

# List of Ideas Shared to BC's Poverty Reduction Consultation

This document contains a list of ideas that British Columbians submitted to BC's poverty reduction consultations during the public engagement process, October 30, 2017 to March 31, 2018. It is organized by theme and includes verbatim comments from communities across the province, people living in poverty, First Nations and Indigenous people and organizations, community groups, and other stakeholders. It has been edited for repetition.

## AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING AND TENANCY

### Affordable Housing

- Safe, affordable, inclusive housing needs to be built.
- Adopt a policy of universal basic housing.
- New social and co-op housing to accommodate those in poverty or homeless.
- Affordable housing that permits children and animals is number 1.
- Affordable housing that's in a safe environment. Affordable housing should be in all areas of the city not just in the "hood".
- Affordable safe clean housing is a paramount need. Geared to income housing where mixed economic and social background live together in a neighbourhood environment.
- Interest free loan so people can buy a home instead of paying rent every month.
- [...] we believe that the province should work with all levels of government to build affordable rental housing, including co-ops.
- A free market for housing has done the majority of British Columbians NO FAVORS and anything built to address the housing shortage should have it's price fixed to inflation and have measures to ensure wealthy groups do not purchase all of the supply.
- A steady stream of affordable and subsidized housing coming online. \$1900-\$2500 /month is NOT affordable as recently stated by councilors in Vancouver.
- Tiny house, pipes turned into homes, use crown land, shipping containers.
- Looking at housing programs in Europe aimed at reducing homelessness/poverty by providing crown land and interest free loans which allow people to sustain themselves.
- Diversity of housing options fully supported, subsidized, mixed market, co-op, reduced market.
- We recommend more support to subsidize housing costs for renters with low-incomes. The introduction of a range of different models for subsidizing housing, including subsidies attached to particular rental units (or the person) are

necessary to address barriers to housing faced by people living with low-incomes.

- Base co-operative housing charges on actual income instead of gross revenue. Changing these guidelines to reflect actual income vs gross income would allow more women to start and grow their own businesses while living in affordable housing ;and being able to not just “get by” enabling them to eventually move out of affordable housing and opening up space for other families.
- End policies that enforce 2 year housing.
- Separate families from drug users.
- Build more affordable housing and mix it with other levels of income.
- Build more low cost housing for Aboriginal people.
- Build more low income housing for families.
- Commit to building at least 10, 000 affordable homes per year.
- Convert surplus government buildings to affordable apartments.
- Develop a student-specific definition of housing affordability.
- Build more social and affordable rental housing, while better protecting renters from rent-related or renovation evictions.
- Extend SAFER to include housing charges [rents] in non-profit Co-operative housing.
- Decrease costs for housing/rent.
- Fund locally designed pilot projects to create and manage small-scale affordable housing projects in-line with Housing First best practices.
- Offer 3 to 5 year funding to manage Housing First based micro/macro projects.
- Housing Sharing – register for people looking for housing; people looking to share housing. Safe regulated program to vet people looking to share housing/looking for shared housing. Government run/funded.
- Fund massive investments in non-market housing through corporate and wealth taxes.
- Government must do the utmost to build more affordable home within 3 years. A ten year plan is extremely long for the people in need.
- Enhancing and expand rental subsidies and other income supports to families living in or near poverty to reduce housing insecurity.
- Better protect renters from rent-related or renovation evictions.
- Have low income housing available at income assistance rates.
- Investing in affordable housing, rent control, and appropriate housing supports.
- Housing strategy, possibly an affordable housing ownership strategy as a long-term solution through interest free loans/mortgages, instead of rent. This will create stable and sustainable communities.
- Invest in affordable housing by creating modular housing units that can be adapted to suit the needs of different residents (families, the disabled, seniors, the working poor, etc.) and tie rents to incomes.
- Address the housing crisis: Government owned low-income housing, instead of SRO owners that take advantage of clients, better living conditions; Better regulation and management of SROs and conditions of buildings; More

supportive housing and programs for those dealing with addictions, better management and monitoring of the programs.

- More access to services such as the Rent Bank.
- House first model for Terrace - develop local coordinated access system, coaches from the Canadian Alliance to end Homelessness and the 20,000 homes campaign framework.
- Match the SAFER grants and eligibility to the amount of rent increases as well as the maximum qualifying rent.
- More affordable accessible housing for people with disabilities.
- More affordable pet-friendly housing.
- More affordable housing built for families and seniors.
- Develop housing for the difficult to house.
- Have cities come forward with property to house homeless.
- Small (under 100 sq. foot) houses for people who are homeless.
- National Housing Strategy.
- Create modular housing; improve rental availability; improve locations for social housing in communities outside Vancouver; make it more affordable to rent/own.
- Put more dollars into housing in order to build more and better homes.
- In short term address shortfall with temporary housing.
- Better housing renovation on and off reserve.
- Build more student residences to reduce pressure on rental units.
- Incentivize building of economical housing options.
- Invest in Tiny House Warriors to build house for low-income families on their traditional lands.
- Tax the people who own multiple properties and ARE NOT renting them out to year-round tenants.
- Keep rent increases at 2 percent or lower per year.
- New housing starts should include a percentage for affordable housing.
- Have a provincial definition of affordable housing.
- Need for development and access to more senior appropriate housing that is affordable, safe and supportive.
- More affordable, SROs, for elders, for singles.
- Housing built by people getting training for jobs.
- Reduce wait times for housing.
- BC Housing, or city, buy vacant buildings for more BC Housing.
- It would be great if the gov't assessed the person's level of need and put them into a affordable housing system.
- Shorten time to wait for housing on reserve – took 20 years, 15 year waitlist.
- Government cap 1/3 of income to rent, government subsidizes difference.
- Communal housing.
- Wider bracket eligibility co-op.
- More Second stage housing.
- Create a mechanism for all levels of government to work on a credible housing strategy.

- Mandate apartment/building a % low income.
- Encourage affordable housing units by offering incentives for developers and landlords.
- Portable housing subsidy.
- Identify the issues for safe affordable housing for low income families in Prince George. Develop a plan to address the relevant issues surrounding safe affordable housing for low income families in Prince George.
- Need to address affordable housing for Metis people in British Columbia. It is recommended that the Provincial government provide funds to MNBC on an annual basis to create Metis specific housing that will offer income based rents.
- Increase Safe and Affordable Social Housing for Families, Elders, Youth and those suffering from Addictions.
- Support the development of co-operative housing (not social, or affordable housing).
- We need housing built specifically for those who are marginalized.
- Build quality, affordable housing in the DTES and everywhere in all neighbourhoods.
- Camp ground designated for people living in poverty, creating a community run by us for us.
- Develop more purpose built rental for low income earners/ employee housing/ rent to own trailer parks or tiny homes/ subsidy not facility based but applied to families living in private market rentals.
- Ensure housing affordability for low income households (employee housing funded by employers, seasonal employee housing).
- More housing for youth in transition.
- Turn abandoned buildings into affordable housing.
- Railroad cars or other structures for housing ( eg modular housing on coast).
- Build more affordable housing units for single people.
- Look at innovative housing options i.e. container housing, Hollyburn Family Service Society's Senior Roommate Registry, etc.
- Rent rebates / tax credit for low income.
- Please allow the welfare and PWD clients access to Rental Assistance Program or increase the rates to 2017 rates.
- The empty home tax should be province wide – not just in Vancouver.
- Would be nice if people on disability could access rental supplement.
- Multi generational housing.
- Provide affordable and safe housing; create third stage options for buying small housing units for individuals and families.
- Provide more low-income housing units, giving priority to single mothers and women escaping violence. Single-mother specific housing resources.
- We need housing on reserve.
- Encourage municipalities to zone for alternative housing solutions.
- Communal housing with shared kitchens/hostel or rooming house model.
- Cover costs like basic home maintenance for people with disabilities because, unlike able bodied people, we have to contract out even minor repairs

- Create housing communities with shared meals & chores.
- Create more affordable housing options: cooperative housing; incentives for increasing occupancy of existing space; innovative housing concepts such as tiny homes.
- Need more housing geared to income / for low income; needs to be clean, dry, warm, safe.
- Creating incentives to densify, create second suites.
- Disability housing: 1 bedrooms, housing for caregivers and kids, new buildings up to code.
- Government controlled rental buildings. Make a high percentage of residential land in BC be government owned, and build apartments that a government rental ministry can handle, with staff (more good paying jobs) who help individuals find housing that is based on their income, and lifestyle.
- Foster the creation of aesthetically pleasing housing that become places for healing, rather than institutional-looking spaces that further the stigma of poverty and need to access affordable housing.
- Free land for focused people to homestead and land steward.
- Government encourages additional housing/suites on larger properties – tax breaks.
- Green tax credits for people living in the city in small housing spaces using less resources.
- Home owners grant for second home with long term tenants – long term tenancy grant.
- Increase Housing Stock in rural areas.
- Infill housing.
- Intentional communities.
- Legalize 'alternative living' situations such as tiny homes, tent cities, RVs, and boats and provide these communities with the same supports the suburbs receive.
- Need housing options located in central areas of the city.
- Mandate that new housing developments must have a percentage of affordable housing units, and/or designated green space and community garden space.
- more affordable housing like Crossroads.
- More affordable housing, not SRO's.
- More government seniors homes in area and special department to handle issues.
- More housing for youth with disabilities.
- Difficult to have affordable rentals if one group or business has a monopoly on the market and can set rates at whatever price; affordable housing should be for all ages and demographics.
- More native housing for elders and families.
- Restore/renovate small boats to live aboard.
- Subsidized COOP rental/ownership program for people to share individual homes with government assistance in helping groups purchase appropriate homes and having a dispute resolution program.

- Unused nation building sports club house, closed down school building – renovate into something liveable for a single person.
- Use marinas and house boats for affordable housing.
- Varied, safe, and specific for trans, non-conforming, and queer individuals, particularly for youth, families, elders, Indigenous people, and people who are racialized/ anti-racist housing.
- Board administered, Metis specific Seniors Housing.
- Build little cabins for non-rentals Or rent to own cabins low budgets.
- Create affordable housing targets and plans based on the actual number and future projections, of British Columbians who live below the poverty line and are in core housing need.
- Affordable housing - trickle down effect from Vancouver - foreign buyers, etc. having a huge impact here.
- A criteria needs to be established – BC Housing should not be first come first serve.
- Expand rental subsidy program – so individuals on welfare can access.
- Further increasing the Shelter Allowance for Elderly Renters (SAFER) rates after annual review of changing rental costs.
- Provide free housing to all post-secondary students in BC.
- Unify the RAP and SAFER housing subsidies and expand access to include all low-income renters, including those in receipt of income and disability assistance.
- Build partnerships with landlords to assist people in poverty seeking affordable housing, possible incentive program for landlords.
- Changes in housing policy or programs to support innovative community building – vacation rental policies and enforcement.
- Create a tax break/incentive for individuals who own vacant homes; reduce their property tax, or provide a tax credit, to incentivize them to provide the unit at welfare & PWD rates and create multi-unit houses.
- Supportive housing and BC housing and Native housing should be covered by the law so that rents don't go up when social assistance goes up and so they don't have arbitrary rules like no guests.
- Create capital and operational funding to enable communities to bank land and construct of variety of housing types.
- Do a program where rich people have low income people move into a section of their house.
- Raise B. C. safer rates and include people 60 and older living on welfare (persons with disabilities).
- Employ carpentry students to build mini cabins, etc.
- Laneway homes promotion and tax breaks (other incentives) to landowners who could rent out the space. Progressive design ie: front porches, small self-contained units.
- Make it mandatory for people who own 20 apartments to identify one for low income people.

- Match people with room in homes with people without homes - create community and help with safety: facebook page, monthly potluck so people can informally meet.
- Low income people would benefit from co-operatives being government supported.
- More support for rural rental housing. Work with rural communities to allow farmers to offset cost of farm operations by putting mobile or tiny homes etc. on their property.
- Provide funding opportunities for current mobile home park owners to update units and put in new ones.
- Open homesteading in northern BC and encourage young people to secure homesteading land to free up accommodation in the cities.
- Provide mortgage incentives for homeowners to convert their homes into multi-unit dwellings.
- Provide tax breaks/incentives to landlords who provide affordable rents.
- Reduce insurance costs for landlords.
- Require developers to make units available at welfare rates in all buildings throughout Vancouver and reassess the 'affordable housing' metric.
- Tax incentives to build in rural areas.
- Communal apartments for Single parents with affordable rent.
- Create affordable housing that has build in supports available to families such as drop in paid day care, family support workers, and drop family drop in centers that provide food, clothing, services, supports to families and children.
- Provide social housing that costs no more that 25% of a person's income be it in the form of wages, disability, social assistance or seniors.
- Provincial government should give funding to municipalities to build social housing.
- Rent supplements.
- Need more social housing for large families.
- Ensure housing is tenant-run and protected under the RTA, not "supportive" housing, which strips residents of their rights and subjects them to surveillance and control.
- We need social housing that is geared to income that people on provincial disability can afford. The rent should be at the shelter rate of 375\$ and people should have to be clean and sober to get into housing.
- Raise income bracket for rental assistance program.
- A simpler process to apply for subsidized housing, without a criteria that refers to lifestyle choices.
- Additional independent subsidized rentals for independent living as many of our participants stated they were unable to live alone but had no alternative but to live in shared accommodation which often was problematic due to differences.
- Additional resources to accommodate and support persons/families in securing housing within their financial means.
- Address transitional housing through rent banks and subsidized housing.
- Affordable housing like co-ops should have income limits.

- Various cities have found that it is cost-effective for the society as a whole to provide free housing even e.g. Utah, Medicine Hat.
- BC Housing needs to provide more information and transparency around their waitlists. They need to provide personal case workers and face to face services.
- BC Housing programs exist for seniors to help them with rent. There should be a similar program for youth from care.
- Better staff ratios in BC housing; increased senior's housing.
- Building more Seniors Subsidized Housing (SSH) for low income seniors on an ongoing basis since the proportion of seniors in the population is forecast to increase.
- Building social housing and improving SRO housing conditions. This must come with improving inspections to prevent other Balmoral hotels from happening.
- Cheaper Housing around Mission more places and People that help the drug Issues too!
- Ensure that supportive housing, BC Housing, and Native housing cannot increase rent when social assistance goes up.
- Everyone given a place to live at a reasonable rate; sliding scale subsidies Housing for parents, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- Expand rental subsidies BC Housing.
- Expand SAFER to younger people with disabilities and people on PWD.
- Extending the rent subsidy to people unable to work.
- Government housing support: building new, helping build with \$ for citizens.
- Gross \$ vs Net \$ calculations for subsidy, should be based on net \$.
- We need a place to call to get help with rent for people on disabilities – incorporate a form of rent help for people with disabilities.
- Have low-income housing integrated into regular housing to spread it out.
- Housing subsidy not connected to a facility.
- Improve application process and waitlists for subsidized housing .
- Income tested housing/supported housing considerations must be in place for couples – income/pension sharing without claw backs.
- Income-based housing.
- Increase access to subsidized housing and affordable rent-to-own housing for low-income households.
- Increase cut-offs for housing subsidy.
- Increase number of co-op housing units that are available.
- Renting for a single-people is not viable – we need a policy that supports single people who are renting (i.e. maybe they receive a tax break).
- Rent. Wealth property owners in charge. Need to look at social structure.
- Sharing land – 1 space to be hero in a good way.
- In state of emergency prices frozen until emergency over. There's an emergency for poor right now
- Increase public housing stocks
- Increase the availability and types of rent subsidies.
- Low income buildings with non-traditional spaces – not specified to one bedroom.



- Medication and cost of prescriptions should be factored into income calculations for people accessing affordable housing; thus, acknowledging its role in limiting income and that medication is not a discretionary expense.
- Metis Specific funding allocation to develop our own income-based housing.
- More affordable and supportive housing. Also a rental cap on market rentals and more housing for survivors of domestic abuse. No more waitlists for housing.
- More government sponsored housing; less expensive investor-driven building projects left vacant by nonresidents.
- More rental assistance programs.
- More subsidized housing options. (especially 3 or 4 bedroom units).
- More subsidized housing options for young single men. For those mothers living in social housing, once children have grown up, they are not allowed to be counted as children and must find alternate housing. This causes extreme stress for families who are housing insecure and who have children who stay at home beyond the age of 18.
- More transparency at City Hall especially re: building and development - access to information - clear laws, criteria, regulations - answerable to community.
- Provide extensive funding for Housing Programs like BC Housing, Koomseh, Emergency Women and families fleeing abuse, with follow up permanent safe housing.
- Provide more subsidized housing units (BC Housing, Co-op housing, Aboriginal housing).
- Provide supports to address transitional housing situations through rent banks (crisis funding).
- Provincial government to follow through with policies in regards to staff housing with big projects.
- Put more money into public housing (adequate housing, affordable and available).
- Review policies of rent geared to income as related to non-profit housing providers to ensure standards and expectations for non-profit housing providers, especially regarding of client transfer from BC Housing to non-profits.
- SAFER subsidy needs to be higher in Victoria to reflect the cost of living.
- Simplify the process to apply for subsidized housing.
- Subsidized housing is needed specifically for youth & youth in care. Also more programs like Bladerunners which help with employment AND housing.
- Subsidized market based housing rent bank. Short term loans to bridge a gap.
- Support multi-unit habitat housing.
- The Portland, Oregon model of social housing is a great one that we should learn from.
- There need to be more facilities like the Friendship Centre housing programs but, in that, there should be flexibility with family and pets. There are always rules in place based on whether you live in a male or female facility that doesn't allow for family to come and visit or stay with you. There also needs to be places where couples can live together.

- To address the need for affordable housing, I would expand and increase accessibility to The Rental Assistance Program to include people on social assistance and the “working poor.”
- Use UK model-using empty buildings, rent condos at subsidy.
- More funding – Housing First workers.
- More housing on reserve and off reserve.
- Need apartments on reserve; need apartments/dwellings for single people.
- Enact policy change around zoning to reduce neighbourhood stigma; wealthy think that when poor people move in it reduces their property value.
- Fast track people with disabilities for housing.
- Force landlords to rent the empty rooms, or tax those empty rooms heavily.
- [Need to address] inflated rental market; renovictions; disqualified by having children, pets, actively trying to stand up for yourself, your family and your rights, unemployment, credit checks.
- Housing with agencies available readily (Navigators of a system so many people cannot navigate).
- We need to reinvest in housing, especially for people who need subsidized housing, but also for middle class earners. Portable rent subsidies would be a good way to start (similar to SAFER but for all ages and include people on PWD).
- Work together and coordinate the efforts and investments of non-profit organizations, the private sector and other levels of government to ensure a full spectrum of housing for those in need, including affordable housing, supportive housing, social housing, emergency and transition housing.
- Utilizing existing buildings for low income housing/shelter (municipal demands).
- Relax rules around rental/in house and basement suites.
- Make all new buildings, especially housing, accessible.
- Look at new models, ex. landlord tax to subsidize low-income housing or a mansion tax to fund new housing
- Tax local developers both commercial and residential to offset costs of affordable housing
- More subsidized and accessible housing, with choice in unit size and location to suit individual needs.
- Portable rent subsidy for accessible housing.
- Legislate against Coop Housing units changing low income housing to market rates.
- Geared to income housing so that the working poor would have enough to buy food, pay bills and pay for other necessities after they pay their rent.
- More closely examine the criteria for placement in subsidized housing so that individuals that are in active addiction are not placed with individuals at a different stage in their recovery.
- Create affordable housing for all low and moderate income Canadians.
- Make it so that only people who are homeless or single and low income have first come first serve.
- People pay based on their income tax assessments, or with proof of income if their financial situation has changed.

- Best ways to reduce poverty: affordable housing (by banning foreign ownership and taxing the heck out of non-primary residences - make it so that it doesn't make financial sense to buy property here - unless you live and work here).
- Working aggressively on the cost of housing especially in the lower mainland has to happen asap.
- Access to affordable, even free, shelter.
- Make current housing affordable rather than build new units.
- NDP should provide a percentage of suites for people on PWD to buy at less than market value.
- Build more single units.
- Support Habitat for Humanity, get more land for more affordable house.
- I propose a large-scale social housing program, with a rent-to-own mechanism, run by some level(s) of government and/or charities. Land would be developed with apartment and/or detached small units (100-500 ft<sup>2</sup>), and a single monthly cost would incorporate all housing costs (utilities, payment toward purchase price, taxes, strata-like fees for repairs and property maintenance, administration, etc). When the unit is paid for, monthly fee would be reduced by the rent portion and the occupant could choose to continue residing there, or sell back to the program and roll the sale amount into a new, larger/nicer unit as a downpayment.
- Buildings could be built like communities, with gardens (with fruits and vegetables, like in some co-op buildings), shops, shared areas for encouraging social behaviours (which is beneficial for those who typically live in isolation, and for new immigrants and refugees who might have a hard time adapting otherwise), a tech room/building. Adding a clinic on site would be ideal.
- Pressure the feds to get back into co-op or other housing suitable for seniors & others who do not qualify for Habitat.
- Facilitate housing co-ops - funding and administrative support for setting them up - change regulations to free up some crown or agricultural reserve land for combined co-housing/ agricultural use.
- At least 30% of rental apartments should be publicly owned, and regulated (based on income, but the units are not better or worse if your income is higher).
- Look at co-housing communities like in some Nordic countries.
- Government could legislate a 1-3 unit minimum of subsidized housing rates in all buildings.
- Lower the minimum age for rental assistance for elders.
- Change the [income requirement] policy with BC Housing.
- Limit foreign ownership of housing to decrease demand and thus lowering the cost of housing.
- A reassessment of inflation of land value, real estate inflation, social housing projects, available sustainable housing options, foreign investment and rental tenant rights.
- Put child care, cmtty gardens, cmtty medical clinics and useful cmtty spaces in every new low income housing development.
- Legislation for Sunshine Coast for Air B and B.

- Install solar panels on low-income housing units for the tenants to reap the benefits.
- Give incentives to property owners to keep rents lower.
- A local Housing Authority needs to be put in place.
- Rebate/incentivize accessible rentals.
- Seize property that's being underutilized--industrial or [residential] space that's empty grass, commercial space that's for parking cars, or any space that's being kept by investors and speculators instead of those who actually use it--and sell it to businesses, or residential co-ops, that make more efficient use of it.
- People need a safe and dignified place to live (not the single occupancy rooms that have no bathrooms or kitchen).
- Provide a decent standard of housing for people with low income. The standard needs to include cleanliness, have their own kitchen and bathroom, enough space (marginalized people should not be expected to live in extreme tiny spaces), safe.
- BC should look at implementing the same homelessness strategy as Medicine Hat, AB.
- Accelerate the development of new rental housing units for low income working families and supportive housing for people with mental health issues and addictions.
- Implement vacancy control; that is, rent that is tied to a unit and not to a tenant, to protect what few remaining homes are available at affordable rates.
- Control gentrification and provide more affordable services, especially food grocers, in poor neighbourhoods.
- Affordable housing model that is diverse, multi-level and comprehensive (students, seniors, families, peoples with disabilities, immigrants, aboriginal, persons of varying mental wellness together).
- Exclude child [m]aintenance and support payments from subsidized housing formula.
- Utilizing existing infrastructure for housing (ie empty schools).
- More housing subsidies that are attached to people rather than units.
- Affordable housing with supportive educated staff to help people navigate systems; encourage tenants/provide opportunity to purchase homes.
- Tax incentives for building more affordable market housing; engage developers and private market to build low to mid-range market housing (not just high end houses).
- We recommend the provincial government introduce stronger tenant protections including tighter limits on annual rent increases, tying rent control to the unit (not the tenant), adequately enforcing the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA), and extending tenant rights to include all non-profit social housing currently exempt from the RTA.
- End homelessness and adopt a comprehensive affordable social housing plan  
Priority Action:
  - Recommit to building thousands of new social and co-op housing units per year. BC should be bringing on stream 10,000 such units per year.

- Enhance and enforce tenant rights including introducing rent control on the unit.
- Address discrimination against single parent and mother-led families with children in the rental market, particularly those with infants, toddlers and large families, with all mechanisms available to government.
- We support the CCPA-BC recommendation in their 2018 BC budget submission of a Housing Renewal Fund to retrofit aging affordable housing stock through-out the province, benefiting both people and the environment.
- Commit funds to maintain and develop additional housing for urban Aboriginal people.
- Implement a residential rehabilitation program to replace the federal RRAP program, which was terminated in 2011 at the same time that federal funds were transferred to the Province for renovation programs.
- Maintain and increase the funding levels available for rent supplement programs, including the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) for low-income working families.
- Sustain and enhance housing stability strategies such as the Surrey Rent Bank.
- Prioritize investment in (i) affordable housing for young adults and families to allow them to live in the communities in which they work; (ii) Indigenous skills training and solidifying partnerships between industry and provincial, federal and First Nation governments; (iii) skills training for people whose jobs are made obsolete by technology; and, (iv) resettlement programs for low-income immigrants and refugees to foster integration into Canadian society.
- Allocate 250 new units of social and co-op housing to Burnaby over three years, starting with 100 units in 2018. Attach support workers to the buildings to enable them to successfully integrate people who are more difficult to house.
- Increase the monthly limit on rent supplements to recognize the actual cost of housing.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive housing program, including measures to stimulate rental housing construction, maintain existing rental housing, reduce speculation, increase investments in social and non profit housing and expand opportunities for first-time home buyers.
- I know everyone will call racist on this one but I believe that not allowing foreign students anymore (or greatly reducing their numbers) would help a lot with the housing crisis. They are getting all the cheap suites that need to be for us low income people.
- Provide modular housing for the poor, bring government services once a month to those locations to reach out to them.
- New construction that meets certain standards starts could be encouraged through government incentives, fast tracked approvals, grants, etc. The standards to consider could be: family size apartments, townhomes, or other multi- family designs that are creative and desirable in any neighbourhood.
- From a social and societal perspective I believe it would enhance the mental health of all groups to be in a more diverse living situation, and would recommend that the government look at models from other countries, and/or develop new models here in BC.

- Start by building housing that doesn't take up 75% of a person's income. Start by insisting developers build QUALITY low income housing for every major development project. Insist that developers contribute to the schools in the area they are developing.
- Can the definition of housing affordability be reviewed? It is currently set at 30% of gross income. In reality this means paying over 50% of net income on housing. This means so called affordable housing is not affordable. If this continues as a definition moderate income people will not be able to move ahead into affordability.
- A larger government role in social housing.
- Realistic amounts to create needed housing are set, and spent.
- BC needs more new housing cooperative options for those who make too much for social housing, but not enough to own.
- The provincial government must maintain its dedication to work with the federal and local governments and agencies such as health authorities, school boards, post-secondary institutions, police, justice, youth, women, indigenous, and LGBTQ groups and homeless people themselves, with philanthropists, developers, entrepreneurs and the business community to develop sustainable social housing solutions using a Collective Impact approach.
- We also endorse adopting the affordable housing strategy developed by The BC Government Employees Union.
- There should be laws in place that if affordable housing is knocked down, there must be replacements of the same number of units; this is mandated in Port Moody, BC.
- When a building has to be rebuilt or just renewed, they push the current residents out. when the building is finally finished, the original residents should have priority to get back in, at their original rent. instead of giving the residences to the ultra wealthy, and having the pwd or original residents become homeless as a result. this practice has to stop.
- Increase BC Housing rental subsidies for low-income households in communities affected by industrial development.
- Perhaps this could be funded through instigating a landlord tax/levy of sorts that went towards rent subsidies, with metropolitan areas being the focus. With the rents as high as they are currently in Vancouver, landlords must be making incredible profits. One way to share in social responsibility is to pay a percentage of these profits into a rental subsidy program for low income people. And there needs to be a location specific element to these subsidies, as the rent varies from city to city and community to community.
- Provide modular housing to anyone facing 'renovictions' (or outright evictions), in the same neighbourhood. Seniors need to stay in neighbourhoods that are familiar to them, where they have friends, family and contacts. Once the 'old' buildings are renovated or new buildings built, guarantee government protection and regulations so that the previous tenants can return to their units at the previous subsidized rent rates.
- There need to be dedicated buildings for seniors who worked all their lives and because of circumstances beyond their control, like getting the minimum wage of

\$1.00 an hour back in the 1960 to 1967 period when it went to \$1.10 simply do not have huge savings or pensions.

- Port Alberni would benefit from having a Restore/Habitat for humanity in our community – affordable building materials for landlords to be able to afford to keep their properties in good repair and opportunities for families to own their own 'forever' home.
- Make boarding houses an option...creates a safe space & community.
- Look at other housing models: eg students living with seniors; students get affordable housing & seniors get help.
- Ensure new and existing coop stock is not biased towards middle-class families and address the issue of impractical buy-ins totalling thousands.
- Prioritize investment in new and existing co-operative housing province-wide with community-building amenities and measures built into all aspects of model design, drawing on innovative European models.
- Contribute surplus federal and provincially owned lands in Surrey for the development of social housing at a reduced cost or no cost.
- Plan and create the capacity and conditions necessary to develop new social housing projects in Surrey that respond to the needs of diverse population groups.
- Federal and provincial governments to work together to reduce the uncertainty for vulnerable members of housing cooperatives by ensuring that long-term, cost-shared rental assistance programs are in place as federal cooperative housing agreements expire.
- Affordable Housing Societies should be better monitored as their mandates state they are operating for the betterment of the poor, elderly, seniors, disabled however bottom line is ...Money...Money...Money is their object and Government run buildings are no better.
- Remove the restriction on public entity debt that presently applies to British Columbia's public post-secondary educational institutions, or employ other mechanisms that have been successful in providing housing options, thereby enabling these colleges and universities to take on debt to build new student housing.
- SAFER Program needs to have lower age to qualify (policy changed from 55 to 60 in 2004).
- Maintain current and future social housing projects so that they do not become slum-like.
- Do not evict tenants from social housing when children graduate. Do not include a youth's income in calculating rents.
- Raise the housing asset limit to 100,000: right now, it is a 10,000 limit to keep the rent subsidy. it's stressful to have to stay below that amount. this is on the annual rent subsidy review form from b.c. housing.
- For bc housing I went to one place but I rejected it because it was not accessible and i asked for a one bedroom place. because i rejected it, i was removed from the list. so there needs to be More flexibility, in choosing, and allow us to visit more than one place.

- We need more permanent affordable homes - modular housing is a very temporary solution.
- Need to add more density to make units more affordable.
- Decrease rent.
- Build neighbourhood support for use of underutilized lands for temporary housing.
- Richmond City Council should accept modular housing.
- Perhaps there is a “billet program” that could be introduced – bring people together organizing and educating – make community a big family.
- Encourage municipalities to adopt different approaches to their zoning.
- Encourage more long term rental housing supply and protect the housing stock that is available.
- Return to a housing market that is designed to meet the needs of the people who live there – i.e. rental market for locals.
- Adopt stricter rules and requirements on vacation rentals and short term rentals as well as around AirBnB.
- Government develops policy to empower non-profit housing providers to increase the number of social housing units available.
- Change the legislation now to allow for more housing co-ops (through the law society).
- Workforce housing needed for working poor (\$17 - \$20 per hour).
- We should look into 3D printed houses.
- Decrease rental rates - \$650 + for shelter.
- There should be more studio housing – with storage.
- The Ministry knows where clients are living, so it would be possible to provide additional assistance worth the cost of rent.
- Youth shelter/supporting housing.
- Need for more transition houses for women and children.
- It is important to provide people with access to supports and affordable housing.
- Provide more affordable and safe housing on the North Shore.
- There is the need for more affordable housing – there should be a benchmark -X amount for x people.
- Provide more supports to families including access to safe, affordable housing.
- Housing. Made affordable for families, elders, and people living in poverty. More resources and support to find affordable housing. Places to gather, build community, stay warm.
- People need safe, accessible, affordable housing.
- Government should put more money into housing.
- There needs to be more access to funding for housing and more flexibility.
- Housing. Availability. Affordability. Quality. Heating. Ownership.
- Seniors housing.
- Housing is the concrete foundation that you need.
- Support for people with disabilities to get housing.
- Resources to find housing.
- Funding for transition house for women, mental health/addictions.



- Housing and help finding housing. Williams Lake has Housing Outreach Worker. This is a good service.
- There is the need for more funding for housing with support.
- Optional housing for students who have to travel long distances so they can participate in all school activities and spend less time travelling on the bus.
- Every suite available should be subsidized.
- Increased funding for building subsidized housing connecting funding & groups.
- Find ways to address community objections to development proposals.
- Need to remove some of the municipal and provincial road blocks to building housing.
- Need to change by-laws – currently only one house is allowed on agricultural property – need to change this rule.
- Need secondary suites and mortgage helper Municipal bylaws prevent this type of housing – it is considered illegal – the city evicts people in illegal suites.
- Renovictions need to need to be stopped by changing bylaws.
- Promote inclusion in provincial housing program.
- Need more housing assistance in Fort St. John.
- There is the need for more low cost housing for low income people.
- Compel developers to dedicate 1 or 2 units/sub division as affordable.
- MORE PET FRIENDLY HOUSING.
- Housing providers must not be able to apply their own rules around assets.
- Give housing subsidy directly to people so they can choose where to live.
- Need to cut operating costs to housing providers to make them responsible.
- More transparent process within neighbourhood decisions on developments.
- Charge price per square foot.
- Incentivize and penalize development of affordable housing units (i.e. fine if not followed through).
- City wide adoption of the downtown development plan – e.g. 20% low income housing.
- Expand senior assistance program.
- Affordable housing should be one of the top 3 priorities.
- Create housing hubs.
- Establish a coordinator to help build linkages/referrals to other community resources.
- Put into place appropriate supports to ensure people stay housed.
- No more Housing Committees - need government building housing.
- Take away the profit from housing.
- Province and city to move away from private developers.
- Housing that is low barrier and not run by religious organizations.
- There is the need to tie housing in with employability.
- Return to 70s/80s when government provided housing.
- Not enough hostel spaces in small towns.
- Spread out new housing so people have choice of community.
- More housing and supports for people with mental health challenges.

- Stop slumlords from taking advantage of people.
- Implement housing policies that move away from treating housing as investments and towards treating housing as a right, and houses as homes (e.g., policies to address speculation, AirBnB, empty units, renovictions, allowing tiny homes).
- Mandate poverty reduction oriented deliverables when working with developers.
- Government inspections ensuring slumlord landlords can't continue renting places that should be condemned.
- Better and easier to get affordable housing linked to transportation.
- Stable affordable living would allow one to focus on other issues (i.e. addiction, employment, health etc.).
- Strategic planning for the placement of shelters and subsidized housing – distribute, integrate into neighbourhoods, and ensure a minimum number of units are in all geographies not just in urban cores.
- More subsidized housing is needed in Kitimat.
- Use LRT to prevent the demolition of affordable housing.
- Stronger wording in leases to compensate people if evicted.
- Non-profits need grants to create safe, affordable housing.
- Pathway for shelter users to obtain permanent housing.
- More funding (long term) for shelters.
- Too many taxes on landlords.
- Put dollars into rent banks.

## **Homelessness**

- Emergency housing and shelters for homeless.
- Support creating emergency housing and a permanent homeless shelters.
- Immediately funding emergency shelters for homeless seniors in Greater Vancouver.
- A place with phones that can take messages for homeless people.
- Access to Showers/Laundry.
- Additional services at emergency shelters, ongoing support offered with less barriers.
- Address youth homelessness and its lasting health and employment effects by prioritizing funding for prevention-focused Housing First approaches for youth.
- Adopt a Housing First model province-wide with adequate mental health and substance use, employment and/or education supports in place to assist people in transitioning from homelessness.
- Bikes should be allowed at shelters.
- Build a 24 hour drop in with access to washrooms, showers, laundry, food, clothing, phones, computers and support services. Support services should include workers to help with finding permanent housing.
- Build more shelters, including the ability keep personal items, pets and smoke.
- Can there be temporary housing and transition plan for at risk people and homeless people.
- Change hotels into youth homelessness shelters or low income housing.

- Changes to Bylaw enforcement and improve human rights for people who are homeless.
- City of Kamloops to employ homeless people to run homeless shelters
- Cold weather shelter.
- We need individual autonomy to manage housing solutions for people who are homeless.
- Preventative supports are needed so that seniors aren't homeless.
- Providing additional funds to social service agencies and non-profit housing societies to provide housing and other supports to populations at higher risk of homelessness such as LGBTTTQ youth without family support and women with addictions who have young children.
- Fully fund and expand access to shelters and support and recovery programs that allow mothers to keep their babies and young children with them.
- Communication, on all levels - with homeless individuals and with the general public to create awareness.
- Representation from more perspectives during planning. Include the Homeless and Homeless advocates in planning, design, development of future housing initiatives.
- Community hygiene facilities & free hygiene products (showers & bathrooms; clean razors, shampoo, soap, free menstrual products).
- Community secure storage, such as for during interviews, work shifts, etc.
- Community support – allow homeless to use basement.
- Create a supervised tent community.
- Secure storage spaces for homeless people – e.g bike share program, locker sharing program.
- Create options for third stage options. Third stage that comes with options to buy the housing unit.
- Dedicate 1% of tax from British Columbians to fund homelessness.
- Ensure services provided at emergency shelters are available and accessible 24 hours a day.
- Ensure that people being evicted from manufactured home sites, receive fair and equitable compensation for their units [many units cannot be moved due to the age of the building].
- For homeless people: can I buy you anything? What do you need?
- For men shelters, as there are women's shelters but nothing for men.
- For people who are homeless or precariously housed, there is a need for more support to find housing (including providing things like access to computers to look at online housing lists).
- Government could give money to people staying in the shelters so they can save up enough money for a house.
- Hold events for the homeless such as Crash at the Club.
- Homeless people need foot care and shoes that actually fit our feet.
- Homeless program to access different furniture.
- Day facilities for the homeless between 8am-8pm.
- Washrooms "Portland Loo" all-weather bathroom.

- Increased shelter spaces / shelter hours.
- Something like “bear patrol” in Winnipeg for violence against vulnerable people.
- Homeless/low-income to have better relations and more access to the police force.
- Improved support and protection for the homeless.
- Hotline for homeless – Government? Volunteer? Volunteer organization to gather knowledge and educate public and those in need.
- If an individual is involved in a police incident, or are taken to the hospital, have the officer or hospital social worker take a photo and act as a verifier to their identity. Both entities generate reports and profiles, so their identities will be stored within the respective system.
- Increase support for shelters to help with homelessness and access to other programs, including addictions/overdose.
- Investigate, compare and report on how other countries are addressing homelessness ex. Japan.
- Investment in the homeless population through increased financial and medical/healthcare support.
- One mention was made of an initiative in another city where the homeless were offered work by the city such as clean-up and maintenance in return for city-provided housing.
- Year round access to a shelter.
- Laundry services at drop in centres—more detergent needed and more laundry mats.
- Long term funding for homeless prevention program.
- More access to free water sources 24-7.
- More flexibility in shelters to help with people accessing new jobs.
- Open up free Laundromat , possibly with apartments upstairs , showers & food (Issue: laundry too expensive).
- Offer diversity in emergency shelter availability (family, women, low barrier, etc.).
- More programs and resources during the day at shelters and drop-in centres. This could also include more peer support, learning and training opportunities to increase training of peers.
- Post office boxes that are an actual address that is free.
- Have public health nurse for street people intervention.
- Develop homeless connection convention once a year.
- Provide information, resources, food etc.
- Services should go to where homeless people are.
- More shelters for single fathers with children - more single dad resources.
- My first recommendation is that people working with First Nations homeless community they need to understand the historical realities of the lives of First Nations Homeless communities, understand about the Sixties’ and Millennial Scoops, Indian Residential schools, and the historical and ongoing effects of colonization.
- Free sleeping bags for homeless.
- Stop banning people from shelters.

