



Background

The Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership (SPRP) is a group of partners organizing to develop and implement a community plan to reduce poverty in Saskatoon. You may have seen our September newsletter with background to our initiative and who is involved. Our partnership was initiated as part of a gathering November 24th, 2009 in response to the recent report on health disparities in Saskatoon. We include organizations that have been creating action in this area for years and also individuals, groups, organizations, and businesses new to the conversation.

The SPRP held a Community Roundtable on November 24 2010 – one year following the meeting that spurred on our community action plan and 21 years following the national all-party declaration to reduce child poverty. The afternoon was filled with sharing the good work happening in our community, talking about where we're all going and the progress we're making towards a community action plan, and how we can influence decisions being made in our community.

This newsletter is a summary of the Community Roundtable discussions.



Community Roundtable on November 24th 2010

The foundation of the SPRP is community leadership, recognizing that poverty is an issue that cannot be addressed by any one agency or sector acting on its own. Community Roundtables are an important tool for connecting into the broader network of community partners.

Dr. Cory Neudorf, Chief Medical Health Officer for the Saskatoon Health Region and Co-Chair of the SPRP Community Leadership Group welcomed more than 50 participants to the Community Roundtable, set the scene for the discussions, and shared the objectives for the afternoon:

- ◆ Confirm the value of a community partnership approach to poverty reduction
- ◆ Validate and celebrate this community's history of poverty reduction work
- ◆ Share and validate progress since November 2009
- ◆ Clearly articulate the different entry points into the action plan
- ◆ Connect with other work being done: (1) Poverty Free Saskatchewan; (2) Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition inclusion policy; (3) City of Saskatoon visioning process; 4) open the door for other sharing
- ◆ Broadly define success and how to measure it

Tanya Dunn-Pierce, Saskatoon Health Region manager temporarily assigned part-time to the SPRP, asked participants to work in group of three to four people to identify key personal and community milestones over the last ten years connected to Saskatoon and to poverty reduction action. The small groups then added these milestones to an already-created timeline on the wall, to build a community history that will be included in the SPRP action plan document. See the latest version of the community history on the next page. Contact the SPRP if you have any additions or changes to suggest.

Christine Thompson, United Way manager temporarily assigned part-time to the SPRP, provided highlights on our progress since last November and Bill Holden, Community Co-Director of CUISR, gave an overview of how the SPRP is organized and outlined the action plan living document. The Powerpoint presentation and various handouts are available upon request (and will be soon available on the web). Highlights are found on page 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

Participants were invited to move to up to three different table discussions as they wanted, but most chose to stay in their original table groups or to move only once. These discussions were recorded on flipcharts and then displayed throughout the room. Highlights from the flipcharts are presented on page 6 and 7 in this newsletter.

Key Messages from the SPRP:

- *The Saskatoon Action Plan will be released in the Spring of this year.*
- *The feedback from the Community Roundtable described in this newsletter will directly influence the content of the Action Plan — the living document, the indicators of progress, and our processes for engagement.*
- *We are consistently hearing the message we are heading in the right direction, with reminders to continue to pay attention to process and outcomes.*
- *Watch for the next Community Roundtable in May — sharing the draft Saskatoon Action Plan.*



1987

Order in City Council to Public Health to create a “child hunger program” that became CHEP

Early 1990's

Community Consultation – three Working Group (led to political action group)
QUINT and political action group on poverty
Political action groups work with Community Clinic

1998/99

Child Poverty Working Group – Communities For Children (C4C)

Pre 2000

CHEP Collective Kitchens/Collective Kitchen Partnership

2000

1000 Voices
Living Wage campaign

2001

White Buffalo Youth Lodge
Saskatoon Food Coalition
Saskatoon Child Poverty report card
PWC Report on wealth and poverty
Rainbow Community Centre

2001 – 2002

Core Neighbourhood Development Council

2002

Exit Routes (street survival guide)

2003

QUINT convened CNDC & Ro Project

2004

Poverty Awareness Workshop
“Don't We Count As People” Welfare & the impact on women's health

2005

Poverty 101
Saskatoon Food Charter
Prairie Women's Centre of Excellence
Women's Photo Voice Project



2005

Rental Supplement
Station 20 West
Building Health Equity (PHS)

2006

Looking Out Looking In photo voice
Homelessness meetings
ICM-SAPC-SHR Poverty Awareness Workshop

