

On July 9, 2012, Council adopted the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan and authorized staff to proceed within available resources to implement the recommendations in the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan that require City action (Corporate Report No. R160; 2012, included as Appendix “IV”).

On February 3, 2014, Council received a report on “Low Cost and Free,” a brochure series and inter-active web pages providing information on a range of resources that are available at a low cost or at no cost in Surrey (Corporate Report No. R021; 2014, included as Appendix “V”). “Low Cost and Free” was developed by Surrey Libraries, working in collaboration with Planning & Development and Engineering staff.

On April 27, 2015, Council received a report providing an update on the implementation of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan (Corporate Report No. R062; 2015, included as Appendix “VI”).

DISCUSSION

Poverty affects us all, not just those with low incomes. It impacts individuals, families, and communities. The effects of poverty are felt in increased health care costs, expanded policing burdens, and diminished educational outcomes.

It was a deep concern about the impacts of poverty in Surrey – especially in certain population groups such as children and youth, and in specific low income neighbourhoods in North Surrey – that mobilized community leaders to develop the Plan. It drives the continued commitment of the SPRC to work collaboratively towards the goal of reducing poverty in Surrey.

Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition

The SPRC was established in 2012 to guide the implementation of the Plan. According to its Terms of Reference, the role of the SPRC is to:

- Promote and disseminate the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan;
- Mobilize and inspire the community to take actions to reduce poverty; and
- Monitor and measure achievements/progress/outcomes in implementing the Plan.

Co-chaired by Councillor Judy Villeneuve, SPAC Chair, and Stephen Dooley, Executive Director of SFU Surrey, the SPRC consists of members selected to represent relevant sectors and population groups impacted by poverty. The current membership list is attached as Appendix “VII” to this report.

Progress Report: Actions and Achievements 2012 - 2016

Over the past five years, the SPRC has taken the lead on a number of actions toward implementing the Plan. These include projects that involved:

1. **Mobilizing the community** through convening community forums;
2. **Understanding poverty** by conducting research and disseminating user-friendly information;

3. **Championing change** through targeted advocacy projects; and
4. **Taking community action** by piloting innovative projects.

1. Mobilizing the Community

Three forums have been held as a means of engaging and inspiring the community to implement the Plan. Each forum was attended by approximately 100 people.

- **Poverty Dialogue, March 2012:** The first forum involved the community in developing the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan.
- **Let's Make THIS Happen, November 2013:** The second forum focused on sharing successful poverty reduction initiatives in Surrey and beyond, and generated action steps to reduce poverty in Surrey. The keynote speaker was James Hughes, who was the senior bureaucrat responsible for the development of the poverty reduction strategy in the Province of New Brunswick.
- **THIS Is The Change, February 2015:** A third forum was a professional development forum on Collective Impact, designed to improve Surrey's impact in reducing poverty. The Tamarack Institute from Ontario provided the Collective Impact training.

2. Understanding Poverty

To ensure that decisions made and actions taken to reduce poverty are evidence-based, the SPRC has compiled and disseminated information on poverty in Surrey:

- A series of fact sheets were prepared using 2011 National Household Survey and census data. A separate fact sheet was prepared on each of the Plan's four themes (transportation, housing, income, and support); and
- A set of maps was created showing low-income by census tract for all of Metro Vancouver and in Surrey. Maps are available showing low income for all ages, seniors, children, youth (17 years and less), and young children (five years and less).

3. Championing Change

The SPRC has taken action to advocate for changes at the local, provincial, and federal levels that will make a real difference in the lives of low-income Surrey residents. Actions to champion change are as follows.

Refugee Transportation Loan: The SPRC is continuing to work with the SPAC on advocacy to eliminate the federal government's requirement for Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) to repay the cost of their transportation to Canada.

Provincial Poverty Reduction Plan: The SPRC is a "Supporter" of the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition and its campaign for a provincial poverty reduction plan.

Transit Fares: The SPRC is continuing to monitor and participate in the TransLink fare review process and advocate for reduced fares for low income transit users.

Seeing is Believing Tour 2014: The SPRC and SPAC invited members of service clubs in Surrey to learn about poverty in Surrey through a tour of local agencies and a school breakfast program and hearing first-hand from Surrey residents who are struggling with poverty.

A Living Wage for Surrey Campaign 2015: In partnership with the Living Wage for Families Campaign, SPRC convened a gathering to launch the campaign in Surrey in November 2015.
Presentation at UBCM 2015: SPRC organized a workshop on poverty reduction at the municipal level at the 2015 UBCM annual convention. The workshop featured panelists from Revelstoke, Victoria, and Surrey.

4. Taking Community Action

The SPRC has implemented pilot projects to test new and innovative approaches to reducing poverty at the local level. These include:

Somali Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Pilot Project (2013 – 2015)

The Somali Women's Economic Self Sufficiency Project assisted a group of Somali women to build their skills and confidence in order to pursue employment and/or to develop a socially/culturally relevant business together. The SPRC project resulted in a group of women forming a non-profit business called Women 4 Women Foundation; the Foundation supports women who are seeking to develop employment skills, Canadian certification, and entrepreneurial skills.

Funder: Vancity Credit Union

Housing First Landlord Project (2014 – 2016)

Housing First is an approach to ending homelessness that is based on providing permanent affordable housing with supports to people who are chronically or episodically homeless. The SPRC's Housing First Landlord Project facilitated connections between private landlords and the agencies that are using a Housing First approach and looking for rental units. Working in partnership with Landlord BC, the SPRC hosted a landlord forum and created an information brochure for landlords.

Funder: Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society

Community Leaders Igniting Change (CLIC) (2015 – ongoing)

CLIC is an education program for Surrey residents who are interested in making positive changes in their neighbourhoods. The 12-week leadership program is provided through a partnership between SPRC, SFU, and the Beedie School of Business. Three cohorts of students have completed the course.

Funder: Envision Financial

Connecting Community to Surrey Youth Leaving Care (2016 – 2019)

This project aims to engage the whole community in supporting youth who are 'aging out' of government care at 19 years old. The first phase of the project involved research, workshops and a public awareness event. The second phase includes identifying and implementing two or three priority projects to support youth transitioning out of care in Surrey. A youth committee composed of young people in and from care, has been established to provide input and guidance to the project.

Funder: Vancouver Foundation; Coast Capital Savings (grant to assist with youth engagement)

Low Cost and Free Library Resources (ongoing)

Surrey Libraries developed a series of brochures and the City created an interactive website of resources available at no-cost or low-cost in Surrey. Approximately 15,000 of the print brochures are given out every year.

Funder: City of Surrey

Additional information on the SPRC is available on the SPRC website at www.surreyprc.ca.

Funding

Since 2012, the SPRC has been supported through project-based funding and in-kind support from diverse sources including: United Way of Lower Mainland, Vancity Community Foundation, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, Vancouver Foundation, Coast Capital Savings, Envision Financial, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Simon Fraser University, Surrey Schools, Surrey Libraries, SPARC BC, Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, and the City of Surrey.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the SPRC and continued implementation of the Plan, the SPRC is requesting a contribution of \$25,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund. The funding will be used to retain a consultant to facilitate SPRC meetings, prepare funding proposals, maintain and develop SPRC communications materials, and organize events/workshops. The City's contribution will assist in leveraging other resources that will accelerate the SPRC's impact in addressing poverty in Surrey.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

This corporate report supports the following Desired Outcomes (DO) and Strategic Directions (SD) identified in the Sustainability Charter 2.0.