- Create more gender neutral shelters.
- Outreach workers to meet with homeless and drive to and from appointments.
- Partnerships should be created to ensure housing is available for the homeless or those at risk of homelessness. BC Housing and other stakeholders should make Housing First, their main mandate to meet all housing needs. Affordable, safe and accessible housing should come with adequate supports for people.
- Proper analysis of homeless population (why?). Look at the big picture and be aware of the full history (everyone has a story).
- Provide 24/7 safe, low barrier emergency housing and shelters for all youth (especially younger youth and children (ages 10-14)).
- Provide safe, low barrier emergency housing and shelters for LGBTQ2S+ youth.
- Providing additional supports, for example Housing First, to support people who have been homeless for a significant period or who may need additional supports to learn how to manage household tasks including budgeting, landlord – tenant responsibilities, etc.
- Revisit the definition of homelessness and make the process more simplified to that communities can begin to address the concerns respective to their community.
- Shelters are poorly under-funded/ increase funding (stigmatic and poorly funded); combining services in central spaces (Shelter, drop in).
- Shelters need common areas to hang out; year round shelters.
- Shelters of all kinds catering to various struggles. For example, wet and dry shelters women, men and co-ed shelters.
- Shelters should be able to refer people with health issues to housing.
- Simply saying hello and smiling to homeless people, more boots on the ground (nurses, social workers), immediate access to detox and housing.
- Use school space as shelters.
- Turn a gym into a youth shelter.
- Turn ice rinks into youth shelters.
- We need more understanding and connections between the homeless and non-homeless.
- We need safe and accessible emergency shelters for couples, families and teenagers.
- Large communal shelters would likely be the most practical to provide shelter, heat, food and internet.
- Monitor the youth homeless counts throughout B.C. and develop a youth homelessness strategy.
- Maintain and increase the funding for the Unlicensed Supportive Recovery Home Program to enable additional beds to be funded through this program.
- Sustain and increase the funding focussed on homelessness until a combined strategy on housing and homelessness is developed to guide federal and provincial investment.
- Create a “Home Repair Reserve” to prevent evictions of previously homeless or homeless-at-risk individuals/families for building damages over and above damage deposits.

- Increase the number of Outreach support workers within Burnaby to assist people experiencing homelessness with successful and long-term housing outcomes.
- Develop a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable province-wide homelessness plan that sets out a series of actions, timelines and financial requirements aimed at ending homelessness in the province, while supporting community-led initiatives on homelessness, in a compassionate, dignified and fiscally responsible manner.
- Work collaboratively with the federal government to place equal emphasis on homelessness prevention and crisis response, to increase funding for housing outreach, referral and advocacy services, and to provide additional funding to address addictions and mental health.
- Also, the principles of the At Home/Chez Soi study should be implemented immediately, full support from all organizations and homes for everyone who wants one are vital to mental and physical well being.
- I think if you want to reduce homelessness and poverty we should look at medicine hats example. They gave all of their homeless citizens homes, gave them free counselling to deal with traumas, gave them help with addictions and provided work\upgrading programs so they could then learn to sustain themselves. It costs more to feed and clothe homeless year after year than it does to set them up with a home, help with addictions, and give them the tools to succeed and become a working gear in society.
- Crisis shelter system. Rationale: to provide immediate shelter relief to the homeless. Providing shelters with fixed address and long term use provides an essential part required from income assistance agencies, e.g. BC welfare, and would decrease conflict with community, provides dignity of personal toilet, stable habitat routine, preserves health, reduces social anxiety.
- Stop allowing these NIMBY's the privilege to deny housing to people who are dying on the street and costing our system thousands of dollars a month in hospital, shelter, jail and EMS responses. it's cheaper to get them an apartment.
- Better staffing and programs for street people who congregate outside major service providers in part because they have nowhere else to be. Maintaining warzone like containment areas do not benefit anyone.
- Homelessness is a complex problem and will not be solved by simply providing more housing. Housing must be integrated with other services such as health care, mental health and addictions services, psychosocial supports, child care, education, and job/skills training as well as employment opportunities so that sustainable solutions to homelessness are implemented.
- Far cheaper to provide sustainable social housing (Housing First) than to pay for the police, justice and healthcare costs related to leaving people living on the streets.
- Research is needed to update our understanding of the number of youth at risk or already homeless in our communities (especially LGBTQ2S+) and what initiatives would be effective. A place to begin would be consultations with people with lived experience, through harm reduction and supporting community groups

in order to empower the community and learn about the specific barriers that they face.

- If there is not guaranteed housing, then folks should be allowed to put up a tent or create the shelter that they need.
- Compassion and empathy for homeless.
- Provide more low barrier shelters.
- Give specific location for where people can camp.
- If you say you are going to build subsidized housing in 10 years – we still need to look at how we will work to prevent homeless in the next 2 years.
- Places to comfortably tie up dogs.
- Expand hours of shelter food service.
- Accommodate food requirements. Allergies. No teeth.
- Bigger shelter, at least 20 so people aren't turned away.
- Need heated port-o-potty- and serviced more frequent should be in places across town as denied use of same public washroom.
- Allow you to get donations from shelter more frequently (they have a lot but only allowed to go once).
- Amata house – time limited. 30 days – can be extended to 90. Need long term – some short term available.
- Need shelter – without preaching and moral judgement.
- There is a need for access to shelters without long waitlists.
- Change shelter policies to be open regardless of weather.
- Hand-out gift cards to the homeless.
- Help the working poor sleeping in their cars.
- Focus on prevention programs for families so they don't become homeless.
- Transition house for women.
- Put lived experience on Boards, Committee, etc.
- Provide laundry, shower, supports, meals, games room, resource, phones, job search, ID, storage, volunteer opportunities, computer access, pets.
- Bring Our Place Society model to Chilliwack including inside storage.
- Need a semi-permanent campsite in a fenced area - need a "tent subdivision" that includes portable garages/ sheds, port-a-potties, communal plumbing, policies/rules.
- Create a "one stop" shelter that includes drop-in services.
- City council should relax existing bylaws that limit capacity.
- Need to meet people where they are and support them to get the services they need instead of needing them to go to an office for help.
- End all homelessness in 4 years (or sooner in our community).
- Set a target that no one has to sleep outside in two years.
- Pay homeless.
- Spiritual support.
- Design awareness campaign/presentation for churches and other organizations.
- Access to fresh water, fruits and vegetables and washrooms.
- Warming stations and cooling stations.

- Public awareness and education.
- Communication hub to share information and coordinate volunteers to support all areas.
- Mentorship and volunteer programs needed .
- Create spaces where the homeless can grow their own food.
- Help build self-esteem- provide access to opportunities and activities that build skills.
- Need squatter's right on crown land.
- Should run shelters like international hostels.
- Need more shelter spaces for people 50+.
- We need more people with lived experience working in services supporting people who are homeless or with addictions.
- Provide storage for belongings, like family mementos, personal items and photos.
- People don't know when shelters are open – maybe they could put in red light/green light system on top of a tower so people can see from anywhere.
- Radical action and imagination will help end the homeless crisis.
- City spends tons of money enforcing bylaws, getting rid of camps, throwing things in landfill. People would benefit it more if the money was put towards actual change (shelters, housing, services).
- U.S. model of mobile showers for people who are homeless.
- There should be places for people to camp in every community.
- Create a consistent set of rules and regulations across all shelters that facilitate people's transitions out of poverty (e.g., remove stay limits at shelters, remove check-in times so people can get jobs with evening shifts).
- Improve safety in shelters by addressing the issue of bathroom use for drug use.
- BC housed 60,000 people during the wildfire crisis – why can't we do this for the homeless?
- Give full cheque even without shelter costs (to help those looking for housing).
- Separate drug addicts and other people.
- Maybe some of the buildings[abandoned] could be used for recovery.
- Extreme weather funding is too low to keep the shelters open any longer.

## Home Ownership

- Create plans to help with major repairs (roofs, furnaces, windows) for low-income seniors. [could be modelled on the property tax deferral plan].
- Grants available for first time home buyers for Canadian Citizens, to assist with a down payment.
- Ban all property purchases by non-citizens and seize all those where the source of funds cannot be verified (see the UK's new unexplained wealth orders).
- More breaks for local residents buying their first house.
- Port Alberni would benefit from having a Restore/Habitat for humanity in our community – affordable building materials for landlords to be able to afford to



keep their properties in good repair and opportunities for families to own their own 'forever' home.

- Increase taxes on rich, corporations, tax speculation/house flipping.
- Complete moratorium on foreign investment of housing.
- Incentives for single parents for fair mortgage rates to purchase a home.
- Provide lower interest rates or a monthly allowance that will help to purchase a house, apartment, townhouse or trailer to live in.
- Collective/ community: allow mortgages outside of biological family and marriage (friends).
- Cover home renovations after injury-HAFI is too restrictive and the process takes too long.
- Increase the Housing Adaptations for Independence (HAFI) grant to cover the actual costs of home adaptations that would allow seniors to safely "age-in-place".
- [Make] mortgage interest tax deductible for those individuals and families with an income of less than 100,000.00.
- Provide more renovation and upgrade funds for low income homeowners and adjust rules of those that exist to reflect the reality of getting work quoted and completed in rural areas.
- More help to get a mortgage where renting costs are higher than potential mortgage payments.
- We need starter mortgage programs, maybe a way to pay your down payment in the first 5 years of owning the home, and then the mortgage payment decreases?
- Provide coverage for home renovations.
- Increase the pool of money for the Housing Adaptations for Independence (HAFI) grant program.
- Raise the limit of the Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) from \$25,000 to \$100,000.
- Allow being able to use RRSP to apply on a down payment for first home and instead of fifteen years to repay the money withdrawn from the RRSP for the home down payment that a first time home buyer is allowed, that the re-payment option is increased to twenty five years to repay the funds back into the RRSP.
- Offer mortgage help to people in short term distress.
- People should be able to use their govt cheques as well as rent subsidy money, any employment income towards a mortgage.
- Ensure that people being evicted from manufactured home sites, receive fair and equitable compensation for their units (many units cannot be moved due to the age of them).
- Allow homeowners to defer certain costs of housing against the equity in their home using the framework established for the Property Tax Deferral program.
- More programs to help with down payments on homes.
- It's the down payment that is hard--maybe include it in monthly mortgage payment.

- Convert the Home Owner Grant into a housing grant for both owner and renter families, linked to income to achieve fairer housing supports for low income families and level the playing field between renters and owners.

## **Supportive Housing**

- As much as possible, allow for flexible housing supports that are tied to the person and not the unit; when that is not possible, coordinate and improve transitions across the housing spectrum as an individual's needs change.
- On site opioid therapy services, safe consumption sites and access to prescription heroin to keep people from using street drugs and dying.
- Build more affordable rental housing with supports for people who have mental health and addiction issues.
- Develop a long-term, consolidated, comprehensive, interagency Supported Housing System for hard to house individuals; including those living with mental health problems and/or addictions.
- Ensure choice and self-determination, but also address low vacancy rates, by increasing supported housing stock using a mix of scatter site and dedicated site housing.
- Ensure that tenants with mental health and/or substance use-related disabilities have a means to enforce their human rights related to accessing and maintaining their housing. BC's new Human Rights Commission can play a role in educating landlords about their obligations to ensure equal access to housing and to accommodate tenant disabilities.
- House tenants requiring a supportive program in a separate building from low-income seniors (particularly in this Langley building complex), since they feel stressed and unsafe.
- Men's 2nd stage housing (low cost).
- More housing that suits a range of people with social aspects to their disabilities (and more understanding for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder).
- Provide research and evaluations on the community impacts of social and supported housing to local governments to support them in developing social and supported housing in their communities and to confidently address discriminatory opposition from some residents.
- Provide shared living program for single seniors.
- Short term financial assistance for people leaving half way houses, to get them on their feet and keep them off the street. More support when you leave.
- Have long term care facility options for younger people with disabilities so they can live together, rather than with seniors with dementia who are many years older
- Increase supportive housing programs for people living with multiple barriers.
- Additional long term subsidized housing for persons who live with chronic physical or mental health diagnosis, with outreach service providers available.
- People with mental health issues should have supportive housing that resembles an apartment building.

- Supportive housing that helps people with mental health supports that are close to services.
- Some supported housing for those who need the extra support and housing they can transition to.
- Transitional and Supported Housing. More supports are needed. Pre-counselling needed. more pro-active supports.
- Provide more workers to do one on ones with people once you place them in housing.
- A specialized supported housing facility with culturally appropriate programs such as Mental Health and Addictions counselling, physicians and health supports, specialized employment programs, and support groups that help enhance self-esteem, connection to community, mental health and build on individual strengths is needed.
- HOUSING MUST HAVE SUPPORTS.
- Provide Housing First funding as an enhancement to important community programs and not at the expense of those programs.
- Per diem for supportive recovery houses raised to \$36 per day.
- Develop quality and performance indicators for long term and residential care along with making new financial investments in not-for profit services in this sector.
- Increase staffing levels to seniors' care facilities that take into account optimal physical, mental, and social health needs.
- Assisted living for 18 - 60.
- We need to adjust the RTB to include recovery homes.
- Subsidize the private senior care facilities so that it is affordable.
- People need life skills support when moving into housing.

## Tenancy

- Provide more protections for renovictions.
- Improve Residential Tenancy standards.
- Culturally appropriate housing standards.
- Allow for more than 2 children to a bedroom.
- Roommate conflict not covered in Residential Tenancy rules.
- Strengthen Residential room and board situation.
- Amend and enforce the BC Tenacy Act to ensure that citizens have safe and affordable housing.
- Better landlord/tenant dispute resolution processes that are more accessible.
- Ministry needs to investigate landlord complaints.
- Penalize slumlords.
- Ministry should pay pet deposit.
- We need rent control or else all welfare increases will go direct to landlords.
- Need a strong rental ombudsman.
- No more illegal suites.
- Manage evictions and rent increases.

- Accessibility to portable subsidies / discrete.
- Address housing discrimination in rental market against poor women and children.
- Address sub-standard housing.
- Bring in rent control so that landlords can't raise rent as much as they like between tenancies. End discriminatory rental policies which disproportionately affect single mothers with children, racialized people, PWDs and LGBTQ2S people.
- Change legislation and regulations so that people who are landlords cannot breach our human rights such as doing a criminal record check before they will rent to anyone.
- Close loopholes that allow landlords to evict renters so that their family can move in or for renovations.
- Crack down on bad landlords not tenants.
- Deal with sub-standard housing in the DTES.
- Develop a system that would regulate the quality of rentals, including inspections.
- Freeze the rent and utilities rates.
- Guidelines for suites such as bachelor suites should be more mindful.
- Have a process where tenants can also screen landlords to determine if they are reputable.
- Health inspectors need to check on rentals.
- Implement a low barrier (no or low cost) and accessible (not electronic) process in which economically disadvantaged individuals can report racism, discrimination, and harassment.
- Implement a maximum allowable monthly rent charge (i.e.. controlled rent) based on geography, housing type etc. Controlled rental rates.
- Implement vacancy control; that is, rent that is tied to a unit and not to a tenant, to protect what few remaining homes are available at affordable rates.
- Implementing a municipal rent regulation. A set of rules to be followed when setting a rental price on a unit.
- Enforcing the tenancy act when it comes to poor property management/ need advocacy.
- Landlords in DTES should provide food to tenants.
- License landlords; make the landlords have to find us instead of the other way around.
- Limitation on rent increases.
- Monthly grants towards rent/utilities; more safe places for those who don't have housing.
- Pet friendly – not only for safety and companionship but also to help with anxiety, trauma, trust, and addiction.
- Places designated to family housing should be enforced to be non-smoking. Especially where there are young children living there.
- Property work for rent.
- Provide homeowners and landlords with training on how to rent to low-income residents, or those exiting homelessness.

- Attach rent increases to the rental units.
- Create a rental cap for property owners or property managers and educate them on discrimination laws.
- Enact very strong rules for rentals that allow people to rent for decades without fear of being priced out or renovicted.
- Need to cap rents (e.g., \$400 10 years ago, \$900 now).
- Enhance and enforce tenant rights including introducing rent control on the unit.
- Work with municipal governments to put a stop to gentrification, which contributes to the loss of low-end market rental housing.
- Better enforcement of building codes/housing standards for rental; increased legal advocacy for tenants to enforce their rights to safe, healthy housing.
- Encourage landlords to accept pets with adequate protections for damages.
- Give subsidy to good landlords. More checks on rentals so people can rent safe cared for homes. Allow subsidies for pet deposits.
- Create a local rental council from retired volunteers and give them the power to fine landlords or evict tenants with 2 weeks notice with codified cause rules.
- Renters Union - create a collective voice.
- Tenants need to be given more time in the event of an eviction.
- There should be an arbiter/judicator/ombudsman/inspector you could go to if housing is not adequate. Houses should be checked to see if they are "rent worthy".
- Give landlords fines/charges for discriminating races.
- Pass the law that landlords cannot ban pets in rentals as championed by Pets OK BC.
- Stop allowing condo and townhouse strata complexes to restrict or deny renting.
- I don't think we should punish landlords who own multiple income properties, but there should be incentives for landlords to rent them out at an affordable year-round rate to long-term tenants.
- Provide a funding model and regulatory framework to assist local governments in reducing the impact of "renovictions" on tenants while continuing to encourage investment in upgrading older rental housing.
- We recommend that the burden of action be shifted to the Landlord by requiring the Landlord to register a Notice of Eviction with the Residential Tenancy Branch before issuing it on a tenant, and to require landlords to provide proof that they are acting in good faith and have fulfilled all necessary legal pre-requisites before allowing that notice to be issued.
- Eliminate pet surcharges from rent deposits.
- Allow renters to have pets ( stops women leaving abusive relationships if can't take pet).
- Registry for housing...too many hoops.
- Host an adhoc Landlord Consultation Committee of those who are in the business not to make money but to support a community looking for suggestions on how to improve our current housing crisis.
- Room and board should be regulated through the RTB.
- Town hall meetings with landlords and renters to air issues/ concerns.

- Provide rental awareness training in schools for tenancy rights and communication.
- There is the need to put a limit on the number of unrelated people who can live together.

## Utilities

- Accessible Utility subsidies and/or pilot relief programs.
- Energy Efficiency Education.
- Affordable heat and fuel should be a priority. If you want to make life more affordable, back down the gas and home heating fuel taxes and put some sort of measure in place within the province to entice fuel distributors to keep their prices down.
- Extra help with Hydro bills, or put a cap on what BC Hydro is allowed to charge those on low incomes.
- City hall should reduce utilities for low income disabled or disabled children.
- Cut/freeze hydro rates.
- Start using solar/wind.
- Diversify electricity production; access wood heat; lower hydro.
- Ensure energy efficient houses to help alleviate long-term utility and housing costs.
- Provide assistance for lower income people with retrofits of older housing stock.
- Bring rates down.
- Bring back rebates and cheques to offset high costs.
- There should be payment plans for utilities that help people to stay on top of bills.
- High hydro should qualify as a crisis.
- More energy efficient incentives for landlords and owners.
- Have Hydro flag high bills for possible efficiency updates.
- Hydro payment assistance.
- Introduce legislation that prevents utilities getting cut off in the winter for low income people.
- Provide housing protection with low income hydro rates, low income internet with govt partnerships with TELUS or SHAW.
- Government work to subsidize hydro rates for low income individuals and families.
- Help for internet costs; most services online.
- Subsidized internet in people's homes.
- Subsidized natural gas/hydro rates for low income people or offer a northern reduction or tax incentive.
- Subsidized security deposits for hydro.
- Putting a cap on essential services, such as phone, hydro, and natural gas, would be a great help as well.
- Subsidy programs for hydro.
- There should be a sliding scale for BC HYDRO billing.
- Donating phone program.

- To address energy poverty, we support the BC Public Interest and Advocacy Centre in their recommendations to the BC Utilities Commission for BC Hydro to introduce a low-income energy program, and to extend this to all energy providers[...].
- We support ACORN BC's Internet for All campaign demanding \$10/month high speed internet for low income families.
- Work with Utility providers to develop guidelines for payment plans when the need arises AND enact legislation which prevents utilities being disconnected during winter cold months e.g.: December 1 to March 1.
- Everyone receives a cell phone with a base service.
- All utilities included in rent – provide a phone.
- CRTC enforce an affordable phone.
- Donate technology, i.e.. laptops, cell phones to combat social isolation by allowing opportunities to socialize with family members back home.
- Internet opt out freedom – people should live off grid and use mail they want
- Free internet with greater accessibility to access to online education options.
- Pay utilities for low-income earners.
- Improve access to technology in rural areas.
- Invest more in rural areas so they have resources like internet.
- Bring back PowerSmart program (BCHydro).
- A reduced cost for utilities for people living on a fixed income.
- HYDRO RATE FREEZES.
- Raise the level of Tier 1 on BC Hydro billings for the winter months.
- Require BC Hydro to develop low income customer policies such as the waiver of security deposits, late payment and reconnection fees and the suspensions of services during cold weather.
- Change payments from 12 months to 5 months. Divide equally into 365 days.
- Waiver of security deposits, late payment fees and reconnection fees.
- Creation of a crisis assistance fund for customers who are having difficulty paying their electricity bills.
- Implementation of a reduced rate for an essential block of electricity.
- I think a very good start to poverty reduction would be a utility supplement.
- Install windmills or solar panels on buildings to reduce the cost of utilities for low income people.
- More computer access & free copying.
- Regulate BC hydro and gas prices (car and home and food costs).
- Only 5 bills per year instead of 12 would help people meet their obligations better.
- Give out phones.
- Change telecoms to public utilities.
- Need a grant to help people get reconnected to hydro.
- Review of utilities on a quarterly basis to adjust equal payments.
- Universal broadband – free Wi-Fi.

## Other Housing

- Work with the indigenous population to address their needs, both on and off reserve, providing funding to bring their living situations up to the same standards of living as non- indigenous peoples.
- Health screening/testing of units + accountability = Action (mold testing, bed bug testing/treatment, air testing, timely remediation work, mediation support).
- Improve local data collection capacity in-line with federal best practices and leverage data to improve systems and to acquire resources needed to develop viable/sustainable Housing Projects that support people out of poverty.
- INDIGENOUS POPULATION IS GENERATIONALLY IN OVERCROWDED, UNSAFE living conditions.
- Increase number of First Nations housing to reflect the over-representation of First Nations people living in poverty.
- Metis specific beds/accommodation through all levels of residential Eldercare.
- Review and implementation of recommendations made by the Seniors Advocate in 2015 regarding housing.
- Work with municipal governments to develop inclusive zoning policies for more locations in B.C.
- Assistance to deal with things like bed bugs.
- Abolish zoning to lower land costs, increase the portion of the population who can afford market housing, and increase property tax revenue to help with those who can't.
- Alternative materials – natural.
- Need to have a building code in Vancouver.
- In England if you want to make a renovation you apply to government and they might turn you down. Reno without permission and you may get a fine. Need something like that in BC.
- Change legislation that gives sweetheart deals to developers.
- Change the bylaws in Powell River to "make Powell River a hub for cheap, alternative housing".
- BC Housing should be open more than 2 days/week.
- Housing development needs to catch up to immigration.
- Housing Minister needs to pressure the federal government to get housing to be a human right.
- Increase funding for survivors of domestic violence for shelters and programs.
- Local governments should stop confusing home ownership with wealth. All levels of government need to define " poverty " and " affordability " as all are talking past one another to solve an undefined problem based on individual observations.
- Shift to finding sustainable housing, rather than social services paying investors' mortgages.
- Efficiently build houses: solar, layout, and design.
- The Province needs to pressure the federal government to double the federal housing money.



- Increase community involvement in zoning planning and better community engagement.
- Much of the older housing stock is below par, it needs to be torn down.
- Need more housing, foundation to succeed, without you can't go to school, work, live properly.

## **SUPPORTS FOR STRONG AND HEALTHY FAMILIES**

### **Supports for Children and Families**

#### **Childcare**

- Childcare costs geared to income.
- Adopt the \$10 a day child care plan produced by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the Early Childhood Educators of BC, which will provide free child care for those earning less than \$40,000 per year, increase the number of child care spaces, support high-quality programming and ensure early childhood educators are paid a living wage.
- [...] CUPW is recommending additional financial, childcare and other supports to parents of special needs children and adults.
- [...] CUPW is recommending that the province look at how affordable, publically run and delivered, accessible, and high quality childcare can be delivered outside the hours of 8 am to 6 pm.
- A more robust child care system and an easier application for child care subsidy would be very helpful.
- Access to affordable childcare; childcare in the area when receiving medical care, training, or going to replenish food supplies. Support needs to be provided other than to daycares.
- Additional subsidized child care would support persons returning to work.
- Adequate daycare support workers beyond typical working hours (i.e. for some communities, camp jobs/commuting to work several hours away becomes challenging and prevents both parents from being able to work, limiting earning ability to one income.)
- Adjustments to rules and guidelines for rural child care settings that take into account some of the challenges of our seasonal economy and also more support provided to rural communities from Child Care Resource and Referral type bodies.
- Increased supports (financial +services) for people with disabled children.
- Affordable childcare especially that is open during accessible, flexible hours.
- Employer provides day care.
- Work with school and educators.
- Cut red tape for facility requirements.

- To begin addressing the current crisis in recruiting and retaining qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), implement an ECE wage lift of at least \$1/hour in 2018, with accountability measures.
- Affordale Day care - especially for single.
- Operators are finding it difficult to find bigger facilities, zoning is an issue.
- School board and health authorities should work together.
- More subsidy for daycare, increase the cut off \$ amount so that people can earn more and still receive the subsidy.
- ESL schools don't provide child minding which makes it difficult for mothers to attend English classes and improve their ability to learn English and find work faster.
- Better licensing checks and balances in child care – public and private – especially when it comes to following up on complaints.
- Build more subsidized daycare homes.
- Child care training and subsidies needs to be a priority – more qualified ECE workers, higher pay for care workers, lower parent portion so people can afford to work and yet have quality care for their children.
- Childcare facilities should be available on evenings and weekends, to accommodate the needs of women and families.
- Communal childcare options – collective model – building connections & learning through care.
- More inclusive access to childcare subsidy, higher limit for child benefits.
- Crack down on bad child care operators.
- Create co-op Childcare.
- Create greater childcare subsidies for low-income workers.
- Day cares need to be subsidized to provide service for low income families.
- Government daycare provide food and early childhood education at low cost to families/single parents.
- Continuing to increase the number of licensed child care spaces and support high-quality programming.
- More affordable child care; more places like Sanctuary (free after school centre) support for working parents.
- Early Childhood Educators paid a living wage.
- Establish a grant/microloan program for single mothers and aboriginal people to apply for in-home daycare licenses and complete early childhood education certification.
- First Call supports implementing the \$10aDay child care plan.
- Fewer barriers and restrictive intakes at licensed daycares.
- Childcare hubs located around dense work areas so people can be close to their kids.
- Having daycares that run in all schools for after-care is desperately needed.
- Implement a free for all families childcare policy (that would come from provincial tax dollars) without sacrificing the quality of the care that the province's children receive.
- Incentives for employer flexibility regarding childcare options, onsite childcare.

- Free child care for all regardless of income.
- Transportation included in childcare supports and standardizing quality childcare across the province.
- Increase to subsidies available for children 0-5.
- Increased subsidized choices for daycare including non-licensed options and more spaces for children with special needs.
- Increased supports/grants/tax breaks for parents with children who have disabilities.
- Municipality-run daycares are not prioritized! Need to focus on communities in need.
- Provide support for the development of child care specific to rural settings, support education for child care workers and lower child care costs.
- Parenting – 24/7 licensed daycare; faster access to special needs assessments for children in poverty impacted families; in-school help for special need children needing help with toileting and language; affordable childcare and options for 24 hour care; tax credit on child extra- curricular activities; funding for single parents returning to school; more help with daycare; childcare close to housing; allowance for parents with children with autism.
- Provide a daycare bursary.
- Head start programs for families of preschoolers where parents have to have some input/commitment to the program.
- There needs to be more affordable childcare which are also of quality and culturally inclusive.
- Services for undesignated special-needs kids.
- Streamline the licensing process to facilitate more childcare spaces.
- Subsidy opt-out is not allowed!
- Tax break for care-giving.
- Continue to build universal publicly-funded child care.
- Improving the wages of early childhood educators promptly with an interim stage of ensuring a living wage and a final goal of an average wage of \$25/hour plus 20% benefits (unadjusted for inflation) on full implementation.
- Prioritizing the expansion of the fee reduction program so that the affordable child care benefit can be reduced over time until free child care is provided directly to low-income families.
- To begin addressing the shortage of licensed child care spaces, work with public partners to meet local child care needs. Specifically, advance opportunities to add child care to schools across BC.
- Expand access to affordable, culturally appropriate, regulated childcare. Ensure that the expanded spaces are available to caregivers with mental health or substance use-related problems, women fleeing violence, and those living in poverty or working precariously, who are less likely to be in a position to proactively register for waitlists and might need childcare more urgently.
- Greater investments are required to enable affordable and accessible child care, and structural or financial barriers for all children, with a particular focus on

children from low-income families and Indigenous children must be addressed and removed.

- Free or very low cost childcare for low income earners to give them more options to return to school or work.
- A national child care system of high quality.
- Subsidize both private for profit and non-profit day care with appropriate monitoring for all and leave the choice to the parents.
- Ensure that single/lone parents can have access to childcare & transportation so it will not be more financially detrimental to work instead of being trapped on income assistance.
- Pay parents if they choose to stay home and care for their kids.
- Longer parental leave that is paid out at a consistent rate.
- Develop an affordable child care system that provides a regulated space for every child whose family needs it.
- Significantly increase funding to childcare as part of a concerted effort to reduce child poverty and strengthen the economy of British Columbia.
- Child Care: establish an accessible and appropriate universal child care system.
- CAP universal child bonus.
- Day care should be linked to school locations .
- Combine training and childcare so both parents can find work/ get training.
- Schools should be open from 7am-7pm to help provide free childcare.
- Need to simplify the process.
- Increase the childcare subsidy threshold to above \$19,000.
- Foster day care (1960's) for today.
- Provide support for people to set up affordable childcare centres.
- Shorten accreditation for childcare providers to make it easier for people to provide safe childcare options.
- Have regulated or capped childcare costs.
- There should be a lower rate for single parents.
- Replace child care subsidy with government funded paid childcare spaces.

## **Child Tax Benefits**

- Redesign the BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit into a BC Child Benefit that covers children under 18, increase the maximum benefit to \$1,320 per child per year and index it annually to the cost of living.
- Ensure CTB is available to family members taking care of kids, and to kids when they are in foster care.
- For separated families the child tax benefit should not be shared when one parent's income is significantly lower than the other.
- Improve benefits to households with children under 18 years, such as BC's new affordable child care benefit.
- Ensure that households with an annual net income of up to \$80,000 receive the full, increased child benefit and phase out the benefit for households with annual net incomes above \$100,000.

- Let parents keep Child Care Benefit when kids are removed – set Child Care Benefit aside until children are returned.
- In support of First Call's recommendation, we urge the government to redesign the BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit to cover children under 18 and increase the maximum to \$1,320 per child per year.
- Build on Child Tax Benefit to help support children.
- Ensure Canada Child Tax Benefit available to family members who care for kids and kids when they are in foster families: they should not have to miss out.
- Allow family members taking care of kids to keep their Canada Child Tax—why can't family members collect it while they are taking care of the child?
- Costs for Child Tax Benefits should be increased due to costs increase as children get older.
- Attach the Canada Child Benefit to the child, not the situation of their care, and end all clawbacks of the Canada Child Tax Benefit under any circumstances.
- CRA to be on page when dealing with pay back or paying child taxes from low income clients.
- Attach the Canada Child Tax Benefit to the child, not the conditions of their custody and care.
- Invest in support resources to ensure all parents in BC, targeting impoverished single parents on IA and PWD and low incomes, on or off reserve, access the Canada Child Tax Benefit without delay.

## **Children In Care**

- Need better way to keep families and kids together and help parents at same time.
- Eliminating releasing kids to care due to poverty.
- Need to put the child at the centre and find a way to support them as a whole person not as a different client from different ministries.
- Equal rights for dads during child apprehension. Keep parents connected to kits, even if addiction is an issue. This will help reduce addiction moving forward.
- Free education for children aging out of foster care.
- Having more homes where the child/youth lives permanently and if there is a change in foster families, they move, not the child/youth. Also more homes where families can live with support staff, so they children will not be removed and parents learn proper parenting and life skills.
- Ensure that the Ministry of Children and Family Development has sufficient resources to support more services to keep children at home with their families when it can be made safe to do so, and to strengthen the system of guardianship workers, foster parents and other caregivers when it is not.
- Provide Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, and all Kinship Care providers, access to respite, child care, and the same training received by foster parents.
- Provide kinship families with benefits comparable to foster parents.
- More support for single mothers and their families instead of foster families.
- No cut off date for children aging out of care.

- Respite for single moms with addictions and mental health challenges instead of punishing moms who ask for help with apprehension and investigations—"you don't get help, you get persecuted".
- Address how foster system is abusive because "it does apprehension rather than support" families, parents; we need to find a way shift this.
- Ensure government follows its own laws and regulations—enforcement of laws and legislation.
- Foster Care system needs overhauling.
- Foster parents need education on addictions and infants eg: breastfeeding.
- Help for parents who are working with MCFD; support and groups for parents with children in care.
- Individualized support plans.
- Invest in parents to prevent our children taken away.
- Strength based system for MCFD.
- Moms who have had their kids apprehended need more access to kids in foster care.
- There needs to be changes so that grandparents raising grandchildren have equal access to the same financial support, resources and other supports that foster parents have.
- Need to build safe, stigma – free schools - not "outing" kids in care or making them feel different.
- More access to counselling for abused children and kids who have witnessed violence and abuse.
- More supports for children who age out.
- Much more screening and better screening of foster parents.
- Need to address power imbalance that creates fears of child removal from parents/home (i.e. lack of affordable housing is not a reason to remove a child from their parent/home).
- Discontinuing the practice of removing First Nation children from their homes.
- There is little or no support for Métis families struggling to keep their families together. Métis children are being taken from their families and moved into the care of government because the family is in poverty. It is recommended that the monies currently spent by the Provincial Government to keep Métis children in care be utilized to invest in Métis families to enable them to remain within their family environment.
- Use monthly Canada Children's Benefit as start-up seed money for youth from care. Participants reflected that they had little money or any inheritance that can help them later on in life. Current model was described as a clawback where money meant for youth from care should be better directed to the child themselves.
- Investments made in prevention and reunification services for Metis Youth and families.
- Metis social workers as Roots Workers and Family Finders employed in Metis Child and Family service agencies and within the Metis Commission.

- Child Protection Support Services: ensure support services are accessible to encourage preventative measures, keep families together and avoid child protection intervention.
- Increase funding and designate a percentage in new home development for abused women with male children over 12 - there are no housing resources for this segment of the population and women stay in abusive situations for the sake of their children.
- Discontinuing the practice of removing First Nation children from their homes.
- Provide all kinship care and single-parent kinship care families an adequate level of income beyond welfare and PWD and permit them to retain the Canada Child Benefit for the children in their care regardless of the status of their evolving custody situations.
- Apprehension prevention workshops are needed.
- Family outreach worker – only one in Williams Lake.
- Kids in care – should not be business same with jail and women.
- Need stronger and more childhood advocacy (look at Cindy Blackstock's research).
- Create a mandatory province wide phase 2 program. Includes kids with disabilities, they need supports too, very vulnerable kids.

## **Child Poverty**

- Implement specific measures to end child poverty.
- We highlight the importance of early intervention and the wealth of research linking early experiences of adversity and stress with poor health throughout the lifespan.
- Multiple policies and sectors will be required for this initiative, which should include, universal child care, further investment in early child development, an increase in the child tax benefit for families in need, and improvements in the foster care system, including for youth aging out of care.
- Teach better parenting skills so that people raise healthy children.
- Make emergency shelters that are safe for kids.
- Help the kids of poor people with toys and fun.
- More traditional/cultural supportive homes/programs to learn life skills.
- Free parenting classes and other support to those who do choose to have children, in an effort to cut down on child abuse and neglect.
- Child support to be enforced.
- Start earlier, provide new mothers early support prior to going home.
- Increase in supports for parenting.
- Investigate the plight of finances for single mothers who don't want to live off of the provinces resources and want to be contributing members of society but who are struggling to make ends meet every month.
- The B.C. Poverty Reduction Plan should set an ambitious goal of reducing child poverty to 7% or less by 2020, as measured by the after-tax Low-Income Measure.

- Have more parenting groups.
- Provide more funding for children's sports activities.
- Provide more supports and services for those with children in the DTES.
- Commit to funding that ensures no child in care will grow up in poverty.
- Implement the recommendations in Grand Chief Ed John's report on Indigenous child welfare in British Columbia<sup>17</sup> expeditiously.
- Better support for children in drug filled apartments.
- Housing for kids.
- Support group, counselors, etc. to help kids.
- Low cost informal programs for kids.
- Stop taxing spousal support.
- No cost parenting skills taught by Elders and professional educators.
- Pay 1 primary caregiver to stay home to raise the children.
- School board and parents should work together on before and after school care
- the Strong Start Program should include "Nobody's Perfect" Parenting Program to increase parenting skills for younger parents.
- Continue to offer programs such as the Nurse-family Partnership or Nobody's Perfect Parenting that provide important supports for families that are vulnerable or at-risk.
- Target additional program funding in areas where the data (such as the Early Development Instrument) shows high levels of vulnerability among children.
- Test the applicability of the 'RICH-ER' social pediatric approach in other parts of the Province.
- Provide full funding for all care associated with a child or adult with special needs, stop forcing parents to lose income and live in poverty because their child happens to have a disability.
- Boys/girls club for after school programs.
- Sports/activities for children.
- Continue to partner with Boys and Girls Clubs to deliver quality programs that mitigate the effects of poverty and improve life outcomes for children and youth in low-income and vulnerable communities.
- Establish life skills programs and other support programs for children and teens from as early as possible.
- Have community support workers/one to one workers from a young age so children have the support they need to succeed/stay in school.
- Have more funding supplements that provide essential items, such as clothing, to children.
- Tie support money to children not caregiver (so a mother would receive same as a foster parent).
- More accountability from men, especially fathers – men should also uphold women's rights.
- First, community supports are critical. For parents, this can be achieved through more schools receiving the "community school" designation and being able to offer affordable childcare, coats/boots, access to Christmas Bureau, Camping Bureau, after school and breakfast/lunch programs, When reducing poverty for



children, it only makes sense to utilize the school system as a means to achieve that end

- Increase in kinship (family) connections.
- Establish a provincial goal of eliminating child poverty.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Children and Family Development on their pilot project to reduce child poverty in Surrey.
- The UBCM support the proposed initiative by the BC Representative for Children and Youth to bring forward a child poverty plan, similar to the Province of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Plan, that will include the implementation of a comprehensive, cross-ministry strategy to address child poverty.
- Need programs that promote self-esteem.
- Need more single parent housing and resources.
- Investing in preventative measures in families, e.g., social workers as agents of change, family-based interventions.
- Destigmatize childhood support to encourage engagement (people do not go to MCFD because they are afraid their kids will be taken away).
- More social workers are needed in Williams Lake.
- Provide prevention programs for moms and high risk families.
- Reduce stress levels on moms, including food, education, training.
- If someone has a child with a disability the government will pay a home share provider \$55,000 but families don't have access to similar funds.
- Early screening for children in school.
- Plan for early childcare – help to build the foundation for a health life.
- Increase maternity and parental leave benefits (to 70% of employment income; reduce qualifying hours to 300 over best 12 weeks of last 12 months of work).
- Invest more in early intervention and support for young parents at time of pregnancy; teaching and supporting new mothers and fathers, longer term support programs and options for young parents or at risk parents, programs to encourage support and learning to families/surrounding support network,- increase paternity and maternity leave options.
- Provide more robust respite services and supports to at-risk single mothers and other mothers in poverty.
- Provide supports to peer-based initiatives for single mothers and others that enable communities to forge their own connectivity and thrive.
- Stay at home parents should be compensated for the costs to raise children
- Provide access to counselling for relationships to support families and prevent breakdowns.
- Family support workers.
- Sexual abuse counsellors family supports.
- Need actions to prevent children from being taken from their parents.
- There should be child wellness centres in communities.

## Youth

- Children and youth in care require security in order to succeed. Ensure youth are supported as they transition out of care by providing housing and income supports or foster care support through to age 25.
- Give youth opportunities in social service agencies and in performing service to community to help those less fortunate.
- Insist youth advocates are present in every professional interaction.
- Invest in more shared youth transitional housing.
- Integrate the delivery of child and youth assessment and support services to address substance abuse, teen pregnancy and young parenthood, suicide prevention, counseling and other mental and physical health issues into schools in consultation and coordination with the school and school district administrators, school psychologists and social service / public health agencies.
- Provide more experienced counsellors working with youth.
- Provide youth with hope to transition to adult life.
- Early Childhood Education programs for FN Youth.
- First Call supports the detailed recommendations developed by youth in and from care in the Memorandum to Ministers and MLAs, presented to government in October 24, 2017.
- Give youth opportunities in social service agencies and in performing service to community to help those less fortunate.
- Working in collaboration with youth in and from government care, the provincial government should establish an inter-ministerial action plan to ensure all youth aging out of care can rely on needed supports and services.
- Develop seamless financial, educational and relational supports for youth transitioning out of government care at age 19 and offer the extension of financial and emotional supportive care to youth up to the age of 26.
- Have school incentives encouraging youth to complete or return to school.
- Peer mentorship forum with youth aging out of care.
- Policy change to continue support of youth until 25 year old.
- Provide more affordable housing for youth aging out of care.
- Public awareness of youth exiting care and outcomes.
- Streamlining services for youth aging out of care.
- PWD (persons with disabilities) easier transition for youth joining at 19.
- More healthy role models and activities for youth (culture, sports).
- More programs for youth / children to promote self-esteem. Boys / girls club to pick up & drop off students, substance misuse workshops to keep kids off the streets.
- More support for youth transitioning out of foster care - not just for education - living supports (especially housing subsidies) need to extend past the age of 19 as high numbers of youth from care are finding themselves homeless.
- More school counsellors and assemblies that support youth to get connected to services.
- More youth coaches.
- Need youth shelter / outreach program.
- Safe place for anyone who needs it youth included.