2007

Urban Aboriginal Strategy Poverty Work
United Way Community Conversations
Working Supplement program
St. Mary's School being built

2008

Men in the Kitchen Program BHE
Sleeping Under the Bridge
Disparities Report
Health Status Report Sub-regional Analysis (SHR)
Supplemental Health Card
Subsidized Transit Pass
Withdrawal of Station 20 funds
Health Leadership (education, etc.)
Canada Without Poverty/Dignity for All campaign

2009

SRIC Poverty Forum & Working Group
Wellbeing Design Charrette & Working Group
Cardboard Box Sleep In Park
SRIC Priority
Mother Centres
Our Path to Change

2010

Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership
Long term very complex impoverished people – 10 years – still happening
Community Services Village Building
Health Care Equity Audits
Project ID (SHR, City Grants & CIF)
Baby Friendly Initiative Grant – Food Security for Infants

2001 – 2010

Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition
CUISR Quality of Life Research

Timeline of the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership

Saskatoon Health Disparities: Analysis to Intervention Report

SRIC priority of community action plan to reduce poverty

Focus groups with Aboriginal organizations, business leaders, people with lived experience, faith leaders

Path to Change process and video spots

Follow up to policy or initiative options in the health disparity in Saskatoon report – Recommendations for action in our community

Provincial Human Services Integration Forum focus on poverty reduction; looking to Saskatoon as an example

Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership: governance characteristics and model, role clarity, vision framework

Grant from Associated Entities Fund to advance and coordinate the action plan

Request for proposals to advance and coordinate the work, and to stimulate and support the action groups

Working Group on Monitoring and Evaluation

Action group facilitators meet and determine action groups need other supports and processes

Key informants and thought leaders assist with guiding the approach, policy options, community partnerships, framing the issues (ongoing)

Nov
2008

Saskatoon Community Well-being Design Charette

Review of other Canadian communities pursuing comprehensive collaborative approaches to poverty reduction

Community Roundtable: prioritization of policy options and initiatives and participant sign-up to action groups

Some action groups' initial meetings

Shoulder-tapped individuals convene action group discussions

A few action groups continue to meet; recognition that key decision-makers not included

SHR and United Way offer temporary staffing supports

Written communication tools (workplan, vision framework, governance structure, newsletter update, action plan living document outline, value of collaborative approaches to address complex issues)

Nov
2010

Community Roundtable: connecting the work in our community

Public domain sharing of materials through Community View Collaboration website (on-going)

Progress on a Saskatoon Action Plan

The SPRP is organized using a constellation model—just like the stars in the sky—to promote collaboration across organizations. It has been used in other communities and contexts as a way of organizing a group of diverse partners to meet a need and work toward a joint outcome without having to create a new organization to “hold” the issue.

This model is built on the foundation of the SPRP which is community leadership that is shared across groups, organizations, and sectors.

The **Community Roundtables**, held two to three times per year, have an open invite. They are essential for connecting into the broader network of community partners, individuals and organizations working to reduce poverty and improve community well-being.

The primary purpose of the **Action Groups** is to inform the action plan’s development on key issue areas: to inventory what is already happening on the issue, identify gaps that need to be addressed, and outline steps needed to achieve the desired outcomes. They work within the accountability and coordination mechanisms established by the Leadership Group.

The **Leadership Group** provides overall decision-making and direction-setting. Members are key influencers and organizations in our community and/or those with a lived experience with poverty.

The **Coordinating Group** acts on behalf of the Leadership Group, carrying out the day-to-day activities to move forward the plan development and implementation processes.



The Saskatoon Action Plan will be a living document and will be updated on an ongoing basis. It will represent a shared understanding of poverty in Saskatoon, shared leadership across sectors, and will integrate our community’s history of poverty reduction work (please see the two previous pages in this newsletter for a preview). The Action Plan will include input from community stakeholders that will inform broad goals with multi-year commitments by community partners.

The Saskatoon Action Plan will be released to the public in the spring of this year.



Draft Outline of the Saskatoon Action Plan

Saskatoon, its people and poverty

- ◆ *What poverty is and why it’s an important issue in our community*

Community history in addressing poverty

- ◆ *Groups and initiatives that have contributed*
- ◆ *Recent history and process*

A framework for addressing poverty

- ◆ *Vision, framework, goals, principles*

Actions

- ◆ *Catalogue of who is doing what and what priority actions will be done*
- ◆ *Links to other plans that address the same goals*

Measuring progress

- ◆ *Outcome indicators and action monitoring*

Table Group Discussions/Flipcharts

Are we moving in the right direction? What are the strengths? What are the gaps and challenges?

