

Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy (COPAWS)

| April 14, 2022



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Who We Are



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Social Health & Well-Being Lead
Project Lead



Isha Matous-Gibbs

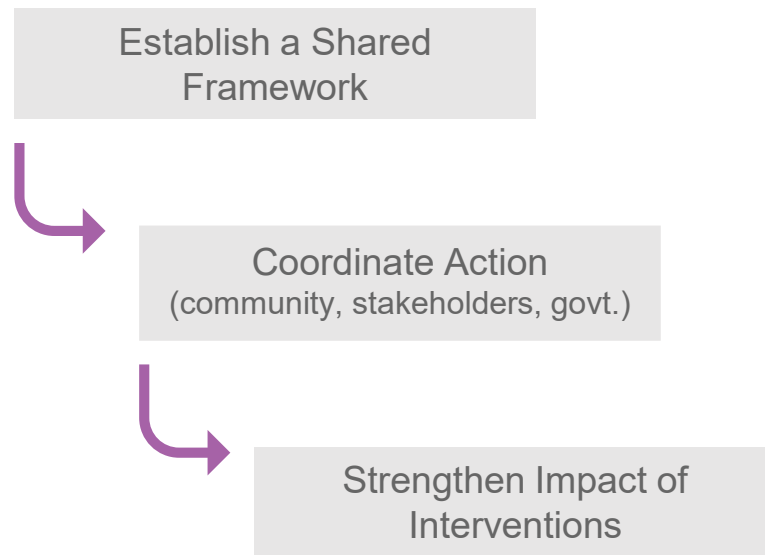
Social Health & Well-Being Planner
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Purpose and Process

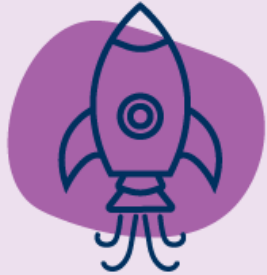
OBJECTIVE: Create a shared community framework for poverty reduction in the Central Okanagan

Through collaborative action, the Strategy will aim to provide everyone in the Central Okanagan a real and fair chance to succeed with improved policies, practices and resources.



Project Timeline

Dec 2021 – January 2022



Phase 1

Project Initiation

January – March 2022



Phase 2

Community Engagement
& Consultation

March – April 2022



Phase 3

Draft Strategy
Development

April – May 2022



Phase 4

Final Strategy
Development



What We Heard Engagement Findings Summary

Community Engagement

Public Survey (2022)	748 respondents
People with Lived and Living Experience Survey (2021)	223 respondents
Community Forum	10 participants
Service Provider Interviews	2 organizations
People with Lived and Living Experience Interviews	10 participants
Preliminary Planning and Implementation Sessions	11 organizations
Local Area Focus Groups	16 participants over 3 focus groups

Indigenous Engagement

Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	2 events 9 participants
Métis Nation BC and Métis Community Services	3 leadership interviews
Okanagan Indian Band	3 events 8 participants
Westbank First Nation	2 events 6 participants
Okanagan Nation Alliance	2 events 8 participants