- We also support First Call's Fostering Change (previously Vancouver Foundation's) campaign in calling for specific support for youth aging out of care.
- For youth: recognize the complex reasons why a young person is unable to get or keep a job (such as mental health), why they may be homeless, or why they are using substances.
- More opportunities for youth to gain work experience.
- Youth recreation: free admission for kids in poor areas to access festival and other events so they don't miss out on all stuff (movies, camps etc.). Making kids happy makes a big difference- Arts, Support, Ice rinks.
- Need to educate employers about youth in care and how to support them in employment, what challenges they are dealing with, how employers can be trauma informed, etc.
- The AYA program should be guaranteed to all youth leaving care and participation should be assumed unless youth opt-out.
- Youth in transition need more life skills to be independent after care. The current model of AYA life skills programs does not meet this need.
- Youth need a consistent cultural identity connection.
- Tuition waivers should have their age limit removed, time-in-care requirement reduced, and be available for more than just a first degree.
- Senior supplement program mirrored for youth in care through BC Housing.
- Resources need to be low-barrier. The YEAF program, Tuition Waiver, and AYA programs all require youth to jump through hoops and fit into "care status boxes" to access sporadic support that can end abruptly.
- More opportunities for youth: apprenticeships, money management skills, basic work skills.
- There needs to be one organization who is the gatekeeper of our youth until they are 25+ years old.
- \$1500 start-up money for all youth exiting care.
- Access to Sanitary Products for youth aging out of care.
- Connect with private industry to support key issues for youth exiting care.
- Extended Health benefits for FYIC who don't have access to a health plan up-to age 25yr.
- Foster Care – support to at least 30 years old.
- Free driving lessons for former youth in care (FYIC).
- Ensure youth workers make a living wage to reduce turnover and increase service networks.
- Increased support for youth aging out of foster care system, including having foster care support available until youth reach 25 years old.
- Mentorship and ongoing emotional support. Participants described having no one to turn to after care. One participant said "mentorship by the kids for the kids, by us for us!" A guaranteed (one participant used the word 'mandatory') support person in your life after 19.
- Increase financial and other supports for young people on Agreements with Young Adults.

- Reduce restrictions on the eligibility criteria for Agreements for Young Adults.
- Remove the maximum number of months during which young people are eligible to remain on Agreements with Young Adults (currently up to 48 months).
- The BC government should fund and facilitate Youth Development Organizations that can provide family conflict mediation, adult mentoring and increased funding for further education and skills training; transitional financial assistance and access to adequate housing should also be ensured.
- Ensure all youth-in-care have adequate access to a full range of free contraception.
- Provide targeted enhanced supports to former female youth-in-care when they become mothers as youth-in-care and/or in the period after aging out of care.
- Ensuring that youth have strong relationship with families who are committed to them is a key element for success of children leaving care. In order to see this succeed, the BC government can provide support and funding for youth development organizations for programs such as family conflict mediation, and providing adult role models outside of families in order to facilitate relationship-building. These programs must also be expanded in communities where they are not currently available.
- Child and youth mental health. More resource and publically funded service, not just private. Separate out child and youth mental health from child protection.
- Open custody for youth should be an option instead of jail.
- Establish youth achievement centres to allow youth to work at their own pace.
- Provide skills for youth with autism and other youth.
- Youth need subsidies or access to co-op housing as a way to gain references and to learn how to live on their own.
- Don't remove children from parents house because they're poor.
- A safe place for youth – centre, programs, safe buildings, safe activities, in Terrace!, and including field trips like skiing, hiking, etc.
- Wrap around services for kids “aging out” of care.
- More trained support during early years to families and youth with behavioral, developmental, or diagnose disabilities in school and in community.

## **Mental Health and Addiction**

- Access to counselling, more outreach; people with mental health issues need advocates to come to them; cut wait times for drug and alcohol treatment programs.
- Access to harm reduction.
- Access to immediate care for mental health needs, shortened wait lists, increased number of available services.
- Access to low income mental health services that are long term and gender and trauma informed.
- Access to more free/subsidized mental health counselling.
- Access to residential treatment beds.

- Access to self-help groups; improve communication and social participation; more drug awareness and ways to get off drugs; ; support groups for recovery and people helping other people.
- Access to counselling services. Access to affordable individual counselling.
- Advocates/ health navigators to accompany people to receive mental health care
- BC needs more treatment centers to cut the wait time for people seeking immediate treatment.
- Better access to Mental Health & Addictions services for all age ranges, including seniors.
- Better education on what resources that are available and bringing down barriers to access them. Access to counselling with PEERS who have the same lived experience. More support to get to appointments. More and better run treatment centres. Immediate access. When you're ready it needs to be available. More outreach centers run on a companionship or buddy system, peer model.
- Better responses to the opioid crisis, including trauma supports.
- Better support for, and less discrimination against, people with addictions.
- Bring more addiction services/counsellors to Powell River.
- Continuity in case worker relationships.
- Controlled substances, free, clean drugs would help. Legalizing drugs is the only legal shift that will stop the overdose crisis and help people who really want to leave addiction behind.
- Counselling is needed at the shelters.
- Creation of safe spaces to access resources, harm reduction, support.
- Culturally based 'in the moment' treatment centre in the North, with pre and post support.
- Gaps filled between services where addictions and children are concerned. More affordable/free supports for parents with addictions issues and more parenting supports.
- Expansion of current programs and services (which are working but aren't enough).
- Family planning & counselling: how to resolve conflicts.
- Focus on promotion of mental wellness.
- First Nations Counselors, a place for comfort, eating, and communicate, verbally, emotionally and physical. New Hope is too much of a small place to help all in need, the women are applying themselves, but the home is too small. In need to expand for 24/7 service we are desperately in need. Such as a sleep area, controlled drug use. Acknowledging information, and teaching and guiding us for our prophet in life.
- It should be a human right to have access to medical services for mental health and addiction issues.
- Free, drop-in counselling and mental health supports.
- Create easier access to detox facilities and treatment centres.
- Going to the "root cause" of problems, which different people defined as:... dealing with people's trauma of residential schools and colonization, breaking cycles of poverty and violence in children's lives...better care for mental illness.

- Harm reduction facilities with trained harm reduction staff and safe injection sites.
- More needle disposal boxes.
- More training around first aid, overdose prevention, harm reduction.
- Have a one stop area for the people where they can get all the help in one area and also have housing as well with doctors nurses paramedics counsellors and drug rehabilitation centre near by.
- Increase detox spaces to reduce long wait times.
- Increase in awareness and community knowledge of mental health to help reduce stigma that is still associated with mental health.
- Create shelters space for people with mental health issues, so they have private spaces (e.g. if they wake up screaming, not everyone hears them).
- Need accessible Mental Health resources that include; working out in community to initiate process, government hiring more workers, online access to a MH professional (Issue: Mental Health Access).
- Support post-secondary institutions to develop mental health and substance use policies that support students and staff.
- Provision additional long-term subsidized housing for persons with chronic physical/mental health diagnosis.
- Increase the amount of licensed recovery homes.
- Increase the regulation of recovery homes in Surrey – need legit homes.
- Raise Awareness about mental health – through education.
- Increased access to counselling services, including on-site child minding.
- increased awareness for mental health in schools - inclusive curriculum, counselling, in class supports.
- Invest in developing emotional regulation and emotional intelligence, especially in early years and school programs. Provide free outreach/counselling that meets people where they are at.
- Make sure women with addictions get access to possible treatment and recovery service options when they are hospitalized; don't let them just walk out.
- Safe warm [place to go for adults] (where you can drink so not forced on street or not be kicked out for addictions and intoxication).
- Mental health advocate easily accessible.
- Mental health education; public awareness.
- Mental wellness support for trans and non-binary people, especially counseling, that is: Trained and trans and non-conforming inclusive, preferably delivered by a trans/non-conforming practitioner; Trauma informed (both about institutional and individual trauma); Financially accessible to low income people; Long term, which was a key recommendation.
- More programs like Day Treatment to treat addiction and communities should have access to over-dose kit.
- More focus on Prevention Programs, especially after school, for Youth with addiction issues.
- More follow-up after 6 week treatment for addiction.
- More health and mental health supports for the homeless.

- More job opportunities for those facing mental health issues.
- More one-on-one supports for people with poor mental health to live independently.
- More treatment centers, efficient access to treatment centers. Cut the waiting list.
- More or improved agencies for self-harm.
- More rapid response teams for those struggling with mental health.
- More response to opioid crisis.
- More services are needed for infant mental health.
- More funding for reduced barriers to access.
- Advocacy for persons with mental health.
- More support for outreach services, harm reduction and mentoring.
- More support for youth experiencing mental health challenges.
- Naloxone training.
- Need for a one-stop shop for mental health and substance use resources. Also, this hub would include all amenities such as childcare resources, housing, and counselling.
- Need to increase the number of trained people working in addictions (and mental health).
- Not having MCFD be the gatekeeper for mental health resources for parents (improve the availability of resources that advocate for people in poverty).
- Provide better access to 1:1 (individualized) approach to support those with challenges.
- Provide more options for those seeking treatment or recovery from addictions (specifically for women), including programs to taper off of methadone.
- Suicide and trauma prevention and more support workers.
- Teach meditation and stress reduction techniques to all (without religious dogma).
- The government should be providing free prescriptions/treatment for people with addictions.
- We need art therapy and art classes.
- Wrap-around health care supports including mental health and detox on demand.
- As the Public Health Association of BC (PHABC) state in their Opioid Action Plan Open Letter, “[w]hile not all people who use drugs come from a background of deprivation, opioid addiction frequently begins and ends in desperation: homelessness, poverty, unemployment, crime, chronic poor mental and physical health, chronic physical and emotional pain and an untimely death.” We support the PHABC in recommending a public health approach to this challenge and we have yet to see strong action from the provincial government.
- BC’s new Human Rights Commission should measure and research solutions to stigma and intersectional inequality for people with mental health and substance use problems. Further, BC should fund programs that have stigma reduction as an express goal.
- Better drug policies. We continually punish and isolate those who use drugs but cannot function normally. We need to legalize drugs, and allow doctors to treat addiction as an illness, so that we can better address their conditions. We need

to stop imprisoning people for drugs, giving them records, and trapping them in a cycle of destitution.

- Consider working with the federal government to de-criminalize all drug use and make drug use a health issue.
- Create community-based mental health resources, as the current top-heavy system with hospital psychiatric wards and highly-paid psychiatrists is not working.
- Create learning spaces specifically for those that have completed rehab and/or those with mental illness that are becoming stable with professional care. Offer them a marketable skill set based on employment opportunities in the province.
- Culturally appropriate counselling and supports in community; counselling that applies to Aboriginal experiences with youth, trauma and addictions.
- Mentorship programs and sober living houses.
- Educate parent and teachers to recognise warning signs of mental illness early. If the stigma were erased so might parents reluctance to label their child.
- Ensure that all people in BC, including children and youth, have access to coordinated, timely, culturally safe, person-centred and evidence-based mental health and addiction services in their communities, ranging from prevention and early intervention to treatment and crisis care.
- Focus on opioid crisis, as well as drugs and prostitution in DTES.
- Immediate need for Metis specific drug and alcohol treatment facility/beds province wide.
- Legalize and regulating drugs to better address the current fentanyl crisis.
- Improve the integration and coordination of mental health and addiction, housing support, income support and justice system services. Ensure meaningful cross-ministerial involvement in BC's provincial poverty reduction strategy, housing initiatives, and mental health and addiction plans.
- Intergenerational trauma support needed.
- Develop a mental health first aid course for people to learn about substance use, how to handle someone in a mental health crisis, how to empathize with those living in poverty or those with a disability, etc.
- Direct transportation to treatment and home.
- Get day dealers off the street or regulate distribution.
- Mental health that addresses issues of trauma for youth aging out of care.
- Mental health training and support in the work place.
- Mental health treatment and support, especially for addiction issues, including inpatient treatment in facilities like Riverview as appropriate. The investment in mental health would result in reduced strain on emergency health care and on the criminal justice system.
- More addiction treatment centres with lifeskills, coping skills and social skills taught with employment programs attached to them.
- More men's counselling and programs available.
- People in community form volunteer group, mental health emergency response team rather than police showing up with guns/force towards people with mental illness.



- Better Detox/ intake hours.
- Longer stays.
- Offer instant access to mental health professionals and addictions services/rehab centers. Sending youth from Terrace to a Prince George rehab center alone on a bus 6 months after they identify the need for help is not successful.
- Provide all tiers of harm reduction in every city in BC, and this includes injection sites.
- Provide culturally based "in the moment" treatment centre in the North, with pre and post support.
- Provide early intervention in elementary schools to identify and assist children who are experiencing chronic trauma from which they have no reasonable escape.
- Remove the induction of those with mental illness and addictions to the Corrections system, thereby cutting imprisonment costs, policing costs, thefts from business and public. Instead offer them the help they need.
- Respite for mothers with MH and addictions rather than punishment.
- More supports for veterans.
- Short term financial assistance for people leaving halfway house to get them on their feet and keep them off the street.
- More long term recovery homes (12 month).
- Holistic, multi-faceted treatment centres.
- Community involvement in educating the public.
- Integrate people in recovery back into community.
- Publicize success stories from other communities.
- Volunteer opportunities with recovery and homeless centres.
- The PTSD program available to veterans should be extended to victims of domestic or family violence.
- Youth wellness programs that recognize trauma, its symptoms and help youth developing healthy coping skills early on.
- Access to mental health services and a recognition of intergenerational trauma and its present day impact on indigenous parents' mental health
- Improving suicide prevention services for men.
- More harm reduction measures - particularly the expansion of clinical settings where street drugs can be checked for lethal quantities of toxic contaminants such as fentanyl and/or users can be prescribed uncontaminated drugs. In these settings these patients should be assisted with income, food and housing as needed and helped through counselling and training to move away from the use of addictive drugs.
- Expanded training and provision of naloxone for first responders.
- Provide enhanced post-partum supports for single mothers with mental health challenges and post-partum depression.
- Provide more staff for spaces like community centres and libraries, so that people going to those places can feel safe as can the staff in those places.
- Meet people where they are at. Treat them with dignity and respect. Honour their successes. Have compassion for their set backs. Support them to find treatment

if that is what they are asking for and need. Many people once treated are able to give back and contribute to society in a meaningful way. Have training so that you are trauma informed and can meet these individuals coming from an anti-oppressive and strengths based approach.

- Nutritional support assists those who have drug afflictions, addiction included. L-glutamine, L-tyrosine, Centrophenoxine, Phenibut, L-lysine, Glycine, L-valine, Flumazenil.
- Raise the Per Diem to \$40 per day for Supportive Recovery Homes - certified with the ALR
- Mental health accessibility to youth and families, mental health practices daily in all schools, teaching groups about mental health practices.
- Smithers needs a detox centre, not just hospital room.
- Detox centre needed in Quesnel/treatment.
- Build the infrastructure for video chat/counselling.
- Look for ways to use technology to support people with mental illness and addictions.
- Add therapy and psychologist to MSP.
- More access to needle boxes.
- Should place needle boxes in bathrooms.
- The community needs more AA + NA programs.
- Build a detox centre with shower!
- Reduce/remove the 14 day sober clause for detox.
- Provide counselling services and more funding for mental health and addiction services in Chilliwack.
- Provide a nutritional support system for people with drug management problems.
- Need a team based approaches.
- Care teams that are trained to deal with a broader range of issues than just mental health.
- Care teams with access to other supports (i.e. rental subsidies).
- Need to provide supports for victims of abuse.
- Need to provide support for people dealing with a history of trauma/stigma.
- More opportunities can lead to higher expectations of what you can do and be.
- There is the need to do outreach in the schools – you have to start to build awareness and understanding from a young age.
- Create model linking detox services to shelter.
- Multi-faceted approach is needed for complex issues like alcohol and drugs (opioids) – training, counselling.
- Need to look at medical approach to addiction, alcohol and drugs – root causes, impacts on crime, courts, jail, police, and cells.
- More family treatment centres for First Nations and non-First Nations.
- Better communication between doctors and mental health division – some doctors say that mental health has a big waitlist when that may not be the case.
- There should be more options in time of crisis: instead of emergency or RCMP (under MH Act).

- Look at more health promotion and disease prevention and taking proactive approach instead of being reactive – increase funding.
- Provide mental health services and supports for rural communities (e.g., on reserve) in a way that works for them (may not be telehealth or online).
- Establish a “no blame” model of addictions in Portugal.
- Per diem recovery houses rate increase to \$36 per day.
- Per diem increased for supportive recovery houses.

## **Food Security**

- Taxi vouchers at the foodbank to help get the groceries home.
- "Grow a row" model.
- 'Free' stores & markets.
- Establish a universal school meal program.
- A better way to distribute food – there is enough food for everyone, but we don't get it to the people in need.
- A diet supplement for families with growing children, to pay for nutritious food.
- Access to free food programs – geographically accessible; stagger times that programs are available.
- Access to more affordable food.
- Access to nutritious, healthy food.
- An extra \$150 a month for people who have type 2 diabetes so they can access the Meals on Wheels program. So people who really have difficulty cooking can receive healthy meals.
- Better access to community gardens that are protected with better security.
- Develop subsidies to make food more affordable in rural, isolated communities.
- Better quality food at the food bank, but not at the expense of getting less food.
- Build community gardens.
- Cap the cost of food – subsidize fruits and vegetables.
- Centralized kitchen that uses grocery store food waste to serve meals to the impoverished and teaches cooking and nutrition.
- Changing policies around food waste to increase access to day old foods.
- City donate land, public donate excess garden stock.
- Mandatory free breakfast and lunch programs in all schools for all kids (no stigma). Ex. Houston meal program. Feeding is critically important.
- Community fishing programs; community gardens; increase access to food; free fishing rod.
- Community freezers for donated meat.
- Community kitchens and healthy cooking programs.
- Cooking co-ops.
- Each elementary school to have a daily breakfast program.
- More food bank services for aboriginal peoples.
- Co-op living – food strategies, community gardens, ALR land.
- Coordinate a school lunch program in the schools to ensure that children have at least one hot, nutritional meal per day.

- Coupons for the local Farmers Market should be provided.
- Decrease food prices.
- Decrease the cost of healthy foods (unhealthy and processed food is the cheapest currently).
- Easier access to donations, don't know how to access food bank.
- Food/diet plays into mental health – healthier food at food banks (4 food groups): be able to respond to dietary concerns, diabetes, autoimmune diseases, etc.
- Educating about gardening, growing your own food and learning about nutrition and the food system. The way food is distributed is so important. Growing your own food, making, canning, baking; make accessible in communities; this would help to make healthy food solutions accessible.
- Raise social assistance rates significantly to allow families to afford healthy and sufficient food.
- Encourage supermarkets to provide incentives for donations to food banks.
- Expand food programs within schools so that every student has access to a healthy breakfast and/or lunch if needed .
- Free lunch programs at schools. Should be available to anyone that applies [not just "low income" families].
- Support workers and \$ for school lunch.
- Healthy and cheaper lunches at secondary and elementary schools.
- Fund school garden/chicken coop programs, train children how to cook with eggs and veggies. The cost of processed food is much higher than healthy food, but children need skills.
- Longer hours for food related services.
- Programs like the good food box lost funding – it used to be provided through the Women's Contact Society – it worked well for \$11 people had access to nutritious food.
- Expand the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program and target seniors.
- Farm program where individuals can trade time and hours for fresh local produce, nourishment, community, education, wellbeing.
- Food bank delivery.
- Food banks that offer more choice – like a grocery store.
- Food boxes and hampers.
- Community Farms: work exchanged for food & lodging: promotes sustainable food & sustainable farming.
- Home delivery of food hampers for elders & less-abled.
- Improve Food Bank services with strict guidelines, taking into consideration concerns such as diabetes & auto immune issues (Issue: Diet plays into mental health).
- Zero waste store for groceries for low income people...don't need to throw out food/use near expired food (Issue: hunger, want to eat healthy food (good nutrition) not "Mac & cheese").
- Food programs in our buildings [...] and not chicken four days a week for food! Meal vouchers for people – for everybody from addiction to higher welfare, better

housing with kitchens! SROs have to turn one room into a kitchen and one room into laundry.

- Food sales - driveway/farm gate (raise awareness).
- Free tools to start gardens.
- Fresh water.
- Garden sharing - provide funding for network.
- Government to help farmers so they produce cheap food and continue to grow food; use green space to feed people versus building more houses.
- Have better food support systems that are more affordable.
- Have food banks in more accessible areas.
- Having access to a Food Bank/food programs in every neighbourhood.
- Having accessible kitchens.
- Healthy food that is pre-cut for fresh food preparation.
- Home Delivery options for all grocery stores that are affordable.
- Improve food security and acknowledge senior's mobility concerns for accessing food. Access to free/affordable grocery delivery is important.
- Increase access to low cost food. Osoyoos food bank should be offered weekly with an increase in the quality and quantity of food offered.
- Community gardens and increase use of community kitchens. Free hot lunch program at all schools.
- Learning to cook healthy foods.
- Look at reducing "waste" food from restaurants to feed hungry people.
- Low-cost grocery stores.
- Make a policy for restaurants/grocery stores that food could go to people in poverty. Give companies tax receipts or tax reductions and help protect the companies.
- Make sure no food banks require ID.
- Meals on Wheels for everybody.
- More "Quest" like options.
- More choices for prepared meals delivered in home.
- Social assistance should provide food vouchers.
- No food taxes.
- Offer food cooking and preservation skills classes and additional access to kitchen space for food preparation.
- Offer shared cooking options for seniors.
- Open more affordable eateries like the Carnegie, where food and wages are subsidized by the government and serve healthy nutritious meals.
- Priority for healthy foods to be available at food banks.
- Community gardens/more green spaces.
- Food vouchers for the farmers market.
- Subsidize a seniors supermarket so it's cheaper and more options to buy own groceries.
- Tax breaks for land owners/developers who develop community gardens.

- The 411 Seniors Centre strongly recommends that the provincial government provide core and ongoing funding for a wide variety of nutritional support programs at community based seniors programs.
- The Success by 6 feeding programme leaves what hope for children after 6? After 6 is school age and thus brain power. Therefore, beneficiary age should be extended to 18 so the children can get through college with adequate nutrition.
- Transportation options to get to the food bank.
- We need a food program with a vegetable co-op/produce box but AFFORDABLE.
- More wildlife food preserving.
- Access to clean drinking water for all.
- Address the additional challenges related to household food insecurity among Indigenous Peoples.
- ALL schools in BC should have free lunch programs. And possibly breakfast programs too. This way we would ensure no child is going hungry, and they are accessing good food. It will give them a better start to life. I think children could help learn how to prepare the food too, if money is a concern for staffing, or it would create jobs from staffing.
- Commit to mandatory annual data collection using standardized tools. Monitor marginal, moderate and severe food insecurity and include sufficient sample size, geographic representation and inclusion of vulnerable populations. Ensure household food insecurity is used as an indicator for the poverty reduction strategy.
- Ensure fair resolution of disputes over access to lands and resources recognized by Indigenous and Treaty rights, to ensure food sovereignty and access to traditional foods by Indigenous Peoples.
- Ensure sufficient supports and removal of barriers to include traditional foods in facilities such as hospitals, childcare centres and schools.
- Ensure there are food banks in rural centres.
- Evaluate the impact of poverty reduction and other strategies to reduce household food insecurity and improve selected population health indicators, with adjustments in policy to maximize reach and impact.
- Tax non healthy food and reduce the cost of healthy food.
- Implement Metis Harvesting right for sustenance.
- Improve food banks so food is not expired and mouldy.
- Improve free food programs for kids in need at schools, including backpacks with food for weekends.
- Sustainable renewable resources for food; nutritional courses for youth, using new technologies for improving output of foods through urban farming and greenhouses.
- Less farming restrictions.
- Less hunting restrictions for low-income families.
- Bylaws allowing backyard chickens in limited amounts should be in each community.
- Promote local agricultural development.

- Protect the ALR where it still exists and provide access for farmers to our Class 1 soils.
- Need for food cost reduction supports/similar to Northern Living Allowance and Northern Residents Deduction, that would significantly reduce the cost of food and living in northern communities.
- Provide more affordable food amenities for the DTES such as access to gardens and vegetables.
- Provide sufficient supports and remove barriers for hunting, fishing or gathering/cultivating traditional foods. This includes support for Elders and knowledge keepers who are integral to Indigenous culture.
- Strengthen Nutrition Supplements Programs that provide nutrition over and above a basic diet when medically necessary. Continue to work with Dietitians of Canada for solutions such as streamlining applications, re-evaluating criteria and increasing benefit amounts based on “Food Costing in BC” data.
- Provide the opportunity to participate in and to influence policies and practices that affect [Indigenous peoples] access to, and availability of cultural foods and traditions.
- Public fruit parks and gardens, have volunteers pick foods.
- Support “Food Costing in BC”, which monitors the cost of a National Nutritious Food Basket as a proportion of household income. Use the finding to help ensure food insecure households have enough money to afford a healthy diet after meeting basic needs such as housing.
- Support food banks to give better requirements milk, fresh fruit, and vegetables  
Better access to quality food (organic veggies / grocery store gift cards)  
Provide community meals.
- Also provide community meals for people who aren’t in active addiction. (People afraid of homeless and drug users).
- Support research to address gaps in knowledge about the prevalence and severity of household food insecurity to inform the implementation and evaluation of strategies and policies that will eliminate household food insecurity in BC.
- The price of food in some communities that are more remote is more expensive than in many communities that are located closer to bigger centres where choice and price competition exists. It is recommended that the Provincial Government consider implementing a food subsidy program for low-income families in more remote communities.
- Use screening protocols across the full continuum of the healthcare system to identify household food insecurity, poverty and malnutrition among individual health system users.
- Implement a provincial grocery store with low cost or free healthy foods.
- Provide grants to gardening groups like One Straw Society to provide education about how to grow food.
- Online Community food bank where community members with internet/wifi access can reach out for emergency food help.
- Food programs that match up restaurants and a service to provide food to those in need, with outreach workers to deliver it.

- Pay fair prices to local farmers; promote farming as a career option to young people; as a society, value our food and pay for it; get rid of the mind set that cheap food is the goal; those who can, spend money locally; support food co-ops, CSA's and good food boxes;
- Mushroom task force.
- More public awareness that food bank needs donations.
- Provide free water and better water quality.
- More water fountains are needed.
- Maybe there could be green houses built on school property and the different aspects of growing and harvesting good could be part of the school curriculum.
- More flexibility around food that is close to or at the expiry date.
- Allow for people with no ID to still be able to access food banks - have someone vouch for you.
- Ask members of the community who garden to plant an extra row that they donate to the food bank – “grow a row”.
- Teach kids in school to grow gardens – they could teach their parents.
- More formalized food programs are needed.
- Government should invest in food policy plan/strategy.
- Need to protect culturally appropriate food through policy and zoning.
- There needs to be specialized food for diabetic, celiac.
- Create vegan food bank.
- Consider food stamps.
- More staff needed for food crisis lines.
- People should be able to grow pot in the community gardens.
- Skills and education around healthy eating.
- Less red tape – education to grocery stores.
- Waste policy from grocery stores province – done in Europe.

## **Supplemental Health Supports**

- 100% Prescription coverage for residents over 65 years old.
- Children should have unlimited access to free medication.
- Eliminate MSP premiums completely.
- All prescriptions should be covered.
- Allow audiologists to directly bill MSP.
- Alternative health professionals (homeopathic, holistic dentistry, alternative health procedures like Chinese and Japanese acupuncture), nutritionist, vitamins, Chinese herbal medicine, and functional medicine specialities should be covered.
- Assess people individually for funding of medical equipment and supplies as some people need a lot more help and expensive equipment.
- Assistance for medical travel.
- Affordable foot care.



- Include basic dental care and to supplement cost of other necessary dental procedures.
- BC needs a universal health equipment program such as the AADL program of Alberta or ADP program in Ontario.
- BC should develop a public group plan for drugs, dental and eye care.
- Better health and dental coverage for people on governmental assistance.
- Better medical/dental benefits for seniors; not paying out of pocket for necessary dental surgery.
- Broaden the coverage for pharma-care (Plan G).
- [...] CUPW is recommending dental, optical and hearing care be determined to be part of essential medical services.
- Stop allowing pharmacare to increase the rates for insulin etc.
- Cover better meds not the limited range offered.
- Cover catheters and other incontinence and bowel supplies for everyone who needs them, not just people on PWD.
- Cover costs like community physio and occupational therapy, massage, chiropractor, etc. so that people with disabilities can maximize recovery and health.
- Cover dental care for everyone below a certain income level (not just people who are on PWD).
- Cover dental, optical care, and prescription drug coverage.
- Cover medical travel (TAP is not sufficient)
- Coverage for all dental and vision care, including travel and accommodations if you have to travel out of town for an appointment.
- Provide coverage for counselling fees for clients.
- Create a universal equipment, medical supplies, and pharmacare funding program for all citizens.
- Dental coverage should be higher annual limits – should cover complete costs of dentures, partials, etc.
- Diet allowance should be increased to \$50 dollars and up.
- Do not charge for ambulance transportation to hospital & provide free return transportation upon discharge.
- Eliminate the pharmacare deductible.
- Ensure that there is monies allocated for medication and special foods needs.
- Extended health benefits, full spectrum benefits: eye care, respite care, home support, dental prescription costs, prescribed dietary supplements, prescribed medical supplies.
- Expanding Essential Health Services (optical, dental, etc).
- Free universal health care that includes dental and vision care as well as medications. It should also include alternative care such as physiotherapy, massage therapy and chiropractor.
- Fund scooters for people with disabilities/seniors who need them.
- Help with nutrition and supplements cost for people with SCI.
- Immediate access to Medical Services Plan coverage upon arrival for all migrant workers.

- Improve access to extended healthcare benefits, such as physiotherapy.
- Improve the medical coverage for those on PWD.
- Include dental as basic health care.
- Increase in access to proper medical and dental care.
- Increase payment rates for dental.
- Increase the annual maximums for physio, podiatry, etc, and pay regular insurance rates for them instead of \$23, which typically covers less than half the cost.
- Also people receiving PWD having access to all of the medical benefits that they need.
- Free birth control.
- Individualized funding for personal supports and equipment, without means testing.
- Modernize coverage for health supplements that are particularly relevant for people on income or disability assistance with mental health or substance use-related disabilities, including access to counselling services.
- More comprehensive Fair Pharmacare and lower annual deductions.
- National Pharmacare program (income tested).
- MSP should cover dental, optometry, counselling, addiction services.
- Paying for other medical interventions such as the Shingles vaccine which will greatly improve seniors' health, but is too expensive for many seniors to access
- Provide additional supports for out of pocket expenses, such as over the counter medication, medical supplies, travel and accommodation for medical reasons.
- Provide more and extended health coverage, including extended coverage to include supplements, prescriptions, dental and vision; mental health and detox supports; access to alternative health professionals; culturally-relevant and multilingual health care.
- Providing assistance with the cost of ancillary health supports such as mobility aids (canes, crutches, etc.) and personal alarms to improve seniors' safety and promote independence.
- Reduce prices of prescription drugs for students and seniors.
- Things like toothbrushes, feminine products etc. should be available.
- Undertaking a review of Medical Services Plan coverage for ophthalmology services and cataract surgery given that these are often associated with aging. The Province should seek to ensure that these services are readily available to all seniors without the imposition of fees that are beyond the reach of so many.
- Working with the federal government to implement a national, universal pharmacare program.
- Free/highly subsidized menstrual products (especially for people who are homeless or street-entrenched).
- Allow individuals to choose their own Occupational Therapists.
- Better supports for our young children (specifically medical and dental).
- Consideration of using BC income tax filings as a basis for determining seniors access to Fair Pharmacare, and the MSP premium assistance.

- There should be coverage for medicine that is prescribed over the counter for things like allergies, lice, pain, gastro problems.
- Create an Oral Health Strategy for British Columbia engaging resources from the Ministries of Social Development & Poverty Reduction, Health and Family and Children along with the health authorities and stakeholders: dental professional and other associations, community not-for-profit dental clinics, dental education institutions and patient advocacy groups.
- Create systems within long term care facilities to encourage dental care for residents such as creating a dental care coordinator position to assist with daily oral care and facilitate ongoing professional care.
- Get rid of the MSP premiums and Pharmacare deductibles, which are so high the coverage rarely kicks in for most people. With a public health system, there should be no need for anyone to carry private health insurance, it defeats the point of having a public system in the first place.
- In multi-disciplinary health centres ensure access to dental providers, including onsite access. Successful examples include the dental clinics at both the BC Cancer Agency and BC Children's Hospital.
- Coverage for orthodontics.
- Provide prescriptions over the phone.
- Fully covered for chiropractor, physio, psychologist, eye exams.
- Make going to see a psychologist covered under MSP.
- Make medical marijuana funded by MSP.
- Crack down on drug companies.
- Physiotherapy after injury should be covered.
- Return MSP services and Pharmacare to what they were before the bc liberals gutted both. We desperately need mental health care as a covered service, not just counselors or psychiatrists, we need the real deal covered, psychologists.
- Free prescriptions & over the counter supplements or an allowance to cover these costs.
- The social services fee guide is approximately 40-50 % less than the BC Dental Fee Guide used by dentists. By increasing the social services fee guide this would reduce fees charged to the patient directly (balance billing).
- MSP should be covered for youth and elders.
- Expand the services and medications covered under MSP and the level of coverage, including preventative care and preventative procedures (e.g., dental, chiropractic and physiotherapy sessions, prescriptions, massage, counselling).

## **Health Care**

- Move seniors out of acute care hospitals to appropriate alternative care.
- Increase overall access to family doctors within B.C.
- Zero user fees – no cost at service provider.
- Build healthier communities (less drain on health services).
- Access to clinics (open on Sundays).

- Campaign for 'healthy living' priorities – effort to create culture of community – balance of work & family life / vacation time, work hours/ days etc. (e.g. like Canada 150 campaign).
- More associations that promote and help individuals and families to live a healthy lifestyle.
- Cancer financially devastates many BC families. There should be special consideration for low/medium income families who have critically ill children.
- There needs to be more supports for diagnosis of FASD.
- Bring back maternity care.
- Expand services in public systems (dental, health community mental health).
- Plan ahead to have enough services for people with dementia, Alzheimer's.
- Align poverty strategies with existing government initiatives... in particular the move towards Primary Care Networks.
- Improve access to health care and medical services.
- Improve health care for seniors. This involves many different items:
  - Ending extra user fees in private clinics.
  - Providing better and less costly home care for seniors.
  - Ensure that home and community care services, such as home support and residential care, are fully funded, well coordinated and accessible, they are a key part of care for people and reduce pressure on the more expensive primary and acute systems.
  - Enhance community care for seniors. Provide clinics where a number of seniors needs can be met, including physical, cognitive, and psychological in one location.
  - Provide more publically funded, publically operated and publically delivered residential care for seniors.
- Improve training for health care providers and frontline workers, with a focus on person-centered, trauma informed, culturally-competent care, especially for Indigenous individuals accessing health services.
- At walk-in clinics it is very hard to communicate with a doctor or a specialist who doesn't speak Arabic without the presence of an interpreter.
- Expansion of community health services for seniors, people with disabilities, and those with mental health illnesses and addictions, and enhancements to dental and eye care for low-income people.
- Greater access to primary health care is key in a poverty reduction strategy, and an area that nurses and nurse practitioners across B.C. can continue to lead.
- A 24/7 mobile team that Indigenous people of all ages can access.
- Expand home support and home care programs, free of charge to low-income seniors.
- Access to full health care [for youth].
- Pay for prevention (e.g.. pay for a wheelchair cushion to prevent a more costly pressure sore). Sometimes paying for a higher-quality product may cost less in the long run if it prevents other health issues from developing (e.g.. power assist for manual chairs to protect the shoulders from overuse).

- Better mental and physical health care, more drs and nurses, more outreach programs, and most needed is better access to rehab for drug and alcohol addiction.
- Undertaking an urgent and major review and revision of the provision of home support services.
- Guarantee access to timely health services with a full time medical clinic.
- Have public health nurse for street people intervention.
- Have FNHA start providing funds to Friendship Centres for all health and healing programs they are doing on reserve.
- Improving home health care to provide additional services to people with serious illnesses and disabilities.
- Free basic items like produce, tampons, diapers.
- Increase access to a wide range health services, reduce waitlists, and increase the affordability of medication; decriminalize narcotics.
- Increase outreach.
- Mobile Health Unit, Crisis Unit.
- Full time walk-in medical clinic.
- Create one stop community health care centres with Doctors, naturopaths, nutritionist, diet, income assistance, physio, pre-natal.
- Make emergency plans for seniors.
- Medical advocates – real person/office... not a phone tree or internet service
- Reinstate senior home support services through the health authorities - especially to include housekeeping, grocery shopping, meal prep, and proper baths.
- Medical offices that are kind, comprehensive and have continuity of care.
- More in-home supports for elders.
- Endorse as provincial government policy, support for fluoridated drinking water at the municipal level.
- Enhance community mental health and home support services, and expand integrated approaches to prevention and health promotion services. Priority Actions:
  - Expand essential health services in the public system, such as dental and optical care and community mental health services.
  - Expand home support and residential care services, and increase the number of residential care beds.
- Faster and free service to specialists.
- Metis people do not receive non-insured health benefits. It is recommended that the cost of non-insured health benefits need to be covered for Metis people as they are for other Aboriginal groups. It is also recommended that the cost of MSP for Metis people be waived.
- Mobile services (Health, outreach, volunteer, Nursing centre on wheels).
- More access to health care in rural areas.
- Caregivers of medically complex children need more financial support.
- Counselling needed at shelters.
- No taxes on feminine hygiene products and baby products

- Ensure that rural communities with high populations of seniors are guaranteed medical lab and home support type services.
- Bring back nursing services for the elderly.
- More CSIL hours for people with high-level disabilities and more money per hour.
- Make it easier to transfer CSIL hours and other care from one health authority to another.
- Provide mobile education about prescriptions/medical awareness.
- As more people are aging, and as diseases such as Alzheimer's and related dementia are on the rise (and will be for the next 10 - 20 years for sure) you need to start supporting family care-givers. You need to start this right now. You need to remove the look for work requirement immediately for these people.
- Stigma has to end when treating patients.
- More time spent with patients.
- Better coverage under healthy kids (general anesthetic not available after age 11).
- Supports for women with children with fetal alcohol syndrome.
- More GPs for continuity in healthcare rather than walk-ins.
- More options for special needs care.
- More walk-in clinics.
- Need culturally-relevant and multilingual health care.
- Provide residential care facilities at affordable rates or/and home support for those who can go home safely. At minimum, meet the level of care provided as recommended by the BC Seniors Advocate.
- One clear and simple way to link the health care system to social determinants of health is through the thoughtful development of primary care networks. In our community, it is clear that adding social worker to the Primary Care Networks would provide a critical resource.
- Pre- and post-pregnancy support services.
- Provide a tax break for care-giving of aging parents.
- Provide access to interpreters for specialist appointments and GPs.
- Provide education on how to live a healthy lifestyle overall (e.g. healthy foods, exercise).
- Respite care for senior caregivers.
- Provide more benefits and supports for cancer patients.
- Support research to close the gaps in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- Supporting community based specific health and wellness programs for seniors.
- Taking care of pregnant women and helping to support early development of her child.
- We need more healing center and healing spaces.
- With healthcare, add funding to help people with physical differences to achieve a more normal appearance to allow them to live and work more easily. Including for transpeople, people with disabilities, and people who were born with abnormal features.
- Wrap-around health care services.