We are moving in the right direction but do we have a good representation across the community?

Strengths/Opportunities

- ◆ Good community support
- ◆ Diverse
- ◆ See need for analysis but also focus on action
- ◆ Governance structure in place
- ◆ “Quality of life” good and positive way to focus discussion around poverty
- ◆ First voice representation
- ◆ Size of Saskatoon – manageable size
- ◆ We’re doing something!
- ◆ Engaged partners
- ◆ Individual initiatives
- ◆ Persistent, passionate
- ◆ Collaboration
- ◆ Evidenced-based processes – continue to collect evidence
- ◆ Show successes
- ◆ Building on principle “nothing about us without us”
- ◆ Strategically bring those together who we are deciding “to do with”
- ◆ Youth voice – SCYAP, CYN, SWITCH – strategic questions to focus on vision
- ◆ Provide forum for common, safe dialogue
- ◆ What does it look like...?
 - ◆ Each connected to social network
 - ◆ Each responsible to enact upon either by questions/gathering
 - ◆ Who can do what, what each organizations’ role is
 - ◆ Use SPRP framework to guide discussions
- ◆ Policy agenda & program goals need to work seamlessly to support action plan
- ◆ Would be great to show successes to continue momentum

Gaps/Challenges

- ◆ How do we engage the general public?
- ◆ How do we make poverty personal & meaningful?
- ◆ How does everyone benefit from the wealth?
- ◆ Critical review of existing programs to ensure they are client focused?
- ◆ Coordinated affordable housing strategy within the city?
- ◆ Still need coordination/response at all gov’t levels (federal and provincial)?
- ◆ How do we free up resources for initiatives that need to happen?
- ◆ How do we ensure the ongoing & meaningful engagements of those with lived experience (1st voice)?
- ◆ Need resources for action plan.
- ◆ Action on actually increasing people’s income.
- ◆ Still have gaps between “haves” and “have not’s”.
- ◆ Stunning silence and lack of discussion & action on these gaps.
- ◆ Continue to strengthen cross cultural relationships.
- ◆ Too often we focus on the gaps rather than focusing & building on the strengths.
- ◆ Was no working group on “food security”.
- ◆ Lots of public discussion re “Saskaboom” – not enough re poverty awareness & impact on all.
- ◆ Decision makers – gov’t missing from discussion.
- ◆ Policy recommendations? Where will they fit in Action Plan.

Table Group Discussions/Flipcharts

- ◆ Business community leadership/involvement.
- ◆ Action groups slow & not functioning.
- ◆ How does provincial strategy link with this work?
- ◆ How to ensure collective voice is captured in work of action groups?
- ◆ Health disparity report – what is our action plan?
- ◆ Defined outcomes with measurable outcomes

How do we ensure there are opportunities for people to engage where they want to? Where should the key entry points be in the process and for whom?

- ◆ How do we engage larger bureaucracies in policy direction that contribute to specific needs of individual communities? Perhaps smaller initiatives can be used to demonstrate value and be built upon. Examples are plentiful in Saskatoon.
 - ◆ We need to go to those who live the experience. Be creative about creating avenues.
 - ◆ Communication strategy that hits all target groups.
 - ◆ Develop the skills individuals need to participate.
 - ◆ Supportive environments.
 - ◆ General public input to process i.e. Community Speaks – City of Saskatoon
 - ◆ Need Labour
 - ◆ Engagement by others
 - ◆ ?? is important for engagement and we need to learn what works i.e. lunch & learn on things
 - ◆ Cross-cultural barriers to relationship building is important! Could be a big barrier to our work.
 - ◆ Use technology to connect people and add more points of entry.
 - ◆ Done good work so far
 - ◆ Some groups missing
 - ◆ Need resources more to get it out further than currently
 - ◆ Community mobilizing needed
 - ◆ More cross-sectoral collaboration
 - ◆ Need to see decrease
- ◆ Key Entry Points
- ◆ Key points at key community org programming level
 - ◆ Multiple connectors – self-directed entry points
 - ◆ Web access
 - ◆ Open fluidity to all levels of development
 - ◆ Articulate levels of responsibility – clarify what kind of commitment
 - ◆ Public places
 - ◆ Physical spaces or places
 - ◆ Booths
 - ◆ Meetings
 - ◆ What is a “key” entry point? – self defined
 - ◆ How do we know what people are defining as their key entry point
 - ◆ Consultation?
 - ◆ Engagement?
 - ◆ Do it over and over or risk of Rabbit Hole of going round & round the same point

Table Group Discussions/Flipcharts

What will success look like five years from now? Ten years from now? How will we know when we get there?