Inclusion

- DO8: No individuals or families in Surrey live in poverty.
- DO9: Supports and services are in place to prevent and help people transition out of poverty.
- DO10: Everyone has access to an adequate income, and income gaps are minimized.
- SD6: Create, enhance and increase awareness of services that support people with economic barriers.
- SD7: Increase access to education, training and inclusive employment opportunities for people who face barriers within the community.
- SD8: Support the Surrey Poverty Coalition's efforts to implement the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan.

CONCLUSION

Poverty impacts individuals, families, and communities, and its effects are felt in several ways. It was a deep concern about the impacts of poverty in Surrey that mobilized community leaders to develop the Plan. It drives the continued commitment to work collaboratively towards the goal of reducing poverty in Surrey.

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Receive this report as information; and
- Approve a contribution of \$25,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund to support the SPRC in its continued efforts to implement the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan.

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning & Development

Original signed by
Kam Grewal, CPA
Acting General Manager,
Finance & Technology

AM/ss

Appendix "I"	- Council Initiatives – Allocations for 2017
Appendix "II"	- Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition Progress Report: Actions and Achievements, 2012 – 2016
Appendix "III"	- Corporate Report No. R086; 2012 (without appendices)
Appendix "IV"	- Corporate Report No. R160; 2012 (without appendices)
Appendix "V"	- Corporate Report No. R021; 2014 (without appendices)
Appendix "VI"	- Corporate Report No. R062; 2015 (without appendices)
Appendix "VII"	- Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition Membership List 2017

Appendix "I"



2017 FINANCIAL PLAN COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Description	Amount	Allocation to date	Remaining
Carried Forward from Prior Year	8,000		
2017 Adopted Budget	<u>250,000</u>		\$ 258,000
My Neighbourhood, My futures Initiative (year 5 of 5)		40,000	
Surrey Poet Laureate (Year 3 of 3)		10,000	
C ₂ U Expo		20,000	
Indo-Canadian Dental Association Gala		2,500	
100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge Battle		2,000	
The Debaters		350	
Volunteer Cancer Drivers Society		3,500	
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association		3,500	
Surrey Hospice Society		2,500	
100 Year Journey		6,000	
West Coast Centre for Learning		2,000	
Surrey Urban Aboriginal Strategy		25,000	
Pulling Together Canoe Journey		8,500	
Centre for Child Development Gala of Hope		3,000	
Darpan Extraordinary Achievement Awards		7,500	
Gadhri Memorial Mela (Proposed)		6,000	
Surrey Social Innovation Summit (Proposed)		30,000	
Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition (Proposed)		25,000	
Allocations for 2017		\$ 197,350	\$ 60,700



**SURREY POVERTY
REDUCTION COALITION
PROGRESS REPORT**

ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2012 - 2016

Who We Are

Seated, Left to Right: Ashleigh Rajala, Ailee Sundberg, Meghan Martin, Denise Darrell, Jennifer McCaffrey, Jacopo Miro, Anne Peterson Standing, Left to Right: Kristin Andrews, Steven Lamotte, Njeri Kontulahi, Karen Blackman, Kristin Patten, Steve Dooley, Vera LeFranc, Aileen Murphy, Margaret Mubanda, Joe Woodworth



The Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition was created in 2012 to promote implementation of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan (THIS is How We End Poverty in Surrey).

THE COALITION:

- Promotes and disseminates THIS is How We End Poverty in Surrey
- Mobilizes and inspires the community to take actions to reduce poverty
- Monitors and measures achievements / progress / outcomes in implementing the Plan

HOW THE COALITION WORKS:

Two Co-Chairs act as the liaison between the Coalition and the contracted staff person(s), propose agendas and chair meetings of the Coalition. Working groups and subcommittees are struck from time to time to support the work of the Coalition and to oversee the projects that SPRC undertakes.

SPRC MEMBERS:

The Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition is a non-partisan group. Membership of the Coalition consists of representatives from relevant sectors including government, business, health services, community service agencies, and population groups impacted by poverty.

The coalition is co-chaired by Councillor Judy Villeneuve and Stephen Dooley.

There are currently 20 Coalition members, who represent:

- Municipal Government
- Provincial Government
- Aboriginal Community
- Homelessness
- Immigrant Settlement
- Children, Youth & Families
- Women
- Seniors
- Education
- Literacy
- Health and Mental Health
- Business
- Food Security
- Research
- Philanthropy

Why Poverty Matters

Poverty affects us all, not just those with low incomes. It impacts individuals, families and communities. The effects of poverty are felt in increased health care costs, expanded policing burdens and diminished educational outcomes.

HEALTH:

Research estimates that medical care accounts for only 25 per cent of health outcomes, while another 25 per cent is related to genetics and fully 50 per cent depends on the socio-economic determinants of health like income, education, housing, physical environment and community engagement. But people's health is affected not only by material poverty but also by social exclusion, yet another of the neglected effects of poverty.

EDUCATION:

Educational outcomes are one of the key areas influenced by family incomes. Children from low-income families often start school already behind their peers who come from more affluent families, as shown in measures of school readiness. The incidence, depth, duration and timing of poverty all influence a child's educational attainment, along with community characteristics and social networks.

CRIME:

Low-income Canadians greatly outnumber wealthier Canadians in the criminal justice system. They are more "at risk" of participating in crime because of the social and economic challenges they face. They are also more likely to face significant barriers once they are involved in criminal justice processes.

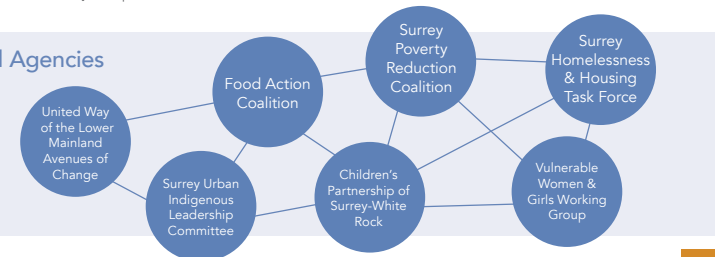
In Surrey, a number of plans, programs and initiatives of the City are directly linked to the issue of poverty and / or include poverty reduction as a priority including:

- Public Safety Strategy
- Sustainability Charter
- Social Plan
- Master Plan for Housing the Homeless
- Urban Indigenous Strategy
- Refugee Integration Strategy
- Immigrant Integration Strategy
- Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy
- Leisure Access Program

“ The effects of poverty are felt in increased health care costs, expanded policing burdens and diminished educational outcomes. ”

Collaborating Social Agencies

Many social service agencies operating in Surrey are working collaboratively to alleviate and reduce poverty. Some examples include:



Understanding Poverty

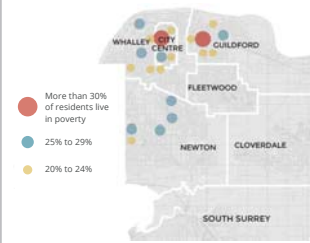
How Many People Live In Poverty In Surrey?

In 2011, about 72,000 residents lived in poverty in Surrey (as measured by the after tax Low-Income Measure, LIM-AT). This is equivalent to a 16% poverty rate for the city as a whole.

Of these 72,000 residents, almost 30% are children and youths (less than 18 yrs of age), about 60% are adults, and 10% are seniors (65yrs and older).

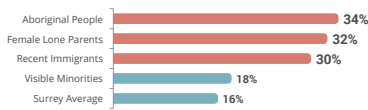
Although low-income residents are found throughout Surrey, some neighbourhoods have higher concentrations of than others. In the neighbourhood around Holly Park Elementary (in Guildford), up to 36% of local residents live in low-income. Another important pocket of poverty exists in the City Centre.