- Preventative health strategies should be part of the overall plan.
- Invest in lyme disease prevention. Advertising and education.
- Decrease the need for a 2 tiered medical system where MRI/CT and specialist wait times are dramatically reduced.
- Increase surgeon OR time.
- Access to health care services at culturally sensitive organization.
- Have more money allocated to counselling and preventative measurements rather than treatment after the fall.
- More guidelines for privatized elderly care.
- Improve discharge planning & follow-up care.
- Eliminate or reduce the co-payment for home support services.
- The Living Wage for Families Campaign recommends that the province of BC waive individual MSP debt and cancel individual matters that are currently in collections.
- A robust home care program to adequately support people with physical and mental disabilities, frailty, dementia and those discharged from hospital to recover at home.
- Allow specialist consultation via video conference.
- Proper treatment for diabetic people.
- Need for more access to optometrists.
- Create program for recycled eyeglasses.
- Seniors often need a care giver – It is difficult for the children of seniors.
- Invest in maternal health and ECE.
- Maternal support program with a dedicated support worker for all mothers (Hawaii model).
- Extended version of Public Health Nurse visits.
- Preventative community programs needed.
- Free yoga and meditation for increasing wellbeing.
- Transportation – for medical appointments out of town.
- Less barriers for Northern Health Bus- shorter trips.
- Investment home care services, keep seniors in their home longer.
- Acknowledge pot use for medical purposes.
- Let nurse practitioners fill out paperwork to get medicinal pot.
- Empower nurse practitioners.
- Need more nurse practitioners to help people on the streets.
- Decrease cost of birth control.
- Provide incentives to professionals to provide services.
- Get people out of the office and into the communities.
- Expand school programs for all age groups to check health.
- People should have access to flu clinics (shots).
- People should have access to blood testing – i.e. checking for Hepatitis C.
- There is a need for grief services and counsellors.
- Better integrated case management.
- Need something between family doctor and emergency room.

- Create urgent care clinics.
- More preventative care – upstream rather than downstream.
- Special needs advocates needed for autism spectrum, ADHD, FASD).
- Invest in the social determinants of health.
- Provide help with parking and transportation to medical appointments.
- We need a low barrier medical clinic.
- Need cultural-based health care.
- People need more access to doctors, mental health professionals.
- There is the need for more access to resources.
- Need more professionals in the community.
- Need more restorative justice – connect legal and health.
- People need access to occupational therapy and behavioural therapy.
- Raise awareness of healthy eating (i.e., free workshops).
- Community -based primary health care (CBPHC).
- Innovation in addressing SDOH (social determinants of health) in clinical settings.
- Educate people on elder abuse.
- Funded federal disability advocate (includes physical and mental disabilities).
- Free immunization and vitamins.
- Affordable medical MRI.

## **Transportation**

- Transportation vouchers for getting to work or training.
- \$5 month bus passes like in Calgary.
- We also support the Single Mothers' Alliance (SMA) of BC and the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC in their call for a low income transit plan. SMA members have highlighted the need for a free transit pass for children 0-18 years of age to ensure full access to education and a low-income transit pass for adults.
- 3-month bus pass to help you get back on your feet.
- Free transit for children.
- Transit discount for youth.
- Affordable transit/efficient transit.
- A low income bus pass program would be great (not just families or those with disabilities, but for those who simply can't afford a bus pass) More public advertising about the resources already available.
- Dial a bus.
- Lower gas prices.
- Lower vehicle and insurance costs.
- Better bus service. Increase hours/weekends to handy dart.
- Better transit when living out of town to get apartments.
- Better transit.
- Bring back Handydart and transportation services.



- Bring BC Ferries back to gov't service and it should be FREE for everyone who lives on Vancouver Island. The Ferries are part of our Trans Canada Highway, we have no other option. Get rid of those making multiple hundreds of thousands per year at this organization.
- Bus stop needs legible printed time schedule posted at most stops.
- Carpooling, easier to access bus passes, increased frequency of buses, create ride share.
- Challenges of the bus system and taxi services in remote locations, an affordable, reliable and safe system of transportation needs to be in place for Northern BC.
- Community needs a school bus.
- Companies like Greyhound and BC Ferries should give the disability rate without the card (which would eliminate the need for doctors to spend their valuable time signing for these programs).
- Compass card should come with PWD acceptance letters.
- Decrease the cost of public transportation.
- Don't increase carbon tax for people with disabilities because a vehicle is essential to traveling around the community.
- Provide all people on Income Assistance and PWD with bus pass.
- Lower bus fares.
- Don't outsource HandyDart to a private company for profit.
- Ensure affordable transportation in the DTES.
- Expand public transit routes and transportation availability.
- Expand roads in farm areas. Government expand roads to include bike lanes on farm roads, municipal level could provide bicycles and reflective gear.
- Have safe, free/low cost services for transporting elders to appointments, grocery shopping, etc
- Expand the coverage of the transit pass for those on disability assistance so that it covers the cost of HandyDART.
- Provide free public transit for minors (ages 0-18) and free or reduced-fee transit access for low income families.
- For the Disabled who own and rely on a vehicle, there should be an easier process to get more affordable auto insurance.
- It would also greatly help if the Disabled (who own a vehicle) could get rebates for their fuel purchases as this is yet another expenditure that continues to rise in cost. Perhaps the Province of B.C. could also make parking for the Disabled free (whether they use a Disability parking placard or not) because they are often burdened with more Doctor's visits and many medical parking lots charge high fees that the Disabled often cannot afford.
- Expand the West Coast Express hours to include weekends. Offer more efficient bus schedules. Expand the sky train to the Fraser Valley. Allow for 24-hour service in Vancouver.
- Extend sky train and other transportation options to Surrey.
- Forgive fines and waive fees - i.e.. people cannot get a driver's licence with unpaid transit fines for riding skytrain without a ticket.

- More local authority for transit.
- Make recreation more accessible with the bus.
- Free driving school and bring driving back into the school system.
- Free parking for people with disabilities.
- Free Taxi for wheelchair options.
- Free taxis for people with disabilities who are seniors.
- Free/reduced ferries for locals, charge for visitors.
- More funding for HandyDART.
- Give those actively looking for work a bus pass so that they can attend interviews.
- Government should cover the cost of a van conversion.
- Increase bus service to UBC and along busy routes; offer free transit for children up to age 18.
- Invest in a Provincial Active Transportation Strategy to support the development of local cycling and walking infrastructure within a larger provincial network.
- Invest in public transportation systems that serve small, rural, remote and isolated communities such as the use of school buses and bus services that feed into regional centres.
- Invest in the full implementation of the BC Transit Strategic Plan 2030 and local governments' 'Transit Future Plans' to grow transit service and meet local needs.
- Loans for electric bikes.
- Financial Assistance in the form of a bus pass and/or gas vouchers for people trying to get into the workforce (currently it is available only for people on PWD as a bus pass, but not for receiving other supports).
- Travel subsidies (gas money or bus passes) from employers to encourage employees from outside communities traveling to where the work is (ex: from Mount Currie to Whistler).
- Train service that is affordable between Vancouver and Mount Currie.
- Travel – increased intercity transit that reflects local economy.
- Travel – train service between communities that is affordable for locals.
- Travel – Gas vouchers.
- Car co-op program.
- Make BC Ferries part of highway system.
- More Cab/Taxi options.
- More frequent ferry sailings.
- Need more consistent and accessible transportation options along Highway 16, many people are still hitch-hiking.
- Need more transit service in the early morning.
- Need transportation to Health Care Services for rural Metis.
- No parking fees at the hospital.
- Provide funds, not tax credits, to those who need to purchase transportation to be able to go to work. Most of the people here don't earn enough to see any value from tax credits.
- Health Connections bus does provide a good service twice a week for those with medical appointments, but Provincial government could look at what this is really

costing and whether that limited usefulness could be expanded with a little outside the box thinking.

- Provide supports for getting driver's license.
- Stop contracting out HandyDart and return it back to TransLink.
- Support the BC Road Safety Strategy Vision Zero: work with partners to create safer streets and to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on the roads of BC.
- Support the creation of community owned taxi so people can get around town for a reasonable cost.
- Universal free transit.
- People should be given a transportation allowance (bus pass) that is allowed to be used for HandyDART.
- Volunteer drivers to transport people to their medical appointments.
- We need bike parking because you can't park bikes at SROs, shelters, supportive housing.
- Work with and support communities to get public transit where none exists so that seniors can move around with confidence and in safety.
- Work with BC Transit and TransLink to come up with a fare policy and structure to make transit more affordable for those with very low incomes.
- Promote more electric vehicle charging stations throughout BC.
- Vancouver Islanders should not have to pay BC Ferry high rates to use our 'water highway.' Perhaps identify residents and then give a discount.
- Bring the ferries back under government control as a separate ministry.
- Keep investing in quality, rapid public transportation so that people can easily commute to jobs in areas that they cannot afford to live.
- Work with the BC medical Association to standardize the costs charged for check-ups and forms related to driving. There is a vast discrepancy in fees charged by doctors who complete the driving medical forms.
- Incentivize 'Healthy Cities' plans that facilitate walking, cycling and public transit usage.
- Ensure all bus stops, buses, rapid transit stations and services are accessible for people with mobility limitations.
- Implement the City of Surrey Transportation Strategic Plan and South of Fraser Area Transit Plan.
- Bus passes should be free for those of us on DISABILITY with no car!! if nothing else the \$45 yearly pass should be reinstated.
- There should not be different prices for transit - no more zones.
- Uber should offer services for people with disabilities if they are allowed to operate here.
- There should be more regulation regarding fuel prices.
- Transportation should be like medical supports – if you can't afford it, it is provided for you.
- Province step in to support "Greyhound".
- Provincial bus service, not commercial services.
- Fuel rebates for low income people.
- Bring back bridge tolls but lower the cost - toll all bridges on equal amounts.

- Enforce clean sidewalk bylaws for people on crutches, wheelchairs to get around
- BC transit should create a rural plan. Less on ridership #s. More on connecting smaller communities.
- Public transit to specialist medical services (e.g. some services in Calgary).
- Increase bus routes and times (“I have to walk home from work at night by myself and I don’t feel safe”) – should be smaller but more buses. Ideal time would be 6am – Midnight. This would employ more bus drivers!
- Transportation to community events, lakes, skating, senior card nights.
- 1 free day/ week free transit (at least for seniors).
- Provide tokens for cab fare to and from foodbanks, especially when you have bags of groceries.

## **Community Supports and Recreation**

- Discounts at the Recreation Centre for activities.
- Expand friendly visiting and social connections options to integrate this for all ages into our communities.
- Free movies and other entertainment for seniors, picnics etc.
- Free recreation for children and seniors.
- A free membership to students to community centers or pools.
- Issue free yearly passes to the recreation centers.
- Friendship Circle, enhanced connection, expand program to include free rides - not just seniors!
- Increase social inclusion: e.g. funding for children living in poverty to join sports and other programs.
- Lets start funding sports, education recreation (pools, skating rinks) so that everyone no matter who or how much money they have can be included and fit.
- Lower cost for recreational activities.
- More free/government funded community events.
- More gathering spaces to connect people of all ages.
- More access is needed for affordable extracurricular activities for children/youth.
- Outdoor music events - make use of parks.
- Healing centres local, such as First Nation’s House of Healing.
- Require fitness facilities to be accessible (including exercise equipment).
- Work with community groups to plan and organize low or no cost activities to give the tenants something to look forward to.
- Womens' and childrens' only timeslot for the pool would encourage more use from some cultures.
- A place where we can set up to sell our skills – like berries during berry picking season.
- Create a wellness center in Surrey that addresses trauma.
- A social planning commission of the city would help filter city activities through a poverty reduction lens.

- Access to quality time for families outside of day to day stressors.
- Deaf community needs to be working together like the CAN network.
- More drop in agencies during the evenings and at night.
- Day programs to keep busy. Low barrier programs / drop in. Free programs to keep people (low income/ mentally challenged) involved in community. - Free programs to encourage healthy social communities.
- Build a shop to repair bikes, small appliances, teach, train people living in transitional housing, job, skill creation.
- Facilitate/ fund programs – beautiful communities, murals, painting, gardening etc, revitalize communities.
- A center for youth and elderly to go.
- Community social services hub in the style of community health services, or going into the community: schools, coffee shops, and the places where people already are.
- Fun allowance for recreation and video games, etc.
- Make public washrooms clean and available.
- Provide public showers and free laundry.
- Provide free haircuts.
- There is need for more hygiene facilities.
- Provide storage facilities that are easy to access and secure.
- Free galleries, museums.
- More community advocates.
- Free Recreation Passes, for adults, youth, children.
- Mailboxes needed.
- Need to have drop-in centres open 24/7 – none here.
- Clothing drives and exchanges.
- Coffee group – seniors get together for communication exchange. Invite appropriate advocates.
- ID storage for people so it is kept safely.
- Provide people help with moving.
- Fund existing spaces and programs that are good at building connections so that they can grow and expand, creating relationships that support resiliency.
- Create 'adopt a family' system, where volunteers can mentor and assist new immigrants, families with a health crisis, or elders.
- Create incentives and frameworks for municipal poverty reduction- this is an issue that hits different regions differently. Match funds on certain poverty reduction projects if the local municipalities approve them.
- Creating a share shed, where people bring items they no longer need and others may look for things they need with no costs.
- Activities for people that are positive and fun.
- Cultural supports, getting outdoors and connecting with the environment so that you are not always stuck on the streets.
- Develop network and map of safe and welcoming spaces in [Port Alberni].
- Continued and increased advocacy services for people living in poverty.

- Creation of a clearing house for second-hand clothing, furniture and household items; creation of a tool lending library.
- Planning for an integrated community resource centre which is community-owned, a drop-in centre.
- Fund more social services: community centres, food banks, SVNH. FUND the Community Resource Centre and spread the model through BC! Funding and encouraging groups like Trans Care BC. Funding for programs that reduce isolation of vulnerable populations in the community.
- Facilitate an adult mentoring initiative where volunteers can provide friendship, home support, and any other desired skills to people living in poverty (ensure a positive two-way relationship).
- More evening and weekend programs.
- Fund a wide number of community based physical activity programs for seniors.
- Donate rich people clothes to the poor.
- Safe Spaces in our Communities (re:trans/non-binary): Community Centre/ Pool/Parks: gender neutral washrooms and change rooms, libraries.
- Fund ways to improve social inclusion and reduce social isolation of all seniors, with a particular emphasis on frail seniors.
- Accessibility to Culture and Heritage programs.
- Fund summer camp programming to create jobs for teenagers and learning opportunities for children.
- Haircuts for Mother's day.
- Increase funding to community organizations that serve immigrants, refugees, and individuals who face multiple barriers, such as trauma, substance dependence, mental health concerns, and homelessness.
- More public/accessible spaces.
- More freedom to do things we enjoy – workout gym, free hobbies, free garage to work on cars or other projects. Internet cafes that are accessible for low income people. Happiness.
- Community Associations can hold meetings around information and services.
- Support development of natural supports within communities.
- Community based peer counselling group FREE & sharing knowledge between generations (mentoring).
- Empower participation in entertainment events; fill unsold seats by donating or creating a free-access system for those on benefits/assistance where community organizations can facilitate.
- Community Centres to bridge between young families and seniors.
- Pet friendly park and dog bags doo doo poop.
- Somewhere to get furniture.
- Community hub safety net – free store, community kitchen, washer, dryer, computer, wifi (build community.).
- Increase funding to social service programs, non-profits (and not just seniors, youth and native organizations, but organizations that are for everybody) and food banks.
- Yoga class vouchers.

- Build community centres on reserve with age appropriate ongoing funded programs.
- Increase the number of social workers for those who need them such as those with mental problems, or the homeless person who was just given a place to live.
- More community engagement + sessions in person where people are paid equally for their time.
- More Friendship Centres – daytime hours sitting areas.
- More programs in the community specifically for single parents and seniors.
- More volunteering options and opportunities should be made available to people on Social Assistance.
- Provide community-based centres with resources for information and referral programs to assist seniors to access to governmental programs and benefits.
- Provide incentives for communities to build long-term green houses.
- Sponsorship and mentorship from those who have come out of addiction/poverty to come and talk with those still entrenched in street life and to encourage them to build a better future.
- Support groups + activities for: Medical patients, single parents, new parents, elders.
- Try to facilitate people wanting to start community groups that nurture better living, such as a grandmothers club, where elders make soup and teens hang out.
- We are asking the provincial government to work with Canada Post and the federal government to use Canada Post to provide the following services:
  - A. Postal Banking. [...]
  - B. Providing information to low income people, seniors etc. about their entitlements.
- We need a compassionate, trauma-informed approach to helping our most vulnerable citizens, welcoming and integrating our new Canadians, and ensuring quality of life is not just for the middle class and above.
- Rubber mats for all playgrounds so that needles/paraphilia doesn't get lost in rocks/ woodchips.
- Youth/Adult neutral zone that's open regularly/evenings/weekends the is drug free offering activities and a nurse. Organizations like the "Hub". Having a centre for teenagers in town – evenings – day – after school.
- The BC government should ensure that all communities have access to:
  - Adequate supplies of clean water and adequate sewage disposal.
  - Green spaces, parks, recreation facilities.
  - A healthy built and natural environment, equitable access to green space preparation for climate change, both mitigation and adaptation.
- Provide targeted programming for particularly vulnerable groups such as seniors, LGBTQ communities, refugees, immigrants and those recently released from prison.
- Increase public awareness of the improved happiness, social cohesion, trust, physical and mental well-being and prosperity in a society where there is more equitable income and wealth distribution.

- A clothing/shoe exchange twice a year and book exchanges.
- Youth centres with programming designed to increase well-being and resilience.
- Empower communities: give us flexibility to decide and allocate monies/resources to local reality, objectives and collective means. Be open to our diversity.
- We encourage more place-based and decolonial education as critical for supporting equity and meaningful sustainable economic development that works within the land's capacities and limits.
- Invest in community financial empowerment services that offer people with low and modest incomes free, unbiased, and high-quality financial empowerment supports, tailored to their needs and financial context.
- Invest in coordinated community outreach and support strategies, to connect people with low incomes to benefits they are eligible for.
- Work with municipalities to make better/more affordable/welcoming environments for homeless people to access public facilities such as showers at community centres.
- More subsidized access to recreation/ activities.
- Create outdoor activity spaces and provide equipment for adults.
- Have a local place to make long distance calls - helps people to reach out to family and stay connected.
- Community gardens, better system.
- More community navigators.
- There should be public water fountains and cooling stations.
- Utilize/ make community food gardens on public land.
- Community events that reach across all abilities/ classes/ races/ religions.
- We need to find ways to make sport/arts affordable and available.
- We need a cohesive "one stop shop" for community services.
- There is the need for integrated wrap around services that include a focus on health and community support.
- Need spiritual leaders to increase community leaders.
- Identify isolated seniors & support them to be more active in the community.
- Agencies come together to identify gaps and then work together to produce complete service needs of community.
- More awareness of resources needed in community. Hold regular meetings to discuss.
- Encourage philanthropy in town and people helping people/ volunteers.
- Longer and larger funding envelope for non-profits.
- Promote respect, manners, and respect for a neighbour's property.
- There should be an ID bank.
- Provide incentives for young, educated people to stay in community.
- Greater civic engagement for young people.
- Share the data (the numbers) as a way of empowering community.
- More options during a crisis.
- Better support for counsellors to help people.
- Longer hours for services including weekends.



- Family interactions, valuing cohesive family systems.
- More community events, gatherings that include First Nations people Introduce community services into schools.
- Create a community that has the capacity to deal with events (i.e., the opioid crisis).
- More community facilities (hygiene, showers, laundry, personal needs for address, computers).
- Community centres should have multi-purpose places and services available.
- Provide a place for non-traditional households to access supports (i.e. Community kitchens and 'go-to' places).
- More communication to the public about challenges facing those living in poverty.
- Increased awareness of issues, empower people.

## **ADEQUATE INCOME SUPPORTS**

### **Income Support Rates**

- Increase all fixed income (OAS, CPP, social assistance).
- Increase PWD and welfare payments.
- Increasing the amount of social assistance, pension or disability to over the poverty line or a living wage. People should not have to choose between paying bills, food, or rent. Everyone should have enough income be able to afford, sustain, and maintain a safe and stable home.
- Re-evaluate basic living expenses.
- Cost of Living adjustments for PWD.
- While recognizing this governments increase to income assistance rates, the cost of living in BC still continues to be a challenge, with many in receipt of income assistance (IA/ PPMB/ PWD) continuing to struggle daily. As such, we recommend:
  - Continued increase to basic assistance and disability benefits rates.
  - Linking rates to inflation to avoid rate stagnation.
  - Increase disability rates and index them to inflation.
  - Create supports for young people who are no longer dependents to establish themselves outside of their parents' home. Stop the cutting-off of services based on age. Establish a transition plan to help with supports including housing, income, etc.
  - Allow someone on PWD to keep their benefits and coverage when marrying or living with someone who is working.
  - Further increaes PWD and income assistance to reflect inflation over the years or higher rental/food amounts.
  - Get rid of \$ penalty for marriage- allow both partners to keep what they are getting – get rid of spousal claw backs.
  - Significantly increase welfare and disability rates to the Market Basket Measure, and index them to the cost of living.

- Increase income and disability rates significantly to bring them into line with actual living expenses, indexing them to the annual rise in the cost of basic living expenses.
- Give seniors their full benefits based on their own claim not based on two in a household. Stop splitting the amount if there is a couple.
- Guaranteed raise to income assistance and disability rates to meet \$1600/month for a single person.
- Housing portion of social assistance that fluctuates to match market value of rent in a particular area.
- Improve assistance rates to include a budget for food.
- Increase in housing portion of assistance to account for utilities.
- Increase shelter amounts for PWD and income assistance. An increase to a minimum of \$700/month for the housing portion would substantially effect chronic homelessness.
- Change of support rate for 2-person file so that when 2 people join files their support rate does not decrease when compared to 2 people who are not on file together.
- Increase shelter portions from \$325 to \$500.
- Increase social assistance, CPP, OAS, GIS-currently not enough to live off of.
- Increase social assistance/disability rates to match cost of living and current cost of housing rates.
- Increase the money for single parents and seniors.
- Increase welfare/disability rates: tie IA to cost of living - \$1500 instead of \$710.
- Increase welfare and disability rates to the Market Basket Measure and index them to the cost of living, and remove the arbitrary barriers that discourage, delay and deny people in need.
- An increase to the long-frozen Senior's Supplement would really be appreciated.
- Work with the federal government to increase the Old Age Security (OAS), the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and update CPP.
- Raise Income Assistance per year to lowest tax bracket.
- Review LICO, change it so more people can qualify for assistance.
- Tiered disability payment system (depending on severity and longevity of illness-disability).
- Increase PWD income.
- We recommend increasing income assistance rates to the Market Basket Measure to ensure that people can live with dignity.
- The Government of British Columbia increase social assistance rates generally and, notably, for people over the age of 55 who may be designated as able to work but who have difficulty finding jobs owing to the combination of age and reduced fitness.
- Budget tailored to person (responsibility). People may spend money on drugs, while others can manage money better.
- Adjust provincial social program criteria upward to take in account indexes to federal pensions. [Presently seniors are having these increased amounts clawed back from provincial programs.]

- Adjustment to the shelter portion to reflect the actual cost of renting MUST be addressed NOW.
- For people who are receiving Social Assistance, they are not allocated enough money to pay rent, as there is a lack of affordable housing options. If they are able to pay rent, very little money is leftover for all other needs.
- Raise welfare rates.
- Bring back volunteer supplement.
- Double the PWD rate, increase all rates, including CPP.
- Expand the support to all income assistance clients & seniors (retired).
- Increase in IA/PWD/PPP/PPPD/PPPR/CIS/PPMB/SAFER allowances.
- Remove the concept of family unit, a family needs two incomes to function, that includes PWD income regardless of a partner's income.
- Stop reducing welfare rates when children are removed on temporary orders.
- HEALTHY food, and provide access to funds for that. Even if to continue to get the funds you have to hand in a receipt showing your buying healthy.
- We need reform in this system of social development. We NEED A HIGHER SHELTER ALLOWANCE. NOWHERE can you find rent for 350. Absolutely impossible.
- Significant increases to social assistance rates and an end to rules and requirements that discourage, delay and deny access to social assistance.
- Work with the federal government to abandon Bill C 27 - An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985. [A real threat to seniors pension benefits].
- I deserve to receive my pathetic shelter allowance of \$375 per month regardless of whether I own my own home, live with my son or live in a cardboard box in a back alley. I deserve to have the current shelter amount and other allowances calculated according to my individual situation and the cost of living in the area in which I live because not all areas of the province have the same cost of living.
- Raise welfare and disability rates and remove barriers to access e.g. language; rescind the rule that does not permit income assistance recipients to receive benefits while enrolled in post-secondary education programs.
- We should receive our funds according to the WEEKS in a month as some are 5 week months and we get the same as 4 week months!!
- Because we can NOT work we should be entitled to at least minimum wage pay @ \$12.65x8hrsx5days = \$506 weekly. 4 weeks= \$2024 5weeks = \$2530.
- Ensure that the rent supplement assistance that is available takes local rental rates and local rental market conditions into consideration.
- Rent allowance from social assistance is ridiculous – should be at least \$900/month.
- Abolish the Family Unit that views a two-parent family as ONE income, instead of TWO SEPARATE incomes.

## **Income and Disability Assistance Earnings Exemptions**

- Gradually phase in and out the earnings exemption.

- Allow people on fixed income to earn money, or at least more money (living wage, or \$45,000, or equal to assistance) without being penalized. For at least 1-3 months, 6 months, one year, or without a time limit. For everyone, or for moms, or individuals with disabilities. For all work, or for day labour, part-time work, or odd-jobs.
- Figure out how to change the maximum allowable incomes for all affected.
- Consider the client's actual situation when setting the earnings exemption.
- Stop clawbacks for IA, PPMB, and/or PWD. e.g. Child support. CPP. CCPD. increases indexed in federal pensions. Death benefits. E.I. Lottery winnings. WCB.
- Return clawbacks like to the CCPD, to clients, without any penalties or expectations of reduction of benefits.
- Increase earnings exemptions.
- While recognizing the governments previous work in increasing earnings exemptions for income and disability assistance recipients, we recommend the further enhancement of the earning exemption. We further recommend, as with assistance rates, linking current and future earnings exemptions to inflation so they do not stagnate over time as prices increase.
- Allow roommates to share places with no penalties or money clawbacks if on social assistance.
- Eliminate "claw back" for people who are working.
- End clawbacks on inheritance, gifts and other sources of additional income for people receiving income assistance.
- End automatic common law designation and associated clawbacks for people living with roommates and receiving income assistance.
- Should earn 100% of earned income (not deducted/"clawbacks").
- Increase earnings exemptions, and remove arbitrary barriers and clawbacks that discourage, delay and deny people in need.
- Change rules which will allow low income earners to purchase and retain assets.
- Increase PWD allowable income.
- Instead of deducting earnings from social assistance have government match the earnings for 6-12 months as an incentive and support for individuals to get back on their feet.
- Make inheritances exempt.
- No claw backs on existing programs/services with the introduction of new programs/services.
- Eliminate the current policy of designating CPP benefits for those between the ages of 60 and 65 as 'unearned income' as opposed to income from employment as it applies to the Annual Income Exemption (AIE).
- We recommend the province works with its federal counterparts to establish parallel provincial and federal earnings exemptions, particularly for individuals who receive provincial and federal disability benefits concurrently.
- ALLOW disabled people to collect disability with NO CLAWBACKS so long as the household income is below say 80k a year for 2 people.

- Presently, BC deducts most CPP, CPP-D and EI benefits dollar for dollar from provincial income and disability assistance benefits. We recommend at minimum the introduction of a partial exemption, recognizing that people who have contributed financially to these plans should enjoy at least partial support from these programs. We recommend a minimum of \$100 received be exempted from PWD/PPMB income.
- Allow ownership of assets on welfare and PWD.
- Allow PWDs to choose between annual and monthly earnings exemption.
- Clarify communications around the AEE to reduce confusion.
- Do not deduct incomes of working spouse from PWD assistance cheque.
- Do not deduct child's income from single parents assistance.
- Allow more categories of exemptions on unearned income.
- Stop making poor kids declare their income and take the child's income from the parents so that the parents also have to take the money from their child.
- Support ways for people to gain employment without risking their safety net in PWD. Look at changing how PWD is clawed back in relation to income (i.e. in a staggered way to incentivize employment and build income/reduce poverty).
- Provincial welfare and disability rates need to be increased to the standard of living.
- Training allowance exemption for assistance.
- Change current policy regarding women fleeing violence and: Allow women escaping violence to pursue education while receiving income assistance.
- Expand the range of post secondary education and training options for people on income assistance and remove the job search requirement while they are acquiring new skills.
- Acknowledge that volunteer work is an important part of the continuum of employment by excluding volunteer stipends as earned income.
- Raise all asset limitations for those accessing IA to bring them in line with asset limitations for those on PWD.
- Stop the requirement to apply early for CPP or Private Pensions.
- Unused exemption limits should be carried over to future years rather than being reset each year before being exhausted and also have any unused vacation time & overtime be carried over to future years.
- Continue to provide medical support despite increases in income.
- Allow youth to work even if parents are on welfare.
- The hold back of one month when income is declared affects a household's budget- it would be an easy fix logistically and would help individuals who are trying to get ahead.
- What they do with people with disability allowing them to earn so much is really helpful so they should to the same with regular income assistance.
- Look at asset limits -permit PWD recipients to own certain types of assets (e.g. homes, cars, etc) greater than \$100,000.

## **Income and Disability Assistance General**

- A more humane income assistance system.
- All clients should be provided livable income (whether disability or employable). Ministry staff then should focus on providing life skills, budgeting plans, and direction for obtaining employment.
- Allow more independence regarding where people spend their welfare money.
- Autonomy to make personal financial decisions.
- Be tougher on those playing the system.
- Longer term, sustainable outcomes, realistic goals.
- Budgeting information included on ministry cheques.
- Introduce a "Welfare to work" program for serious job seekers: One option for a new paradigm for a welfare-to-work program (W2W) might be to allow social assistance recipients OPT-IN for such a program in which they would be allowed to receive extra added on benefits for a brief period of 1-3 months. During this initial intensive period, an actual timeline introducing goals and benchmarks would include events that lead to a successful completion of their schematic.
- First find out who is making an effort to make ends meet/ do for themselves. See what could assist them in their goals of managing everything. Not everyone wants to change/better their situation.
- Do not penalize for having RRSP's if want to apply for assistance.
- Raise employment obligation for females to 5 again, due to inadequate child care and job prospects.
- Include greater flexibility in the design of the program.
- Do not penalize those making efforts to lift themselves from poverty, i.e. reduce allowance for rent when sacrifices are made with quality of housing (choose to live in tent to support academic goals).
- Have a transitional month where people have support in their transition from IA to employment.
- Give people the things they don't have. Don't only offer money. Offer resources and basic things (shampoo, food, bus passes, toothbrush).
- Having more integrated welfare/child tax/child subsidy systems.
- Income to be bi-weekly to budget better for us who struggle from cognitive delays, brain injury, FASD, addictions, mental health.
- Instead of having a mass payout of assistance funds try a method where a person is assessed and payment for some is in the middle of the month and for others at the end of the month.
- Maybe use a point system. Different people given different amounts of points that can be exchanged for things.
- More resources for PWD (access through Career Link?).
- Let people decide, self-govern.
- Part of the education plan should be to ensure that those being assisted realize that they are part of the solution and not the problem. Just as they wish to receive respect and understanding, they need to show respect and participation.
- Perhaps the Ministry could team up with a bank or credit union to allow clients to all have the opportunity to have a bank account rather than wasting so much money every month cheque cashing institutions like Money Mart. Many clients

lose their money on cheque issue week because they have no bank or home to keep it in.

- Provide incentives to work for people on IA/PWD.
- Start with meeting basic needs (food, shelter, hygiene, laundry, medical services) in a dignified way, then other more person-specific needs can be worked on.
- Stop deducting family tax from assistance cheques.
- Benefits for kids should never be clawed back.
- Revising the reporting processes of disability benefits.
- Services in BC are by choice only however those that are able to work should be required to attend addiction services etc. in order to be able to receive welfare.
- The client can decide who to pay rent to, if they should buy smokes or groceries. More control over their life choices and less work for Ministry staff. Then staff could be retrained in teaching parenting skills, budget management, drug/alc counselling & referrals and offer that to help people manage their own lives.
- The system needs to take into consideration where the person comes from generationally and their personal experiences when interacting and allocating resources.
- The welfare system cheques come out on the last WEDNESDAY of each month with at least 3 banking days left in the month. This system creates a 5 week period between cheques, 5 times per year. Why does the cheque date have to be on a Wednesday? If the system was changed to 3 banking days before the end of the month, REGARDLESS of the day, it would even the number of days between payments. It's hard enough to make the monthly payment last for 4 weeks, let alone 5!
- Welfare needs to give shelter money to pay landlords because landlords won't take welfare checks.
- Please don't treat us like we are all criminals by having a question about a warrant for your arrest on monthly report.
- Those who are not able to return to work or are unable to complete training are moved in to the disability category faster, which is better for their mental health.
- Use the social model of disability rather than the medical model of disability for criteria to qualify.
- Eliminate shelter/support distinction – homeless need shelter \$ regardless.
- Issue assistance biweekly.
- Finding ways to give these people [people living on disability pensions] basic housing and healthcare (including dental and optometry and pharmacare), \*\*supportive childcare\*\* (this would be a major game changer for so many of them) and ensuring they have access to food would be life changing and would enable them to care for themselves and get them off the hands of the workers who could focus on the mentally ill, the addicted, or the simple minded who just can't seem to put the puzzle of self-care together.
- We recommend you review the current compensation and compliance system for medical professionals assisting in benefit applications, and create necessary changes to increase the level of support offered to low-income people.

- Develop a new evidence informed distribution framework that emphasizes convenience and community wellbeing. Consult investigators leading the BC Centre on Substance Use's 'Cheque Day Study' on the potential impacts of changing payment timing and frequency. Also seek input and feedback from recipients of IA and employers to develop framework.
- The Ministry doesn't encourage volunteering but they should –it might be a way to people to leave income assistance.
- For me personally I would like to have reinstated the system where we get a cheque every 4 weeks and only twice a year every 5 weeks.
- Change how shelter is defined, issued.
- Clients should receive one lump sum that includes support and shelter, not a separate benefit for shelter – this greatly reduces administrative work (ie. Increase in amount allotted for shelter; Including internet as shelter allowance).
- Government program in collaboration with community resources/programs to assist clients with working, encourages clients to work instead of depending on Income Assistance, without penalizing them.
- Make people collecting welfare meet a work/ volunteer requirement (10-20hrs a week) getting them skills is so important to getting them into the work force and into a position to get out of poverty . Teach these 3 rules that have proven to reduce chances of poverty. Finish highschool . Work 40hrs a week. and don't have babies before marriage.
- Reinstated the Volunteer Supplement program – provides clients with opportunities to gain skills, confidence, participate in the community.
- Restructure the stub reporting process, form itself.
- Allow employable clients to have access to more supplements, such as health supplements, transportation, medical supplies.
- Program/partnership between ministry and technology non-profit to provide any Income Assistance client who desires a working desktop or laptop and printer.
- Exempt income before intake application, applicants would have exhausted that income, it is punitive to deduct that income when they apply.
- Hardship clients should have access to supplements and benefits (ie. diet supplements, income exemptions, clinic fees).
- Revisit the ID process, requirements for clients; It can become extremely onerous and challenging for clients who continually have to re-apply for IDs.
- More support for children.
- More resources for indigenous peoples in order to provide culturally appropriate supports.
- Mandatory drug testing for income assistance recipients.
- Stop verifying shelter arrangements with third parties. The current process is unnecessarily intrusive, and furthermore, results in precarious housing for many applicants and recipients. Issue the maximum amount of shelter allowance to every applicant/recipient, regardless of their shelter situation. Alternatively, eliminate separate support and shelter allowances altogether, and establish a single maximum amount of income or disability assistance for every person or family unit.



- Allow welfare recipients to attend post-secondary education and get apprenticeships.
- The Government of British Columbia work with the Government of Canada to provide for an easier and more timely process for seniors transitioning from social assistance to Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement.
- Allow people to pursue education while on income assistance.
- The Ministry should be collecting statistics on how many applications for income assistance are abandoned.
- Restore the volunteer supplement, for new volunteers.
- Providing special allowances for occasional purchases, such as mattresses, furniture and household goods.
- MSDPR should provide a dietary allowance to cancer survivors so that they have the resources to access nutritious food.
- Homeless people need more access to pick up their cheques –maybe they could be available through the churches.
- In some ways PWD and Income Assistance should fall under separate areas in the Ministry.
- When accessing student loans, do not cut off welfare.
- There should be more criteria around continuing to receive disability assistance to prevent misuse.
- Provide medical support to people receiving PWD support.
- Build a formal ID bank so people can access their IDs.
- Stop banning people from services like 866 #, Northern Health Bus.
- Keep people accountable.
- Make the “beginning” experience harmless- it feels good for people to try and succeed.
- Need to create a system that encourages feedback.
- Change the terminology of the programs – make it more positive.
- PPMB should automatically roll over to PWD after 2 years if you have the qualifying factors, less paperwork and applications!
- The crisis grants need to be more accessible.
- Social assistance payments should have a program with targets/supports so that payments do not keep going on endlessly with no progress made.
- People need help so that they do not get denied their cheques.
- Need to evaluate the level of assistance provided.
- Stop lying to people in poverty.
- Allow individuals on income assistance to pursue self employment ideas.
- Consider the possibility of two levels of disability like they have in Alberta, where people who are permanently disabled and unable to work have a higher monthly premium
- Guarantee access to income assistance for all regardless of citizenship status.
- Create a system where it's mandatory for everyone collecting assistance to do a minimum amount of volunteer hours monthly to get their cheques.
- Make assistance recipients accountable for their spending, producing receipts for example.

- Rather than solely supporting basic income, social assistance recipients emphasized developing diverse strategies of social and economic care, such as: expanded healthcare benefits (including dental), improved employment transition programs, reopening ministry offices, increase access to services, and engagement with communities and stakeholders.
- A bday bonus would help.
- Access to appropriate clothing; possibly twice annually. Increase in supports in general.
- Additional EA supports for children with special needs.
- Change the name of pensions. People are treated differently on pensions. PWD should be changed to be called pensions, to reduce the stigma PWD recipients receive.
- Give people on PWD the full range of supplements they qualify for without requiring additional paperwork and appeals.
- Increase xmas supplement \$30 can buy 3 xmas cards THATS it.
- Increased and specific supports for single mothers.
- Increased funding for work clothing and gear. teeth cleaning, hair cutting/ grooming, gas cards, bus passes...everything required to get up and go to work without any unnecessary stress. Once a year extra clothing allowance to buy nice clothing for job interviews.
- Don't penalise people attending educational programs or full time courses by taking away social assistance.
- Nutrition supplement/basic food allowance.
- Stop debt collection for security deposit supplement.
- Pressure our provincial government to allow parents who are collecting financial assistance to attend training / upgrading schools, increase access to mental health care and provide low cost quality childcare.
- Provide food cards more than \$10.
- Relook at the general supplements, like dental coverage, eye coverage, etc. We need to increase medical cost provision because the benefits haven't kept up with inflation. Put a cap on medical costs.
- Remove the barriers for people on IA or PWD to move to less expensive communities.
- We need an income-transition plan for those moving from welfare to work.
- Tack on a clothing supplement once per year at christmas time not having to declare you are nude to get clothes.
- Welfare should pay for storage to keep your belongings.
- Income assistance should have a debit card they load your funds onto so that people with bad credit, or little to no ID can access their funds without paying a fee to a cheque cashing institution, or signing their cheque over to a friend or a shady business to access their funds
- Give references and resumes from the Ministry.
- The Ministry offices should be videotaped – it could help to reduce the level of bullying.

