

Cultivating Communities of Abundance **REDEFINING POVERTY**

SAVE THE DATE – OCT. 17, 2018

In honour of the
International Day for the
Eradication of Poverty,
join us for a day of
learning, sharing, and
inspiration.

Connect with community
programs and initiatives
working to build
pathways out of poverty.

October 17, 2018
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Elks Social Hall,
Spruce Grove



With Paula Cornell,
one of Edmonton's Top 40-
under-40 for her work with
Edmontonians experiencing
homelessness and poverty.

Stay tuned for registration information!



CITY OF SPRUCE GROVE

5 –Year Strategy to Reduce Poverty & Homelessness

ALL STAKEHOLDERS: WORKSHOP #2

SEPTEMBER 13, 2018



PART 1

WELCOME INTRODUCTIONS AGENDA

BACKGROUND

- Spruce Grove continues to experience rapid growth and changing social trends (> 30% population increase from 2011-2016)
- Existing and emergent social issues are becoming more complex
- There is an identified homeless population that is increasing
- Clients who are successfully housed in our community remain in core housing need (i.e. > 30% of gross income goes to rent/utilities)
- Effective solutions are beyond the scope of a single program or service and it has been identified that a collective approach is needed
- There is a desire within the community to be part of the solution

CURRENT FCSS INITIATIVES

- Program focusing on prevention at the earliest opportunity at all life stages
- Integrated Supports Coordinators (x3)
- Established relationships with partnering service providers and property managers
- In-kind support for centralized accessible services
- Social Sustainability Plan
- Five Year Strategy to Reduce Poverty and Homelessness

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The 5-Year Strategy to Reduce Homelessness and Poverty will:

- Identify root causes of poverty and homelessness;
- Define key terms (e.g. homelessness) in the context of Spruce Grove;
- Map assets and opportunities;
- Identify innovating, leading edge practices in addressing the root causes of poverty and homelessness;
- Outline specific actions to address these causes;
- Determine appropriate measures of success; and
- Identify a sustainable road map to implementation

TIMELINE



KEY MESSAGES



Homelessness is an emerging social issue identified within Spruce Grove.



Issues surrounding poverty & homelessness are complex & deeply rooted.



Individuals accessing local & regional services for homelessness continues to rise.



There is a desire within the community to be a part of the solution



KEY MESSAGES



The development of the Strategy will occur over the next 6 months.



The development process involves research of best practices, data collection, & engagement of stakeholders & community members.



The approach will be collaborative, community-led & will support sustainable collective action over five years & beyond.



The work is being led by FCSS & the City of Spruce Grove. [Urban Matters CCC](#) will support with the process & development of the Strategy.



DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS



DEFINING HOMELESSNESS

As homelessness is not a single event or state of being, it is important to recognize that at different points in time, people may find themselves experiencing different types of homelessness.

- 1) Unsheltered
- 2) Emergency Sheltered
- 3) Provisionally Accommodated
- 4) At Risk of Homelessness






POVERTY & HOUSING CONTEXT AND TRENDS IN SPRUCE GROVE





POPULATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS

 **Population:** Steady increase from 2001 (15,983) to 2016 (34,066). Much larger growth rate than Edmonton CMA or Alberta (30% growth vs. 14% and 12% respectively).

 **Age breakdown:** Greatest percentage of population is in the 30-34 years of age (9.1%). This is also the fastest growing age segment over the last 10 years.



Next groups to experience greatest percentage of population is above 65 years old and groups below 9 years of age (0-4 years and 5-9 years old).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS

-  **Labour Force:** 68% Employment rate, 7.8% Unemployment rate; same unemployment rate as overall national rate, greater employment (National Rate is 66%)
-  **Income:** Larger median income for each household type (one-person, two or more) than all other categories (Edmonton CMA, AB, Canada). Median Total Income for all Economic Families is \$118,505
-  **Low Income Cut Off:** Much less prevalence than Edmonton CMA, AB or Canada.
-  **Families Earning less than \$30,000/year:** 3% (370 out of 12,550 households)

HOUSING STOCK AND COST



-  **Tenure Types:** 77% of Spruce Grove households own, 23% rent. This has decreased over time (82 % owned vs. 18% rented in 2006)
-  **Housing Costs Affecting Renters:** Number & Percent of Rental Households Spending 50% or More of Income on Rent & Utilities in the Lowest Income Quartile.