Poverty by Neighbourhood

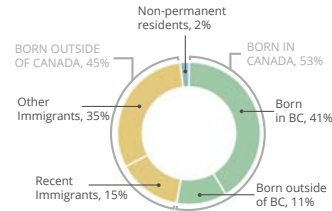


Who Is Poor In Surrey?

Some population groups experience significantly higher poverty rates than the general population.



Where Are They From?



Understanding Poverty

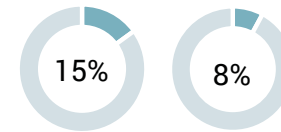
Working Poor

27,135 low-income residents in Surrey participate in the labour force (about half of all people living in poverty 15yrs and over). Of these residents, 15% are unemployed and actively looking for work, which puts the unemployment rate for low-income residents at twice the rate for the city as a whole.

Low-income people in Surrey have a median individual income of \$9,700, compared to \$27,000 for other Surrey residents.

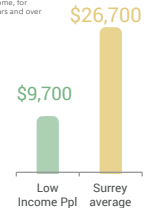
Unemployment Rate

Low-Income People (Surrey) Surrey Average



Median Individual Income*

*Median individual income, for population aged 15 years and over



Where Are Low Income Residents Working?



Education



50% of low-income people in Surrey have a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree.



60% of people in Surrey have a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree (for total population aged 25 to 64 years and over).

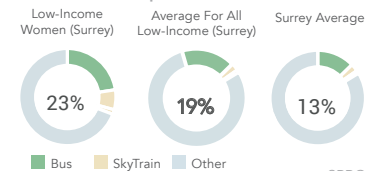


Public Transit Matters

Almost one quarter of all women living in low-income in Surrey use public transit to get to work.

Transit ridership rates among lower-income people are significantly higher than for the rest of Surrey residents. Moreover, 25% of working poor in Surrey leave for work between 5 am and 7am.

How Do People Get To Work?*



Bus SkyTrain Other



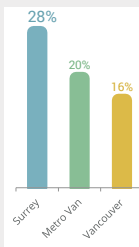
Total employed population 15 years and over with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address by mode of transportation that commutes by "public transit".
Statistics Canada, NHS 2011.

Understanding Poverty

Child Poverty Rates In Surrey

Children and youths make a disproportionate percentage of Surrey's low-income population.

Almost 30% of all low-income residents in Surrey are younger than 18 years of age, compared to 20% for Metro Vancouver as a whole, and 16% for the city of Vancouver.



Number Of Children Under 6yrs Of Age Living In Poverty

Surrey is the city with the largest population of children living in poverty in BC. Both Richmond and Burnaby have higher child poverty rates than Surrey (25% and 23% compared to 19% respectively). But Surrey's population of poor children is significantly higher than other cities.



Neighbourhood-Level Child Poverty

Low-income children are concentrated in particular neighbourhoods in Surrey.

Metro Vancouver has identified the 20 neighbourhoods with the largest population of poor children and youth. Eleven of these neighbourhoods are in Surrey.

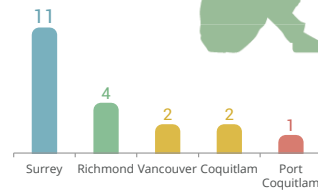
In fact, the 4 neighbourhoods with the largest populations of low-income children (less than 6 years of age) are all in Surrey.

800 children and youth live in poverty around Holly Park, more than any other neighbourhood in Metro Vancouver



Where Are They?

Location of the 20 neighbourhoods with the largest population of poor children in Metro Vancouver.



Children & Youth Living In Poverty: Who Are They?

1 IN 5 CHILDREN IN SURREY LIVE IN POVERTY

45% ABORIGINAL

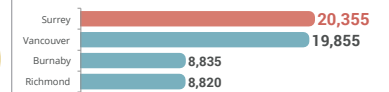
19% SURREY AVERAGE

40% NEW IMMIGRANTS

More than 20,000 children and youths (younger than 18yrs of age) live in poverty in Surrey, more so than Vancouver, Burnaby and Richmond.

1 in 5 children in Surrey lives in poverty. But Aboriginal and recent immigrant children have significantly higher poverty rates. Up to 45% of Aboriginal children and youths live in low-income. Similarly, 40% of new immigrant kids also live in poverty.

How Does Surrey Compare?



Children and youths less than 18yrs of age living in poverty

34.7% OF RENTER HOUSEHOLDS IN SURREY SPEND OVER **30% OF THEIR INCOME ON RENT**

1688 SURREY HOUSEHOLDS ON THE BC HOUSING WAIT-LIST. OF THESE, **ALMOST HALF** ARE FAMILIES

FROM **1.9%** TO **0.4%** SURREY VACANCY RATES DECREASED

FROM **\$874** TO **\$940** AVERAGE RENT PURPOSE-BUILT APARTMENTS INCREASED

Mobilizing The Community



A significant part of the role and purpose of SPRC is to undertake and support community initiatives that have an impact on poverty and its effects on individuals and families.

The Coalition has actively supported a number of innovative projects led by Surrey agencies, and has initiated projects that build the capacity of the community to reduce poverty in the City.

We have:

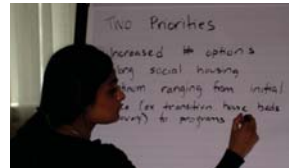
- Mobilized the Community
- Taken Community Action
- Championed Change

The SPRC Has Held Three Community Forums

Poverty Dialogue March 20, 2012

This first forum engaged the community in contributing to the development of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan. It provided the participants with an opportunity to:

- Review and understand the statistics on poverty in Surrey and Metro Vancouver
- Reflect on the real life experience of the people who experience poverty
- Consider and provide guidance into effective strategies to make a difference



Mobilizing The Community

Let's Make THIS Happen November 7, 2013

The goals of this second forum were to inform the community about successful poverty reduction initiatives in Surrey and beyond, and to inspire stakeholders to take on poverty reduction initiatives.

The keynote address by James Hughes described the process and outcomes of a poverty reduction strategy for the Province of New Brunswick. James reminded the audience that communities CAN make a difference.

A series of short, powerful presentations demonstrated

the impacts of poverty and the successes of local activities. Participants learned about the work being done by Surrey community organizations to alleviate poverty.

The afternoon focused on a "Design Jam" to generate action steps in reducing poverty in Surrey.



THIS Is The Change... February 16, 2015

This event was a professional development forum on Collective Impact. This third forum was designed to improve Surrey's collective impact in reducing poverty. At this event, leaders of the community agencies working on poverty-related issues came together to:

- Review and discuss updated Surrey poverty facts based on the 2011 Census
- Explore tools and techniques for collective impact
- Share success stories and promising practices that demonstrate effective collaboration
- Network with colleagues and build momentum toward collective impact



Councillor Vera LeFranc and Steve Dooley



Taking Community Action

Somali Women's Project 2013 - 2015



This project used a community economic development approach to support a group of Somali women to develop the skills and confidence to help them move toward their dream of paid work. The women participated in workshops ranging from financial literacy, to first aid and food safe. They were connected to key community resources like libraries, rec centres and employment agencies. They set up a stall at local farmer's markets, selling henna tattoos and hair braiding.

In fact, the ripple effect of this project has been the formation of a non-profit business, Women 4 Women Foundation with some of the original Somali women participants and project supporters.

The organization is inclusive of women who may have lower literacy skills and not be able to access some employment programs. Women 4 Women has achieved great things already, including helping participants achieve Food Safe Certification, raising \$3000 and developing relationships with a local Legion for ongoing support.