Immediate

- ◆ Task Force
 - ◆ Racism
 - ◆ Mental health
 - ◆ Addictions
 - ◆ Violence issues
 - ◆ Short term/basic shelter
 - ◆ Warming stations – all night
 - ◆ Housing first

Five Years

- ◆ Parental leave – paid – increased to 18 months
- ◆ 10-200 more aboriginal businesses
- ◆ Less reliance on food bank
- ◆ Minimum wage at least \$20/hour
- ◆ Increase subsidized recreational activities for children
- ◆ 2,500 affordable living units w/ support for hard to house
- ◆ X10 social assistance – graded on cost of living
- ◆ Guaranteed annual income
- ◆ Adequate addictions spaces
- ◆ Adequate emergency services
- ◆ Has policy changed in the area's identified?
- ◆ No one living in crushing/abject/absolute poverty (food, shelter (home), included)
- ◆ Presence of Mother Centres
- ◆ Minimum of “silos” of agencies/funding – more coordinated approach with agencies working together (no boundaries) and cohesive funding
- ◆ Broad community awareness of determinants of health
- ◆ Broad community involvement/support for actions
- ◆ Children's Hospital – what opportunities exist to impact children living in poverty? (e.g., human milk bank, baby friendly initiatives)
- ◆ Reintroduction of supports for parents (e.g., breastfeeding support, ParentTalk, drop-in parenting sessions)

Ten Years

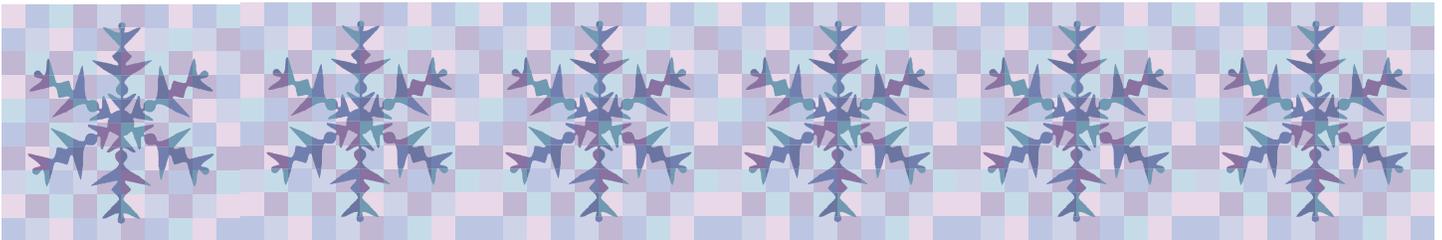
- ◆ Less than 2% of children living under LICO
- ◆ Guaranteed Income Plan in place
- ◆ Universal quality childcare, including drop-in (paid for on sliding scale)
- ◆ More supportive family policies
- ◆ Health equity in children (no gaps or discrepancies)

How we will know when we're there...

- ◆ Human Milk Bank established
- ◆ Targeted measures for specific targeted audiences
- ◆ Track/map unintended “spin-offs” or “benefits” that occur
- ◆ No need for food banks, lots of community gardens/collective kitchens
- ◆ No need for current programs addressing poverty
- ◆ Guaranteed annual income
- ◆ Pilot project here

Table Group Discussions/Flipcharts

- ◆ Used as model for other parts of the country
- ◆ Start small
- ◆ Poverty free
- ◆ Improvement in people's health (physical & mental)
- ◆ Support & leadership with this partnership
- ◆ People with lived experience in leadership roles
- ◆ Partnership with provincial government
- ◆ Poverty enshrined legislation (eg. Quebec)
- ◆ Youth need a safe place to be – always accessible



Some Participant Feedback...