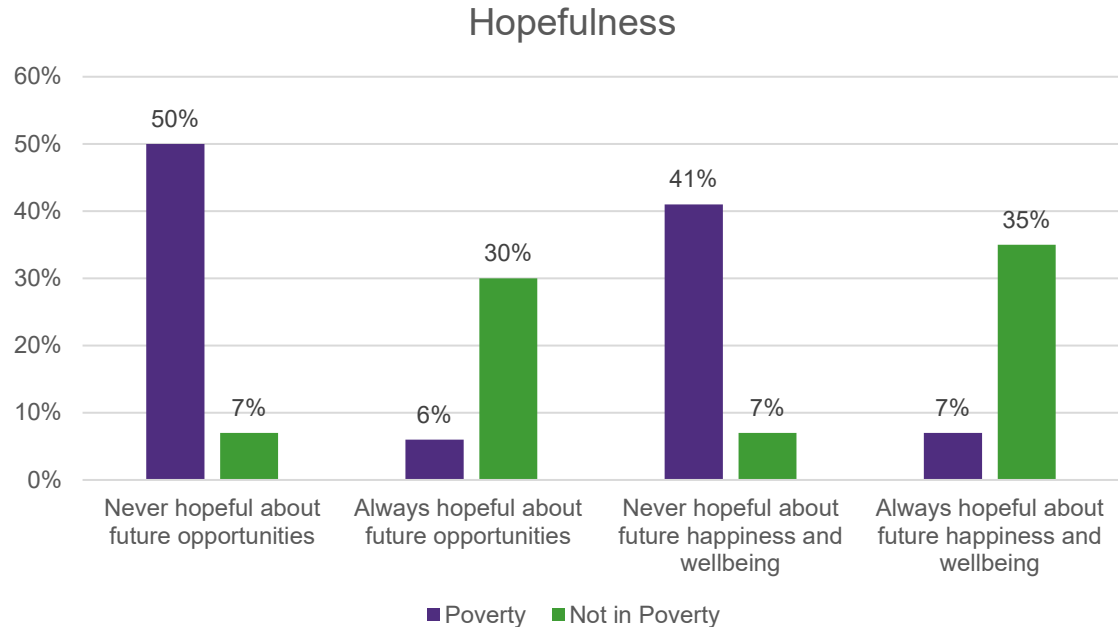
Key Findings:

An overview:

- Future without poverty = basic needs met and sense of inclusion
- Transportation remains a barrier
- High cost of housing remains a barrier
- More supports are needed
- People with a disability are disproportionately impacted
- Seniors and Elders are at risk as physical needs change or they cannot maintain their own housing

Key findings: People with Lived and Living Experience Perspectives

People experiencing poverty were also experiencing more exclusion and less hopefulness than participants who were not living in poverty.



Key Findings:
Shared
Indigenous
Experiences
of Poverty

The Indigenous experience of poverty is coloured by the ongoing impacts of colonialism, capacity challenges, and entrenched racism and stigma.

These systems must be addressed for meaningful change to happen.

Key Findings:
Shared
Indigenous
Experiences
of Poverty

Priorities shared amongst communities:

- Addressing shame and stigma
- Culturally safe harm reduction and treatment programs
- Community gathering spaces
- Connection with land, culture, language
- Elder wellbeing
- Supporting youth with knowledge transfer and inclusion
- Transportation