Housing First Landlord Project 2014 – 2016

In support of the Surrey agencies that serve people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, the Coalition has partnered with the Surrey Board of Trade and Landlord BC to encourage private landlords to rent to people who are homeless.

The goal of this partnership is to facilitate the connection between private landlords and the health and service agencies that support people who are chronically or episodically homeless.

The project brings together the partners to provide support and education to landlords on housing the homeless in Surrey, while obtaining rental units for Housing First clients of Surrey agencies.

Low Cost & Free Library Resources



Surrey Libraries developed a series of brochures and an interactive website of resources available at no-cost or low-cost in Surrey. The brochures are in high demand – 15,000 of the print brochures are given out every year.

Taking Community Action

Community Leaders Igniting Change (CLIC) 2015 – 2017

CLIC is a partnership with SFU and the Beedie School of Business to build the capacity of grass-roots leaders in neighbourhoods throughout Surrey to plan and organize community-based projects or programs, engage the community in these projects, and make a lasting impact on the conditions of people living with low incomes in Surrey.

As of 2016, two cohorts of students have completed the course. A third cohort will begin the program in spring 2017. The course is made possible through a multi-year grant from Envision Financial.



CLIC Participant Profile: Kyla Bains



When the flyer advertising the Community Leaders Igniting Change (CLIC) program came across Kyla Bains' desk, she knew exactly why she wanted to join. As a Program Manager for the All Nations Youth Safehouse with the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre (FRAFCA), Kyla identifies herself as a young leader.

"I was working on a fundraising gala for FRAFCA. I wanted to learn how to engage the community into our goals, to help support our youth. But I also really wanted to be a better leader with our team at the Safehouse – how to build their morale, their passions."

The CLIC program met Kyla's expectations – and then some. "It was exhilarating. [Instructor] Dr. Kathleen Burke was awesome. It was an opportunity to build a think tank, and listen to people from all different walks of life, to learn from one another."

Kyla left the program with many of the 'hard skills' of leadership – how to write a grant proposal, how to do a presentation. But she also learned about her own values, about where she wants to go and how to get there.

And the biggest impact of the program? Kyla barely pauses for thought: "Increasing your confidence in your own ability to make change and engage people in something that matters to you – whatever it is."

Connecting Community to Surrey Youth Leaving Care 2016 – 2017

With the support of the Vancouver Foundation, the goal of this project is to raise awareness and increase community engagement around youth who are "aging out" of the provincial care system.

Currently, it is the Ministry of Children and Family Development's policy that a child in the care system becomes an adult on his or her 19th Birthday.

The project, called "Connecting Community to Surrey Youth Leaving Care" promotes a radical rethinking of the ways in which these young people are supported when they transition from the care of the MCFD into adulthood. All phases of the project are engaging youth in/ from care - "not about them without them." The project reflects and promotes Vancouver Foundation's Fostering Change Initiative.

The first step in the project was to compile available information and research on youth in/from care in Surrey. Two workshops were held to bring organizations and individuals together that can make a difference in the lives of young people aging out of care.

A public art exhibit, featuring the 19th Birthday Party, was installed at Surrey City Hall as the final stage in the project. Eighty-five people attended a reception featuring speakers including a young woman who told her story of aging out.



The "19th Birthday Party" invited Surrey residents to listen to the stories of youth aging out of care.



Championing Change

Refugee Transportation Loans

Refugees resettled to Canada must pay for their medical exam and travel to Canada. Since most refugees cannot afford these expenses, Canada offers them a loan. As a result, refugee families start their new life in Canada with a debt of up to \$10,000. They must repay this loan with interest.

Over the past decade, Surrey has emerged as a primary destination for refugees arriving in BC. The past year was no exception, with 44% of Syrian refugees that arrived in BC settling in Surrey. While the loan requirement was waived for the Syrian refugees, the repayment of transportation loans has a serious impact on the economic well-being of other vulnerable refugees.

Since 2009, the City of Surrey, under the leadership of Councillor Villeneuve, has been actively advocating for the elimination of the refugee transportation loan program. In 2009, the City put forward a Resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities' Annual Convention. The Resolution was endorsed by all BC municipalities. In 2010, it was adopted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

In partnership with the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition, the City of Surrey launched a petition calling on the federal government to eliminate the refugee loan program. With signatures gathered from over 1,000 residents, the petitions were presented in the House of Commons by MP Randeep Sarai in June 2016.

As well, in May 2016, Councillor Villeneuve appeared as a witness to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration. Her remarks drew attention to the loan program and its effect on pushing refugees into deep poverty. As Councillor Villeneuve stated, "While the federal government makes significant investments in the settlement and integration of all government assisted refugees, the transportation loan negatively impacts this process. It does not make economic sense!"

The SPRC plans to continue to advocate on this important issue.



Seeing is Believing Tour 2014

The Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition, together with the Social Policy Advisory Committee, invited members of service clubs in Surrey with the opportunity to learn about poverty in Surrey through the lived experiences of Surrey residents. Participants met face-to-face with clients of community organizations to better understand social issues and explore solutions.

A Living Wage for Surrey Campaign 2015

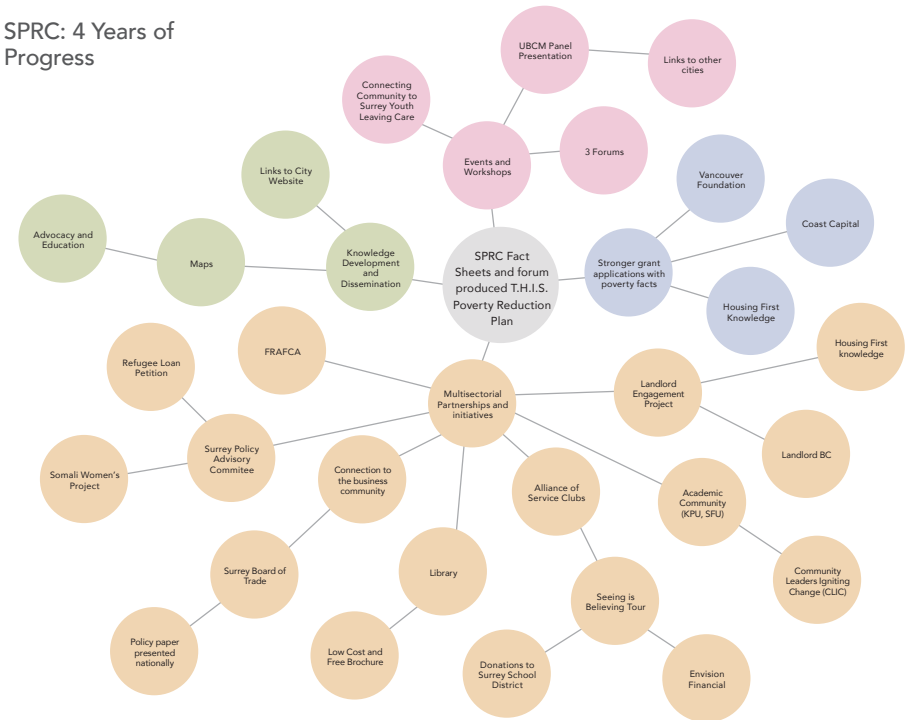
A Living Wage for Surrey Campaign was launched following the February 2015 community forum, where there was overwhelming support by attendees to pursue this activity.

In partnership with the Living Wage for Families Campaign, SPRC convened a gathering in November 2015, as a follow-up to the forum discussions. The 40 people who attended learned about Living Wage and its adoption by businesses and municipalities and discussed opportunities and challenges for launching such a campaign in Surrey.