- Create contingency funding so that people on social assistance can “get out of the hole” despite unexpected financial setbacks.
- Have system to not reveal income assistance client being on income assistance.
- People need to be able to speak up without fear that they will be cut off.
- Social Assistance should allow more time to pay back damage deposits so it's less monthly coming off SA cheques.
- Availability of Emergency funds (IE: to prevent hydro cut-off, evictions, parents needing food or items for their babies) without government red tape and long wait times.
- Medical/dental needs to be available (same as disability rate) for those on basic assistance.
- Government needs to “top-up” allowance for low income units.
- Restrict access to welfare and subsidies to people, but instead offer them roof, clothing, food and access to information such as internet connection.
- We recommend the definition of spouse that applies to income assistance and disability assistance recipients be harmonized with that in family law. Presently, the definition of “spouse” adopted in the Employment and Assistance Act and the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act is much more restrictive (3 months) than the one accepted in the Family Law Act (2 years).
- If you are receiving training you shouldn't be cut off assistance.
- Perhaps people receiving income assistance could get the security contract for government and in this way they would have access to jobs and opportunities. This type of model has been done before – a good example is West Virginia.
- Give travel allowance – for PWD – so people can make it to more appointments.
- Let people complete their recovery plan for income assistance.
- Excessive wait times and unreasonable criteria.
- Address on/off reserve income assistance discriminatory policies: end them.
- Remove claw backs that discourage, delay and deny people in need.
- Allow people in need to receive benefits while enrolled in post-secondary education programs.
- Clothing allowance should be accumulating.
- Consider people's pets and provide increased funding for those who own one.
- Remove unnecessary eligibility criteria. Flexible application rules. Generally more flexibility regarding criteria for families.
- End the practice of denying income assistance benefits based on the existence of outstanding warrants.
- Provide adequate and accessible income support for the non-employed.
- Remove policy barriers so that recipients can build and maintain assets.
- Less rules to get on assistance.
- Remove barriers to accessing assistance including excessive wait times and unreasonable criteria.
- Remove claw backs that discourage, delay and deny people in need including allowing them to receive benefits while enrolled in post-secondary education programs.

- Recommendation to work with federal government to establish standard compensation fee for doctors / nurse practitioners for completing DTC applications, not unlike application fees provided for provincial PWD applications.
- Promoting less intrusive and less stigmatizing means testing.
- Disability application should better allow for eligibility based on co-occurring functional challenges suggestive of cognitive or mental health challenges which are not able to be fully evaluated.
- PLEASE no lifetime ban for anybody wishing income assistance for being negative this is BRUTAL they should have a cool off period of 30 days and NO lifetime ban this would drive somebody to suicide.
- Re-examine ID requirements needed for accessing assistance.
- The one month wait period for new applicants to receive social assistance benefits should be removed.
- Provide access to adaptive equipment without excessive wait times.
- Review the PPMB designation as recommended by the BC Ombudsperson, including assessing the current eligibility criteria, the screening tool and what constitutes a 'barrier' to employment. Make it WAY easier to access the 'Persons with Multiple Persistent Barriers' Income assistance designation. This should be an easy to access income assistance category if you are experiencing barriers to stability, be it mental illness, anxiety or trauma.
- Base eligibility on current income only in calendar month of application date.
- Remove the 'age 3' work requirement for parents with children on welfare and shift to new Access to Opportunities framework outlined above; women are ready when they decide.
- Individualized approach, reducing barriers by getting rid of online forms and wait times, should be able to get support before the individual has nothing to their name (i.e.: need to exhaust RRSPs before getting income assistance).
- Remove work search requirements and reframe this aspect of the system as an 'Access to Opportunities' support framework to achieve economic stability if and when an individual is ready: each person's pathway out of the system will be unique, requiring differing combinations of education, training, work, supported transitions to work, and nobody should be pressured or forced off the system, in particular those in current struggles with mental health, health, addictions, special needs children, and more.
- Change the income assistance legislation to do away with legislated barriers, such as the 2 year independence rule, or requiring people to have been on welfare for 12 out of the last 15 months before they can apply for Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers to employment.
- In addition to eliminating it, acknowledge the two year financial independent test a misguided strategy for promoting self-reliance.
- Remove unfair barriers preventing people from receiving income assistance that are arbitrary— e.g. the 5-week work search, restrictions based on citizenship status, the two-year independence test.
- Provide or subsidize affordable internet. Need computers or phone to access services. Bring back payphones at Ministry offices.

- BCID and DL not tied to MSP.
- Improve access to PWD and PPMB IA categories. Ideas include
- Reform IA applicant categorization process to ensure individuals are categorized appropriately and quickly.
- Update the eligibility tool for PPMB status to recognize mental health and addictions as barriers to employment.
- Eliminate 12-15 month waiting period to access PPMB IA designation.
- Allow the local office to assess.
- Make it easier for PPMB clients to transition to PWD.
- Allow for automatic change to PWD status after 2 years.
- Discard the stigmatizing 'Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers' category.
- Removal of sanctions (ie. When applicants are fired).
- Please, we need a complete overhaul of our social assistance system.
- Requirement to look for work shouldn't start until [children] school age (or older).
- Draconian rules and questions about a person's life should not be asked every month and should not have a bearing on whether they are eligible or not. EG: Is there any changes to the people living in your household. Make PWD like a pension (less reporting).
- Stop strict criteria to get help. There should be no means test.
- Reduce the layers of bureaucracy that make it difficult to access (i.e. the name on the birth certificate and passport did not match so service was denied).  
Access to ID.
- Change PWD policy so nurses can do it; more health care professionals.
- Allow people to take training/education and to continue to receiving assistance.
- Allow people to stay on welfare for a few years to build up equity/security.
- People should not have to be eligible for welfare to qualify for disability.
- Make the clothing supplement more available.
- The Ministry needs to review and adjust the appeals process – this includes re-vamp the system so it doesn't cost so much to complain.
- Remove justification to rec'd crisis supplement.
- Have more qualified professionals be able to sign off on PWD applications.
- Allow social workers to sign off on PWD.
- Have to lower the requirements – X number of weeks on EI.
- Reform policy so that families do not have to claim dependent children's income on housing subsidies and income assistance.
- Identify the marginal individuals and families and get them assistance before they lose fundamentals.
- Incentives to work (cover equipment/ supplies for part time work).
- Unless on disability, have people do something to earn a portion of their income assistance cheque as it would instill pride as well as give experience for a resume.
- Improve information provided to recipients about the supports available to them if they choose to work and minimize fear that working will negatively impact benefits.

- Help people bridge off social assistance by providing medical and 1 months wages, exempting income.
- Remove arbitrary barriers that discourage, delay and deny people in need.
- Increase or remove vehicle exemption limit.
- Remove the punitive measure of the \$200 penalty clawback (\$100 per month for two months) for failure to meet work search requirements.
- An anonymous feedback mechanism for clients of the Min. of Social Development and Poverty Reduction available on a permanent basis.
- Welfare money should be given using bank card every two days in order for poor people like in Downtown Eastside not to use it to buy drug.
- Team up with Telus to provide a low cost telephone, and internet service for Persons on a disability pension.
- I deserve to be informed of my rights as well as my responsibilities in writing; to receive written notice of changes to my benefits and other supports (ie. prescription eyewear, dental, work training, etc.).

## **Basic Income**

- Work with federal government to implement universal basic income/ guaranteed livable income.
- Abolish SA and move towards a guaranteed income system across the board.
- Explore and/or implement a universal basic income / guaranteed annual income. Income should be high enough to meet an adequate standard of living including basic necessities such as nutritious food, safe housing, and discretionary spending to participate in community life. Examples include: \$2,000/mo for 1 adult; above the poverty rate; more than \$710; \$1,000; \$1,900; \$27,500 per annum. Use a cost of living calculation for the region, or sub-region. Index it.
- Work with academics and experts to develop basic income.
- Provide a basic income to women to support their independence.
- A basic income should not be the only program for children and families and that government needs to consider housing, childcare and healthcare.
- I would really appreciate a formal discussion about basic income. I'd like to see it debated. I think there could be serious benefits, but I'm not sure how it would be implemented and I worry about the expense.
- The ideal basic income would be irrespective of age.
- Guaranteed basic income BUT don't lose what we already have; strengthen income support programs both provincially and nationally for all populations.
- offer an Individual Living Income for adults (not families as this doesn't work when the family splits up).
- Guaranteed Income – where all individuals under a certain income level receive a guaranteed income that is enough to cover basic costs and allow themselves to move out of that income level if possible.
- Discussion of alternatives to a basic income included raising the minimum wage and creating rent control.

- Develop a pathway for amalgamating programs that seek to reduce income inequities under a Guaranteed Annual Income framework for all British Columbians based on trials currently underway in Ontario and in Europe. Ensure that BC trials begin in communities that have been hardest hit by boom and bust resources downturns.
- If the system does adopt basic income, or expansion of services, the government needs to move away from the stigmatizing and oppressive practice of requiring proof that the person is deserving of support. The experiences and circumstances of racialized/marginalized/oppressed groups are often ignored within universal systems and a basic income scheme might do the same.
- Young people's input should be sought in any basic income modeling.
- Monitor the progress and evaluation of Ontario Pilot Projects on Basic Income.
- The senior population is not homogenous and there needs to be an intersectional approach when determining basic income needs for seniors.
- Conduct a Guaranteed Annual Income pilot as has been investigated elsewhere in Canada, with rigorous evaluation of the health benefits and cost-effectiveness.
- Support a guaranteed income – should be universal not means tested.
- Create a basic income that is by right.

## **General Financial Security**

- Improved EI benefits and access.
- Allow more money into the hands of the poor. Help reduce debt with the poor.
- Better safety net so seniors don't fall into poverty – maybe a crisis fund?
- Support seniors living with students/ children.
- Automatic Enrollment into Canada Learning Bond and other savings plans. Ontario recently implemented an initiative through which new parents will be contacted by a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) provider to start the process of opening a RESP for their newborn. We recommend implementing a similar initiative in BC as well as an expansion of this initiative for families of children born with disabilities to expedite the opening of a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP).
- The disabled and unemployable need to be accepted as such, and supports need to reflect no expectation of return to work, while still supporting persons who may improve in regards to their conditions.
- We need healthcare, we need a little more money, support and there should be free training to get us off disability the same way people with children on social assistance get.
- As a person on pwd I fully support the idea of making it a requirement of recipients to take a budgeting class. If not a class perhaps a budget multiple choice questionnaire that shows basic understanding of how to budget, save, differences between wants and needs.
- All government agencies should become more efficient, for example, when registering seniors for benefits once they qualify. A suggestion was the federal

government use the data they keep on people when they file their yearly taxes to automatically enroll seniors for the benefits they qualify for.

- While the underlying structural issues that lead to poverty must be addressed, there also needs to be greater investment in maintaining an effective social safety net for those in need.
- Many low-income British Columbians also require greater support in accessing financial information and advice, and strategies such as investing in financial literacy to support decision making can make a difference. At the same time, there is also a need to focus on strategies that support marginalized and vulnerable populations in gaining employment, and removing employment barriers for British Columbians living with a disability.
- Elders earning extra income, through honorarium or art, should be an available option for elders without it affecting their Old Age Security or Pension payment amounts.
- The Government of British Columbia work with the Government of Canada to increase the baseline payments for Old Age Security, the Canada Pension Plan, and the Guaranteed Income Supplement and to ensure that the payments keep pace with inflation.
- A “rent bank” or small loans program.
- Recommendation that the province work with the federal government to make changes to the RDSP, allowing withdrawals after 10 years for specific purposes (such as housing, education, medical services, home care/support) with no penalty or clawbacks of federal funds.
- Address the inequity of the cost of rural living with tax credits similar to Northern Living Allowance type of thing.
- Financial support programs for newcomers.
- Increase access to EI or IA for people who have good jobs but only for 4 months out of the year.
- Municipal, provincial and federal support around providing more subsidized programs like low income housing and daycare.
- Adopt a “youth/family” living in poverty. A rich person could do this for tax deductions.
- More support for women and more support for seniors living in poverty.
- Affordable vet care for low income pet owners.
- Bring back northern living allowance (taxes).
- Broaden disability insurance to include those who have an autoimmune disorder.
- Create more awareness and incentive to save for retirement.
- Create a low-income lottery. A person in poverty could buy a ticket to win essential services such as food, groceries, gas coupons, house cleaning or babysitting. The rich would contribute to the system by paying into the lottery and receipting a tax receipt, in addition to contributing to services, such as babysitting.
- Recommendation to work with the federal government to ensure that all BC First Nations are enrolling in CPP for their employees and that the federal government provides adequate funding support to Nations to ensure this happens.



- Discount for B.C. Hydro, phone services and even entertainment discounts for family, senior and single people, like the city does with leisure passes. BC Hydro rebate cheques. Government subsidies for high costs of utilities in the north.
- I would like to suggest that the Payday Loans Regulations under the Business Practices and Consumers Protection Act be amended.
- Caps on interest rates for subprime loans.
- Don't force one spouse into poverty or bankruptcy to pay for the care needs of the other spouse.
- Easier navigation and quicker processing time for income assistance, PWD, court ordered payments, and reissuing child tax and welfare benefits (when children are returned home).
- Duplicate programs from other provinces/countries here to better support people with the extra costs of having a disability.
- Financial supports for people based on past history.
- Grants for microfinance or social enterprise opportunities to help provide opportunities for people living in poverty.
- Has money in an RDSP but can't take it out and starving today-make the rules more flexible.
- Higher disability exemption in the taxes.
- Easier application to OAS, CPP.
- Hire SCI BC to create a yearly breakdown of the actual costs of having SCI (equipment, housing, medications, etc.) gathered from people with SCI to help the government understand the extraordinary costs.
- Individualized funding, lump sum payments based on need per year, so that people with disabilities can choose their own medical equipment company or other provider and choose the equipment or supplies that they know work best for them.
- Look into granting people with disability status, and are not eligible for CPP disability, a pension of their own and health care regardless of marital status and spouses income.
- Make disability supports a federal program like OAS, topped up by the province of residence where cost of living is high.
- Make income security federal (to allow portability across Canada).
- Make transit infrastructure accessible.
- Metis Seniors/Elders need to have adequate financial support.
- Metis specific dollars to develop and administer Metis specific services.
- More access to money provided for community to meet emergency needs. More money to nonprofits to be able to support and provide for low income singles and families.
- Support for people who work (fulltime or part-time) but who still need help yet don't fall into specific categories for financial help (falling through the cracks) More help from government (funds, programs).
- People with disability - CPP who are under 65 years of age often fall through the cracks. We do not get OAS or GIS.
- More financial assistance for working poor.

- More tax breaks for single moms would help, much needed, “when we start working”.
- No tax on used items; i.e. Thrift Stores/Value Village.
- Open CPP to personal contributions to increase possible pension benefits at retirement.
- Participants identified Individualized Funding as a solution to meeting their needs, although they expressed concern over how complicated the CISL program (Choices in Supports for Individualized Living) is to operate, describing it as tantamount to running a small business.
- Pay Honourariums / parents to be home with current livable hourly pay of \$22 per hour.
- Penticton has dozens of agencies that serve people with challenges in their lives. Why not empower and enable those agencies and our agency to provide what most people in poverty really need - and it's not a one-size fits none payment. In Summerland, we have implemented an emergency fund to cover the worst of these situations - but we shouldn't have to go begging.
- Preventative support system as opposed to a crisis driven system, equal for everyone who requires it.
- Provide subsidies for the extra costs that people with disabilities have.
- Providing resources at a reasonable cost.
- Provincial government and municipalities could implement a deferred water and utilities fee- termed a Deferred Utilities Bill ( similar to a reverse mortgage).
- Remove the grade requirement from SPEI.
- Shouldn't have to pay city taxes on services and facilities he can't physically use (e.g.. inaccessible venues).
- Sometimes small amounts of money can make a big difference, such as \$ to help people get valid ID (without which they can't get welfare).
- Speed up EI qualification with fewer hours and higher rates.
- Subsidize property taxes for low income seniors.
- Supply a housing rental supplement for families who make minimum wage.
- Supports for car insurance.
- Supports for unanticipated life events/ new immigrants/ community, neighbourhood actions.
- Trade yard work for food and clothing.
- The federal government use the data they keep on people when they file their yearly taxes to automatically enroll seniors for the benefits they qualify for.
- We need enough money to rent a place to live by our self having a room-mate does not work.
- Where there is proof that we are paying more for services and basics, either we need to be able to receive some relief or the businesses that serve us need to receive incentives to lower costs in line with city services.
- Widow pension shouldn't have so many restrictions.
- Work with the federal government to abandon Bill C 27. This bill greatly threatens the income that seniors receive. A downward change in the way pensions are

calculated will drastically affect seniors and put extreme pressure on social programs.

- Yearly average for Hydro bills to be paid monthly directly from our income before we get our cheques and reconciled when we move if needed.
- More support for single parents of special need children.
- Outreach to 'big money' institutions for support (e.g. Safeway) (pricing geared to income as subsidy – could be ID or swipe card controlled), including social bonds, partnerships between faith groups, businesses and non-profits.
- Use the GST tax credit, BC low income climate action tax credit, child benefits and other tax credit measures to lift people above the poverty line.
- Create legislation to control predatory Pay Day Loan companies from charging outrageous rates of interest and threatening tactics. Educate/provide awareness of predatory lending. END payday loan sharking. set limits on interest rates and fees.
- Curb predatory financial services to protect consumers who currently rely on high cost, alternative financial services.
- All low income people should not be lumped together- there are many pathways into poverty and homelessness like dementia, seniors who are in low income, people with disabilities, people with mental health issues.
- Provide ICBC insurance discounts for low income people.
- Use tax revenues from marijuana to fund social programs.
- Support organizations like VanCity have programs to serve low income clients.
- Adopt socialism - everyone earns the same minimum.
- Plane tickets to Fiji.
- Need early intervention, an overall approach, before IA becomes needed.
- Increase Employment Insurance benefits and reduce barriers to access.
- Use a sliding scale model to determine affordability instead of a fixed dollar value. It is very sad to be denied a bus pass because you earn one dollar over the cut off rate.
- Increase the BC Seniors Supplement for low income seniors that is currently \$49.30 per month and has not increased since 1989.
- Family bonuses consistent across Provinces.
- Implement proven solutions that help people with low incomes to save for emergencies as well as longer term goals.
- More money to nonprofits to be able to support and provide for low income singles and families.
- Provide parents with more funding to engage in recreational activities with kids.
- Help with looking after pets: eg spaying, vaccinations, etc.
- Access to equipment for work – work boots, camera, phone, computers.
- Higher quality coats, shoes, etc (eg coats 4 kids model).
- Need bedding – made available other than in thrift stores.
- Integrate national income support programs with other income so that, cumulatively, no Canadian falls below the nationally established poverty line.

- Increase Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) and Canada Disability Savings Grants (CDSGs) and Bonds (CDSBs) take-up, by investing in active outreach to families and individuals to connect them to these accounts.
- Implement a GST credit top-up of \$1800 per adult and child for those living below the poverty line.
- Increase the Working Income Tax Credit for low income families.
- Make the working tax credit more easy to access. It is not widely known about and does not appear clearly when people file taxes online.
- Do not just increase what we receive – decrease the costs of some services as well.
- Economic prosperity is part of the solution.
- We need to look at ways to reduce user fees.
- Other issue – no support for people with different needs (eg little person) to stay in home community.
- Clothing vouchers are not available in Quesnel. This type of service would be good in question.
- Shelters cost \$60 per day, so why not give the money to the individual to meet their needs although it might be the case that some individuals may not know how to use the money to improve their circumstances.
- New system for workers' compensation claims being accepted, not denied.
- Tax deductions should be considered – i.e. people in the north need a larger vehicle which means that they pay higher insurance – there should be a vehicle insurance differential.

## **ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

### **K-12**

- We support the BCPRC's call to fund K-12 education adequately to mitigate inequalities and to ensure sufficient library and special needs and programs are available to all learners.
- A greater emphasis on social/emotional skills all throughout school but in particular at elementary levels.
- A high school curriculum that includes how to actually live your life in high school along side the standard history, geography, science, arts, etc. Things like doing your taxes, how government works, cooking (not baking! Actual day-to-day cooking skills like cooking pasta and rice, making salad dressings, making sauces, spice combinations, etc.), credit management, how the housing market works, how mortgages work, interview skills, resume writing skills.
- Access to Elders and cultural resources and teachers; and also, more support for these Elders.
- Curriculum developed to reduce Metis discrimination and misunderstanding.
- All fees for school need to be eliminated-supplies, course fees, instrument rental, sports and field trips.

- Acknowledging the unique needs of Indigenous communities and integration into the school system.
- Aboriginal culture and history needs to be taught as a part of the curriculum.
- Better high school programs to prepare youth for post-secondary and the current job market.
- Ensure funding of public schools is adequate to reduce pressure on parents to fundraise to cover school expenses, a key goal for reducing inequities between schools and students and families of different income levels.
- Provide adequate capital funding for facility repair and maintenance, including seismic upgrades, as well as building new schools for growing districts.
- Ensure there are no barriers for children to attend public school.
- Need more resources to teach various native languages throughout the province in schools and post-secondary.
- Continue to restore funding to the K-12 public school system: in addition to more teachers, provide increased operating funding and resources to support the early identification, designation and appropriate educational programming for students with diverse learning needs and to restore other educational programs that have been decimated by inadequate funding to school districts, for example libraries and arts programs.
- Bilingual teachers in K-12.
- Bring back civics to the public school system.
- We need more cultural experts to share their knowledge and practices. There should be funded workshops for cultural/traditional education.
- Bring back small rural schools.
- Commit and fund additional human resources to support the early identification of students who may withdraw from their education prior to graduation.
- Create more culturally inclusive educational programs that supports all demographics.
- Cultural Competency: Reform BC's education system to ensure that students learn the history and impact of colonization on minority populations, specifically First Nations individuals within BC.
- Educate children in elementary on mindfulness and keeping mentally healthy.
- Teach Life skills in schools starting in Grade 8; update Planning 10.
- Educate students in elementary schools on the importance of respectful conduct.
- Educating children early so they know what should be addressed in their lives early.
- Ensure all professionals working with Aboriginal and immigrant students have a proven level of cultural competency and access to specialized training.
- Education needs to happen, [educational] system needs to change [with respect to Deaf people].
- Investing in Indigenous children learning their own cultures and history.
- Ensure the public education system supports children's mental health-related needs (this includes existing services like school counsellors), with a particular focus on children and youth in care.

- Offering more prevention support through the schools such as an increase in food programs, counselors, community volunteers, and teaching staff.
- Free lunch programs for children of all ages/grades.
- There needs to be more aboriginal support in school systems.
- Get life skills into the schools at an early age.
- Develop plan to support and reduce the drop-out rate among Metis students.
- Government funded extra-curricular activities: sports equipment costs covered.
- Have practicums/work experience built right into high school/ elementary school so children/young adults graduate with actual job skills.
- Implement money management (explain debt, compound interest, amortization and how credit works) in K-8.
- Teach Life Skills like budgeting, financial skills, cooking, meal planning, how to shop for groceries/save money. Include this in school curriculum. Teach it at an earlier age.
- Teach Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs in school so that kids can understand their basic needs. Teach resiliency in schools.
- Teach our students how to be effective self-advocates.
- Better school bus service.
- Nurses in schools.
- Make available educational support from a young age for special needs children.
- More (cheap) tutoring programs.
- More aides funded in schools.
- Need more grants and funding for youth to pursue artistic and creative opportunities.
- No fees for K-12 school children to go on trips, participate in activities or graduate.
- Prepare young people for adulthood by implementing life skills, budgeting training into high school curriculum.
- Bring in an educated person to do a thorough review [of how deaf students are taught] and report back to government.
- Revamp school curriculum to discard outdated and pointless education to include things like taxes, jobs, relationships, cooking and cleaning, gardening, self defense, proper and realistic in depth MODERN sexual health and biological education (not just these parts do this) to lift youth out of the education trap and failure to thrive because of useless education and zero life skills.
- More apprenticeships in school (i.e. hairdressing program, metal work program)
- School-based social workers are a good idea. (N.B. Mission recently piloted a school-based social worker program.)
- Schools need to be more flexible (i.e. for children and parents). Schools need to respond to problems with dignity and flexibility. They need to take a student-centred approach.
- Educating youth and informing them with what is going on in BC.
- In schools – counsellors, mental health assessments, resources.
- Smaller classrooms and access to more one-on-one educational assistance, to improve dropout rates.

- Start providing high school on the reserves or provide all native high schools we will never be successful in your system it is purposeful that FN does not succeed.
- Stop the teachers from holding all students and parents hostage every time their agreement comes up just so they can get a raise every time.
- We as a deaf community should be taught in our native language.
- Targeted career counselling sessions for Metis youth in grades 8 and 9 so they choose the correct academic prerequisite classes for future studies.
- Teach financial literacy in the school system.
- Teach people what their elected officials do, teach them how to vote, how to file taxes, how to invest their money and manage their lives.
- Consider supports to quicker access to psycho-educational assessment by register professionals (SLP; PT/OT; other) for individual education plans particularly in rural/remote communities.
- Adequately fund K-12 education to mitigate inequalities and to ensure adequate library staff and resources, and special needs assessment and support.
- The BCTF also recommends that government fully fund meals programs, improve funding for counsellors to assist families to overcome poverty-related barriers, and eliminate school fees.
- We also recommend that the government focus on improving classroom conditions, so teachers can address diverse learning needs (staffing ratios, class size).
- Work with First Nations communities and educators to develop a plan to increase the rate of Aboriginal children graduating from high school to the same rates as non-Aboriginal children within ten years.
- Fully funded quality system of Early Childhood Education.
- Need to provide preventative programs because children aren't always noticed until there is a problem.
- Reform the education system to prepare children for the jobs of the future and impart more practical life skills.
- We should have our own schools with culture and teach our language.
- Goal setting among youth.
- Introduce a civics curriculum that fosters solidarity and cultivates empathy, compassion and generosity of spirit.
- Assessments for children and adults (ie FASD, ADHD).
- Ensure all school boards work to eradicate out-of-pocket school fees and fundraising.
- Reduce the student drop-out rate, especially among Aboriginal students.
- Provide resources to foster the education of children from low-income households.
- The best way to reduce poverty in BC is to support at risk families, especially the children who are living in poverty. Schools with low socio-economic demographics often have less because funds for extras (playground equipment, iPads etc), and some essentials are left with the parent groups. Those in more affluent areas are at an obvious advantage.

- Students with learning challenges, mental health concerns and physical difficulties have to go through testing and assessments with outside agencies before qualifying to receive support. This process can take years. If children need help it should be available to them without conditions.
- Schools share counselors and the counselors cannot see those on their caseloads regularly. Many more speech therapists, occupational therapists and physios are needed, too.
- No more standardized tests in schools. More focus on how to learn, interest based over content based.
- There should be more funding for support workers in schools
- Extend school days – open schools as a “hub” (with staff) so kids always have a place to go where they feel safe (e.g. if parents are fighting).
- Educate kids in schools about mental health.
- Start early in elementary school with education on poverty.
- There should be more sex education.
- Wrap around care in schools.
- Education programs should include education on diversity, inclusion, social justice, inequality, stewardship, wealth.
- Have high schools offer trade programs.
- There is a need for more teachers who are not in the union who can teach in class.
- Have alternative Grades 10, 11, 12 for kids who are not successful in mainstream schools.
- BC Teachers Federation – starting salaries need to go from \$40,000 to \$50,000.
- Improve outcome for K to 12 education.
- Early childhood education on consequences of children/family planning.
- Need to have more supports within schools.
- Schools community – services, food, programs, dental.

## **Post-Secondary Education**

- Accessible post-secondary.
- Allow free tuition at colleges for people with disabilities.
- An education plan pinpointing where BC needs new working people. Sectors such as Nursing (caring for the aging population) Childcare, construction, office support, municipal workers, hospitality ect..and offer low or NO tuition fees.
- Cut college tuitions by 50 percent.
- Debt forgiveness for students, student loans.  
More funding for education and community based education.
- Eliminate post secondary tuition.
- FREE EDUCATION is key! We need to educate our workforce and the majority cannot afford post secondary education.
- Reduce post-secondary tuition fees, re-introduce a robust needs-based provincial grant program and provide interest free student loans.



- Post-secondary education for youth aging out-of-care should be supported without limits on age or their time in care.
- Funded post-secondary education at the Masters and Doctorate level - access to education funding need to be broadened (trades, advanced education).
- Increase access to higher-education by making a shift in how we support students. Free tuition, or at the very least, no-interest student loans, and do not restrict us away from University education, and stop favouring trades.
- Limit the number of international students who can come to BC. International students pay higher tuition, which makes them more attractive to schools.
- Make education affordable so people aren't paying off student loans for 30 years.
- Make it easier to get into post-secondary programs.
- Metis people do not receive any funding when pursuing a Masters or Doctorate. It is recommended that the Provincial Government provide such funding.
- More student loan funds for actual living.
- Reduce interest rates on student loans.
- Reduce tuition fees by 50% and increase the availability of post-secondary grants for low-income students.
- Better rules on education dollars.
- Since employers are seeking skilled workers, require post secondary schools to repay student tuition/loans if a significant portion of graduates cannot find employment.
- Post-secondary funds should be easier to access for youth or returning education adults.
- Need to know where the jobs are coming up and train to fill those jobs in the future – e.g., IT.
- The student loan debt process needs to be reviewed and changed. The daily interest is atrocious and the debt-forgiveness process is exhausting. There should be a point at which people can demonstrate that their income will not be changing (ie, PWD) and don't need to go bankrupt to get out of their loan.
- Waive the interest on student loans where students demonstrate a commitment to their learning and job opportunities.
- In the long term, federal and provincial governments should make post-secondary education free for Canadian residents.
- B.C.'s poverty reduction strategy should ensure strategies are in place to increase the accessibility and affordability of education, and ways to utilize educational facilities to provide additional services that support the social determinants of health such as food security, housing and social inclusion.
- Un-barriered access to education [for youth].
- Access to education for lone-parents.
- Increase participation of low-income and under-represented youth in post-secondary education by investing in Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada's Raising the Grade program.
- Allow migrant workers and their dependent children to pay the same tuition fees as permanent residents and citizens, rather than international student fees.

- Allow migrant workers to access free language classes and skills training programs.
- Increase the number of needs-based grants and create more varied scholarships that are not just merit-based; simplify the process of applying for loans, grants, scholarships, and bursaries to improve accessibility.
- Plan to remove barriers of those living in poverty to accessing educational opportunities.
- Provide incentives for universities to offer free tuition to lower income individuals.
- Policies on education to address immigrant professional and educational acceptance. Possibly through acceptance of education at high school and degree certifications for work or postgraduate education. It is retrogressive for the individual to be asked to write GRE for masters admission after graduating from a medical or engineering school elsewhere especially English-speaking countries.
- In the short term, reduce post-secondary tuition fees, re-introduce a robust needs-based provincial grant program and provide interest free student loans.
- Provide support with PSE navigation and support with grants, bursaries (Metis, band and transitioning youth).
- Provide technology to allow rural communities to offer places where students can attend classes virtually. Our communities all have the places, just not the money or expertise to do it.
- There should be more upgrading programs closer to the downtown area where most people on low income live.
- Support programs that make post-secondary education accessible to marginalized groups, including Indigenous, refugee, and new immigrant populations, e.g. the recently cut Aboriginal University Transition Program at SFU.
- Tuition waivers- remove the age cap.
- Write off student loans for people with disabilities because working and studying at the same time is very difficult.
- Increase PSE supports for low income youth and adults, including short-term (2 year) courses, life skills, and practical courses for the work place (e.g. first aid).
- Increase transparency at UBC regarding funding decisions and distribution.
- Raise awareness and increase accessibility of available AMS [Alma Mater Society] fee subsidies.
- Reduce or eliminate the difference between international and domestic student tuition.
- Take a stand against privatization, including public-private partnerships and private development on campus.
- Create scholarships for mature students.
- Make medical degrees free if the student agrees to do five years service in a cmty clinic in an area that needs more medical personnel (provide them free housing while they're doing this).
- Un-barriered access to education.
- More options for attending classes, like virtual attendance.

- Subsidize post secondary education for parents.
- Remove the requirement for any previous student loans to be in good standing.
- Increase the age at which people who have experience with child welfare are eligible for free post-secondary tuition (currently age 26).
- Reduce the time people need to have been in foster care to be eligible for free post-secondary tuition (currently 24 months).
- Provide additional education bursaries for women particularly disadvantaged around access to education.
- Retain the Single Parents Employment Initiative that provides tuition and transportation coverage but extend the one year of tuition coverage to multi-year degrees and training programs and any programs chosen by a recipient and remove the restricted list of eligible careers and programs. Retain all other benefits offered through the program.
- Increase the participation of women in trade schools.
- There is a need for housing or shelters for school students.
- Increase ECE spaces in PSE institutions.
- Add Nursing school to Northern Lights.
- Diversify from the Trades programs.
- More dual credit programs.
- Invest in the Northern Opportunities Program.
- Open more nursing and other leading program spaces in post-secondary institutions.

## **Adult Basic Education**

- Access to free economic development education.
- Access to life skill programs/workshops .
- Increase English language classes, including reducing waiting lists and increasing availability of evening classes.
- Education on how to self-advocate.
- Budgeting and financial literacy programs.
- Budgeting training; debt counselling programs.
- Increase accessibility of language training programs to enable immigrants to learn English and for those with some English to increase their proficiency to levels that enable them to function effectively in the workplace, take courses at post-secondary institutions and/or enter into licensing programs.
- Make it easier to get your GED.
- Providing opportunities through adult education for young adults to complete high school, and/or requirements to enter post-secondary training, is an essential element of a poverty reduction plan. Education of important life skills.
- It would be great to have things like Indigenous language classes and resources.
- Increase in supports for education and life skills such as cooking healthy food.
- Learning money management skills to save money for a better future.
- Free basic computer skills programs.
- Free ESL for refugees and newcomers.

- Use technology to provide opportunities for students to help seniors.
- More available free workshops.
- Power Smart workshop on how to conserve energy.
- Provide workshops and education specifically for older generation.
- Rural schools need better connection to land based heritage and cultural education.
- Accessible, low cost parenting classes, life skills classes, after school programs
- By providing education, resources, supports, and skills training. Focusing on what they can contribute back to the community and supporting them in that.
- Free financial counselling services.
- More gardens and teaching about gardening.
- More support for youth in financial planning and life skills.
- Peer mentor programs to help lift people from poverty.
- Make English free for all newcomers. Those sponsored by a spouse are not eligible for free LINC classes, even when the spouse is on income assistance.
- Provide education for younger generation on cost of retirement and budgeting.
- Provide life skills training, practical support for homeless people, including using peer support (hire peer workers).
- The government should implement courses concentrating on essential services and on how to fill out government forms.
- Use community elders and cultural groups to help teach to young people. This is especially important for youth about to “age out” of the system.
- Use of knowledge/skills of seniors: connect willing youth with knowledgeable seniors.
- Provision of workshops on budgeting and financial management; achieving balanced nutrition on a low budget; cooking skills; shopping skills.
- More accessible ELL – only few places now.
- Some ESL teachers are not qualified and the organization should check on the teachers, their teaching quality, and how they treat students.
- Coaching for skills such as budgeting, food and cooking, gardening, mental and physical training, sewing, mechanics, listening and communication skills, conflict resolution and anger management.
- A public guardian to help in money management for people.
- More funding for a range of community-based adult education in BC and introduction of a GED.
- People need to be equipped with skills like resume writing, typing, internet and job, search skills including support in developing these skills.
- More English classes. For LINC classes, the waiting list is very long, which hinders our ability to improve our language delays finding a good paying job. No evening LINC classes are offered. If I want to work in the morning it means I must stop working towards language efficiency, since I can’t attend English classes in the evening.
- Teach basic home economics.

- Need spaces to “unlearn” stigmatization, programs and community spaces – need life skills, conflict resolution, communication (positive ongoing programs)- programs that benefit community had no more funding.
- More emphasis on emotional intelligence.

## Training

- Free, or low cost, training for higher paying jobs.
- Fair access to all for job training and education programs.
- Continue Work BC, but with a focus on the individual: Work BC should be helping us get to working when we've failed, and our needs, hopes, desires as individuals need to be supported.
- Adaptable learning environments/styles for participants with mental health barriers.
- An integrated poverty reduction strategy requires ongoing training funds for addressing special needs, as opposed to one-time or project-based funds.
- Create bridging and incentives for people bettering skills or seeking work.
- Easier onboarding for programs teaching skilled trades.
- Economic training, capacity building training.
- Education at the local rural area in partnership with Indigenous and Non Indigenous communities.
- Expand the Single Parent Employment Initiative (SPEI) to include both parents and allow people to take post-secondary programs that are longer than 12 months.
- Education in personal care, then training in technical skills and trades would assist towards independence.
- Employment programs that provide: training, experience, awareness and reduce stigma.
- Ensure there are free or low cost trades programs.
- First aid training.
- Focus on essential skills training for better access to higher paying jobs.
- Free and easy access for low income people (e.g. fork lift operator course).
- Free or low-cost trade programs.
- Current organizations that assist with job searching skills and deliver training and re-training programs can be expanded to support more people in finding suitable jobs.
- Funding for school for employment purposes and expenses (buses to school etc....).
- Fund workshops to gain employment skills and help members get off Income Assistance.
- More free classes for people to get jobs and experience.
- Expanded access to education and training [through the current WorkBC Employment Services model].
- Increase skills bridging programs to upgrade professional or technological skills and improve coordination between employers, apprenticeship bodies, licensing

associations and service providers – making it easier for immigrant trades people and professionals to Canadianize their skills and credentials while also increasing opportunities to change careers.

- Post opportunities for training, etc where people gather – give information rather than requiring people to search.
- Increase training opportunities. Including, oilfield tickets, first aid training, computer skills, interviewing/job readiness workshop, life skills/career and life management, healing and reconciliation, budgeting and financial literacy.
- More training for high-paying jobs not just casual labour programs.
- Create more student-specific job and training opportunities that are relevant to students' fields of study and professional interests, such as more co-ops or paid internships.
- Make grants available for young people to be trained on the job.
- Job training and mentorships opportunities within organizations to build skills and work experience, in a safe environment that youth are familiar with. More transition programs and programs that pay part of your income, to reduce risk for potential employers.
- Information available about trades and assistance to complete training.
- Living allowance to support you [when attending job training and work experience programs].
- More education opportunities in our area with specific goal of obtaining employment with a living wage.
- Job readiness program.
- Job shadowing scheme for professional to enhance integration.
- Need to have more education and workshops available.
- Job training opportunities for people who want to transition off welfare – they have them in Alberta. Schooling and training. Trade training.
- Make training available to all workers - not just full time workers.
- More funded work training programs other than just Work BC.
- Make sure training opportunities are more accessible for those with transportation challenges.
- More low barrier job training to be employable with free training for folks on disability.
- More on the job training for parents.
- More support and encouragement for improved education and skills.
- On the job training; training through job shadowing.
- Ongoing support to help people sustain and flourish in their jobs.
- Online schooling should be free.
- Provision of literacy, education and job training with a focus on real skills and individualized programming.
- Provide communication centres – phones, computers.
- Vocational training that leads to job placement and good job.
- Provide more and better skills training programs, free of charge, with a supportive income during the training period.

- Reduce Computer literacy barriers – housing is all internet based, huge barrier, job applications require emails.
- Subsidize social assistance recipients to get training and earn a wage at the same time (similar to active measures program).
- Remove age restrictions on job programs and trainings.
- Teach Occupational Skills.
- Fast accreditation if you can already do the work > fast track to certification.
- Programs for people with disabilities to learn specific skills and trades outside of an academic institution.
- Need access to discounted equipment for self-improvement (such as computers).
- If it's the goal of the provincial government to get us off income assistance. then provide free training for work that we are interested in.
- Have an electronic work record, similar to Electronic Health records.
- Educate the community about the different programs available for education and training.
- Basic mathematics training will help move some people further ahead.
- Remove red tape/obstacles to employment/training programs.
- Need to provide re-educational opportunities for mid-career individuals (i.e. age 45-50) to provide wages to increase their ability to work longer (i.e. get out of physical labour).

## **BETTER JOBS**

### **Employment**

- Better employment opportunities.
- Advocate for better use of human capital.
- Assist employers in dealing with challenges and mistakes.
- Better support system for people who are looking for work; more employees at Work BC to give more individualized help. Day Care available for people looking for work.
- Better jobs (higher wages, better benefits, higher minimum wage).
- Buy local / support local business.
- Community procurement in place - needs to be promoted - minimum amount of local employment for those in need.
- Community work programs to supply employment opportunities.
- Continue to enhance and build on the Single Parent Employment Initiative. Use this as a model to develop transition supports for other populations.
- Count volunteer work and community work as valuable towards getting paid work.
- Creating an attractive environment for businesses. Business opportunities servicing seniors, creating jobs for younger population that create employment opportunities for employees to thrive.
- Creation of skills development and employment centres.

