



Charter for Community Action on Poverty DRAFT

Territorial Recognition

“We recognize and acknowledge the territory of the Coast and Straits Salish peoples and thank the Nations for the opportunity to live and work within their traditional territories.”

Vision

To achieve the sustainable livelihoods for all people and their families in Greater Victoria.

Rationale

Our region has all of the resources for people to achieve sustainable livelihoods and communities. Too many residents live in poverty and face complex challenges while trying to create sustainable futures. Therefore, we believe that residents, communities and organizations in the region need to join together to take strategic action on poverty.

Issues

These are the issues that stand in the way of people living sustainable healthy lives.

- Access to meaningful work
- Childcare
- A strong local economy
- Education and training
- Food
- Health Services
- Housing
- Transportation
- Income

Actions

As citizens and members of community agencies we want to coordinate actions that foster a sense of community and collective purpose.

Access to meaningful work

- Advocate for workplace learning
- Enable cross training and skills development
- Provide opportunities for self-employment training

Childcare

- Advocate for publically funded childcare
- Encourage employer investment in childcare provision
- Publicly support employers who offer alternate work arrangements

Strong local economy

- Create living wage policies
- Buy from local suppliers of goods and services
- Promote community economic development and sustainable local enterprises

Education and training

- Foster mentorship programs
- Support community-based education
- Support literacy to increase access to opportunities for meaningful work

Food

- Strengthen/expand local food programs like the Good Food Box
- Create a sustainable regional food and agriculture system
- Advocate for a regional food security policy and strategy
- Enhance municipal initiatives to support local agriculture and food production
- Increase purchasing of local food produce by institutions and sectors
- Expand programs contributing local produce to food banks and food re-purposing initiatives

Health Services

- Increase programs focused on harm reduction
- Increase supports and services related to mental health and addictions
- Increase in-home care for seniors

Housing

- Leverage funds for the Regional Housing Trust Fund
- Support construction of more affordable housing units
- Advocate for community investment bonds/funds

Transportation

- Expand the Transit Ticket Assistance Program
- Establish accessible bike and bike-education programs
- Increase appropriate transit services for under-served parts of the region

Income

- Advocate for reform of income assistance programs to reflect the real cost of living
- Advocate for the removal of disincentives to work and earnings for people on income assistance
- Work towards guaranteed minimum income policies by senior levels of government

Principles

In working together we have agreed that our work will hold to the following principles.

- Actions will be **community-driven** and will promote local strategies
- Actions will be **inclusive** ensuring that those affected by the issue are part of the solution
- Actions will be **results-oriented** and focused on creating sustainable lives
- Actions will build capacity and transfer knowledge between organizations and community members
- Actions will be **comprehensive** and will recognize that sustainability has many dimensions
- Actions will support and encourage **partnerships** across business, government, civil society and non-profit sectors
- Actions will be based on a **long-term perspective** for the creation of sustainable livelihoods.

Conclusion

We believe that a strategy to take action on poverty can create sustainable livelihoods for all of our residents.

We invite all residents and organizations in the Region, from across sectors, to join us.

Guidelines for Community Engagement

We are asking for your feedback in order to make this document stronger.

The intention of this charter is to share it with as many people, businesses and all kinds of organizations in our community for all to endorse it and generate some concrete actions for addressing poverty in our region.

Please send us your comments regarding this charter by responding to the following questions:

1. Is the vision "To achieve the sustainable livelihoods for all people and their families in Greater Victoria" meaningful for you? If not, how would you change it?
2. Which of the issues that stand in the way of people living sustainable healthy lives are priority to you?
3. Are there any issues missing?
4. Which of the listed actions are the most realistic for you?
5. Which of the listed actions need to take place immediately? Why?
6. Which of the principles are the most important for you?
7. Are there other principles for action missing?
8. Please tell us how you would encourage people and organizations in your community to adopt this charter.

If you are interested in exploring background and details related to the issues, please contact the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria at: info@communitycouncil.ca; telephone 250-383-6166 ext 109.

Thank you!