Presentation at UBCM 2015

SPRC planned and organized a workshop on poverty reduction at the municipal level, which featured panelists from Revelstoke and Victoria as well as our Surrey panelist.

SPRC: 4 Years of Progress



We Couldn't Have Done it Without You...

Current SPRC Members

Aileen Murphy
Alice Sundberg
Anne Peterson
Christy Northway
Cllr Judy Villeneuve
Denise Darrell
Dr. Shovita Padhi
Jacopo Miro
Jennifer McCaffrey
Jessica Pan
Joe Woodworth
Karen Blackman
Kristen Andrews
Kristin Patten
Louise Sallai
Margaret Mubanda
Michelle Shaw
Njeri Kontulahti
Steve Dooley
Steven Lamothe
Trish Garner
Vera LeFranc

Past SPRC Members

Amelia McComber
Andrea Thompson
Anita Huberman
Connie Hong
David Poulette
Devinder Chattha
Dina Lambright
Jason Shortt
Joanne Mills
Kathy Berggren-Clive
Kelsey Baglo
Marlis McCargar
Melanie Houlden
Morten Bisgaard
Pat Horstead
Susan Keeping
Susan Papadionissiou
Wagella Hunt
Wendy Cahill

SPRC Funders





CORPORATE REPORT

NO: **R086**COUNCIL DATE: **April 23, 2012****REGULAR COUNCIL**TO: **Mayor & Council**DATE: **April 23, 2012**FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development**FILE: **5080-01**SUBJECT: **"this IS HOW WE END POVERTY IN SURREY" – Update on the
Development of a Poverty Reduction Action Plan****RECOMMENDATION**

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the poverty reduction project entitled "this IS HOW WE END POVERTY IN SURREY" (the "Project"). The Project is being led by Vibrant Surrey with the City of Surrey being an active partner in this collaborative community project.

To date, the Project has resulted in the development of fact sheets that compile existing data on poverty in Surrey. A community dialogue was held in late March 2012 to engage stakeholders in a discussion of the information in the fact sheets and to identify strategies for addressing poverty in Surrey. The research and community feedback, to date, will be used to develop a Surrey Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents (the "Social Plan") identifies "child poverty alleviation" as a priority and "advocacy by municipal government to champion the issues/problems related to child poverty and the long term impact on child/adult development" as a key gap. The Social Plan recommends the establishment of an intergovernmental roundtable to address the issue.

BACKGROUND

Alice Sundberg, Vibrant Surrey's Manager of Projects and Partnerships, presented the Project at a Council in Committee meeting on July 11, 2011. Her presentation included some key highlights emerging from the research work. Council was advised that in 2012, the Project team would report to Council on the results of the community engagement process and with recommendations for action.

DISCUSSION

The Project is being led by Vibrant Surrey, a non-profit society, which encourages and facilitates efforts to reduce poverty. The Project partners include the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force, Fraser Health Authority (Aboriginal Health), Kwantlen Polytechnic University and the City of Surrey. The Chair, Councillor Villeneuve, and a member of the Social Planning Advisory Committee, along with staff from the Planning and Development Department and the Engineering Department have been representing the City on the Project team.

The Project has three components, as follows:

1. preparation of fact sheets;
2. community dialogue; and
3. development of a Surrey Poverty Reduction Action Plan, including recommendations.

To date, the first two components have been completed.

Fact Sheets

The Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) was contracted by Vibrant Surrey to prepare a series of 12 facts sheets compiling existing data related to poverty in Surrey. The fact sheets, as described below, are included as Appendix I to this report.

- The Facts on Poverty in Surrey: This booklet includes an overview of key facts and figures focused on four policy areas – transportation, housing, income and support; and
- Living in Poverty in Surrey: This booklet provides fact sheets on seven population groups – families, seniors, people with health and activity limitations, women, men, Aboriginal people, and immigrants.

The fact sheets provide the base of evidence for the development of Surrey's Poverty Reduction Action Plan. This information will ensure that the Plan is based on accurate and credible facts in addition to community dialogue. The fact sheets will be available on the City's website and will serve as a useful resource for community and government agencies.

Community Dialogue

On March 30, 2012, a full-day community dialogue was held to engage stakeholders in the Project. The objectives of the dialogue were to:

- inform stakeholders about the Project research and fact sheets and identify how these can be used for advocacy, program development and evaluating progress;
- consult stakeholders on strategies and actions that should be included in the Surrey Poverty Reduction Action Plan; and
- consult stakeholders on how the Action Plan should be implemented and how they wish to be involved.

Approximately 100 people, representing diverse community and government agencies, participated in the dialogue. The dialogue confirmed the keen interest and commitment that the community has in working together on solutions to break the cycle of poverty in Surrey.

Next Steps - Preparation of a Poverty Reduction Action Plan

Over the next three months, Surrey's Poverty Reduction Action Plan will be developed, based on the data and research that has been undertaken and the results of the community dialogue. The process will be a collaborative effort between Vibrant Surrey, SPARC BC, the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research: Community Learning and Engagement (CIR:CLE) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and the City of Surrey. It will be presented to Council for consideration during the summer of 2012.

Provincial Pilot Child Poverty Project

On April 12, 2012, the Province of BC and UBCM announced that Surrey was one of seven communities selected for a pilot Community Poverty Reduction Strategy Project. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), this project will focus on families with children who are living in poverty. A News Release related to this project is attached as Appendix II.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Poverty Reduction Project, which is the subject of this report, will assist in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter; more particularly the Sustainability Charter's Action Item SC5, which is focused on the implementation of the recommendations of the Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents.

CONCLUSION

While Surrey's poverty rate of 18% is below the Metro Vancouver average of 21%, it represents many families. Over the past year, the City of Surrey has been working in collaboration with Vibrant Surrey and other community partners on a Poverty Reduction Project. To date, a series of 12 fact sheets on poverty in Surrey have been prepared and a community dialogue has been held to engage stakeholders in identifying potential solutions. Over the next few months, the fact sheets and related research, along with the community feedback will be used to prepare a Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan complete with recommendations. The Plan will be forwarded to Council for consideration during the summer of this year.

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning and Development

AM:saw

Attachments:

Appendix I Fact Sheets

Appendix II Ministry of Children and Family Development News Release

CORPORATE REPORT

NO: **R160**

COUNCIL DATE: **July 9, 2012**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **July 9, 2012**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development**

FILE: **5080-01**

SUBJECT: **Poverty Reduction Plan for the City of Surrey**

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Adopt the Plan titled "*this is How We End Poverty in Surrey: Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan*" (the "Plan"), a copy of which is attached as Appendix I to this report, as the basis for City and community action in relation to addressing poverty in Surrey; and
3. Authorize staff to proceed within available resources to implement the recommendations in the Plan that require City action.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for a poverty reduction plan titled "*this is How We End Poverty in Surrey: Surrey Poverty Reduction*" and Council authorization for staff to proceed with the implementation of the recommendations in the Plan that require City action.

The Plan provides a comprehensive set of recommendations toward the eradication of poverty in Surrey. The priorities and recommendations for action are organized into four policy areas; being transportation, housing, income and support.

The Plan is the product of a collaborative community partnership. With Vibrant Surrey as the lead, the Plan was developed by a partnership group that included the City of Surrey, the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force, the Centre for Inter-disciplinary Research: Community Learning and Engagement (CIR:CLE) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, SPARC BC and the Fraser Health Authority Aboriginal Health.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The Plan responds to recommendations contained in a number of other City plans including:

- The Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents;
- The Transportation Strategic Plan;
- The Child and Youth Friendly City Strategy;

- The Learning for Life Strategy; and
- The Master Plan for Housing the Homeless in Surrey (under development).