- Day labour and part time employment options.
- Develop more flexible job options, incentives to hire a wider diversity of applicants.
- Employment – fair wage and training; more co-ops; self-employment programs to create jobs with on-going resources and support to support venture sustainability.
- Ensure international credential/educational acceptance and skills integration.
- Making upgrading of someone's certifications and credentials easier and more affordable, which makes finding work easier.
- Employment programs need better oversight on abuse of power by workers (i.e. workers forcing participants into programs that don't fit their schedules or child care needs resulting in participants not succeeding and then being labelled as difficult or uncooperative, etc.).
- The development of a comprehensive temporary foreign worker employer registry.
- Encourage and incentivize corporate social responsibility.
- We recommend initiatives to create collaborations with employers of people with disabilities. We recommend in particular:
  - More focus on working with potential employers of people with disabilities to increase the number of people with disabilities who have well-paying jobs. Introduce targets and timelines or other measurement to determine what is/not working.
  - Develop hard marketing strategies and engagement with employers rather than "feel good," soft marketing.
  - Raise awareness of and support more programs like Technology@Work and other community-based programs that support and hire people with disabilities.
  - Consider introducing hiring requirements and/or incentive-based programs to ensure that employers of all sizes are making reasonable efforts to support people with disabilities entering the workforce.
- Encourage and/or assist seniors' employment.
- There is fear about hiring someone with a disability - there is a need for education for employers about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities.
- Engage people in their respective communities to establish social and professional networks.
- An incentive program for peer support system would help with creating a cycle of "old" immigrants would teach "new" immigrants or a one stop shop similar to Work BC model for new comers.
- Enhance business incentives to help small businesses (e.g. tax credits).
- Job training, skill-enhancement, to help employer's bridge the gap... hire people that are deaf.
- Ensure that employers are providing professional development opportunities to employees such as resume assistance and computer training.
- Ensure there is inclusivity/ sensitivity training re: trans, non-binary mandatory for all employers.



- Expand employment programs like Strive to other areas of the Lower Mainland (Surrey, Abbotsford, Mission).
- Foster gender equality in the workplace to make it easier for single moms to find jobs.
- Accept overseas credentials to allow immigrants to work in the field they worked prior to coming to Canada.
- Educate non-aboriginals about aboriginal peoples facing/experiencing living in poverty when applying for jobs, training, education, etc. and to also get a sense of decriminalizing peoples in facing these issues.
- Funding to assist with unique employment models for those who are not able to be part of the general workforce. E.g. odd jobs program, flexible employers.
- Government should fund people to work from home.
- Grants available to hire students - should have same opportunity for older workers.
- Expand SPEI to all school program options.
- Have staff at programs like Strive that are knowledgeable of the system to help youth effectively.
- Support within community agencies across the board to help employable individuals with gas cards, bus passes, clothing and footwear to reduce barriers in seeking and securing employment or education toward employment.
- Help people feel proud of themselves. Through a respectable job, some money in the bank, some clean clothes, a safe place to sleep. Most of the homeless I see in Mission are middle-aged men. They aren't going to want to work at Tim Hortons for minimum wage. They need skills and job they can be proud of. More mill work, more construction jobs etc.
- Provide a subsidy for hiring older workers (like programs for hiring youth).
- Challenge local employers to hire first nations and older workers who are looking for work.
- Transitional Supports – so funding doesn't stop as soon as you find work or work too many hours to still be eligible.
- Help single parents get work.
- Assess skills of new migrants/refugees then train them in those areas of skilled labour.
- Taper off, and cancel (or reduce substantially) the temporary foreign worker program. This program is just a way for businesses to hire cheap labour and drive wages down.
- Create an 'Assisted to work' program that matches income contributions for PWD or PPMB clients so that people are INCENTIVIZED to work and can actually save enough money to reduce government dependencies and regain their economic independence.
- Access to employment for persons with mild disabilities.
- More businesses should hire First Nations people.
- Recognize foreign credentials - but also support Canadian volunteer job experience.

- Advocate with the federal government on behalf of migrant workers to issue migrant workers sector-wide work permits instead of employer-specific work permits, and allow spouses of migrant workers to apply for an open work permit.
- Advocate with the federal government on behalf of migrant workers to lessen the cost of processing fees for immigration applications.
- More fair opportunity for people with disabilities to become employed part time.
- Programs available for men who want to get into the trades as an apprentice who are over the age of 30.
- Equip employers with the ability to provide more flexible shifts, part-time positions and job sharing opportunities for persons with disabilities.
- Help with resumes.
- Hire clients to assist with building housing – allows for clients to participate, work, result in housing availabilities.
- Encourage employers to hire clients, incentives, job shadowing programs.
- Create bridging and incentives systems for people bettering their skills or seeking work, and for “giving back” as mentors or navigators.
- Giving homeless/low income individuals a chance to work and get clean, not judging them by their past or criminal record alone.
- Improve and diversify WorkBC programs.
- Individualize support for people with employment barriers. Assist with the application and interview process.
- Foster stronger relationships between social enterprises, community organizations and Work BC. Allow for more flexibility in the delivery of Work BC services in the community to better meet community members and organizations where they are at.
- I haven't been able to access WorkBC services in my community of Maple Ridge because the WorkBC office has a mandated door-open policy that is not required by MSDPR. A mandated door-open policy (you can only be in the office of a case manager if his or her door is open) is discriminatory and is totally inappropriate for people with mental health issues and people with hearing impairments. It also contravenes provincial privacy legislation.
- The WorkBC model needs to be radically re-designed. It needs to go beyond the current cookie cutter McJob Training model that does not meet the needs of people with disabilities. WorkBC offices need a standardized evaluation form that is sent into the provincial government, rather than the local WorkBC office, so that problems are identified and dealt with.
- Businesses on First Nation communities.
- Incentive programs for return to work. Participants reported that when returning to work they were not supported in transportation costs, clothing required for work and were not given an opportunity to get their “feet back on the ground” and at times found it self defeating trying to move forward when with new employment.
- Provide volunteer or employment opportunities to any client who would like to work at technology company that recycles/upgrades/repairs computers and laptops for client use, or resale.

- Increase full time employment. More permanent full time jobs with better pay and benefits. Increase government/private partnerships to increase employment and wages.
- Investment in job skills development for people living in poverty, aligned with sectors which have a shortage of skilled workforce.
- Job creation that is stable.
- Job creation with sustainable living projects – growing food in community; working together in building affordable housing.
- Job programs that reduce barriers, support a variety of skills and trades, work sharing, work experience, and education for employers and decisions makers (around human rights).
- Legalize street vending with cheap licences. Cops hassle vendors and keep people poor Vending should be protected under the DEWC as part of a swap meet or table.
- Local and transient working poor are assisted through a staffed farm/labour office with advocacy for fair wages, working conditions and access to services.
- More "work ready" programs.
- More employment incentives to hire people with disabilities (government could role model this by increasing its hiring first).
- More funding to CDS (Career Development Services) to help with the basics... CDS is providing assistance to find housing and help with most issues faced by people in poverty. All at this table find them helpful.
- More local ways to get educated for jobs locally and still live here.
- More willingness to employ people with less experience.
- Opportunities for day labour within the current earnings exemption with minimal red tape. Ensure payment happens the same day.
- Education of employers to hire more disabled.
- More job opportunities for seniors; Mentoring by seniors to young population.
- Offer minimum wage community clean-up program. People then have pride in where they live & in themselves.
- Provide more incentives for businesses to pay for training for its employees.
- Provide self-employment subsidy grants/loans.
- Support communities in revitalizing industry/increasing employment opportunities to help lift people from poverty.
- Support single moms properly to get off the system not just push off to minimum wage.
- More volunteering opportunities that can lead to employment.
- There should be a section of WorkBC specific to people with disabilities as the staff don't understand the challenges of helping people with disabilities to find work.
- There should be designated spaces for those living with poverty to display and sell their crafts to make a little extra money.
- Through the creation of local employment. Limiting foreign business from buying or opening their businesses on the Coast; instead, help local entrepreneurs with their project with the compromise of employing people from the Coast.

- Volunteer work should be made more beneficial. Non-profit organizations could provide payment, food or affordable clothing for those who volunteer for their organization.
- Volunteering for long time without any paid job offer while volunteering, there should be a better recognition to volunteer work.
- Apprenticeships for teenagers.
- Assistance with resumes/certificate programs and storage on Cloud for future reference.
- Better advertisement, more accessible outreach for employment services.
- Work training/coaching program.
- Get rid of work BC and replace with something better.
- Incentives for employers to provide benefits for employees and their children.
- Better paying jobs that allow you to stay in town and work rather than having to move or work in camps for weeks at a time.
- Bring back Customized Employment programs that BC Lib cut in 2011.
- Business loans and financing for farming initiatives.
- Create incentive to employ temporary LOCAL seasonal workers rather than bringing in foreign labor.
- Create incentives for manufacturing business to keep their business in the province to create more job opportunities.
- Create jobs providing wage subsidies for small businesses.
- Create more public jobs. Instead of outsourcing or relying on foreign business owners (who pay low wages), create public government jobs where resources are processed, manufactured, research, technology, etc.
- Short term jobs for seniors.
- Demand that all provincially funded sectors and contractors to the provincial government provide employment that is predictable, secure and stable removing precarious work factors including but not limited to split shifts, unpaid on call, gig work, involuntary part-time and piece work.
- **DO NOT LET WORKBC CONTRACTS GO TO PROCUREMENT.** They are poorly designed. They incentivize agencies to work with the easiest to employ folk. They **DO NOT** work for the most vulnerable in our society: seniors, youth, and people with barriers to stability. Revisit provincial employment programs because they have a ton of gaps that need to be addressed **IMMEDIATELY**.
- Ensure more full-time employment opportunities with living wage and benefits
- Expand IPS, and evidence-based supported employment programs, to all mental health teams, Employment Program of BC providers and emerging models of primary care in BC.
- Having to **NOT** deal with so many levels of bureaucracy to start up business, and get working again. The programs are in place, just less bureaucracy, from federal, provincial, and municipal governments.
- Help people transition into work while in recovery homes.
- Stop WorkBC from denying services to seasonal workers.
- Increase evidence based employment supports for people with mental health problems.

- Increasing job opportunities for Aboriginal people instead of “casual labor”.
- Introduce new industry to the area.
- Job share for people who can only work a couple of days and can't maintain full time employment, but can work.
- More subsidized job placement and wages.
- More trades available at local level.
- Move forward from natural resources jobs, start investing in other avenues.
- Outfit people with work gear.
- Need supports for disabled people to find a job that accommodates their physical and mental disabilities.
- Offer more incentives to employers to hire specific populations such as: women re-entering the labour force, First Nations, PWDs, youth, those entering the work force for the first time, people transitioning off of social assistance; more job fairs to see what options for employment are available; provide funding for entrepreneurs.
- Opportunities for support to those who may open a new business if they will consider a rural location.
- Opportunities for local groups to receive support for the development of social enterprises etc. that will employ people but don't need to make a profit.
- Help from all levels of government to increase agriculture production, help with looking at new crops that suit land and farming capacity, training for those who wish to grow food on land that is currently fallow, etc.
- Pensioners should be able work, without penalty or reduced pensions. Its good for the community and their sense of well being.
- Set up programs and facilities where they can match people with their skills and get them working through there instead of looking for work you know you will be unhappy with.
- We need to create grene jobs in renewable energy.
- Create a program that ensures job access following graduation.
- The way Work BC functions is not satisfying, since individuals work closely with the case worker at Work BC for 1 year or longer, without any job placement or even an interview.
- Improve and diversify WorkBC programs.
- Setting minimum quotas for First Nations, women and other equity-seeking groups on publicly-funded infrastructure projects.
- Engaging employers to provide more, full-scope work experience opportunities on public and private projects to enable current apprentices who are bottlenecked in the system to complete their training.
- In order for incarcerated parents to provide support to their families, they need to be paid at least minimum wage for the jobs they do in prison. This change would also mean that when released, prisoners aren't penniless, and tempted to engage in illicit activities.
- Jobs should first go to those that have the most need and are from the communities they are applying in.

- Encourage people to create jobs near where people live, and discourage suburban sprawl.
- Encourage telecommuting and remote management to provide an easy way for people to do their jobs without the complications of crossing the city by vehicle daily.
- Guaranteed job placement for public sector jobs (e.g. if you go to BCIT to become an x-ray tech, make sure a certain number of jobs at hospitals are reserved for adult re-education graduates).
- Provide employers with strategies to employ people with disabilities, especially flexible schedules to accommodate individuals who need to manage their disability; Educate the public to decrease judgement and ostracism of people with disabilities, especially non-visible disabilities.
- Employment skill building programs for youth (age 12-14- teaching basics or being an employee, helping to start employment, teaching to save. Helping to identify strengths and interests and matching to potential job or careers. Teaching about CPP, EI, saving, taxes, investments, RRSP, TFSA, differences in earning potential, requirements for trade jobs vs. university degree vs. college diploma program. Being an employee vs. being a business owner. Earlier employment focus in schools (trade and academic options).
- Policies in support of unionization.
- Invest in mapping of skills in waning industries and retraining workers in those fields before major job losses, such as retraining the workers from the fossil fuel sector to move into the clean energy/ green trades.
- Increase support and funding for Workers Cooperatives.
- Increase the number of employee-owned corporations and co-operatives.
- Bring back the Community Volunteer Program so that individuals who volunteer can build employability skills and are recognized for their contributions to community.
- Work to prevent violence in the workplace.
- Promote tolerance and respect in the workforce.
- Need to diversify employment opportunities (too much dependence on lumber) to support growth of city and address awareness of other issues (ex. Poverty).
- Logs that are from here should be processed here; if this was done it would create jobs.
- Site C - There should be provisions that require that a percentage of jobs go to local workers.
- The economy has a cycle of boom/bust people need help planning for this.
- Do not ship resources and jobs to other countries.
- Need opportunities for people with poor mental health.
- Bring in LNG for jobs.
- Make work projects that provide meaningful experience.

## **Employment Standards**

- Amend the Employment Standards Act to eliminate the discriminatory exclusions and protect the rights of workers working under contract or gig economies and address and enforce the misclassification of workers and private contractors when they are employees.
- Abolish the Self-Help Kit and individualized complain system from the Employment Standards Act.
- Amend labour and other legislation to provide more protection for “independent contractors”.
- Better work conditions for Care Aide ( workload: needing more funding for more care aides) They are over worked!
- Reducing the work week to 25-30 hours.
- Ensure that pay equity occurs in all job fields.
- Change the BC Labour Code to make it easier for employees to join unions and be covered by a collective agreement.
- Encouraging all employers to offer extended health benefits including dental as a means of attracting and retaining employees and minimizing out of office time due to emergency dental needs for workers and their dependants.
- Improve employment standards – more paid vacation, sick leave; benefits – extended health, dental, optical.
- Eliminating the self-help kit and ensuring protection and recourse for workers whose rights have been violated.
- Increasing funding for the enforcement of the Act including conducting proactive investigations and enforcement.
- Increasing and expanding the penalties for employers who break the law.
- Improving the definition of an employee to ensure that employers cannot use independent contractors to skirt responsibility for meeting the minimum standards of the Employment Standards Act.
- A robust legal framework for dealing with agents and debtors exploiting migrant workers.
- Improving basic protections and benefits to workers, such as paid sick leave.
- Improving the conditions of employment for children, including increasing the minimum work age from 12 to 16 years old.
- Enforce employment standards (like shift lengths, paid overtime etc).
- Ensure that both employers and employees have access to meaningful supports to navigate solution-oriented workplace disability accommodation. BC’s new Human Rights Commission can play a role in providing leadership to practical workplace accommodation solutions.
- Expand and resource the enforcement of penalties for violations of the Employment Standards Act.
- We support the Migrant Workers Centre (previously West Coast Domestic Workers’ Association) in their recommendation to the provincial government to implement legislation “to better protect migrant workers, including enhanced regulation of recruiters and proactive enforcement.”
- Hand over workplace safety to the BC Fed. OHS program. Draft new law that makes the employer fully accountable for workplace injuries, and draft law that

puts the care of an injured and disabled worker back where it belongs: On Employers, as is outlined, clearly is an Employer Responsibility in the Westray Act. If employers fail, and do not address safety concerns, resulting in death or permanent disability-CRIMINALLY CHARGE employers, and where Work Safe is concerned, simply get rid of this useless entity that's lost it's way.

- Improve employment standards: minimum hours in a shift, paid breaks, guaranteed hours, ability to organize workplaces.
- Improve the BC Labour Code to make it easier for workers to join a Union and negotiate collective agreements.
- Reform B.C.'s employment standards and increase enforcement to better protect the rights of workers from wage theft and other predatory and exploitative employment practices.
- Included in this poverty reduction plan must be a review, a public inquiry, into the distasteful and harm-generating business practices of Work Safe BC: An agency that has generated so much harm, costing human life, and suffering of already injured workers (psychologically so as well as physically).
- Labor laws need to be better enforced to protect workers from getting taken advantage of. Construction and many other industries do not pay OT rates to people even go as far as to explain hours over 8 in a day and 40 a week as volunteered hours.
- Making significant improvements to workers' compensation so that injured workers and their surviving dependents are fairly compensated and can be assured they will live above the poverty line.
- Provide mandatory sick pay.
- Mandatory benefits for part-time workers and students.
- Monitor labour standards – job security, prevent discrimination.
- More protection for workers so that employees can't reduce hours and benefits.
- Proactively enforcing employment standards laws and issuing penalties to businesses who do not meet health and safety and employment standards when employing undocumented workers.
- Unannounced inspections of all workplaces and employer-provided housing to ensure compliance with regulations pertaining to occupational health and safety, employment standards, municipal bylaws, and public health; and Increased inter-jurisdictional cooperation between health authorities, the Workers' Compensation Board, and municipalities to ensure that any health or safety or employment standards issue faced by a migrant worker can be dealt with swiftly.
- More work benefits.
- Need stronger unions and better jobs back.
- Protections from workplace racism -Native people cannot get hired in some places due to racism.
- Provide more robust education about workers' rights, especially targeting international students.
- Provide paid leave and sick days.
- Preventing employers from interfering in organizing drives.



- Ending rampant contract flipping that enables employers to keep wages low and work unstable.
- Ensuring that the Labour Relations Board is properly resourced so that it can do its job.
- The labour movement must become more engaged in lobbying the federal and provincial governments to ratify ILO conventions. We should not accept the hypocrisy of our federal government playing a leadership role at the ILO in developing international labour standards while not being prepared to have them ratified in Canada.
- There needs to be far stricter laws and rules in place governing Collective Bargaining Agreements and far heavier penalties implemented when Corporations blatantly violate legally binding agreements as workers rights are human rights.
- Restore the coverage and enforcement of employment standards.
- There needs to be outreach around what workplace rights workers have access to do and what steps they might take if those rights are violated. The Employment Standards Coalition has recommended independent investigations of particular sectors where there is a vulnerability to widespread violations of the Employment Standards Act.
- Training for employers on issues such as: Mental health; Poverty & social justice issues; Substance use; and Working with LGBTQ2S+ folks. Working towards greater empathy, less fear or misunderstanding around hiring young people experiencing or living with those experiences and identities.
- We must build on the knowledge and evidence concerning the broader role unions play in strengthening democracy and promoting greater economic equality and the social and economic well-being of all citizens. Unions have been, and continue to be, an important force for democracy, not just in the workplace, but also in the community – locally, nationally, and globally.
- We need more jobs at \$15 or more with benefits too and sick days and holiday time.
- We support the recommendations of the Employment Standards Coalition to: significantly raise the Ministry of Labour funding for the Employment Standards Branch to extend the wage theft recovery period; address misclassification of contracted employment; provide benefits to precarious workers including paid sick leave to all; improve conditions of employment for children including increasing the minimum start age from 12 to 16 years old; establish rights and protections for migrant workers.
- Pro-active enforcement of the Employment Standards Act that includes investigations into sectors that are vulnerable to widespread abuse.
- Update employment standards to reflect the changing nature of workplaces and ensure they are applied evenly and enforced.
- Improve the earnings and working conditions of those in the low-wage workforce
- Consult with women's organizations and trade unions and devise an 'equality in work' strategy for the Province that will address the structural inequality of women in the workforce, taking into account the interactions of various factors

including the gender wage gap, women's unpaid work, women's unmet child care needs, and sex-based job segregation.

- That British Columbia immediately introduce proactive pay equity legislation that requires both public and private sector employers to pay women equal pay for work of equal value.
- We recommend the government take a more proactive approach toward employers who are breaking the law, by investigating possible violations of the Act on behalf of workers, and ensuring compliance orders are enforced.
- We support the recommendations of the Employment Standards Coalition to:
  - significantly raise the Ministry of Labour funding for the Employment Standards Branch to increase and support staff in conducting effective proactive investigations and enforcement;
  - expand and enforce penalties for violations;
  - extend the wage theft recovery period;
  - address misclassification of contracted employment;
  - provide benefits to precarious workers including paid sick leave to all;
  - improve conditions of employment for children including increasing the minimum start age from 12 to 16 years old;
  - establish rights and protections for migrant workers.
- Indigenous Cultural Safety Training for Employers and Non-Indigenous Employees to provide a more supportive working culture for Indigenous employees.
- The government needs to pass legislation that bans businesses from blacklisting individuals looking for work without their consent. All job applicants must be notified in writing exactly why they have been denied employment.
- We support campaigns for a stronger minimum wage, broader unionization, full employee benefits, and better working conditions. However, these will never be enough because full employment is a myth.
- Develop national standards for basic job benefits and make them required for all part and full-time work.
- Part-time employees will receive the same benefits as full-time employees.
- Longer parental leave.
- Develop plans with the federal government to allow temporary foreign workers access to immigration systems and re-examine policies such that foreign workers have access to safe working conditions.
- Need of equal work opportunities for people with disabilities.
- People working part-time need benefits.
- Improve earnings and working conditions.

## **Wages**

- Address working poverty by raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2019, indexing it annually and ensuring all workers are covered by this minimum wage.
- A living wage would be wonderful for British Columbians.

- The Government of BC increase in the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour and consider future routine adjustments to reflect inflation.
- A 15.00 minimum wage that allows young people the chance to get a financial well being and old people the ability to make up for no money to retire on.
- A minimum income for everyone. Do away with welfare and provide everyone with a minimum income with incentives to work.
- Basic living wage.
- Practical living wage, basic income top-up Guaranteed income.
- Decrease gender wage gap.
- Do away with percentage based wage increases - it gives the rich huge raises they don't need, while giving a paltry amount to the lower wage earners, who need it the most - and the gap widens. If we don't begin to tie the earnings of the rich to a reasonable relationship to the earnings of the poor, we are going to find our economy beginning to implode.
- Enact proactive pay equity legislation.
- Follow the lead of many municipal governments and become a living wage employer of provincial government staff and contractors; and encourage other employers to adopt the living wage for families.
- High minimum wage; living wages reflective of current costs of living.
- Higher wage levels for entry level jobs.
- Increase minimum wage to be higher than income assistance rate.
- Increase minimum wage to local living wage.
- Increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by January 2019 for all workers with no exemptions and index it to the cost of living.
- Increase minimum wage to \$16/hour.
- Increase the minimum wage to \$22/hour within Vancouver to encourage more individuals to move away from welfare dependency. Provide those who want to work with a sense of agency and worth.
- Increase the minimum wage to the level of a 'living wage', which will increase pensions payable from the Canada Pension Plan (CPP).
- Eliminate all exemptions to minimum wage laws.
- Make the Fair Wages Commission a permanent body to oversee the transition to a living wage and provide ongoing monitoring of wage levels and employment standards in BC.
- Raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2019 and index it annually, ensuring all workers are covered by this minimum wage.
- Increase wages for everyone, not just the minimum wage but for families and young married couples; invest in families and young people to prevent them from moving out of BC due to unaffordability. Create incentives for young people to stay in BC and contribute to society.
- Have a universal living wage.
- Make employers give raises every 6 months to loyal employees.
- Regulate wages based on industry. Make minimum wage laws based on the industry, entry level wages for skilled jobs should not be minimum wage, or less than \$15/hour.

- Government take responsibility for paying a living wages to direct and contracted government employees, and take steps to encourage other employers to do the same.
- Roll back wages for politicians and put the roll back wages into the disability fund to boost them further.
- Start with addressing the gender disparity in wages. Jobs that are considered as female jobs pay less.
- The provincial government should require that all provincially funded sectors and contractors to the provincial government pay their employees a living wage.
- Need legislation around equal wages, benefits; still with incentives to perform at a higher level.
- Adjust Government's procurement policy –i.e. allow government contracts to only go to businesses who are paying a living wage.
- Wage assistance for people in recovery.
- Encourage employers to adopt the Living Wage for Families.
- Pay Equity: enact stand-alone proactive pay equity legislation that applies to the entire provincially regulated sector and recognizes equal pay for work of equal value as a human right.
- Wages for public sector workers must be indexed to inflation such that professionals who look out for the needs of our society, such as teachers and health care staff, are not making less as living prices rise and salaries stagnate.
- Getting rid of exemptions from minimum wage, such as farm workers, liquor servers, and home care support workers, as these exemptions largely harm marginalized populations, such as women and people of colour.
- Lower government wages and pensions and bonuses.
- Need a fair distribution of wealth.

## **ACCESSIBLE, COORDINATED SERVICES**

### **Income and Disability Assistance Service Delivery**

- Bring back 'human resources' or social assistance office with Navigators / case managers need to help vulnerable citizens navigate and access appropriate services – a person would benefit clients much more than waiting for calls and call backs
- Better communication of available services, comprehensive services.
- Call people back more quickly.
- Clarify what benefits are offered, clear up the myths.
- Client service communication education and sensitivity training; front line workers need to be aware of who is being served and how to treat them with respect.
- Cut positions at the top if needed and give workers a more manageable case load.
- Drastically reduce the wait times for telephone help.

- Ensure employees are adequately trained (trauma, mental health, addictions, concurrent disorders, intergenerational trauma).
- An important step in this direction would be restoring offices for the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) and the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) to allow for in-person assistance from workers with specialized knowledge in a particular area – generalized Service BC offices are simply not an adequate substitute.
- Have government workers with lived experience.
- Make rebuilding relationships between the Ministry and community a priority. This includes restoring in-person service provision, one-to-one case management, training for Employment Assistance Workers and more resources created by the Ministry for assistance recipients so they can better navigate the system and understand their rights.
- Better access to ministry workers to assist with system navigation.
- Cultural barriers can make it difficult to access services; more resources for cultural practices, and training around cultural safety for frontline staff, is needed.
- Everyone has their own history/challenges/abilities, etc. Beyond meeting basic needs, the system should be flexible and appropriate.
- Streamline social assistance process.
- Fix the call centre. Oh hold times exceed an hour.
- Front line people need to listen without assuming they know the person's story. Be personable, compassionate and nonjudgmental.
- Giving a hand up should be done in a non-judgemental way and start them on the path of recovering their self-confidence and self worth.
- Giving people phone appointment times and showing commitment to those times would show respect and help people retain their dignity.
- Government should treat people with invisible disabilities like they treat visible disabilities.
- Restructuring the current income assistance program, making the system less stigmatized, restructuring to increase accessibility, and having case workers available to assist people navigate the system.
- Ministry have services available for people who can't navigate the application process. Provide in-person services to help individuals complete IA applications.
- Move from online to paper applications.
- Reopening ministry offices.
- Explore and promote strategies to assist people for whom the on-line application for Income Assistance is a barrier.
- Have a long list of what people can come in for.
- Having case workers available to assist people navigate the system.
- I deserve to be able to get the things I need without being embarrassed or humiliated because of my financial situation.
- Hire workers with lived experience and give them the training.
- Hire more workers who have gone through a poverty education course & did community services volunteer hours.
- Hire more workers. Reduce caseloads.

- Improve response time to get damage deposits quickly (same day).
- Increase funding for community support workers who can be mandated to do the initial fact-finding!
- Ministry website needs to be more clear.
- More equitable disability designation and service.
- Need a single entry point to identify specific service needs.
- People come out of corrections clean, healthy, but there are no supports or places to live - people don't know how to apply to income assistance. Need programs to help reintegrate.
- Have a staffed Financial aid office to help people apply for assistance.
- Don't make people tell their stories over.
- While I agree that those asking the government, and therefore taxpayers, for financial help must be properly screened, I do believe the process can be done without belittling or demeaning the applicant.
- Expanded hours.
- Streamlined source for information, resources, services.
- Should make appeal systems more transparent.
- Simplify the appeal process when application is denied.
- Outreach should provide a mailing address for people with unstable housing for mail to come to so they can access funds.
- Outreach workers from the ministry to direct the street person to an agency that assists in filling out forms.
- Moving away from a patriarchal and hierarchical system toward a personcentred system.
- People need to know this ministry exists, its roles and how it can help alleviate their suffering.
- Provide a website of resources.
- "Put humanity back to the Ministry".
- Reduce turnaround time for intending to rent forms.
- Smile and greet people when they come in for services.
- Social assistance – reducing barriers, individualized approach, as opposed to one-size fits all with a check box online form system.
- Social workers should not be in a building or an office. They should be in the community supporting those in need. Of course that will entail hiring more of them, I know.
- Support rather than trying to kick people off assistance.
- Public accessible computers.
- More housing advocates and resource funding.
- The workers in assistance offices need to know to ask questions and VALIDATE so the person needing help feels heard and valued.
- We need to ensure Ministry clients have an opportunity to provide feedback.
- Get rid of the unrealistic hoops of applying for welfare-simplify the process.
- Integrate access to income assistance benefits into release planning in correctional facilities for all individuals who have been sentenced or remanded

into custody. This should be available to both new and continuing income assistance recipients. Less paperwork to access resources.

- Developing an accessible social service system with no barriers or gaps.
- More info and resources.
- Make systems more responsive to critical and urgent situations; ensure a consistent workflow related to the Assessment of Applicants and Recipients Fleeing Abuse.
- Access to income assistance - person-to-person intake - many people have learning barriers, substance use barriers or brain injuries that prevent them from accessing online applications for financial assistance.
- Reduction of red tape. Less bureaucracy.
- Increase Access to social workers.
- Website needs to be clearer (why are “persistent barriers to employment” and “persons with disabilities” separate categories?).
- Workers should check for understanding by the client.
- You meet people at their point of need, ask them what they need, Peer support.
- We recommend the following:
  1. Providing timely in-person individualized assistance to those that need it;
  2. Providing computers and Ministry staff at every Ministry office for the purposes of helping applicants through the application process for income assistance and other supports;
  3. Modifying the online application for income assistance so that it is not mandatory to create an email address and BCeID;
  4. Institute a review of MSDPR’s accessibility as part of the broader poverty reduction strategy; and
  5. Implement accountability and performance measures based on that review.
- Centralized services.
- Lessen the fear of going off of disability by keeping their files open so they don't have to fear not being able to get help if they need it again.
- Make provincial disability classification simple without requiring appeal, lawyers, or advocates to apply.
- Implement all changes recommended by BCPIAC regarding service delivery reforms.
- Ensure that forms required for programs are at a literacy level geared to the applicants not the providers.
- Provide enhanced training for all existing and all new MSDPR Employment and Assistance workers and others involved in service-delivery that includes empathy training and a trauma-informed approach framed by a truth and reconciliation mandate.
- Make forms readily available not just online: the poor and homeless often do not have access to or literacy levels to access online information. Forms could be in libraries, entrances to grocery stores, entrances to Malls, in free access bins at major transit stops, schools, etc.

- Ensure that independent advocates specializing in these complicated processes are readily available throughout the province, and are adequately resourced to provide timely service to those needing help accessing systems.
- In order to provide robust and effective services, we recommend that a diversity of engagement opportunities are maintained at all times, including in person and efficient telephone services.
- Strengthen community supports: (1) Compensate community agencies providing IA application advocate services appropriately. (2) Seek opportunities to co-locate IA officers within existing community services.
- Increased access to Social Development Services – local officer in each community.
- Improve look of ministry offices; Cleaner, brighter, more welcoming – speaks to clients they are worthy and respected, remove stigma that Income Assistance clients are not valued.
- Ministry of Social Development needs to be far more accessible. Too many offices were closed.
- When an applicant for income assistance is denied, that decision, denying them the ability to provide themselves and their family with shelter, food, and medical coverage, that decision should be reviewed by a supervisor, and the decision to deny provided to the applicant IN WRITING along with a reconsideration package.
- Information about what Service BC offers (especially that one can drop off letters for certain programs such as the Provincial Motor Fuel Tax Refund for Persons with Disabilities) needs to be provided to those receiving social assistance and PWD.
- More access to computers and more help with applications.
- The Ministry has to make the application process simple and clear.
- Need to provide support for clients and their families.
- Local EAW workers should help people to connect with community services.
- Provide an easier way to access MYSS/Application for SDPR.
- There needs to be better communication between the Ministry and MCFD.
- No aboriginal language spoken by staff – need.
- East side of province needs an office.
- Agencies need to be aware of everything (e.g. how to fill out paperwork).
- Decision makers should have to live on income assistance or disability assistance for a month to see what it means - they should also have to navigate their own system.
- Staff should take their time to help read documents to clients. There needs to be more worker accountability, take the time to get our files right. Staff should work with the clients to confirm details – it shouldn't be confrontational. Tell clients what they are entitled to (client may not know to ask).
- Better integrate the services into the non-profit community services sector.
- Ministry staff need to be trained to de-escalate, non-violent crisis intervention.
- Comprehensive list of services needed.
- MCFD, EDU, Finance all need to be included and work together.



- Need more access to resources in the DTES.
- Invest in hiring people who are living on the margins – youth, POC, LGBT, disabled.
- Ensure Charter of Rights is applied to welfare applicants/recipients.
- Create a 1 page (2 sides)/pamphlets with all service in Terrace – “who can help with what”.
- There is the need for flexibility to take into consideration the individual’s situation
- Income assistance workers need better education/communication skills, i.e., “trigger words”.
- Centralized service does not always work for people.
- Go back to system from 80/90s when they save you a date.
- Make it easier to get on income and disability assistance.
- Remove stigma.
- Remove waiting.
- Print the cheques.
- Provide education how to access assistance and entitlements available.
- Make information more accessible. This should involve redesigning the Ministry’s website or creating a new website that contains plain language information about income assistance policy and procedures in one easy-to-access location. Consult with income assistance recipients about the best way to provide information on the system.
- Improve education to encourage access to seek help when needed (Possible ad: “it’s ok to ask for help”).
- Stream line systems. There should be one form/application form– if you have a disability designation, then you are automatically enrolled in all the programs and benefits that you are entitled to. Simplify Processes & Forms: Use simple checklists on forms, simplify questions and forms, provide services that help with forms. Ensure that forms required for programs are at a literacy level geared to the applicants not the providers. Reduce the length and complexity of the application process. Make the application process easy and accessible (e.g. RDSP forms).
- Work with BC government Service Design team to identify and eliminate the most frequently cited barriers to accessing IA information and services. Eliminate the numerous hoops that women need to jump through and create systems that are more responsive to critical and urgent situations
- Provide equitable access to income and disability assistance by ensuring that services are trauma-informed and include the supports necessary to navigate the system.
- Simplify and coordinate the processes for getting help.
- Shorten the application process to apply for welfare.
- Developing or improving social services.
- Supply advocates in navigating the government systems and accessing programming that individuals are entitled to.
- Enable people to access resources in a time sensitive manner.

- Commit to continual improvement. (1) Consult end users in the IA reform process. (2) Develop ongoing feedback mechanisms to ensure optimal user experience.
- Cultural accessibility.
- Access to immediate support.
- Improve access to social services.

## **Justice / Legal Services**

- An overhaul of police systems, and create more community accountability and less police on the streets.
- Waiving legal costs for aboriginals.
- Better access to legal advocates.
- Brotherly and sisterly love. Needs something with positive reinforcement rather than punishment. This leads you further away from positive stuff. If jail costs 70k a year, why not pay people a fraction of that to give them support so they don't need to resort to crime.
- Decriminalize all drugs in order to protect consumers and reduce the drug overdose crisis. This policy modification would remove the street drug trafficking and allow consumers to buy clean products the way people walk into a liquor store and buy a six pack.
- Invest in restorative justice.
- Easier pardoning process for criminal records for minor infractions.
- Educate the police better about domestic violence.
- End drug trafficking.
- Free legal advice.
- Implement a free or low-cost 'Temporary ID' that can be accepted by the civic and provincial government, and meets the criteria for acquiring permanent ID (BCID, Driver's License, Passports, Birth Certificate, etc.).
- Larger fines for drivers who break the law.
- Legal rights, trained advocates specifically for trans and non-binary individuals.
- Removing barriers to legal name change, removing fees, fingerprinting, CRA and medical records complications.
- Legalize all drugs so crime rates go down.
- Restore Legal Aid for lower income and vulnerable populations – make Family Law Support accessible and affordable.
- Expunging criminal records.
- Support women's ability to parent with minimal disruption following separation/divorce.
- Train lawyers and judges better.
- We emphasize the need for regular review of administrative tribunals that disproportionately affect low income people to ensure those bodies are accessible, are functioning well, and are procedurally fair. A reasonable starting place would be the Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal (EAAT) and the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB).

- We wish to highlight in particular the need for a dramatic increase in funding to legal aid.
- A further key need in British Columbia is a culturally appropriate and responsive justice system that is focused on improving outcomes for Indigenous people and reducing their over-representation in the adult and youth criminal justice systems and the child welfare system in order to help end the cycle of a worsening legal and economic situation that many in those communities can face.
- Better policing in higher crime areas. More and better lighting in town for safety. Better community policing.
- Change the system entirely so that when there are charges of domestic violence that the victim does not need to give up their entire life in order to defend themselves and their children from predatory lawyers and an adversarial system that assumes that women lie about abuse to 'win' custody/court battles. Change the family law system so that there is an automatic administrative method of dealing with the situation where there is abuse, do not leave the defense of children up to the abused partner who is already suffering from PTSD from the abuse and likely is not in a strong position financially to be able to pay lawyers, who are in direct conflict of interest with the children's best interests.
- Decriminalize opiates.
- Justice system needs to be overhauled as prejudiced.
- Need victim compensation services assessed case by case.
- End the war on drugs.
- Investigate over-policing of the DTES.
- Less punitive model. Need incentives for people to reintegrate. Transition out of prison, into a safe home. Police need better mental health training. Jail alternatives for mental health related arrests.
- People with criminal records should have support to reintegrate.
- Rescind/rewrite laws used to harass low-income individuals (public disorder, public intoxication etc.).
- Take restorative justice approach to law enforcement.
- Liaison person to deal with "crime" or criminalizing mental health and homelessness –help stop jail as only solution.
- Use policy/anti-discrimination law to protect lived names and gender expression.
- What is pertinent is that the Family Law system needs a drastic overhaul if BC wants to reduce the rate of poverty for single moms and their children
- better accessibility to legal aid.
- Ensure welfare adheres to charter (rewrite welfare act).
- We need to create a new state that will abolish all laws defending private property and defend instead commonly held property from private expropriation.
- Shift the focus away from prosecuting welfare fraud to catching white collar criminals and tax evaders.
- More funds should be put towards crime reduction strategies including restorative justice, instead of incarceration.
- Drugs - Monitor quality control.

- Educating RCMP why low income / MH people are doing what they are doing A221.
- Overhaul the Federal Justice System.
- Address that 25 or 35 hours are insufficient to resolve the legal issues in even moderately complex family law proceedings and is usually only enough time to obtain an initial protection order (an order that can keep a violent spouse away), which is often time limited. Increase the number of hours available as per recommendations by legal advocacy groups Westcoast LEAF, BCPIAC and others.
- Ensure that the financial cut-off to qualify for service corresponds to the actual needs and circumstances of women seeking legal assistance and raise the low financial cut-off.
- Eliminate a “one-size-fits-all” approach to allotting family law legal aid service hours, as 25 hours (or exceptionally 35 hours) are insufficient to resolve the legal issues in even moderately complex family law proceedings and is usually only enough time to obtain an initial protection order (an order that can keep a violent spouse away), which is often time limited. Increase the number of hours available as per recommendations by legal advocacy groups West Coast LEAF, BCPIAC and others.
- Not only do we recommend you increase enforcement mechanisms available for people living in poverty, but we urge you to begin addressing the lack of proportionality and disparity in the level of punishment that exists in our justice system.
- Access to Justice: ensure there is adequate family law legal aid funding.
- That all disadvantaged people have increased access to legal representation on a pro bono basis, funded in part by a tax credit given to participating lawyers who perform up to 200 hours of work certified by Access Pro Bono, which organization would refer the work to a roster of lawyers and later certify the hours to be used to obtain the tax credit. Many lawyers would be added to the roster and more citizens would get access to justice for a reasonable cost to government.
- Improve the Ministry of Justice's abilities to ensure better FMEP collection results with more tools and legal avenues that currently exist. Create further measures for extreme delinquency.
- An overhaul of police systems, and create more community accountability and less police on the streets.
- End drug trafficking.
- The government needs to do another review of wills and estates legislation to ensure that poor disabled adult children from families where there is some money are able to get the information they need.
- Safety (in the workplace, at home, in schools).
- Give teeth to the legislative oversight of private security.
- Shorten the year and a half long wait to get to court.
- Promise social justice, not charity.
- Help with small claims court.