Collective Visions for a Way Forward



In Plain Sight



UNDRIP



Truth and Reconciliation
Calls to Action

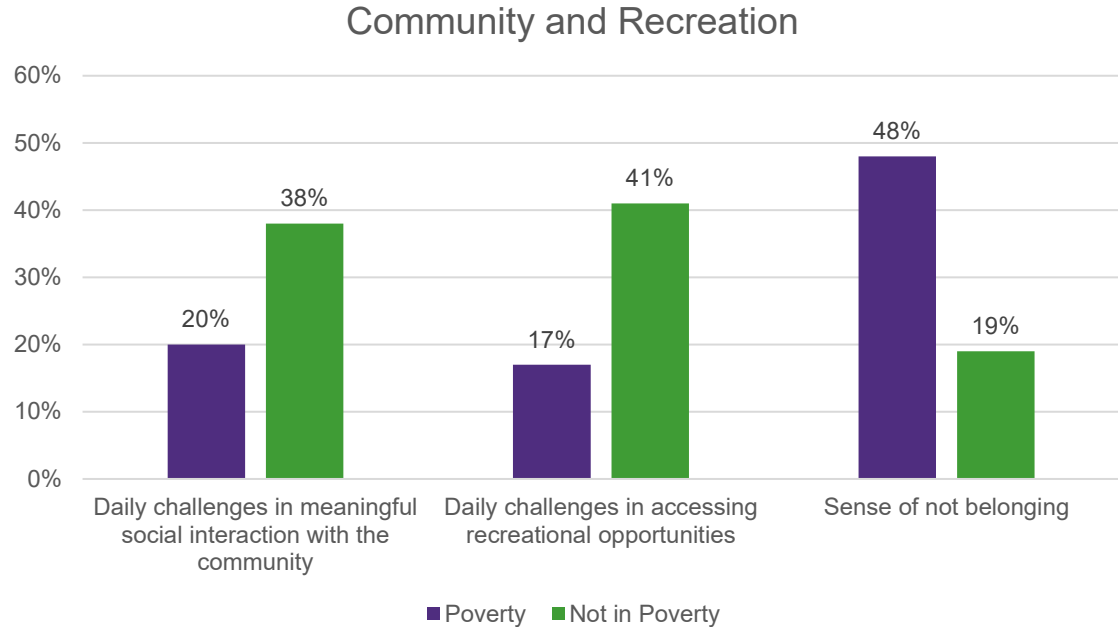


National Inquiry into Missing
and Murdered Indigenous
Women and Girls

Priority Area:

Isolation and
Inclusion

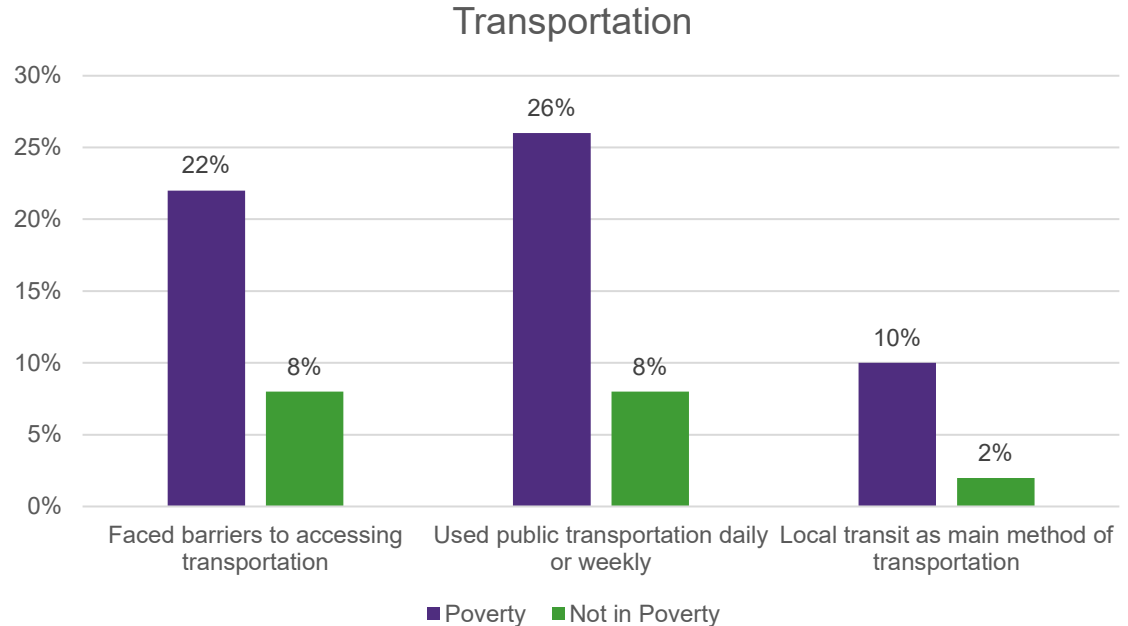
Belonging and inclusion are areas that could have significant impact on overall experiences.



Priority Area:

Transportation

In the 2021 Survey, transportation ranked among the top choices of services that help or would help survey respondents to stay employed.