BACKGROUND

In September 2010, the Social Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) identified poverty as a priority social issue on which the Committee would focus in 2010-2011. At that time, Vibrant Surrey, a non-profit society that encourages and facilitates efforts to reduce poverty, was initiating a research project. The SPAC decided that the best approach for addressing poverty in Surrey was to work collaboratively with Vibrant Surrey. The Chair of the Social Planning Committee, along with staff from the Planning and Development Department and the Engineering Department, became active members of a partnership group working on the project.

Alice Sundberg, Vibrant Surrey's Manager of Projects and Partnerships, made a presentation on the poverty reduction research project at a Council-in-Committee meeting on July 11, 2011. Council was advised at that time that the research project and development of a poverty reduction plan would be completed in 2012.

As part of the agenda for its Regular meeting on April 23, 2012, Council received an update on the project (Corporate Report No. Ro86). The report noted that a set of 12 fact sheets had been completed; the fact sheets representing the compilation of existing data related to poverty in Surrey. The report also noted that a one-day community dialogue had been held in late March 2012 to engage stakeholders in a discussion about the information in the fact sheets and to identify strategies for addressing poverty in Surrey. The report noted that the research and community feedback would be used in the development of the poverty reduction plan.

DISCUSSION

The Plan is focussed in four policy areas; being

- transportation,
- housing,
- income, and
- support.

Rather than focusing on vulnerable population groups, the Plan focuses on policy areas that can make a difference for all low-income people. Access to affordable housing and transportation, an income that covers living expenses, and supports and opportunities that promote health, well-being, and inclusion are key features for addressing poverty among all individuals and families who are living on very low incomes.

The Plan is organized by the four policy areas or themes referenced above with each area including:

- key facts taken from the fact sheets that were developed as part of the project;
- a few examples of initiatives highlighting work that is already underway in Surrey to address poverty in the specific policy area; and
- priorities and recommended actions in the specific policy area.

Each recommendation identifies the level(s) of government (federal, provincial or municipal) responsible for its implementation. In addition, the Plan makes reference to the broader community as having responsibility for selected recommendations; in this context, the "community" may include the private sector, non-profit and faith based organizations, and the general citizenry. The transportation section also includes TransLink as an agency that is responsible for implementation of some of the recommended actions.

The Plan includes a total of 19 priorities and 75 recommended actions. While the Plan includes a local role to advocate for federal and provincial action to support the recommendations in the Plan, it is primarily focused on actions that the City of Surrey and local community groups can take to tackle poverty.

The Plan outlines the activities that need to be taken to implement the Plan, including the establishment of a collaborative community roundtable with representatives from government, non-profit, and other groups.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The implementation of the actions recommended in the Plan will assist in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter; more particularly action item SC5, which is focused on the implementation of the recommendations of the Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents that includes poverty reduction as an objective.

CONCLUSION

The Plan titled "*this is How We End Poverty in Surrey: Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan*" was developed to provide strategic direction for addressing poverty in Surrey. It provides a comprehensive and practical set of recommended actions towards the eradication of poverty. The Plan was based on a series of community consultations and grounded in a set of 12 fact sheets developed to ensure evidence-based decision-making in relation to the recommended actions. This Plan represents a starting point – a commitment by the community to take action. It is expected that the Plan will continue to evolve as ideas and opportunities emerge.

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Adopt the Plan, a copy of which is attached as Appendix I to this report, as the basis for City and community action in relation to addressing poverty in Surrey; and
- Authorize staff to proceed within available resources to implement the recommendations in the Plan that require City action.

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning and Development

AM:saw

Attachment:

Appendix I Document titled "*this is How We End Poverty in Surrey: Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan*"



CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R021

COUNCIL DATE: FEBRUARY 3, 2014

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: February 3, 2014**

FROM: General Manager, Planning and Development **FILE: 5080-01**
Acting General Manager, Engineering
Chief Librarian

SUBJECT: Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan: "Low Cost and Free" Resources

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department, the Engineering Department and Surrey Libraries recommend that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the new "Low Cost and Free" brochure series and interactive web-pages that have been developed through a collaborative effort by Surrey Libraries, the Engineering Department and the Planning and Development Department. The brochure provides information about low cost and free resources that are available to low income residents of Surrey.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The subject brochure series aligns with the recommendations in the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan (the "Plan") in relation to increasing awareness about the services, programs and opportunities available to low income residents in Surrey. The brochure also supports the outcomes targeted in the Surrey Libraries' Strategic Plan 2013-2015.

BACKGROUND

In 2012, Council adopted a Poverty Reduction Plan for Surrey entitled "*this is How We End Poverty in Surrey: Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan*" (Corporate Report No. R160, July 9, 2012). The Plan provides a comprehensive set of recommendations toward reducing poverty in four policy areas – Transportation, Housing, Income and Supports.

DISCUSSION

The implementation of the Plan is being guided by the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition (SPRC). The SPRC is comprised of representatives from various sectors including governments, non-profit organizations, the education sector and the business community.

Consultations with community stakeholders conducted as part of the development of the Plan identified as an issue the fact that many people living in poverty do not take advantage of existing low income resources due to a lack of knowledge or awareness. This feedback is reflected in the following eight recommendations contained in the Plan:

- *Housing: Recommendation #29* - Raise awareness of the Rental Assistance Program (RAP), the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program, the Home Adaptations for Independence (HAFI) program and other housing services and programs that are available for low-income households;
- *Income: Recommendation #39* - Increase awareness among low income individuals and families of the Surrey Public Library's services including free job search and resume writing workshops, and free access to computers and the Internet for job search activities;
- *Income: Recommendation #40* - Raise awareness among low income individuals and families of the need to file an income tax return to benefit from tax credits. Promote the availability of free income tax filing services for low income people;
- *Support: Recommendation #48* - Increase awareness of and access to free early literacy and school readiness programs available through the library, recreation services and other community agencies;
- *Support Recommendation #52* - Increase awareness of and access to free early literacy and school readiness programs available through the library, recreation services and other community agencies;
- *Support : Recommendation #53* - Increase awareness of services offered free of charge at the Library for people with disabilities, including home delivery of books and audio books, specialized computer technology for those with visual impairments, and story-times for adults with developmental and cognitive disabilities;
- *Support: Recommendation #65* - Promote awareness of the City of Surrey's Leisure Access Pass (LAP) that provides free or reduced price recreation services for low income people/families. Also promote awareness of free-of-charge community events and other opportunities; and
- *Support: Recommendation #68* - Increase awareness of the health resources available in the community.

Low Cost and Free Brochures

In response to the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan recommendations, in early 2013, staff at the Guildford Library researched and prepared a series of brochures on "Low Cost and Free" services, programs and opportunities in Surrey. These are attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The

brochures, available online and at library kiosks, provide a list of services, along with a brief description and contact information for the following resource categories:

- Activities in the Community;
- Activities in the Library;
- Education/ESL & Citizenship;
- Employment & Income;
- Food & Transportation;
- Health Services;
- Housing;
- Household Goods; and
- Legal Services.

The nine Low Cost and Free brochures currently contain approximately 400 listings. The brochures have been well received by the community with more than 3,100 brochures distributed from the Gilford Library alone. The brochures are currently available in all Surrey Library branches and anecdotal feedback has been extremely positive amongst library customers as well as community organizations that are now aware of and making referrals to the brochures.

Low Cost and Free Interactive Map

The Surrey Libraries' brochures were reviewed by the Social Policy Advisory Committee on May 8, 2013. The Committee recommended that Council request staff to make the information available on an interactive map on the City's website. This recommendation was adopted by Council at its Regular meeting on September 9, 2013.

