Independent living programs (or semi) "Autumn House" (in Abbotsford)

OTHER

- Roads! Bamfield –Lake Cowichan
- Tourism Jobs
- Fisheries/Forestry's/Buy Local Support

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Forgive student loans – high payments limit participation in housing market. Decrease tuition to an affordable amount student's graduate with \$40K in debt.