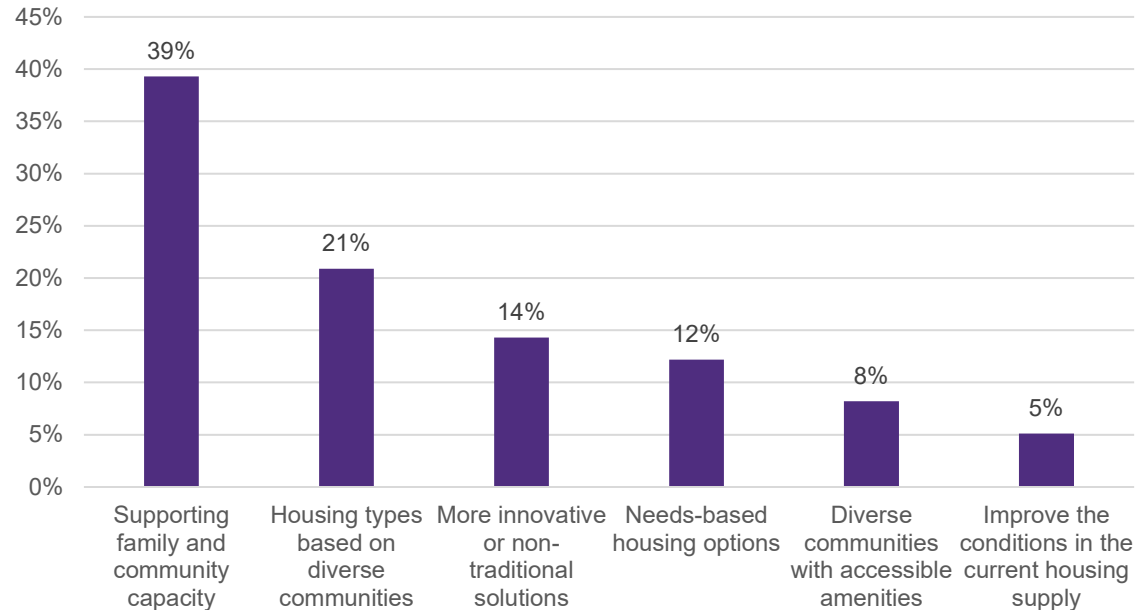


Priority Area:

Regional Housing and Homelessness

High cost of housing remains a significant barrier to thriving in the region.

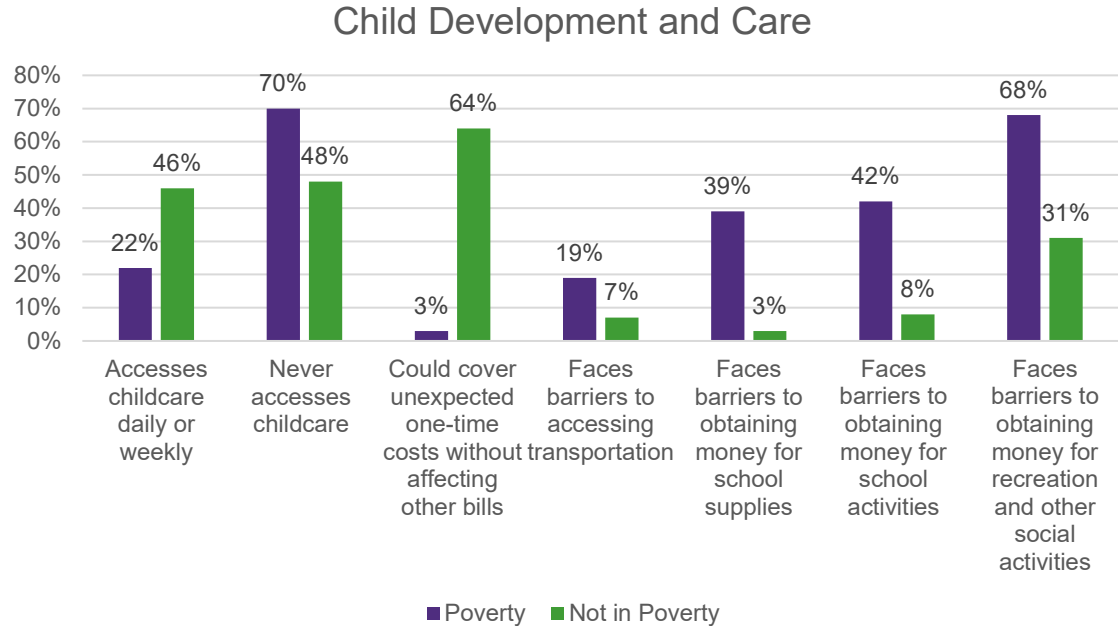
Are there other areas/housing types in your community or the region that you think the RDCO should explore?