The Low Cost and Free web-based map was developed by the GIS Section in the Engineering Department, with assistance from Social Planning staff and the Web Team. A copy of webpage is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. The interactive map allows users to select information based on:

- their demographic (e.g. family with children, youth, senior, immigrant etc.); or
- type of information (e.g. activities in the community, activities in the library etc.).

Links to the brochures are also provided on the website. To view the Low Cost and Free map and brochures visit: <http://www.surrey.ca/community/13905.aspx>.

Moving forward, Surrey Libraries will be responsible for updating the brochures; the Planning and Development Department will maintain the map and the website with updates provided by Surrey Libraries.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Low Cost and Free project assists in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter; more particularly, Charter action item SC5: Improving the social well-being of Surrey residents.

CONCLUSION

The City of Surrey is committed to reducing poverty in Surrey. The Low Cost and Free brochure series and website are practical and accessible resources that enable low income residents to be aware of services, supports and activities that will increase their standard of living and inclusion in the community.



Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning and Development

Original signed by
Gerry McKinnon
Acting General Manager, Engineering

Melanie Houlden
Chief Librarian

AM:saw

Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Low Cost and Free Brochure series

Appendix 2 – Low Cost and Free Web page



CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R062

COUNCIL DATE: APRIL 27, 2015

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council

DATE: April 27, 2015

FROM: General Manager, Planning and Development

FILE: 5080-01

SUBJECT: Update on the Implementation of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the implementation of ***This is How We End Poverty in Surrey: Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan*** (the "Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan") that was adopted by Council in July 2012.

BACKGROUND

In September 2010, the Social Policy Advisory Committee ("SPAC") identified poverty as one of the priority social issues for the SPAC to focus on. At that time, the SPAC determined that the best approach was to work collaboratively with Vibrant Surrey, a non-profit organization that was engaged in conducting research on poverty in Surrey.

On April 23, 2012, Council received an update on the research that had been completed and the work that was underway to develop a Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan (Corporate Report No. R086;2012).

On July 9, 2012, Council adopted the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan (Corporate Report No. R160;2012). The Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan provides a comprehensive set of 75 recommendations that are organized into four key policy areas: transportation, housing, income and support.

On February 3, 2014, Council received a report on *Low Cost and Free* – a brochure series and inter-active web pages providing information on a range of resources that are available at a low cost or at no cost in Surrey (Corporate Report No. R021;2014). *Low Cost and Free* was developed by Surrey Libraries. The City developed and maintains the web-based map of resources. *Low Cost and Free* responds to recommendations in the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan related to increasing awareness about the services, programs and opportunities available to low-income residents in Surrey.

DISCUSSION

After the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan was adopted in July 2012, the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition ("SPRC") was established to champion its implementation. The SPRC has taken the lead on a number of actions that include:

- convening community forums;
- developing and disseminating user-friendly information on poverty in Surrey;
- piloting innovative projects;
- advocating for the elimination of the refugee transportation loan program; and
- evaluating the impact of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan.

These activities are described below.

Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition

The SPRC was established in 2012 to promote the implementation of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan. According to its Terms of Reference, the role of the SPRC is to:

- Promote and disseminate the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan;
- Mobilize and inspire the community to take actions to reduce poverty; and
- Monitor and measure achievements/progress/outcomes in implementing the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan.

Co-chaired by Councillor Judy Villeneuve and Stephen Dooley, Executive Director of SFU Surrey, the SPRC consists of representatives from relevant sectors, including government, business, health services, community service agencies, and population groups impacted by poverty. With 20 members, the SPRC balances representation with the need to be productive and effective. The current membership list is attached as Appendix I to this report.

The Vancity Foundation administers the SPRC's funds. To date, the Vancouver Foundation, Vancity Credit Union, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society and United Way of the Lower Mainland have provided grants to support the facilitation of the SPRC. All SPRC member agencies provide in-kind support.

Convening the Community

Three forums have been held as a means of engaging and inspiring the community to implement the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan as follows:

- The first forum, held in March 2012, involved the community in developing the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan;
- The second forum, held in November 2013, focused on sharing what was already happening to reduce poverty in Surrey and discussing additional actions that could be taken. The keynote speaker was James Hughes who was instrumental in the development and implementation of New Brunswick's provincial poverty reduction plan; and

- The most recent forum was held on February 16, 2015 at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Approximately 60 community leaders who are engaged in poverty reduction work in Surrey were invited to attend.

The focus of the 2015 forum was "collective impact", which is an innovative approach for tackling complex social issues. The keynote speaker and forum facilitator was from the Tamarack Institute in Ontario. In addition to learning about collective impact, forum participants identified a number of priority issues/projects including:

- encouraging Surrey employers to adopt a living wage policy;
- engaging private sector landlords in addressing homelessness through a Housing First approach;
- implementing a pilot project in a neighbourhood(s) that has a high child poverty rate;
- promoting a "yes" vote on the Transportation Referendum;
- supporting access to healthy food for low income residents; and
- addressing mental health issues.

The SPRC has started to plan the next steps for following up on the ideas that emerged at the forum.

The community forums have been funded by the Vancouver Foundation, Vancity Credit Union, and City of Surrey. Kwantlen provided the venue at no cost for the 2013 and 2015 forums and its Faculty of Arts funded the catering at the 2015 forum.

Sharing Knowledge

To ensure that decisions made and actions taken to reduce poverty are evidence-based, the SPRC has compiled and disseminated information on poverty in Surrey.

A series of fact sheets, using the 2006 census and other data sources, were prepared as part of the process of developing the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan. These fact sheets were recently updated using 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) data by Jacopo Miro, a UBC School of Community and Regional Planning student. Surrey Libraries staff assisted in collecting the information. A fact sheet was prepared on each of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan's four themes – transportation, housing, income and support (see Appendix II).

The 2011 NHS was also used to prepare a set of maps that show low income by census tract for all of Metro Vancouver and in Surrey. Maps are available showing low income for all ages, seniors, children and youth (17 years and less) and young children (five years and less).

The information on poverty shows that Surrey's poverty rate is the same as the Metro Vancouver average (16% which represents 72,000 Surrey residents living in low income). Of note is the information on child poverty. Of the 20 Metro Vancouver neighbourhoods with the largest number of children and youth living in poverty, 11 neighbourhoods are in Surrey.

The SPRC has recently developed a new website where the fact sheet and maps are available for downloading at www.surreyprc.ca. The fact sheets and maps of 2011 data are attached as Appendix II to this report.

Piloting Projects

The SPRC has undertaken pilot projects to test new and innovative approaches to reducing poverty at the local level. Three of these projects are described below.

Somali Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Pilot Project

The Somali Women's Economic Self Sufficiency Project is assisting a group of Somali women to build their skills and confidence in order to pursue employment and/or to develop a socially/culturally relevant business together. The project stemmed from a delegation to the SPAC in February 2013. The delegation included representatives from the Surrey School District's Welcome Centre, Common Thread Cooperative, and three Somali women from the Welcome Centre's ESL Class. The Somali women expressed a strong desire to be engaged in paid work.

Phase I of the project (April to June 2013) included three workshops to give the Somali women a chance to hear about different cooperative models of employment and gauge their initial interest in the possibility of working together to develop a cooperative or social enterprise.