- Provide funding for another poverty law advocate.
- Have more access to Legal Aid.
- There is the need to crack down on drug dealers.
- Need alternative court solutions (i.e. Drug court).
- Minor crimes/pay your debt to society.
- There is the need for more safety for those in poverty.
- People should be allowed to do community work instead of court for petty crimes.
- Need long-term RCMP in the community, not rookies for 3 year terms.
- A First Nations RCMP representative – need First Nations people there.
- Investigate restorative justice and wraparound services.
- Immigration services and support.
- Family matters should be outside of court.
- Provide trauma informed training and cultural safety training for all government, law enforcement, agency and other frontline staff.
- Remove policies that police poverty to make public spaces truly for all people (e.g., six hour rule, panhandling charges).
- Support and education for bylaw officers and the police.

## **Other Service Delivery**

- A member of the BC Ombudsman's Office should exist simply to help seniors fill out confusing forms.
- Don't group everyone in same group as having same issues...reach out and address them individually.
- Teach community-based wisdom and continue the conversation.
- “Necessity is the mother of intervention”. Support innovation.
- A more coordinated approach with community agencies offering community services so those in need are more aware of what services are available—especially regarding food resources.
- A package detailing services for seniors comes from the Province when you retire or if you need any assistance.
- A system could be set up in a service agency where people in poverty could have access to the information and services available. They need to be made aware of agencies which can help walk them through the process of applying for funding, looking for housing, help find ways to conquer their addictions, provide the much needed supplement of healthy meals.
- Access currently isn't the issue in my mind, it's the amount of resources we're lacking. There are plenty of feeding programs, clothing programs, etc. going on at a community level, but they are underfunded, depend on volunteers and they are there because they're filling a gap the government resources have left behind, which are also underfunded and understaffed. We don't need to reinvent the wheel with new programs, we need to support and fund and sometimes as just the existing programs so they function better.

- Access to family counselling; job training; financial education; access to mental health services and rehab resources.
- Access to services/ information of services available in community/ provincial services data base that is user friendly.
- Across all social services, implement mandatory trans inclusive training for staff, delivered by those directly affected.
- Across all social services, link client records including to care card number. See the government and health "Circle of Care Communication" model.
- Act on their needs.... as quickly as possible. If they need something then you must do something to help them acquire that need. It needs to be acted on quickly rather than just talking about it.
- Letters and/or memorandum of understanding that recognizing a need for bridging the gaps with services/needs regarding aboriginal people.
- More advertising of services available – pharmacare, faircare.
- More low-cost/free services for those that have suffered during residential schools, 60s scoop, etc.
- Address the systemic barriers that make it very difficult for people to get out of poverty. Government programmes and private sector agencies have numerous policies that prevent people from helping themselves.
- Advertise resources around the community, not just on-line. Use schools (all ages), staff rooms of minimum wage jobs, coordinated service “hubs”. Use notice boards.
- All government bodies should have cultural sensitivity training.
- All systems like healthcare and social workers and legal system need to be educated on colonization including residential schools and 60s scoop.
- Advocacy in navigating the government systems and accessing programming that individuals are entitled to would also make a massive difference.
- All funding disbursement should be on the same day (income assistance, OAS, CPP, disability etc.).
- All government services should provide translation and linguistic services.
- All provincial services, and particularly those relied on by people living in poverty, must be trauma-informed and culturally safe.
- Allow communities the freedom to offer services which address local need (community centres, e.g. Alano Club, Source Club).
- Allow senior's poverty advocates who work individually with people to find the services that will assist the person in need and not be restricted to particular domains of service, i.e. housing, or dementia, or transportation.
- ASL interpreters specifically for transitional (gender) services.
- Better integrate services to provide "wrap around" care.
- Better outreach/media communication to youth about programs and opportunities that are happening or ongoing.
- Bridge/integrate cultural and spiritual gaps through education, special events, multicultural displays.
- Better education of social workers on local communities, standards and norms.
- Outreach workers needed to help people jump through the hoops.

- Eliminate of paperwork, lack of help to navigate system.
- Build Trust and Relationships by introducing people personally to new staff, not giving people a number, emphasizing communication, using mentors and people with lived experience as advocates, using unpaid volunteers to help, basing services on love; supportive and emotional care.
- Appropriate support is available at each stage of life and service. To be supportive, is organized around the person, not the provider.
- Developing more resources and services that are decolonized and easier to access.
- Bureaucratic processes need to be kept to minimum to improve funding for end users. Reduction in paper work would to improve service provision and timely delivery of services.
- Celebrate milestones and successes by people moving forward.
- Centralize all the services in the municipal level.
- Centralize information and resources (i.e. hub/s that include counselling, employment services, community kitchen, showers, laundry, meals, information etc.). Catalogue of resources (community skills and resources) e.g. retirees-youth mentoring, people without garden-people with green spaces.
- Certain locations, such as government offices, should be made more accessible.
- Bottom line is gov't has to create legislation for access for PWD. For example, landlord tenancy rights (food banks, safe locations). Others can hear about it everyday but not true for deaf or deaf/blind communities.
- Collaborative work with the Federal Government to simplify the certification requirements and rules governing changes of name and birthdate required for income programs and the BC Care Card or BC ID card.
- Create a sliding fee scale for pet owners with local vets.
- Create a Volunteer Tax Credit along with other ways to officially recognize voluntary contributions of help and service to other seniors.
- Create an Office of Disabilities to coordinate between departments and governments.
- Create an on-line place where local people can post housing needs and openings.
- Create and support programs that help people, e.g. soup kitchens, food banks, etc. Financial literacy.
- More front line support to get people connected to resources. Outreach programs for isolated people. More outreach / advocacy workers.
- Create more support services for Veterans – Advocacy.
- Create opportunities for communities to connect; try to connect people from different socio-economic backgrounds such as seniors-to-young people; provide sporting events with free accessibility.
- Creation of a foundation, that is specifically funded to collaborate and support the social determinants of health (SDOH) such as; culture, health, employment, school, education, emotional, mental, spiritual and physical health and other important aspects of Metis life.

- Data to be collected via census to broadly identify needs of trans and non-binary people.
- Need a sounding board: bridges between impoverished and community & help people who are isolated & not able to speak up or advocate for themselves.
- Advertising “human services” where we can get the information that matters in a timely fashion (like the welcome wagon).
- Someone to bridge to the services: who is paid to help: not a volunteer who only has some time.
- Develop a one-stop location to obtain all ID.
- Development of peer-to-peer support groups, build peer-to-peer support groups that promote education, collaboration and solidarity.
- Essential Skills programing as per the Service Canada definition.
- Discussions/training by trans and non-binary peers to educate about local services and accessing them.
- Dispersed services not concentration – for people in communities they live in.
- DTES residents should get a local discount card for 20% for all the fancy new stores going up.
- Have more sensitive and dignifying approaches to obtaining services.
- Have peer navigation program to connect those with lived experience with those with little experience.
- More services in native language for elders that do not speak English well, or for those whom prefer to speak in their native language.
- Empower people. Lead from behind.
- Encouraging banks to become more accessible to low income people; encouraging the establishment of lending co-operatives for handling small amounts of money.
- Ensure universal services as an alternative to universal income, including adequate livable housing, health and mental wellness services, internet access and cell phone use, education, etc.
- Development of a Community Hub: central location for services, post secondary training/ employment opportunities, health & mental health services, food bank, housing office, etc.
- Need a Centre (Friendship Centre) with outreach programs for isolated people, day programs, drop-in, low barrier programs, outreach, advocacy, computer access.
- Ensure Youth Resource Centres are well funded.
- Expand 24/7 services including controlled drug use.
- Extra vouchers for clothes and necessary items.
- Family Place should get free advertising.
- Flexibility with funding options for communities, as the needs of each community are unique.
- Facilitation of increased alignment of services, supports and programs.
- From tax filing to cooking and everything in between, BC’s library workers are building coalitions and partnerships that make living in poverty more bearable. But there is so much more we can do so that libraries continue to be a critical



component of BC's poverty reduction strategy. This includes increasing funding, recognizing the importance of the relationship between the staff and the community, ensuring that our public services aren't subsidized off the backs of precarious workers, which contributes to BC's poverty problem. This can be done by recognizing the significant role libraries and library workers play in the reduction of poverty in BC and the power of connecting communities and services together.

- Better education among politicians, policy makers and the public on issues related to poverty. Both government and non-profits need to play a role.
- Conduct a review old and outdated government policies and services with consultations from local communities to ensure they better reflect the unique community needs of all British Columbians.
- Encourage community development projects with a focus on empowerment instead of direct services only.
- There is the need to minimize duplication.
- Focus on primary care transformation as a first point of contact for people living in poverty to access health and social services.
- The BCCFP recommends development of an integrated, team-based, multi-disciplinary primary health care system that uses an equity lens in all phases of development, implementation, and evaluation. [...] Primary care reform should include appropriate access to mental health and addictions services, as well as social work, socio-economic intervention, and connection to appropriate programs and resources.
- Free renovations for accessibility.
- Freeze all costs for senior pensioners and disability pensioners.
- Course for all provincial workers on Indigenous culture.
- Funding for the coordination and delivery of both in person and online (Slack, Telegram) networking platforms for trans and non-binary individuals to build community and exchange resources.
- Gender neutral markers on ID.
- Have a group Plan/Organize a Day Conference where all Service Agencies are available and present how their agency can assist in reducing poverty through workshops such as budgeting, life skills, motivations to kick start personal development and what their perimeters are for giving assistance.
- Have consistency in the way staff/agencies report.
- Have services tailored to or administered by Indigenous people in a culturally respectful way.
- Help with developing a "community collective" type body that could allow the community to put money into shares that will support any number of ventures. Housing, farming, transportation etc.
- Hire wheelchair users to vet plans for buildings, sidewalk access, etc. into buildings and have them train other staff on why these things matter.
- Hold more information sessions within the community for different age groups. Focus on different themes (medical, emotional, spiritual, taxes and more).

- Identification that aligns with desired name/gender expression - including no gender option.
- Implement a free or low-cost 'Temporary ID' that can be accepted by the civic and provincial government, and meets the criteria for acquiring permanent ID.
- Implement information from disability white paper from a few years ago.
- Immediately offer core funding to seniors centres, neighbourhood houses, community centres, etc, to offer low cost or free meal programs to seniors. We are also suggesting fund a wide range of nutritional support programs for seniors.
- Include community consultations in planning/development/implementation. Include the homeless in housing planning. Include the impoverished in subsidy planning. Include those targeted for learning in lesson planning.
- Increase access to advocacy from poverty law professionals.
- Increased access to laundry etc.
- Indigenous healthcare services moved from federal to provincial.
- Innovative policies / projects to support better intergenerational relationships (e.g. mixing child care & senior care or seniors & students etc.).
- Invest in services to support people to return to school, work- provide small business start-up funding.
- Issue grants and/or tax breaks to companies, universities and vocational schools to encourage the provision of good quality/affordable goods and services to those on fixed incomes in the DTES. Issue grants or tax break to local companies to encourage them to provide shoes to those on fixed incomes within the DTES. Encourage them to leverage social capital.
- Audit the resources provided to all agencies across BC who profess to help reduce poverty and homeless and then streamline and coordinate such services so that they are more effective and people receive the best services.
- Connect what we do to health, doctors, physio, advocacy, social work, triage.
- It is recommended that the Provincial Government immediately fund MNBC to create a Cultural Wellness and Safety curriculum on the Metis population in BC. This curriculum will be a part of San'yas Indigenous Cultural Competency training, and Provincial Government employees and health authority staff will be taught Metis curriculum, to decrease the misconceptions and increase understanding of the unique and distinct Culture of the Metis people.
- Make BC employment more accessible for persons with disabilities: Decrease wait times, make more interpreters available.
- Make investments in services for accessibility.
- Provincial govt. and federal should set up a system like the City of Vancouver's #311 – number where you can easily find services.
- Ministry, MCFD, Health need to coordinate.
- The government must include clients in decision affecting their lives.
- Metis Community Advocates helping navigate the health care system.
- Metis culturally safe advocate/support staff in each Community.
- Ministries may have different programs and services but they should be able to work together to move people through the system. One piece of identification should work for all and be easy to access.

- Less restrictions on communication between different levels/departments of government.
- Main database of information.
- Need to give people certainty.
- Promote better integration of services –i.e. mental health/ health care services.
- Need more coordination between federal and provincial agencies.
- Rework communication confidentiality plans so information can be shared across Ministries.
- We need to relook at privacy concerns/legislation to ensure that the service needs of clients are not compromised.
- Standardized confidentiality and access to data base.
- People should be able to provide an ID number or swipe an ID card that gives access to client information.
- Multi-cultural training.
- We need to break down silos so that all Ministries talk to each other -adopt a more integrated approach.
- More Free Stores for basic or household items (like in many small communities where local landfill sites have a separate section of re-usable items).
- More programs to support women to be empowered when they leave violence.
- More services for single fathers and two parent families generally.
- More services in rural areas – in the city there is always somewhere to go (soup kitchen, shelters, supports etc.).
- More transitional support re-integrating into community after jail.
- Move to a more social based economic system moving away from the commodification of basic human needs such as food, shelter, and health care.
- Navigating the bureaucracy, especially when providers constantly misgender you, is a huge barrier. Participants discussed a centralized database where the individual's records are available for both government and health services. "Circle of Care Communication" can be used as an example of removing the responsibility from the individual to the system. Personal file linked to your Care Card number with general information.
- Need more of them (like BYRC) and more funding for those that work there.
- NO PIPELINE! All of the billions of dollars the government has put into the pipelines could have gone into reducing poverty and homelessness. It's not too late to make the change!
- Our system needs to focus on giving a "hand-up" rather than a "hand-out."
- Outreach for Elders.
- Paying staff to run programs rather than relying on dwindling supply of aging community volunteers for stable programs.
- Require Indigenous cultural and sensitivity training for police officers.
- Peer support. Asking people what they need meeting them at their point of need, not assuming that you know what they need.
- People need to work as a team and include family members, not just the individual that is affected...unfortunately once people become adults, family members no longer are able to help them without the person's permission.

- Place notices in tax returns informing seniors on where to get various kinds of help (e.g. information on ridesharing, community kitchens). Slip a Defined Income notice in the same envelope as Property Tax notices.
- Programs to help those struggling that aren't actually homeless. More programs like the multi target program. Make this accessible to all. A life skills/life coaching program.
- Provide intergenerational opportunities for connecting seniors to kids.
- Provide more services for parents who are together and families.
- Provide more support to people with multiple barriers and understand that these barriers impede their ability to function in society. Provide more outreach and advocacy support to assist with navigating through the system.
- Reduce the taxes on pet food (currently charged luxury tax).
- Senior's poverty advocates who work individually with people to find the services that will assist the person in need and not be restricted to particular domains of service, i.e. housing, or dementia, or transportation, but the advocates focus would be on the individual.
- Services need to be onsite and available at different times of day (daytime/evening) where vulnerable persons are residing for easier, consistent access.
- Simplify processes so people don't have to stress all the time about asking for basic help and fear being rejected. Don't make people re-qualify for help every few years, as SCI is permanent.
- Start volunteer programs for children/teenagers to get involved with the community to gather food donations/clothes/household items and let them give to others who are in poverty so they can see first hand how poverty affects everyone.
- Stop changing rules when government change.
- Support centres such as SOS and ACE are crucial in building confidence, skill and support networks, and also-more specialized centres that focus on physical and mental health.
- Support trash pick-up when seniors don't have a truck to take large items to the dump.
- Support within community agencies across the board to help employable individuals with gas cards, bus passes, clothing and footwear to reduce barriers in seeking and securing employment or education toward employment.
- Supports that assist persons who are currently living on a fixed income, to move, to better assist in navigate the requirements of receiving financial assistance. Many of our participants reported that it was difficult when attempting to get support with questions regarding funding, programs, requirements of receiving benefits.
- The use of " life coaches " should be included in the process.
- There needs to be equality when applying for funding without the competition. Competition only breeds mistrust and disconnection.
- There should be a system where low income people can get a card that shows they are on a fixed income. Businesses could then offer specific discounts, near cheque issue day, so that they can purchase items.

- Turn schools into activity centers when not being used. Use all resources (including empty buildings, existing NP's by altering red tape, using building codes, bylaws, etc. to address community concerns (poverty, mental health etc.).
- Use mechanisms (eco-villages, supportive communities, electronic hubs, community bulletin boards) to encourage sharing between neighbours.
- Use resources and methods like Bridges Out of Poverty (which connects people with a group of non-professional supporters and allies) to provide supportive communities of people around people who are facing challenges with moving forward.
- Use schools to inform the community about programs. Use radio, poster boards and Internet to spread the word.
- Voluntary community amenity payment.
- We need a laundromat – there is nowhere on Salt Spring to wash clothes or take a shower.
- We need common rooms and community programming, but not like a non-profit housing jail.
- With the recent federal commitment to Service Canada to increase voluntary activity among youth, why not channel some/more of that service to older adults? You could offer them a tuition credit for service.
- Women's nights – opportunities for informal discussion groups and mutual aid.
- Work in Partnerships/Teams: Invite frontline workers to events like this one so they are not a barrier.
- Work with the Federal Government to bring back Service Canada offices to smaller communities or partner with agencies like WorkBC to host a part-time SC worker – so many questions at the WorkBC office are Service Canada-based.
- Ensure Health care providers are sensitive and compassionate. Health care providers should undergo an assessment which measures whether they are suited for this kind of profession. Racism and mistreatment needs to be recognized as a clear breach of professionalism and should be reason for terminating the health care professional's ability to practice. Health care professions should have mandatory training in community in indigenous organizations.
- Partner with Friendship Centers to provide access to culturally sensitive health care supports.
- Incorporation of culturally appropriate Indigenous health care.
- Adopt "plain language" and translated versions of health education materials and community social service materials.
- Assist low-income individuals/families to access a quality primary care practitioner.
- Provide centres with the infrastructure and resources for Information and Referral programs so that seniors get help in navigating the myriad of paperwork required for access to programs and benefits.
- Less wait times for accessing all services (healthcare, detox, mental health supports, housing): "You can die waiting for help".

- Require health authorities to incorporate an inequity analysis in planning and to develop a plan to reduce inequity in service access.
- Transform the primary health care system to an integrated, team-based, multidisciplinary community-based primary health care system (including health promotion, prevention, acute and chronic primary care, specialists, and expanded community mental health and addictions services with at least a 3:1 ratio of non-physician to physician professionals and non-FFS remuneration for physicians) with community, patients and caregivers as part of governance and a heavy emphasis on quality improvement based on good healthcare data systems, appropriate metrics and feedback to clinicians and governance as well as public reporting.
- Aging out of programs/support would be funded.
- Indigenous Representation working in Social Services and in levels of Government – Indigenous people would feel more comfortable seeking supports or speaking with levels of government if they saw at least one indigenous person working there.
- More services in rural areas.
- Have more Ministry Specific Advocates/Ombudspersons for ALL Ministries that need them...i.e., one for Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Their role would be to lobby government (at all levels) and support individuals. Should be someone who has had to face poverty at some point in time, so they can relate to the issues involved. Can work to reduce duplication of forms, paperwork, and bureaucracy that impedes people. Would be independent from government. Similar or the same as Ministry of Children and Family Development has.
- More support for Rural Social Programming (more financial support to community run social services).
- First Nations Representation working for social services and government.
- Better distribution of information around community resources, how/where to access beds, household goods, food, vacancy listings - build awareness about where to get help.
- Create a community “hub of services”. Friendship centre. Navigator / advocate in community to assist low income / MH people. Needs to be in a central hub. - Drop in place where multiple services are available to direct me to the right connections, people, services (eg grief counselling, social services, housing, etc). Centre like “Open Door (in Victoria)” free laundry, showers, maybe with apartments upstairs, volunteers. Community walk-in centre provides opportunity for people to mentor each other, exchange ideas, communicate with each other, offer free events. Resources to help with poverty reduction could be centrally located/ available /accessible.
- More men’s services.
- Need someone to talk through issues, problems to keep me motivated.
- Local Veterans’ services.
- Work BC employees should be hired on the basis of have they suffered the personal handicaps of the clients that they are trying to help. Reduce the hires who only suit people without any social, financial or employment handicaps. They

should have a proven track record at solving these handicaps for themselves and others.

- Extended family participation in responding to family crises.
- Reduce or eliminate all fees for low and fixed income (licenses, certificates, banking, government, etc).
- Reduce seniors and people with disabilities' isolation by co-locating such services in schools, malls and high traffic area.
- Access to health care is only one of the requirements for living a healthy life. The experiences of Connect for Health's clients clearly demonstrate the role that SDOH such as housing, income security, child care, and social support play in the health and well-being of Canadians. Single issues such as chronic pain can quickly deteriorate someone's life conditions if SDOH are not addressed.
- Fund Family Support Workers.
- The province of BC needs to look at every benefit that people on PWD get and considering whether those receiving CPP Disability Benefits should get them too. Why do people on PWD get free camping in provincial parks but not people on CPP Disability benefits?
- Give PWD more decision power or at least allow their opinion to be heard.
- More family support workers.
- There should be better access to services faster. i.e. Methadone treatment.
- Government needs to shift away from technology.
- Provide the homeless with access to a bank/ banking services.
- People need help to get free ID replacements.
- The issue of anxious people in community that have misinformed information needs to be addressed.
- More options for counselling services.
- Ensure that organizations have the resources that they need - so many people are working with reduced staffing - service cut backs and reduced funding have created pressure in the system- pressures that now seem "normal".
- Restore all programs cut in last 16 years.
- Increase Salvation Army hours.
- Spread services out (different offices) but close together.
- Aggressive recruitment for counsellors, ECEs, social workers. Pay incentives for moving.
- Need access to translation services.
- If there is an error just show people where they made the error. Help people fill out the sections where they made an error.
- Put it in the paper and let people know; instead of creating favouritism (e.g., staff will tell certain people).
- Our Place – there aren't enough staff. If there were more, they could do what they're trained to do – listen and support (it takes more than money!).
- Regulate and oversee second hand shops and the money they have, to make sure they help low income/poor.

## **CROSS-CUTTING THEMES**

## Reconciliation

- [This Poverty Reduction Plan] needs to focus on the structural barriers faced by Indigenous and marginalized groups.
- Acknowledgement of our unique identity as Metis people - distinct from First Nations; The forgotten people" the Metis, are behind First Nations and immigrants socially and economically. Metis are virtually "unknown." Be recognized as a distinct Nation with a distinct Culture that we are.
- Addressing the impact of Residential/Day and Mission Schools and the "60's Scoop".
- Close sports fishing; restore territorial and traditional use of shell/fish rights, harvest and hunting, restore traditional teachings for children and youth.
- Collaboration and support between city and local nations (off reserve members count too) to address poverty related issues, including once a month progress review/update meetings between all stakeholders.
- Decolonize all levels of government including Indigenous and all government contractors by implementing United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous People.
- Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).
- Foundation/to collaborate with Metis issues; culture, health, employment, school, education, emotional, mental, spiritual, physical aspects.
- Full recognition of Metis/Aboriginal Rights from provincial and federal governments.
- Government support for heritage and Michif language preservation.
- Implement Metis cultural harvesting rights.
- Increase Indigenous representation in the community of Surrey (example – hospitals, city hall or community events).
- Increase supports for the regions & Indigenous nations including land entitlements.
- Indigenous management of Turtle Island.
- Educate Canadians from a young age about colonial practices in Canada – including past injustices like Residential School as well as current realities like racism. Educate Immigrants to Canada, as well as people temporarily living in Canada – such as young workers coming to Whistler for the season.
- Examine how colonization and residential schools have impacted not only the indigenous population but all Canadians.
- Restructure federal and provincial funding to better address the needs of all Aboriginal people, including the large off-reserve population.
- Indigenous representation on provincial and other government governing and/or policy-making bodies.
- Legislate Metis lens in government programs.
- Metis in the province have no funding for capacity development as other Aboriginal groups do. There is a lack of engagement from the provincial



government for Metis needs and lack of understanding of Metis governance and presence in BC.

- Metis People to acquire support from funding bodies for multilevel Metis cultural reclamation.
- Metis representation at the decision-making level. Metis lens included at decision-making tables; all levels of government, health care, education, economic development.
- More culturally appropriate prevention and wellness programs, which is an essential part of addressing the impacts of colonization. There is a need for more qualified trauma counsellors as there is a constant waiting list.
- More investigation into missing and murdered women and better treatment of the families.
- More traditional healing circles and practices, rather than always needing to refer to mainstream solutions.
- Need for a space for our people to meet and gather in each of MNBC's seven regions.
- Need for ceremony to be shared and taught.
- Need more consultation with Indigenous agencies when non-Indigenous organizations and groups are developing and operates services in the urban community.
- No apartheid Canada.
- Non-Indigenous people should learn about privilege and should challenge negative stereotypes of Native people.
- Immediately increase funding for First Nations child welfare, education and community health services and services for urban Indigenous people and develop a long-term poverty eradication strategy in collaboration with First Nations and other Indigenous organizations and communities.
- Outreach – education to learn more of the traditional teachings.
- Pathways need to be created for Metis to reclaim their culture and cultural practices such as hunting and gathering and reestablishing traditional family practices and dynamics.
- Residential school survivor support.
- Return the land to us (Indigenous people).
- Supply First Nations counselors.
- The need for Metis People to sit on various boards of Directors of the decision-making organizations and governments to bring the Metis lens (perspective) to the forefront in negotiations and planning.
- The solutions must come from the people themselves - an Indigenous lens promotes cultural activities as a way of reducing social disconnection while improving well-being, self-confidence and self-identity.
- Truth + reconciliation commission calls to action implemented especially as related to UNDRIP.
- Use the community skills kids need (include elders).
- Endorse the eradication of third party management of Indigenous communities.

- B.C. poverty reduction strategy would recognize colonization and the affects on multiple generations. With this recognition work towards specific reparations for Indigenous peoples throughout the province.
- Address First Nations issues: While the budget has provided considerable financial support for a number of issues, more is needed to achieve reconciliation, the settlement of land claims and treaty agreements, self-governance, accountability, financing, reduced stigma, improved housing, law enforcement, health and education services and infrastructure (water, sewage, utilities) and better coordination with off-reserve services.
- Address the needs of those most likely to be living in poverty – including restructuring federal and provincial funding to better address the needs of all Aboriginal people, including the large off-reserve population.
- Educate Canadians from a young age about colonial practices in Canada – including past injustices like Residential School as well as current realities like racism. Educate Immigrants to Canada, as well as people temporarily living in Canada – such as young workers coming to Whistler for the season.
- Host Indigenous Cultural Days and Events in communities and places of business.
- Provide interpretive cultural signage throughout Whistler about the vibrant history of Indigenous heritage in the area. Not just at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, but at each point of heritage in the area (Nesters, Green Lake, Whistler Mountain, etc).
- Collaboration and support between city and local nations (off reserve members count too) to address poverty related issues, including once a month progress review/update meetings between all stakeholders.
- Indigenous sovereignty.
- Bring education, social and health funding for indigenous people to the same level as that for other Canadians (We can't believe we're having to recommend this!).
- Strengthen the network of Friendship Centres.
- Do not lose sight of work already done and recommendations already accepted. Eg. Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Keep reaching out to indigenous leaders, and encouraging indigenous leadership to reach out to all levels of government.
- Extensive and joint planning with Indigenous organisations.
- Funding for self- determined poverty reduction in local Indigenous communities.
- Support, training and financing for more effective self-governance of Indigenous communities (local control of education, policing, housing and maintenance of traditional languages, ceremonies and cultural practices).
- Ensure that Indigenous Peoples are not more exposed to pollution, poverty, and adverse effects on the social and ecological determinants of health due to a disproportionate prevalence of extractive and other polluting industries near where they reside.
- Promote indigenous art work and crafts – advertise well/ promote talent to increase self-efficacy.

- Incorporate strength and knowledge of Elders in teaching youth.
- Teach history of residential schools – the “why” residential schools.
- There needs to be more education about how First Nations people are treated.
- Address Indigenous poverty. Recognize that First Nations are suffering.
- Language in schools in more public schools more than just reserves that have culture ed more school around here have more Indigenous students who don't get to learn about themselves learn more about other cultures then our own.
- Recognize healing power of land.
- Culturally-informed care empowered.
- Connection between health land and healthy people. direct resources to getting people on the land.
- Value multiple worldviews.
- Recognizing Ab rights and title.
- Indigenous languages . spoken by ministry staff. proportized to be taught in schools at same level as French, Spanish, etc..
- General public education to understand how structural oppression leads to/affects poverty à push for structural change.
- First Nation land title claimers will affect all businesses changes within treat territories à PR strategy must take these possibilities into account as \$ may move twds nations not province.
- Band office pay attention to people's problems.
- Responsibilities need to be given back to hierarchy system to help people
- Responsibilities stripped from hereditary system, devalued, colonized, approach cannot work for trauma. Reindigenization, not charity, mutual aid.
- Grassroots infrastructure to empower heredity to recreate enoughness.
- Aboriginal language. Also not taught in school – should be a dedicated class supported by the school system.
- All ministries need to be engaged – especially education for learning First Nations language.
- First Nation land titles changes How will this affect poverty? Must be planned for.
- Band offices getting new business (mining, forestry,tourism).
- Using money to fight legal battles now and could be funding wellness.
- Restructuring federal and provincial funding to better address the needs of all Aboriginal people, including the large off-reserve population.
- Economic development in small and indigenous communities so people don't have to leave.
- Support from band office.
- Championing increased programming geared to North through CNC/UNBC.
- Children of First Nations need to feel pride in themselves to rise above - all children need this. You accomplish one good thing, you'll build confidence to do the next big things – need to build pride in self. Dancing should be part of First Nations community – it helps a lot to build pride for kids. Kids who stopped dancing felt inspired -- start again. Dancers ae becoming leaders, positive influence. Provide opportunity and identity.

- Start with the children and help the issues within their family. Focus on positive influence and the ways you can influence others. Should build pride instead of stigma. Focus on culinary skills/dance. FN are very close knit. More opportunity to dance and inspire. People of dignity incorporated regardless what their background is.
- Enable municipality to have more conversations with FN.
- Celebration events. Self-respect and self-esteem. Promotes dignity and respect. Conscious of how you trust others. Dance First Nations.
- Create places for First Nations. These are the people that are your clients. Two-way treatment between staff and client. Look at where they are coming from. Good empathetic skills. Imagine if 80% treat people with respect.
- Share knowledge of traditional food/plants.
- Start working with community in FN territory.
- Apply Indigenous lens to policies.
- Deal with trauma of being aboriginal.
- Special focus on Aboriginal voice & aboriginal solutions in addressing aboriginal experiences of poverty (role of culture).
- Education for First Nations to upgrade education and training.
- Provide more services and support in the community for First Nations to transition off reserve.

## **Human Rights and Gender Equity**

- Amend the BC Human Rights Code to include social condition as a prohibited ground of discrimination fulfilling recommendation 24 of A Human Rights Commission for the 21st Century.
- Address economic and social policy omissions and failures that make women vulnerable to male violence and less able to escape it, recommended above, including adequate social assistance rates, adequate housing, and adequate access to justice.
- Provide an MSDPR administered additional bursary system with a targeted stream for women, Indigenous and racialized women, to ensure they access opportunities to achieve economic stability.
- Provide robust funding to ensure women can exit abusive situations including shelters and transition housing, more counselling and support services, and programs for children who witness violence and abuse.
- Women have historically been more highly represented in ranks of the poor due to the wage gap, gender roles and the assumption of unpaid care- giving roles, leading to more tenuous employment. Thus home care and day care are critical to their advancement. Increase funding to low barrier mental health supports for women-identifying people who have experienced abuse or trauma. The BC government must also work to increase availability of transitional housing and career training, as well as childcare supports, for women fleeing abuse.

- Programming is directly and openly connected to the social goal of creating greater equity and equality and accordingly dismantling racism, sexism and ageism.
- Apply a gender-based + analysis lens on the development of the poverty reduction plan and a gendered approach to understanding economic inequality as a cause of poverty.
- Remove gender imbalance of poverty, women more vulnerable than men to be in poverty.
- Full compliance with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's (CHRT) ruling and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).
- Encourage policies that support human rights and gender equity.
- Whatever strategy that is developed also needs to address the missing piece of gender isolation and who is carrying the burden?
- Government should hire a gender analyst and look at policies through a gender lens – for example women are the primary educators of children and we need to allow them the time to do that.
- Women centre funding.
- Implement UNDRIP. Implement the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- We recommend amending the BC Human Rights Code to include social condition as a prohibited ground of discrimination.
- Improve access to human rights tribunals so that people who have experienced employment discrimination can more easily pursue a case against a large company.
- Violence against women prevalent in Quesnel/Northern communities. Lack of services for that.
- Equal pay for women.
- A provincial poverty reduction strategy must be grounded in a human rights framework, and make explicit reference to international human rights obligations.
- Recognize the linkage to Human Rights including the fact that everyone has right to have a roof over head.
- Access to public washrooms – human rights issue.
- Treat poverty issues as human rights issues.
- Protect human rights of trans and non-binary people by policy and anti-discrimination law, particularly in respect to an individual's lived names and gender expression.
- Remove barriers, and protect human rights of those engaging in non-conventional forms of work: busking, street performing, sex work.

## **The Strategy**

- A mix of downstream, midstream, and upstream approaches and collaboration across sectors.
- A comprehensive plan must include:

1. Legislated targets and time-lines, along with clear accountability mechanisms to ensure these targets are met.
  2. A human rights foundation.
  3. A whole-of-government approach (wherein all ministries must show how they are contributing to poverty reduction).
  4. Bold action across a number of core pillars, including: [see other recommendations]
- A successful Poverty Reduction strategy needs to incorporate a whole of government approach, which includes focusing ways to create a more diversified, sustainable, green economy, which is less reliant upon FIRE industries (Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate) for GDP growth. I would support a strategy which makes clear linkages between the excesses of the above industries and it's impact on the ability of average families and individuals to make a living and sustain a somewhat decent quality of life.
  - Address Social/economic inequality (including gender, racial, cultural concerns).
  - Advocate for a Seniors Minister or Advocate federally.
  - All enabling legislation for poverty needs a preamble that references Rights UNDRIP International Covenant Economic Social and Cultural rights. BC Government should back BC Liberties in Charter challenge on food + housing.
  - All levels of government could look at legislative changes to support rural living better. Changes to business operation rules, housing rental and purchase, ALR, etc. that are based solely on creating equity and support for the rural way of life and the value it brings to BC.
  - Focus on a poverty reduction strategy developed by and for Indigenous Peoples.
  - An official government definition of 'low income' and ' the poverty line'.
  - Appoint a minister for seniors.
  - Ask people with disabilities (and people in poverty) when implementing new policy.
  - BCAHL would encourage the BC government to include targets to mark progress on food security, affordable housing, homelessness, childhood vulnerability, high school completion and health inequities in the strategy as well as measures around depth of poverty, absolute numbers of individuals living under the poverty line and the rate of child poverty.
  - B.C.'s poverty reduction strategy be accountable to commitments to children's rights, Indigenous rights and the TRC Calls to Action across all action areas.
  - As a starting point, we recommend the plan contain a goal to reduce BC's child poverty rate to 7% or lower by 2020.
  - BC's poverty reduction strategy must be intentionally focused on creating a healthy and resilient society, founded on respect for human rights, fairness, the importance of building social cohesion and reducing inequity, including inequities of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and ability, as well as poverty.
  - BCAHL, as a member of the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, supports legislated targets with annual progress reporting. A commitment to accountability and transparency requires rigorous data be used to assess progress; as such, we suggest that Statistic's Canada Market Basket Measure be used to measure the following targets:

1. Reduce BC's poverty rate by 30% within four years and by 75% within 10 years.
  2. Ensure the poverty rate is reduced in populations that are at a heightened risk for poverty – including: children, lone-mother households, single senior women, First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples, those with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, by 30% within four years and by 75% within 10 years.
  3. Within two years, ensure that every British Columbian has access to an income that reaches at least 75% of the poverty line.
  4. Within two years, ensure no one has to sleep outside and end homelessness within eight years.
- Continue the consultation process at the local level – not a “one time” effort.
  - Coordinated approaches from multiple sectors and ministries. As the scope of the principles below indicates, appropriate actions should be outlined for all relevant sectors, including health care, social services, the private sector, and others. Data systems and metrics must track progress and gaps to guide opportunity to revise and strengthen the strategy, with particular attention to ensure the strategy appropriately benefits marginalized populations.
  - Create and publish a local poverty index in the paper each week.
  - Create plans to actually make key initiatives happen.
  - Evidence based policy for poverty.
  - Develop a strategy for healthy communities that is holistic and not ministry siloed.
  - Develop working community group (church, extended family, clients help to benefit self-worth issues to identify, prioritize and work on local - regional issues.)
  - Elected advisory for all organizations in a municipality to work on the issues of poverty.
  - Consulting and engaging with groups affected by poverty.
  - Creating a poverty reduction strategy or basic income that is difficult to dismantle by future governments.
  - Ensure governmental accountability.
  - Equity over equality.
  - Everybody, government and agencies, get together and define the issues then be creative in determining feasible solutions with those in need are the focal point.
  - FPSE endorses the targets and timelines proposed by the BCPRC.
  - Get the right people to the table to discuss issues and solutions further to create change.
  - Government Collaboration on poverty: All levels of government working together.
  - Government could do more rural studies, getting the real picture, the value and the costs of living without adequate access to services and supports. Look at impacts of limited access to medical care, unbalanced economy, lack of transportation, not enough housing etc. Really focus some time and money on this.
  - In our view, a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy for seniors is a necessary and specially focussed part of a larger poverty reduction initiative and

must address both increasing income and helping reduce or manage costs. We recommend that there be a full review of all the reports by the Seniors Advocate to identify the data and recommendations relevant to poverty among seniors.

- Incentivized philanthropic funding.
- Focus on alleviating poverty for “high risk” groups like Indigenous people, single parents, students with debts, PWD recipients, immigrants and refugees, those with mental health challenges, etc.
- Find local investors and donors to help fund poverty reduction strategies.
- Let's do this soon not wait.
- My suggestion is to focus on the PWD system.
- Initiate a grant program to fund local poverty reduction initiatives.
- Investment in human capital at all ages through education, employment, and healthcare.
- If the government introduces a poverty reduction strategy, no matter what that looks like, First Nation groups need to be consulted throughout the process, not only in the beginning phases.
- Involvement/integration of existing organizations (Catholic Church, PG College).
- It is vital that the legislated targets tackle the depth and not merely the breadth of poverty. Meaning, we need targets that get all British Columbians out of deep poverty, as we also significantly reduce the overall poverty rate.
- Laws should stay in place even when government changes (ex. This poverty plan).
- Lobby government at federal/provincial levels for funding (Issue: costs of medication, healthcare, housing).
- Meaningful involvement with individuals experiencing poverty in order to enable authentic empowerment.
- More government control over the increased cost of living (rental increases, food costs, medical costs, real estate, land speculation, rental increases).
- More money needs to be spent and smart people need to implement the changes.
- More opportunities for community consultations, feedback and conversations.
- Non-profits to approach government to discuss concerns.
- Northern and rural areas need solutions that are locally developed and locally implemented. Parachuting solutions in from the south will not work.
- Poverty reduction implies any level of poverty is Ok – need to take poverty elimination approach. 0% poverty is what we should be going for here, the perspective that should underpin any action moving forward.
- We need accountability at all levels.
- Need to take into consideration geographic differences/fair share. Break down geographic barriers.
- Government's role is changing - “Poverty is the consequence of the problem”- There is the need for a longer term fix not just band-aid solutions.
- Need anti poverty and disability and senior advocacy in north.
- Sustainability must be one of the guiding principles.
- Chilliwack needs a Poverty Reduction Plan.