Priority Area:

Child Development and Care

In the 2021 Survey childcare was among the top services that respondents identified would help them acquire employment or remain employed.

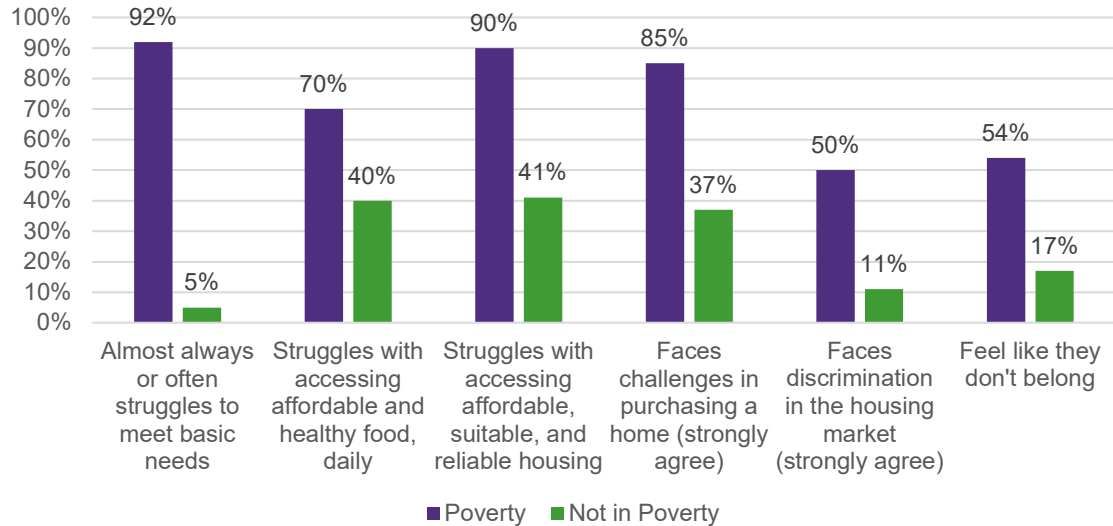


Priority Area:

Youth Poverty and Wellness

A majority of families with children in poverty struggle to meet their basic needs, participate in the community and feel they belong.

Challenges Faced by Families with Children (2022 Survey)



Emerging Concerns

Many residents in the RDCO need support with managing the costs of daily living such as housing, transportation, food, health and recreation, etc.

- Rising cost of living is putting more and more pressure on budgets.
- Universal or more widely available supports are needed.

We will know we have achieved this when there is a fully representative government, because that means everyone has an equal opportunity to participate in their community.

~Participant

Community
Vision

A community where every person and family feels secure in meeting their basic needs (housing, food, clothing, transportation, etc.) and feels a sense of meaningful inclusion.



Solutions and Ideas

Identified by Participants

Community Gatherings

- Create more opportunities for people to come together
- Host free community events (block parties, picnics, performances, skating rinks)

Program design

- Design eligibility for programs based on specific needs rather than income

Community Hubs

- Providing a variety of services in a central location
- Hubs can build connections between service providers and help them share resources and communicate

Food Programs

- Food programs such as gleaning programs, food banks, and brown bag lunch initiatives improve access to food
- Increase awareness of food programs within communities, such as local food banks

Discussion

- Do you have any questions for us?
- What stood out?
- Did anything surprise you?
- Are there gaps?



Thank You