- *I heard at my table how education and health are working together.*
- *I would have like to see discussion of how we bring the pieces together since a bunch of people in this room have pieces, maybe they could have emailed to one person.*
- *There are many stakeholders and people with vested interest in this challenge...Q: how can we work together?*
- *I really, really support the poverty reduction strategy's position that poverty is a complex issue – need to deal with a number of factors/determinants that are inter-related (e.g. affordable housing, substance abuse, etc.).*
- *People living in poverty feel invisible.*
- *There is good work going on and we should stay connected.*
- *[The most important thing for me was...] Listening to a woman who is living daily in a wheelchair who expressed to me the importance of authentically listening to people who live in poverty and that are homeless. This was so eye-opening because she was even being left out of the conversation at her table.*
- *participation strengthens collective action to reduce poverty; helps build relationships and commitment to community strategies.*
- *I believe strongly that we can make decisive change by joining and working together. Need to coordinate our efforts*
- *I would prefer leadership team meet with general public who are faced with poverty and how it affects their daily lives – but after listening I know the importance of sharing this information with a variety of different organizations*
- *Lots of work being done, looking for more info on target audience for policy options.*
- *Discussions and dialogues take LONG but seem to be a necessity to deal with matters around poverty. After seeing the timelines and being invited to different engagements it seems that the amount of time and energy to get people involved is a lot greater than putting time and resources to scarce programs around food services.*
- *I believe our city is disconnected from the poverty issues of our community. Those with the greatest resources are unaware or unsure how to assist in change.*
- *There is a systematic and coordinated plan being developed with recommended actions and strategies. Good research and analysis being done. Don't need to "reinvent the wheel".*

Community Roundtable (continued from Page 1)

The last part of the afternoon promoted connections with other related work in our community.

Vanessa Charles, Jon Ellis, and Laurie O'Connor from the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition introduced a document with inclusion guideposts, to build individual and collective understanding of how to respectfully engage First Voice. Please contact the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition (653-2662) for a copy of the document or for more information.

Lynne Lacroix, Manager of Community Development, City of Saskatoon encouraged participation in the Saskatoon Speaks process, and participants advocated for consideration of individual and social well-being and poverty in the City planning process.

Sydney Bell, Co-Chair of Poverty Free Saskatchewan, shared with us an overview of the network and their advocacy efforts for a provincial approach and plan. Visit www.povertyfreesask.ca for more information and for a copy of their recent discussion document entitled *Let's Do Something About Poverty*.

Sheri Benson, Executive Director of the United Way and Co-Chair of the SPRP Community Leadership Group closed the afternoon by summarizing our next steps, including an invitation to the next Community Roundtable in the spring.

There was a tremendous buzz in the room throughout the afternoon, and the collected feedback forms indicate a high level of support for the directions being taken by SPRP and for the Community Roundtable itself.

**Saskatoon Speaks session
specific to poverty reduction**

January 25th, 1:30—3:00 p.m.

Space is limited.

**Contact Laura Marshall
at 975-0901 by January 21st
to register.**

**Reimbursement for
transportation and child-
minding available for those
who require it. Please let
Laura know at the time of
registration.**

Updates from the Roundtable participants about related work in our community...

- ◆ The Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre provides lunch/supper during different days of the week. For more information please contact May Henderson, SIMFC, 244-0174.
- ◆ Mother Centre approach is a collaborative focus of Building Health Equity Program, CHEP Good Food Inc., and Breastfeeding Matters Coalition. Work is happening to develop a Mother Centre in the core neighbourhood. Mother Centre concept is a World Health Organization best practice for human development for empowering women to impact the quality of their family life (see MINE website).
- ◆ The Baby Friendly Initiative is a collaborative effort with Public Health Services, CHEP Good Food Inc., and Westwinds Primary Health Centre to improve breastfeeding support for vulnerable families as a basis for food security for infants/children.
- ◆ Core Neighbourhood Youth Council and Kinsmen Activity Place have some excellent community development programs happening to engage and build the capacity of youth.
- ◆ Station 20 West is going ahead!
- ◆ The library on 20th Street is the city's most visited library branch.
- ◆ There are a number of community based organizations working on exciting community development initiatives in Saskatoon to help improve the quality of life of people/families who have been marginalized (and core communities that are most marginalized).
- ◆ Community View Collaboration.
- ◆ Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition has binder of other policy and program priorities in their office, available to anyone.



**Contact the Saskatoon Poverty
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