- Poverty stats on Coast; what does it look like – show numbers publicly so we can know our community.
- PROMOTE this critical initiative!! [...] This initiative is long over-due, it is critical to our provincial health and well-being, AND it is good for the economy.
- Provide the basics of life - safe shelter, healthy food, a basic bank account and training on how to save and spend. Combine this with skills training, counselling and social opportunities. An eco village type setting is an example.
- Raised awareness around what is missing within the system (identifying gaps).
- Rich people should have an obligation to give back.
- Small action steps. Ones that everybody can participate in. then helping becomes more manageable.
- Specifically key populations that require particular focus within B.C.'s poverty reduction strategy include:
  - A. Indigenous peoples.
  - B. Seniors.
  - C. Individuals living with mental illness and substance use issues.
  - D. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, two-spirited individuals (LGBTQ2S+).
  - E. Individuals living with disability.
  - F. New Canadians (i.e. immigrants, refugees, displaced persons).
  - G. Single mothers.
- Greater investment must be made in supporting social networks, and engaging with community members in meaningful way through partnerships.
- Story telling about poverty that is more consistent plus solution proposals.
- Strategies not programs.
- Evidence based on needs of different populations.
- Empowerment model not charity model – engagement.
- Systems need to be streamlined to remove barriers for vulnerable people. This will require community-based programming and leadership as well as provincial and federal leadership in policy development.
- Targeted actions to reduce poverty among populations where poverty rates are most acute.
- Problem is going to be with us therefore funding should be stable.
- Less restricted funding.
- Through policy development and consultation, providing communities with the flexibility and opportunity to make decisions regarding funding to ensure it is meeting their specific needs and key priorities.
- Transparency from government on what decisions are being made.
- We recommend legislating a poverty/equity lens that requires all ministries to consider the impact of any change to government policy, program or service on low-income people and prohibit changes that will have a negative outcome or exacerbate poverty and inequality.
- We urge the provincial government to provide leadership, and to adopt and legislate poverty reduction targets and timelines with annual reports and other

accountability measures to track their progress. We recommend the following targets and timelines (using Statistics Canada's Market Basket Measure):

1. Reduce BC's poverty rate by 30% within four years, and by 75% within 10 years.
2. Ensure the poverty rate for children, lone-mother households, single senior women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities and mental illness, queer and transgender people, and recent immigrants and refugees likewise declines by 30% in four years, and by 75% in ten years, in recognition that poverty is concentrated in these populations.
3. Within two years, ensure that every British Columbian has an income that reaches at least 75% of the poverty line.
4. Within two years, ensure no one has to sleep outside, and end all homelessness within eight years (ensuring all homeless people have good quality, appropriate housing).

We urge the government to include targets for the depth of poverty (#3 and #4 above) and not merely the breadth of poverty, as failure to include such targets in the plan risks leaving the most poor and marginalized behind.

- Within the government, increase awareness of the critical importance of social supports to people living in poverty.
- Work together on poverty with federal, small & cooperate businesses, service providers, BC Housing, clients and proprietors. e.g. with an inclusive approach, landlords would understand that subsidies are to assist clients to remain housed and not a reason to increase rent, forcing them out of their homes.
- City, stake holders and interested parties do research around what other communities, provinces, countries are doing to address poverty, more round table discussions/meetings to move forward on implementing action.
- Proactive approach to preventing poverty rather than reactive.
- Rural communities need appropriate input into creating local solutions and not just a universal or provincial solution.
- Require all ministries and departments to look through poverty reduction lens.
- More transparency & cooperation/ collaboration w ministry & community Service.
- Ministries to collectively work together, for example MCFD aware of poverty issues but can't address as it's not their area, that is SDPR – Ministries must work together to meet all clients' needs collectively.
- Establish core funding.
- Providers with hope of developing understanding & trust.
- Expressed in many different ways, strengthening families' sense of belonging and connection to community was articulated by all participants.
- A commonly agreed upon definition of poverty that reflects the multidimensional nature of poverty and a measurement tool based on this definition.
- Assess the costs and benefits of different policy responses.
- Complete outcome evaluation following implementation of public policy and poverty reduction strategies in BC, especially the measured impacts on household food insecurity and health of individuals within the population.
- Put money into resources which help people get education, food and housing.

- Establish a clear provincial wide definition of poverty. With no one clear definition of poverty it is impossible to measure its reduction. Establish a definition of poverty and then realistic targets to reduce it. The targets should have legal ramifications if not met.
- Need a fully comprehensive, legislated poverty reduction plan. This includes further measures to address housing availability and affordability, child care, health, education, low wage work and employment standards, systemic inequality, and dental care.
- Poverty reduction is best achieved by ensuring that every community member has basic needs met including housing, health, dental, food and other basics of life available, and including restorative forms of justice and treatment that addresses trauma and mental health.
- Invest in research to monitor and report regularly on the financial inclusion and health of households and investigate related disparities, particularly those with respect to income and populations at high risk of poverty (for instance, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, and newcomers).
- Social stats of every variety are collected, published, understood and discussed - people will be able to compare their community to others. people will be able to see the success of programs, the shifting of resources from an achieved social priority to another not yet achieved.
- Rebalance monetary and social well-being measures: Gross National Product (GDP) vs Genuine Progress Indicators (GPI). focus the dialogue on human development, not economic development.
- Going to the “root cause” of problems, which different people defined as: capitalist system making real solutions impossible, dealing with people’s trauma of residential schools and colonization, breaking cycles of poverty and violence in children’s lives, “to make sure babies aren’t being ripped from their families”, “governments aren’t supposed to raise kids”, better care for mental illness.
- Can’t afford to build any pipelines, expand fish farms, build site C or engage in any damaging environmental project; support investment into green technology that doesn’t violate Indigenous sovereignty.
- Do not separate poverty reduction strategies that address the depth of poverty experienced by individuals on disability and social assistance from strategies that address the breadth of poverty experienced by low wage workers. Legislated targets and timelines on poverty reduction must significantly reduce poverty at all levels with reporting to demonstrate impact on homelessness and as well as to ensure that all British Columbians have income that reaches 75% of the poverty line.
- Long term strategies/plans rather than based on election cycles.
- Align federal and provincial systems (e.g. childcare program; standardized child definition).
- Review transfer payments and make some things conditional upon provincial targets/policies.
- Unanimous legislated buy-in from provinces/territories for national and provincial reduction strategies; have concrete poverty reduction targets.

- Use 1 to 2 % of GDP (increase investment) to implement the United Nations 13 Priorities for Sustainable Communities.
- During the development of B.C.'s Poverty Reduction Strategy, in order to ground the strategy in a human rights approach, vulnerable children and youth in B.C. should be consulted to respect their perspectives and their voice, in accordance with the UNCRC. The Strategy, upon completion, should reflect these voices.
- Expand the definition of poverty to include asset poverty, as well as income poverty.
- We support the call for a strong, comprehensive poverty reduction strategy with legislated targets and timelines to significantly reduce poverty, inequality, and homelessness in BC.
- Build financial empowerment into policies and programs where there is evidence it can improve policy and program outcomes, as well as measurably improve financial outcomes for participants with low incomes.
- A Poverty Reduction Strategy for BC must include:
  1. A focus on and increased funding for equitable access to preventative health services and core public health services.
  2. A Human Rights Foundation: a provincial poverty reduction strategy must be grounded in a human rights framework, and must make explicit reference to international human rights obligations.
  3. A Social Justice Base: there is evidence that this growing gap itself has a corrosive effect on the well-being and health of all Canadians.
  4. The understanding of the need for a legislated basis including goals , targets, data systems , reporting, accountability, feedback/learning loops, etc. to ensure continued commitment and action.
  5. An all of government (all sectors, all levels) approach.
  6. The understanding that poverty and inequities are COMPLEX issues and will not be solved by overly simplistic solutions.
- Understand poverty as a systematic issue rather than an individual issue.
- Implement an equity approach that abolishes the false and dangerous notion of the 'deserving' and 'undeserving poor'.
- Hold service providers accountable for outcomes not just raw numbers of clients as a model of funding.
- Coordinate among all government departments and agencies the policies and programs that address issues related to homelessness such as: justice, health, income, employment etc.
- Address the needs of those most likely to be living in poverty, including indigenous people, young people who have been in MCFD care and who have reached adulthood, people with significant mental health issues, vulnerable seniors, youth, women LGBTQ, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, newcomers, single parents and unattached individuals age 45 – 64.
- Develop new ways to measure success. Better housing, health, and social and educational outcomes are better markers of a successful program than whether someone has left income assistance.
- Enact legislation that includes:

- A. A purpose statement that makes it clear the goal of the legislation is to protect the human rights and dignity of all British Columbians.
  - B. Recognition of the economic and significant benefits of reducing and eliminating poverty for society as a whole.
  - C. Specific targets and timelines to reduce the breadth and depth of poverty, including: reducing BC's poverty rate by 30% within four years, and by 75% within 10 years; recognizing that poverty is concentrated in particular populations and ensure likewise declines in the poverty rate by 30% in four years, and by 75% in ten years within these populations; within two years, ensure that every British Columbian has an income that reaches at least 75% of the poverty line; and within two years, ensure no one has to sleep outside, and end all homelessness within eight years (ensuring all homeless people have good quality, appropriate housing).
  - D. How the various concerned ministries will collaborate.
  - E. How government as a whole will work towards reducing poverty.
  - F. How government will be held accountable, including the creation of an independent committee with a broad mandate to oversee the progress of the poverty reduction strategy implementation, the ability to investigate as needed, the ability to make recommendations and produce publicly available annual reports outlining the progress, shortcomings, and remedial recommendations.
- Anti Poverty Activism – a non-partisan organization that lobbies government and advocates for action. In all communities.
  - Poverty reduction looks like fewer people in poverty but it must address the root causes behind poverty such as mental illness, lack of vocational training, and other barriers that keep people from health, well being and fulfillment.
  - Put SOCIAL INCLUSION before Economic inclusion in your questions. The core causes of poverty must be addressed to prepare anyone for economic inclusion.
  - Nothing about us without us.
  - There is value in the contribution of Social Workers to the development of public policy. Actively hiring registered Social Workers into multiple government positions could give a more rooted perspective to the multiple and growing social issues that we are all facing.
  - Making schooling more affordable and accessible would help exponentially. Not to mention raising the minimum wage. Less taxing on lower and middle class and higher taxes for those who make over 100000 a year. Beautify run down neighborhoods. Make people feel welcome and at peace in their surroundings.
  - Make information on successful social ideas/services more available so that they can be considered and adapted. How are these issues addressed in Scandinavia?
  - Visit us in our communities. E.g support local meetings such as this, annually?. dialogues with food banks, “hear their voices”. foster meetings between agencies at every level.
  - I will simply ask that the BC Government put on COMPASSIONATE lenses when they look into how to alleviate the stresses of the poor. Let number crunching be tempered with sympathy. Do not assume that welfare clients are out to gouge the

system; listen to their cries and adopt as much as is possible empathy in guiding new legislation and regulations.

- Promote a society that is less driven by consumerism - (how much stuff do we really need?).
- Poverty reduction should include not giving hand outs but hands up. Student loan relief or free tuition period. Supporting those that work and pay into the economy. Providing daycare supports.
- Legislating an action plan that includes targets and timelines for policy development that are supported with robust, timely data to ensure accountability and responsibility for action across all levels of government and jurisdictions. Within these targets and timelines, however, it will be important to recognize that many people who are currently living in poverty, which is not always but often correlated to some form of trauma, may be facing complex systemic barriers that may require multiple interventions and longer timelines for establishing a healthy and stable living situation.
- Collaboration across all levels of government especially First Nations, Inuit, Metis and Indigenous organizations to set targets and timelines.
- Ensure that there are adequate fiscal and human resources in place to implement the strategy. Human resources should, where possible, include people with lived experience to ensure that needs of communities facing poverty are met.
- Ensure that youth have greater voice in developing poverty reduction initiatives, especially youth with lived experience of poverty.
- We suggest that the BC government map communities that may be vulnerable to climate change in order to be prepared to support them in a timely manner, including finding ways to remain in their home territories and/or to relocate, should they be subject to extreme climate change, including impacts on key industries, and/or related migration or weather disasters. Due to the connection of Indigenous people to their home territory, this will require much consultation with communities in order to be done in a culturally sensitive manner.
- There is also a need to ensure that community members who are living in poverty have a say about the strategy and its implementation. The community meetings were a good start.
- There should be a dedicated day in BC to reduce poverty (e.g. Poverty Reduction Day).
- Success also looks like going beyond the current paradigm in which children, people with children, and seniors are deemed to be more deserving of assistance than are people under 65 without children. Yes, maternal and child health have the best return on investment. But it is absolutely bizarre that the government-funded nutritional coupon program at Farmers' Markets is targeted to people with children and seniors. Meanwhile, a breast cancer survivor in her 40s or 50s who does not have children is not eligible although because of her age she is at higher risk of cancer recurrence - and her income from PWD benefits is over \$300/month less than a senior receiving the GIS.
- We need a different perspective that asks also what the non-profit sector (including the poverty charity sector) and faith communities can do. In my own

community, the non-profit organization that funds Christmas hampers is a big part of the problem. They advertise that families can apply. In reality, single people can apply too (they said this to me in an e-mail). But their advertising disenfranchises people. The poverty charity sector needs to be held far more accountable.

- Poverty reduction need to include PTSD and work safe.
- Look at the regulations and work to remove barriers.
- Business needs to be a partner in helping to address poverty.
- There is the need to look at different services and supports for different groups.
- We need the honesty to start and to ensure that basic needs like food, water, housing are being met.
- Change language of cost to language of investment (in regards to poverty reduction).
- We need a holistic approach that includes access to housing, education, and supports.
- Recognize that poverty is a spiritual problem that it requires a spiritual solution not just money.
- Society needs to look after all of society – we need to look after each other.
- It should include community engagement and strategy outreach.
- The government should invest more in the most entrenched communities, communities which are struggling.
- Look at system that penalize the poor and fix it.
- Analyze all systems that keep people in poverty – complete systemic overhaul build of bottom up operations. Break the cycle.
- Set own agenda – as a Metis women coming to these meetings want to set my own agenda – how we would do a meeting like this would not be done like this. This causes tension.
- Legislation – protect poor, disabled, Indigenous, women, children, families (singles and mom and dad).
- Programs need to be 5-7 years to change mindset. Vision even longer: 50 years plan.
- The best solutions are grounded in the community to solve poverty.
- Money put towards this meeting should go towards real change – it is not enough to bring people to a nice hotel and offer food.
- Need to build a model that works for everyone - all generations not just 12 years and older. We should be looking at what can make a difference for everyone – this should include everyone from “8 years old to 100 years old”.
- Take an “elder and families first” approach.
- Pilot projects to measure effectiveness and outcomes pre-province-wide rollout.
- Need to find ways to address all of them, an integrated and holistic strategy.
- Solutions have to be proactive vs. reactive.
- Government needs to sell the strategy.
- Need transparency in funding.
- Reviewing the services that fail people.
- Review political appointments.

- Regional differences should be factored in, not all at one level. Regional parity needed.
- Use plain language when communicating about poverty reduction strategy and services.

## **Immigrants and Refugees**

- Increase efforts to help immigrants and refugees adjust to life in Canada by
  - Improving employment assistance.
  - Removing barriers to qualification for professionals trained abroad.
  - Enhancing language training, including classes with child care provided, and improve.
- Access to Education for adults and children.
- Access to interpreters at hospitals.
- Accompaniment, translation, support and advocacy-e.g. for health care.
- Address immigration policies; allow women to come over as landed immigrants with their entire family.
- Advocate on behalf of international students and temporary workers – better system and better pathway to permanent residency.
- Allow migrant workers to access settlement services, including financial literacy workshops to learn about wages, wage deductions, filing income tax, credit cards, credit scores, RRSPs, etc.
- Bridging programs for newcomers.
- Develop a volunteer mentorship program.
- Emergency shelter for refugees and migrants-especially for arrival.
- Establish a community center for Arabic speaking people, to help and support new immigrants in all aspects of their new life.
- Establishing an Arabic center for Arabic community to help and support new immigrants in all aspect of their new life.
- Expand the Migrant Workers Centre so that all migrant workers have access to legal advocacy services, and offer free workshops to migrant workers to learn about their rights in communities across the province.
- Information for refugees on Refugee/ Asylum laws prior to landing: they should be educated on the debt associated with it before they come or integrate them in to work immediately they come to pay off those debts.
- Kit for integration would be great.
- Labour rights-education about labour standards.
- Land to grow own food-have farming skills.
- Make it easy to get ID for non-citizens and those not born in Canada
- Make newcomers welcome
- Ensure settlement services are properly funded.
- More resources for immigrants needed.
- More information at pre-arrival for refugees and newcomers re: the cost of living in BC and the expenses that will need to be managed once settled.



- More listening circle events for new immigrants to exchange ideas and voice their concerns.
- New immigrants or vulnerable low-income residents who live in the DTES need counseling, advice, assistance by trained professional who can help people find jobs where they can thrive. The Key to finding work is networking and getting access to information. Unfortunately, some immigrants only network with a small group of people who are in the same boat. In addition, when you are beaten down by poverty your mental health is worsened. They need to explore ways the government can subsidize their wages by linking them to employers able and willing to hire them.
- Partner with NWCC so Skeena Diversity Society can prepare in advance of new cohort of students arriving to find community support.
- People coming as newcomer and refugees should have access to better supports for training, health and housing.
- Share immigrant stories and increase awareness of immigrant struggles.
- Share stories and match immigrants with community members.
- Support for more outreach by Skeena Diversity to employers and their staff.
- The system needs to hire people from newcomer communities who have the cultural competency from the new comers' communities, who are able to communicate with the clients and assist job seekers to land jobs that will help them integrate into the Canadian society. "I met a doctor from my community who is driving a cab in order to feed his family. He was not able work in his profession because he didn't have the accreditation to work in Canada. If they were properly advised, they could have taken the time to prepare for the exams and get back into healing people instead of driving them around town."
- There should be another way of showcasing our skills and work experiences, other than volunteering at organizations that are not offering jobs.
- We need more conversation circles that offer English learning in a setting other than school. "They always ask us to practice in school, but we don't know English speaking person to talk to, so these circles will aim for more talking and conversation style learning opportunities for us."
- We need more help in establishing our own businesses, this way we can use our skills and make money without the need to apply for jobs that require high level of English.
- Work more closely with local college: Northwest Community College (NWCC) to see how they can better support their students.
- Increase funding for refugee/immigrant programs.
- Housing standards for temporary foreign workers.
- Increase specialized services for vulnerable immigrant seniors.
- More options under the provincial nominee program for workers who want to stay in Canada.
- Protecting undocumented citizens from information sharing between services providers, law enforcement and the Canadian Border Services Agency that may lead to detention and deportation.

- Prohibit school districts, health care providers, and educational institutions offering basic English as an Additional Language courses from enquiring about documentation status.
- Immigration will need to properly managed to prevent over immigration.
- Increase new immigrants' awareness of services and supports that are available to them.
- Fund specialized services for vulnerable refugees.
- Develop strategies to support the settlement of refugees and other vulnerable recent immigrants.
- With the recent commitment to take in Syrian Refugees, Canadian systems are becoming backlogged with newcomers needing jobs, income, adequate housing, and legal, health, and education services. The BC government must work with the federal government to increase funding and resources are needed for the already overloaded system. Due to likely increased immigration and intake of refugees (including climate refugees), total elimination of child poverty may not be possible; however, measures should be implemented to make sure that newcomer families, especially those with single parents, are granted the housing and supports needed to thrive in their new environment.
- Need cultural exchange that bring people here from other countries.
- Deal with trauma of being an immigrant.

## **Discrimination and Stigma**

- Active media campaign to address stigma - compare to scale of Canada 150.
- Campaigns to debunk myths around poverty and who is actually living in poverty. Poverty is not a choice, the cycle of poverty can be impossible to break. Public awareness around poverty reduction measures. Address stigma against drug users, homeless people, the poor and those with mental health issues. better public education on classism and poor-bashing.
- Change attitudes from "survival of the fittest" to "survival of the community" - education in schools (add to curriculum).
- Change public opinion about low-income housing. Education. It takes time for views to shift.
- Change the language around "not in my backyard".
- Education about racism/impacts of racism.
- Combat stigma with food banks.
- Combat racist jokes and stigmas with information about the impact of intergenerational trauma which affects many First Nations people in our country.
- Educate the community about poverty and the need for fairness in our society.
- Change public opinion on why people are in poverty. Leaders need to understand and create shift in thinking. Debunk myths on who is actually living in poverty (poverty is not a choice, but a cycle). Implement awareness of racial profiling and work to eliminate it through Cultural Safety. Educating people as to what trauma does to people, in terms of holding jobs, addictions; solution to trauma.

- Addressing racist behaviours.
- Create education programs to reduce stigma against seniors living with low income-for elementary and high school students and parents.
- Educating the Community re Poverty. Fundraising, exposure, publicity re poverty issues. Community needs to be educated on abilities, potential, availability and skills of those on assistance. Change stigma around homelessness.
- More anti racism training for employers and community.
- Create greater awareness of the barriers to access, among a wider population to increase advocacy for change; create more opportunities for people impacted to give voice to their experience.
- Development of empathy within society.
- Educate people on mental health and teach that we all need to be understanding and less judgmental about mental health illnesses.
- Educate the wealthy (and everyone) how they can share, advocate, use their power to advocate - reduce stigma - bridge to understanding their needs and barriers.
- Focus on social justice (activism, changing stigmas around mental health, poverty, substance use, homelessness) vs. charity (just giving things that you don't want anymore).
- Mandate cultural awareness training by province.
- People in poverty [don't] deserve to be looked at differently. They want to be able to wear nice clothing that wasn't handed down from someone or purchased at a second hand store. They want to go to the hairdressers and get a nice haircut or colour, or go out to a restaurant, movie, etc. These things are all taken for granted by people with money, whereas people with fixed incomes look at them as luxuries. People need to be educated about mental health and addictions so that they understand why some people are on income assistance.
- People who have experience poverty can share their story with students and in other gathering places.
- Prejudices. Racial and Social Stereotyping. Stigmas [specifically regarding accessing housing].
- High school classes about boundaries and interpersonal relationships; being connected to those who are not in poverty; integration into whole community.
- To have professionals go out and meet one-on-one or with groups of people that are in poverty to build understanding and relationships.
- Urban natives have a hard time to access supports; address racism.
- We need to reduce Barriers that limit impoverished peoples to come forward and feel comfortable in using resources.
- [Increase] awareness around the benefits of wealth distribution.
- Social experiment: have upper crust switch roles to really experience what it is like to live in poverty.
- End discrimination and racism. From landlords. Cops. Employers. Public. Healthcare workers. Prohibit discrimination of renting to workers earning income. Many places advertise and less obviously deny housing to people on income assistance/disability. Working Professionals only is discriminatory. Landlords

have literally hung up on me when they ask where i work and reply i have reliable disability income.

- There is the need for education of the mind but without education of the heart.
- Paolo friere – bottom up approach, empowerment through education, good example.
- Make it mandatory to listen and hold each other accountable.
- Teach people that it is okay to be poor.
- Promote a shift to a sharing culture.
- People are employable but have no self-confidence – need to build self confidence. Give people self-confidence, small steps at a time.
- Prevention of hate issues.
- “Walk a mile in my moccasins and see how it feels”.
- There kind also be kindness.
- Need to honestly look at class structure and remove stigmatization.
- Identify propaganda and slogans that enforce class.
- Get out from privilege.
- Need to be okay with others belief’s and their ability to express their beliefs. Start in schools and churches and gov’t (b/c prejudice is not okay). Need to address racism in the media and social media.
- Inclusion language around not only age, race, gender, religion but also class/ poverty.
- Eliminate stigma around homelessness - homeless being ‘ bad people’.
- Government officials should spend a few nights outside.
- Get people to volunteer at shelters.
- Provide training for frontline staff - health professionals, doctors, city officials, police.
- Get rid of labels “addict, homeless.” We have to stop placing labels on ourselves, and placing labels on others.
- Help them address things like RCMP discrimination.

## **Taxes**

- A fair taxation system that eases the responsibilities of the least wealthy, but increases the responsibilities of the wealthiest and large corporations - guaranteed funding through taxation is more fair than relying on the philanthropy of the wealthy to provide services.
- A tax should be levied on every non recyclable or biodegradable items sold within the province. The money raised by this tax can go into R&D grants to help companies switch from disposable products to ones that have a life beyond their initial use.
- All of the tax breaks that a small business owner enjoys should be transferred to the population at large if you want to help those making the least.
- Amend BC tax code to start taxing foreign money gifting schemes used by wealthy BC residents to evade Canadian income tax on worldwide income and to

funnel foreign capital into BC RE while using BC taxpayers funded 'free' healthcare and education paid.

- An adjustment to the system of fines in the province. Fines should not be an arbitrary number set and forgotten. Fines should be based 50% on current income and 50% on total wealth. The rate should be identical to the graduated taxation system. The higher your income and wealth the higher your fine.
- Consumption tax (or luxury tax).
- Eliminate taxes on essential items (food toiletries).
- Fairer tax structure- i.e. should not have the top 1% receiving tax breaks.
- Create increased tax incentives for industries and businesses to donate to community service organizations.
- Develop a tax incentive for solar technology.
- Everyone do taxes and free tax clinics.
- Export Tax on raw resources.
- Give tax brakes for companies that keep their business in BC and employ local people.
- We recommend the government continue to introduce fair and progressive tax policy to address the high levels of inequality in BC.
- High taxes to support deaf organizations (give them money for training)-so Deaf people are equipped for jobs.
- If the government would consider giving the people who are on the poverty list a tax exemption number or card, similar to the Native Bands, it would go a long way to put more purchasing power into the hands of the poor. Please consider that as an option, and I think it's very viable, according to our calculations here it would makes things a lot easier for my wife and I if we didn't have to pay tax every time we went into a store.
- If you want to really make a difference to people who live at or below the poverty level stop taxing people who make less than \$30,000 a year. That way the people who really need relief get it immediately, and the tax burden shifts to the income levels that can actually live on what they make.
- Income based exemptions on property taxes. Tax the rich more. Change corporate tax structure.
- Income tax program awesome; Increase earned income tax credit.
- Increase real estate speculation tax. More regulation needed for second and third homes.
- Increase tax credits for people living in rural, northern communities; offer tax breaks and subsidies for the northern region.
- Increase tax rates for large corporations, and spur economic growth by redistributing those funds to the poor, through: \$10-\$20/day childcare, retraining for in demand jobs, and other programs that will improve the ability of the poor to fully participate in the economy.
- Increase taxes for rich people pvr 50 and real estate flippers.
- Increase taxes to the wealthiest 1% and corporations, while decreasing taxes on the poorest families.
- Further increase the tax rate on the highest income earners in B.C.

- Change the tax system completely to have those making over \$1,000,000 annually taxed very heavily and those under middle class (MBM) supported rather than taxed at all.
- Raise taxes for singles and families making over 150k by 2.25%. Raise corporate taxes on companies pulling in over \$5M by 3%.
- Make corporations/companies pay a fair tax for their impact on the city, the communities and the environment.
- Payroll taxes must be reduced or eliminated for the full reward value of work to be realized. Revenue replacement through consumption taxes and luxury taxes must be implemented.
- Quit focusing tax dollars on economic development, government is for providing services to tax payers, businesses can and should be expected to take care of themselves, tax breaks are corporate welfare that benefit people who are already well off.
- Establish an independent commission on tax reform to study taxes levied in BC and recommend ways to make the tax system fairer and reduce income inequality.
- Raise taxes for rich/businesses.
- Progressive tax bracket.
- Tax breaks for people entering social service work.
- Reduce taxes for middle and low income, less than \$150k.
- Reduces taxes (eg. property taxes, income tax, PST, gas taxes, groceries, recycling taxes, etc.).
- Tax breaks for parents with adult children living at home if they are going to school or working in low paying jobs.
- Tax exemptions as other Aboriginal people benefit from.
- Tax marijuana and use revenue for social programs.
- Tax out of province investors.
- Better understanding and breakdown of where taxes are being used.
- Create a more equitable tax system that redistributes wealth based on social needs.
- Don't penalize the middle class for working extra hard and then they get taxed.
- Donating goods and services with tax credits in exchange – making easier.
- End tax evasion, and push the federal government to close tax loopholes.
- Lower taxes for low-income earners, people on welfare, people with disabilities.
- More tax reductions/incentives to cover the extra costs of disability, including refundable ones so that people with low incomes can benefit.
- People with disabilities shouldn't pay any taxes at all, even if working, because of the cost of all the necessary products and services not covered anywhere else.
- Provide more tax credits for low income people, such as for TransLink, rent, extended health care, etc.
- Reducing taxes-income, corporate.
- Remove hidden taxes on seniors e.g. making them pay \$100 for a drivers' [required] exam, but a test for a 16 year-old is free.
- Stop overspending on useless programs, government workers.

- Tax the rich, not low income and small business.
- Taxes have to change – lower income are paying disproportionate amount – starting until you hit 30K / 50K for families.
- That there be a level put on every persons wages over so much to be used in the community where it is raised.
- Using plain language/images/infographics about what is funded by taxes.
- Volunteer hours in exchange for tax break credit.
- Reassessment of taxation (perhaps include housing relief for low income/medium highly taxed persons).
- Implement a Disability Tax Credit.
- Complete BC tax waiver while enrolled full time and over age 30.
- "Fair taxation system. Provincial and Federal governments must work together to streamline and consolidate tax revenue. Eliminate all provincial sales taxes, cap government sales tax (GST) at a maximum of 5%.
- Fair taxation system would look like: \$0-24,000.00 - income not taxed. \$25,000-39,999.99 - income taxed at maximum 5%. \$40,000-99,999.99 - income taxed at maximum 8%. \$100,000-999,999.99 - flat rate of 10%. \$1,000,000,000+ - flat rate of 25%".
- I think there should be someone to help people with taxes.
- Extend the new tax on home buyers in Vancouver & Lower Mainland to the Sunshine Coast.
- Give fmp as much power as any credit bureau to access taxes.
- Tax and redistribution of wealth.
- Restoring taxes on the rich to pay for these; Since the year 2000 the Liberals have been reducing taxes so that now government doesn't have the revenue to meet people's needs for services. Unless taxes are restored we can't get what we need.
- End tax evasion, and push the federal government to close tax loopholes.
- Develop a more equitable tax system through a Fair Tax Commission that considers the [recommended] tax measures to reduce income and wealth inequities and bolster government revenue.
- Close tax loopholes for the wealthy such as:
  - Income splitting /'sprinkling'.
  - Capital gains and dividends tax exemptions (principle residence, profits on financial assets).
  - Stock buy-backs for executives.
- Establish higher taxes on harmful products e.g. alcohol, sugar, tobacco, pollution (carbon).
- Introduce progressive estate, gift and wealth taxes which will both generate much needed government revenue and reduce wealth inequity.
- Stop regressive taxes as has been announced for MSP contributions.
- Address income inequality with proportional income tax system.
- Lower the tax collected so that it is minimal on the first 30k or so that you earn. this will help all. increase thereafter so overall taxes taken are neutral.
- Levy the most rich( income over one million a 1-2% levy.

- Increasing some corporate taxes and eliminating tax incentives such as exist for fossil fuel extraction; provide tax incentives or subsidies for innovative and sustainable renewable energy solutions.
- Increased taxes on pollution, particularly a larger carbon tax.
- Taxes on damaging and unhealthy products such as sugar-sweetened beverages, tobacco, alcohol and marijuana.
- Tax incentives for companies that are focused on outcomes beyond shareholder value and profits alone and consider value for other stakeholders, including the environment and people's well-being (PPP- people, planet and profits). This would include cooperatives, credit unions, B corps, revenue- and profit-sharing enterprises.
- Raise the minimum wage to \$15 for all workers by January 2019 and also raise the basic exemption amounts as well as other exemption amounts to above the poverty line so people whose earnings are below the poverty line won't be subject to provincial income tax.
- Provide tax breaks for low income earners.
- Remove discriminatory taxes.
- Use tax funds from legalizing marijuana to fund programs for mental health, addictions and homelessness.
- Proportional fines – base fines on percentage of family income.
- For people earning \$80,000 or above, increase tax rates.
- Use a new model where the tax break (for companies/corporations) is based on a percentage of the amount between the lowest paid employee and CEO. The smaller the gap, the higher the tax break.
- Introduce a progressive taxation system.
- Create benefits for small businesses rather than larger corporations.
- Cut corporate loopholes.
- Need innovative ways to balance the system – estate tax, carbon tax.
- There should be tax breaks or incentives for families living together in the same house.
- Current reality is to use previous year tax return but it might not reflect someone's current circumstance.

## **Systems Change**

- A centralized system rather than a disjointed array of government and non-profit agencies is necessary. A coordination, and perhaps an amalgamation, of all levels of government services is required. We cannot continue to piece-meal solutions to an ill-defined problem and expect successful results. We need to end "turf " wars between all levels of care giving.
- Proportional representation would help with implementing changes, through cooperation between parties toward solutions.
- End Patriarchy – actually respect and treat all people equally.
- Greater accountability for government waste.
- Improved communication between all levels of government including Aboriginal.



- Group-minded people sharing what they have as a bartering for goods and services.
- A whole different Governmental approach. I like the NDP, socialistic philosophy by they are working in a capitalist structure and there is much opposition or the structure doesn't support the needs like universal childcare. Don't just throw the money out to there to individual people or agencies. Real resources need to be developed like government funded group daycares with subsidized spaces. This approach needs to change all levels. If Contractors want to be approved for housing developments they need to allocate and forego a percentage to low income housing for people who need it. Everyone should have affordable housing based on their income i.e.) 30%. There should be accessible and affordable skills training, bring back apprenticeships and award business to do so. Develop easy and accessible transportation systems not ones that make people more disadvantaged and an obstacle to get to school and work. Treat people like a resource base to improve our society.
- Band-aid solutions are addressing basic needs, but need to break the cycles of poverty and move beyond just surviving.
- Prevent ministry interests taking over political system decisions. Thorough investigation into reports of misconduct.
- Developing and enhancing services that meet a person where they are while also encouraging and supporting each individual to make life choices that will lead out of poverty.
- Culture shifts to encourage women supporting other women.
- Emphasize economic growth opportunities in communities outside of the Victoria and Vancouver areas, making these places more attractive destinations for career seekers who cannot afford the bigger cities currently.
- Eliminate politicians' pensions.
- Environmental justice: no pipelines on land where poor people live.
- Free exchange of items and services.
- Need to become legislatively astute and provide measures that protect those in poverty from the non- compassionate in our community.
- Encourage farm cooperatives and apprenticeships for people wanting to enter sustainable methods of regenerative farming, a practice which reduces net carbon by soil management practices.
- Political will not just for business or profit margins. People matter first. Some level socialism needs to be recognized to do not his.
- Acknowledgement of past and what the issues are.
- Restore the bank of canada's mandate to provide the nations money supply and save the 60 Billion in interest we pay illegally to private foreign banks each and every year.
- World wide cap on net worth.
- Showing love and support to each person. Unconditionally.
- Stop enabling which disenables.
- Complementary currencies might be considered to facilitate controlled access to services through programs that incentivize important economic activity that

currently has no market (e.g. if you were paid in BC good bucks for eldercare you performed at home or in the community that you could then exchange 1.5:1 for tuition waiver at BC colleges and universities).

- Put a deposit on every recyclable material that is sold in BC.
- The govt should consider a provincial bank similar to the Swedish community model, JAK Community bank, which lends at zero interest, to help get housing cooperatives started and funded.
- The entire system needs to be overhauled – this will take 10 years, so need a bipartisan agreement to work beyond a 4 year political mandate.
- Towards community-driven reciprocal economy.
- A fair return on our natural resources \$ for government.
- Resource board governance by neighborhood.
- We the people can end this problem -- nationalize money, make money. permanent (not co-created with debt) and distribute all new money exclusively in equal amounts to every citizen -- each getting a regular new money dividend deposited in his bank account -- so he can spend it into circulation as he likes that will be true economic democracy.
- The only step to eliminate poverty is getting rid of money. The people who would disagree are the bullies and power-mongers that make a living by exploiting those against slavery. We're not less valuable without a doctorate, planting seeds should be as rewarding!
- We need less corporate taxes to increase incentives for businesses, more middle class jobs. We need lower sales taxes so people with less money have it go further. We need deregulation, spending cuts and program cuts to enable lower taxes. We need more effective and efficient spending from the gov't. More free markets less gov't interference it raises prices and slows development.
- Stop expecting the working class to support everyone else. Find alternative ways to make money, ie stop blocking Kinder Morgan. Make Alberta pay to put the pipeline through and then charge rent on the pipeline and use that money to build housing and new schools and upgrade the ones that are so poor they're overrun with rats.
- Nationalize our fresh water and PROTECT it at all costs. It is our most PRECIOUS and VALUABLE resource ! Why allow Nestle's to make BILLIONS selling OUR water?! It belongs to the citizens, NOT corporations.
- Controlling stock options and stock buybacks and excessive CEO remuneration and bonuses.
- Protecting the land and enforcing current laws to protect the environment.
- Privatized services should be made public.
- Political Reform.
- Need to stop policy based on voting demographics.
- Revolution!
- Implement more alternative energy sources to offset other energy demands. Like adding solar panels on more buildings. Biofuels. Wind turbines (possibly in the ocean, which could also utilize hydro power).
- Policies should be developed at the grass roots.

- Environment – people living in poverty should not be further penalized by having to live in an unsupportive or toxic environment. The BC government should ensure that all communities have access to: Adequate supplies of clean water and adequate sewage disposal; local food security; green spaces; community and medicinal gardens, parks, recreation facilities; a healthy built and natural environment, equitable access to green space, and preparation for climate change; sustainable ecosystems such as forests or wetlands within walking distance.
- Establishing legislation that prevents insurance companies from charging big company rates to small business owners.
- Investment in clean energy growth and retraining may help lift many British Columbians out of poverty, while attenuating some of the BC's contribution to climate change.
- Promote wider adoption of the Giving Pledge (Clinton initiative for the ultra-wealthy) guided philanthropy ( e.g. social housing vs. hospitals).
- Climate change - An analysis of communities most at risk from climate change should be done and action taken to prepare appropriately (including disaster prevention and possible relocation). A continued program of reducing the use of fossil fuels should be pursued.
- Support small and local businesses.
- Stop selling raw products. Have raw products processed here.
- Decision makers should be people in the field (doctors etc. are not bureaucrats).
- Make the system more fair/equitable "80% of all income in top 2%".
- Cap incomes for elected officials and public servants.
- Build a new refinery in the North.
- Put tariffs on US exports.
- Pull back on what we export to US.
- Redistribute money within Ministries.
- Create separation between church and state.
- There should be opportunities to share information on best practice – community, international, provincial, federal.
- Cities should be allowed to make their own decisions with adequate funding.
- It is important to recognize that we are not competing for funding – we actually share the same end goal same.
- Development programs like NDIR or LNG promises that destroy communities must be reformed.
- Governmental accountability.
- Canfor has the rights to timber/all the forest products – i.e. the mill. Need to look at how these rights were given.
- We have to stop wasting resources and money.
- Self-governance; empower the Indigenous communities, allow them to self-govern in specific areas.
- Grow marijuana and hemp factories.
- Get help to advertise/ market Fort Nelson. Find ways people can come back to the community. Diversify Fort Nelson's economy.

- Set up ways to redistribute and bridge the gap between people and profit.

## **Social Enterprise**

- Social enterprises to give people job skills, reach allowable income under social assistance.
- We recommend that the Province identify a range of supports to create an enabling environment for social purpose businesses to help them activate, expand, grow and scale.
- Assistance to start social enterprise ideas.
- Municipalities must be open to social investments and opportunities.
- Consider different land use agreements (like Land Trusts) across BC that might provide better stimulation for co-operative BUSINESSES through reducing land-based costs.
- Engaging social ideas with business rationales.
- One idea I had to incentivize small businesses to pay higher wages is to institute a small business tax credit for employers dedicated to poverty reduction. This would reinforce a positive pay initiative, circumvent the 'minimum wage' debate, and it could potentially offset the cost of poverty.
- Promote Economic Democracy in Small Business in BC, which makes employee owned and operated business a viable alternative for Small Business Development at the community level. Abandon any thinking that's about trickle down economics, and construct this plan to address issues in society from the bottom up.
- Engage business community that's not just charity, but working together – the “social purpose” of the company.
- Incentives for businesses and cities to provide services for low income families and singles.
- Legislate social procurement throughout the Province.
- Microfinancing, especially for women entrepreneurs is working well all over the world. How bout some microfinancing programs in impoverished communities and a form of basic guaranteed income for persons participating in the lending circles.
- Support women, lending circles to help with business plans.
- Co-op lending – get loan to get on feet, foot an unexpected bill.
- Sponsor programs that bring entrepreneurs and business together with students and people interested in learning new skills. Help make the connections. Truly support these groups and don't give them a hard time if their a little different
- Investing in social enterprise such as the Smoke House at the Prince George. Native Friendship Centre creates social inclusion and skill building.
- Signal significance of Social Purpose Business idea by including it in Poverty Reduction Legislation, raise awareness, sourcing them through social procurement, and through private sector support.

- Government support for increased social enterprise opportunities for people with development, cognitive or mental health barriers to create additional pathways to employment.
- Increase supports to social enterprise and non-profit organizations that are filling gaps in government employment and other service provision.
- Invest in people's ideas for small businesses, rather than big businesses.
- Support the sustainability of non-profit agencies through the development of social enterprise and other related initiatives.