1-Bedroom		2-Bedroom		3-Bedroom		4-Bedroom		All Units	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
75	36%	220	62%	90	72%	20	67%	415	58%

Source – Canadian Rental Market Index

CORE HOUSING NEED

Renting Households Experiencing Housing Issues

	Adequacy	Suitability	Affordability	Adequacy, Suitability or Affordability	Total Renters	Proportion of This Household Type Who Rents and is Experiencing Housing Issues
All Families	75	210	575	770	1,760	43.8%
<i>Couples with Children</i>	25	60	170	235	535	43.9%
<i>Couples without Children</i>	15	0	160	185	590	31.4%
<i>Lone-Parent Families</i>	20	70	215	245	380	64.5%
Non-Family Households	40	60	480	560	1,125	49.8%
All households	115	270	1,055	1,325	2,895	45.8%

***46% of renting households (1325 out of 2895 households) in Spruce Grove experience some form of adequacy, suitability or affordability issues**

Adequacy Issues: If there are any major repairs needed

Suitability Issues: If there aren't enough bedrooms for the size & makeup of household

Affordability Issues: If more than 30% of before tax household income goes to shelter costs.

COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

Organizations: FCSS programming and caseworkers, The Foodbank Homeless Link Alberta, Auggie's, Neighbourlink, Parentlink

Key Programming: The Drug Strategy and Youth Mental Health Hub, Community Connector, The Blessing Project

Tri-Regional/Multi-Jurisdictional Approach:

- Stony Plain Plan to End Poverty and Homelessness
- Primary Care with Alberta Health Services
- City, province and federal governments working together

HOMELESS AND POVERTY CONTEXT AND TRENDS IN SPRUCE GROVE



What are some of the things we are hearing from talking to various groups in the community?

WHAT WE HEARD FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Lived Experience:

- Living paycheck to paycheck makes life really hard
- Rent keeps increasing, but they don't give us notice because it's a motel – now we have to re-budget
- Living on pension- housing is too expensive
- We need a shelter, affordable housing...need to get people off the streets
- We NEED better public transportation
- Safety is an issue

***Accessing Housing was the biggest barrier experienced, followed by accessing transportation, then accessing healthcare and employment**

WHAT WE HEARD FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Youth:

- A good role model at a young age would help support a happily housed youth
- Need access to a social worker or counsellor inside of schools
- Tri-leisure passes for access to healthy activities, showers, water, etc.
- Need opportunities for youth to focus on community involvement
- If I Were Mayor, I'd make things more accessible: a community hub, access to transportation, provide a service at the bank to help people with their finances

***Once the group went through the housing and poverty exercises, they shifted from thinking of poverty and homelessness as a 'choice', to understanding 'life can be difficult' and 'it can happen to anyone'**

WHAT WE HEARD FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholders:

- Poverty is generally increasing, especially in the youth population
- Long waitlists to access mental health and crisis supports in various organizations
- Those most affected: a mix between at-risk youth and seniors
- An increase in poverty and homelessness recently seems due to job loss
- Greatest gap/challenge is that there is a lack of a full spectrum of housing in Spruce Grove
- Other gaps: lack of sound transportation and lack of good mental health and addictions supports
- People are burning out/there is a sense of apathy
- The community still needs to work on breaking down stigma around mental health, poverty and homelessness
- Need collaborative and cohesive approaches (multi-sectoral, inter-jurisdictional, tri-regional)

***Everyone who was interviewed was keen to continue on with the process – a lot of commitment in the community**



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PART 2

ASSETS IN SPRUCE GROVE

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BRIGHT SPOTS AND THINGS TO BUILD ON

- 📢 Please take a look at the categories posted on the walls
- 📢 Write 1 asset per sticky note and put in appropriate category
- 📢 Identify: **Why does the asset work well?**

BRIGHT SPOTS AND THINGS TO BUILD ON



DEBRIEF





PART 3

IDENTIFYING AND UNDERSTANDING ROOT CAUSES

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IDENTIFYING ROOT CAUSES

-  What can we learn from lived experience insights?
-  What might be additional categories of root causes?

UNDERSTANDING ROOT CAUSES



There are a number of topics table groups will be discussing. Choose the table that you are most interested in, or feel you have the most to add to.

You will have an opportunity to visit two different tables.

ROOT CAUSES AND OPPORTUNITIES – KEY QUESTIONS



Choose a person to record your answers on the flip chart provided.

1. As a group, flush out your understanding of the key issue. How does it show up in Spruce Grove? What contributes to it?
2. What strategies and actions should we prioritize moving forward?
3. Of the priorities identified, what should our top 3 actions be for the 5 years (until 2023)?
4. What outcomes should we use to measure progress?

NEXT STEPS AND KEY FOLLOW UPS



Best Practices Research and Synthesis of Local Context Data with Provincial Trends
Co-develop Strategy with Core Collaborators (October – November)
Review Strategy with Stakeholders

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