In Phase II (May to December 2014) two facilitators, one with expertise in community economic development and one Somali speaker, were contracted to work with the group. The facilitators conducted weekly skill building workshops focusing on employment as well as topics such as women's health and basic first aid. Due to the marginalization of these women, activities to increase their social connections to the community were also undertaken (e.g., signing up for library cards and recreation passes, setting up a stall in the Surrey Farmer's Market and taking a field trip to Dress for Success). In December 2014, a celebration/graduation was held at City Hall to recognize the women's progress. In January 2015, the Somali women's group appeared as a delegation to the SPAC to provide an update.

Phase III of the project will begin in April 2015 with the same facilitators and cohort of Somali women. It will focus on employment through individualized employment plans and continued exploration of a group cooperative model.

The Somali Women's Project has/is being funded by grants from the Vancity Credit Union. Surrey Libraries provides the space for the weekly sessions at no cost. The Surrey Women's Centre is the project lead with women from Vancity Credit Union, Vancity Community Foundation, Surrey School District and Planning and Development (Social Planning) serving as project advisors.

Community Leaders Igniting Change (CLIC)

Inspired by the Neighbourhood Leadership Institute in Hamilton, CLIC is a free education program for Surrey residents who are interested in making positive changes in their neighbourhoods. Its main objectives are to:

- enhance community leadership and engagement;
- increase community connectedness through strong social networks;

- develop a sense of "place" within the distinct neighbourhoods of Surrey; and
- build our capacity to engage more citizens more meaningfully in poverty reduction and developing social capital within their communities of interest.

Led by Dr. Katherine Burke of the SFU Beedie School of Business, the program covers concepts such as inclusion, compassion, listening, strategizing, relationship building, self and other awareness, engagement and critical thinking.

Eighteen students were selected to participate in the pilot CLIC program. The 12 week program started on February 26, 2015 and will end May 14, 2015. Students will continue to meet monthly for six months following the completion of the education program.

CLIC is being supported by funding from SFU, Vancity Credit Union and the Vancouver Foundation.

Housing First Landlord Project

Housing First is an approach to ending homelessness that is based on providing permanent affordable housing with supports to people who are chronically or episodically homeless. The Housing First model has proven to be highly effective. A recent Canada-wide study provided evidence that the vast majority (85%) of homeless people who participated in a Housing First model remained successfully housed after one year. The model relies on a supply of rental housing in the private and public sectors, which is a challenge in Surrey.

The SPRC's Housing First Landlord Project is intended to facilitate the connection between private landlords and the health and service agencies that are using a Housing First approach to support people who are homeless.

The first Landlord project event was a breakfast networking and education event entitled *Engaging Landlords - Homes for Good: A Dialogue for a Vibrant Surrey* held on June 5, 2014. The event was co-sponsored by the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, Landlord BC, Surrey Board of Trade and SPRC. The breakfast was an opportunity for Surrey landlords to have an open dialogue about homelessness, the Housing First approach and how landlords can benefit by being part of the solution.

The SPRC is currently preparing to offer a workshop in late May to Surrey landlords, both apartment owners and those with secondary suites. The workshop will inform landlords about Housing First and invite them to be part of the solution by offering their rental units to Surrey-based agencies serving homeless people. To enhance attendance, the workshop will also promote opportunities to improve energy efficiencies through BC Hydro's and Fortis BC's Energy Conservation Assistance Program, available only to low-income households. In partnership with LandlordBC, those who attend the workshop will also learn about tools and partnerships to help them address challenging tenants.

Advocating for Change

The Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan includes a number of recommendations that are the responsibility of the federal and provincial levels of government. While the SPRC is primarily focused on local actions, the SPRC is a member of the *BC Poverty Reduction Coalition* and supports their advocacy calling for a provincial poverty reduction plan. BC is one of only two provinces without a provincial Poverty Reduction Plan.

The SPRC has recently become of a member of *Cities Reducing Poverty*, a connected learning Institute in Ontario, the community of Canadian cities with multi-sector roundtables. An initiative of the Tamarack goal of *Cities Reducing Poverty* is "to align poverty reduction strategies in cities, provinces and the federal government resulting in reduced poverty for 1 million Canadians".

The SPRC is continuing to work with the SPAC on advocacy to eliminate the federal government's requirement for Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) to repay the cost of their transportation to Canada. This federal requirement is further impoverishing GARs in Surrey, about half of whom are children and youth, who face significant challenges in settling in Canada. The SPAC is currently circulating a petition calling on the Government of Canada to eliminate the refugee transportation loan program.

Evaluating the Impact

The impact of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan and work of the SPRC was recently evaluated using a "ripple effect mapping" (REM) methodology. REM is an innovative mind mapping technique used to assess both intended and unintended impacts of a program. The evaluation was conducted by Dr. Natalie Gagnon and Etta Brodersen of Kwantlen Polytechnic University. The ripple effects of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan were categorized into three themes: knowledge sharing, partnerships and new initiatives.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The implementation of Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan is assisting in achieving the Sustainability Charter's Action Item SC5, which is focused on the implementation of the recommendations of the Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents.

CONCLUSION

The 2011 NHS indicates that poverty continues to be an issue in some neighbourhoods and among some population groups in Surrey, especially children and youth. The City of Surrey adopted the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan in 2012 to provide strategic direction for tackling poverty in Surrey. Since then, Council members and staff have been actively involved as part of the SPRC in promoting the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan and implementing its recommendations. These efforts have included:

- developing strong partnerships among various agencies and sectors in the community and with funders;

- sharing knowledge and information on poverty in Surrey and increasing awareness about the resources available for low-income residents; and
- undertaking innovative local pilot projects that promote the economic inclusion of all Surrey residents.

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager, Planning and Development

AM:saw

Attachments:

Appendix I Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition Membership

Appendix II Fact Sheets and Maps

Appendix “VII”

Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition (SPRC): 2017 Membership List

Name	Organization	Sector
Co-Chair: Councillor Judy Villeneuve	Chair, Social Policy Advisory Committee, City of Surrey	Municipal Government / Social Policy Advisory Committee
Co-Chair: Steve Dooley	Executive Director, SFU Surrey Member, Social Policy Advisory Committee, City of Surrey	Education
Councillor Vera LeFranc	Vice-Chair, Social Policy Advisory Committee, City of Surrey Manager of Community Services, Vancity Community Foundation Program Coordinator, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society	Philanthropy
Karen Blackman	Executive Director of Services, South Service Delivery Area Ministry of Children and Family Development	Provincial Government
Steven LaMothe	Manager of Service Delivery Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation	Provincial Government
Christy Northway	Assistant Superintendent, Surrey School District	Education
Kristen Andrews	Deputy Chief Librarian, Surrey Libraries	Literacy
Dr. Shovita Phadi	Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health Authority	Health
Anne Peterson	Policy and Research Manager, Surrey Board of Trade	Business
Njeri Kontulahti	Community Branch Manager, Vancity Credit Union	Business
Michelle Shaw	Director of Youth Services and Fraser Region, Pacific Community Resources Society Member, Social Policy Advisory Committee	Youth
Tahzeem Kassam	Chief Operating Officer, DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society Partner, Surrey Local Immigration Partnership	Immigrant/Refugees
Denise Darrell	Director of Women, Seniors and Community Services Sources Community Resource Society	Women/Seniors / Food Security
Louise Sallai	Homelessness Prevention, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre	Aboriginal
Joe Woodworth	Senior Program Manager, Options Community Services Co-Chair, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force	Homelessness
Jacopo Miro	PhD student, UBC School of Community and Regional Planning	Research
Margaret Mubanda	Community Member	Community Member
Aileen Murphy	Senior Social Planner, City of Surrey	Municipal Government
Kristin Patten	Social Planner, City of Surrey	Municipal Government

SPRC Coordinator: Jessica Pan

Updated June 2017