

# Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy (COPAWS)

| May 30, 2022



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**matters**



# Outline

- Getting Here
- Project Timeline Update
- Community Engagement Update
- Key Engagement Findings – Vision and Barriers
- Community Vision
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Key Values
- Priorities for Process
- Priorities for Intervention
- Next Steps

# Getting Here

## *The Foundation: Work Completed that Enabled this Strategy*

2017 – 2019



### **Setting the Stage**

Central Okanagan  
Poverty & Wellness  
Committee Established  
& Begins Building  
Understanding

2019



### **A Deeper Dive**

Central Okanagan  
Poverty & Wellness  
Analysis Creates  
Baseline Measurements

2020



### **Organizing for Action**

UBCM Grant is secured  
to create a Strategy &  
the United Way &  
Leadership Committee  
begin work

# Project Timeline



# 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
Implementation and Planning Workshops	38 participants over 3 sessions
Leadership Committee Meetings	20 organizations participated in 3 meetings during the project phases

# 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 Engagement Findings

- Some people are disproportionately impacted by poverty:
  - Seniors and Elders
  - People living with a disability
  - Children
  - Youth and Young adults
- More people need support with managing costs of daily living
- We need to reduce the stigma around accessing help
- Collective action is required at all levels

# Key Engagement Findings

## **Barriers Identified:**

- Poverty is coloured by the ongoing impacts of colonialism, capacity challenges, and entrenched racism and stigma
- Access, affordability, and availability of childcare
- Transportation
- High cost of housing



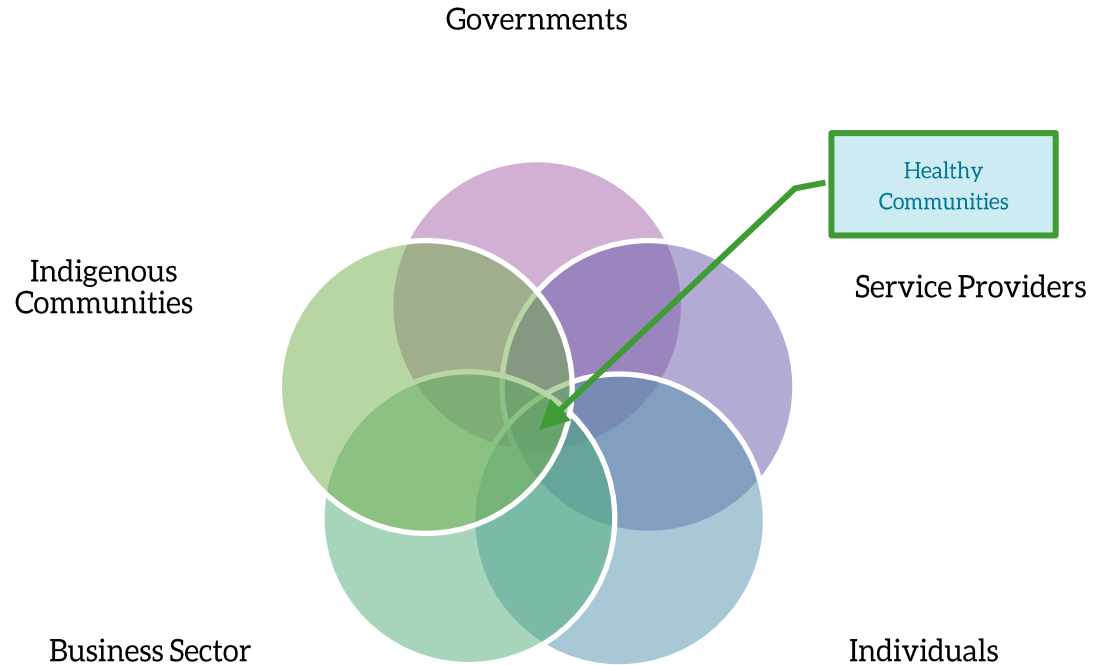
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# Vision

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A community where every person and family feel secure in meeting their basic needs (e.g., housing, food, clothing, transportation, mental health, wellness, etc.), is resilient to challenges and setbacks, and feel a sense of meaningful inclusion. As people move from surviving to thriving, they can explore themselves and their community in new ways that bring joy.

# Roles and Responsibilities



# Key Values



# Priorities for Process

## Reconciliation

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**Building  
Partnerships**



**Cultural  
Safety**



**Data  
Sovereignty**



**Calls  
to Action**

## Systems Approach through Collective Impact

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**Governance &  
Infrastructure**



**Strategic  
Action Planning**



**Community  
Engagement**



**Ongoing Evaluation  
& Improvement**

# Priorities for Intervention

## Meeting Basic Needs

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Transportation



Housing



Health &  
Wellness



Food  
Security



Financial  
Resources

# Priorities for Intervention

## Preventative Interventions

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**Child  
Development**



**Youth  
Well-Being**



**Universal Benefits  
& Supports**

## Inclusion & Community Belonging

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**Community  
Events**



**Diversity &  
Accessibility**



**Welcoming  
Places**



# Next Steps

# Next Steps – Phases of Action



# Next Steps – Collective Impact

## COMPONENTS OF SUCCESS



Developing  
a common  
agenda



Using shared  
measurement  
to understand  
progress



Building on  
mutually  
reinforcing  
activities



Engaging in  
continuous  
communications



Providing a  
backbone  
to move the  
work forward

# Next Steps – Begin Implementation

## Begin Implementation – Key Actions for Next Steps



### Governance & Infrastructure

#### Action

Launch work groups and select backbone organization

#### Work to Be Completed

Identify a backbone organization and address how to support regional and local community involvement.

Establish a Backbone organization

- Funding and/ or partnership agreement
- Agreements for structure (membership, decision making, participation guidelines, etc.)

Begin discerning roles and responsibilities



### Strategic Planning

#### Action

Develop blueprint for implementation and identify quick wins

#### Work to Be Completed

Stakeholders and the backbone organization will need to coordinate to assign tasks and take ownership of the actions. Identify a Course of Action

- Conduct Strategic Action Planning when Backbone Organization is established
- Gain consensus on first steps

Key components of this work are sharing resources and building partnerships.

# Next Steps – Begin Implementation



## **Community Engagement**

### **Action**

Engage community more broadly and build public will

### **Work to Be Completed**

Continuing to engage with the public and stakeholders through sharing this report, promoting actions as they happen, and articulating the community vision.



## **Ongoing Evaluation & Improvement**

### **Action**

Establish shared measures (indicators and approach)

### **Work to Be Completed**

As stakeholders and working groups act, their data collection and sharing will support additional shared measures for tracking progress.



# Thank You

# Recommendation

**THAT** the Regional Board receives the Central Okanagan Poverty and Awareness Strategy report from the Director of Community Services, dated May 30, 2022, for information.