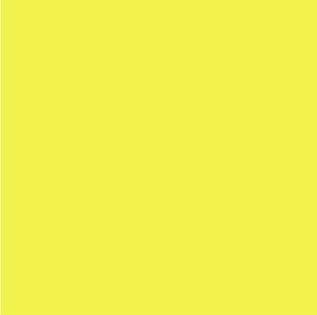


Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy 2022-2027

Building a Better Thunder Bay for All

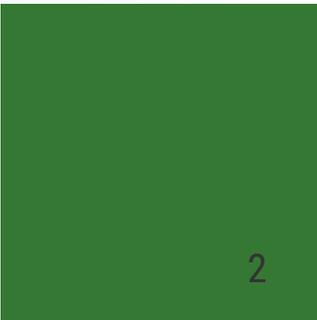
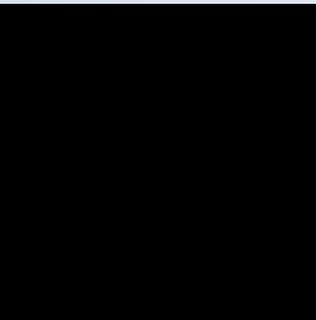
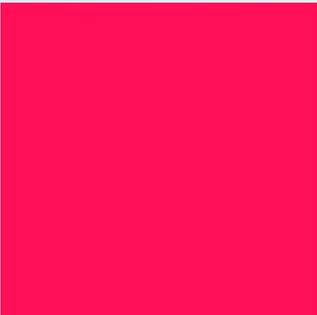




Land Acknowledgement

"We acknowledge that our workplace and our homes are located on the traditional territory of the Anishinabek, now known as the Robinson Superior Treaty Area and homeland of the Métis.

We respect the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems, and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations."





Appreciation

The Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy was made possible through the commitment and dedication of the Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy committee members and support from the City of Thunder Bay.

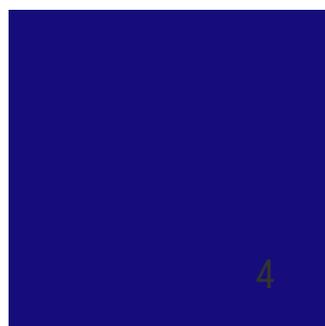
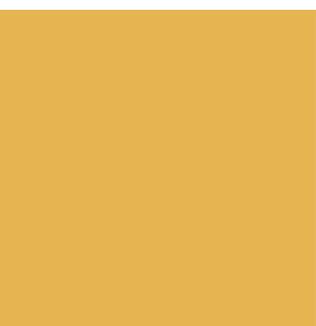
The committee members helped to guide the process creating a comprehensive plan to reduce and eliminate poverty in the City of Thunder Bay. The members' leadership will continue to advance the vision to end poverty in Thunder Bay.

Gratitude is also extended to the People With Lived Experience Advisory Committee and other community members who continue to help through collective impact to advocate for an end to poverty by joining the endeavours of the committee and who also contribute their knowledge and wisdom.



Table of Contents

<i>Front cover</i>	1
<i>Land acknowledgement</i>	2
<i>Appreciation</i>	3
<i>Table of contents</i>	4
<i>Mission and vision</i>	5
<i>Guiding principles</i>	6
<i>Creation of the strategy</i>	7
<i>Collective impact</i>	8
<i>Roles to reduce poverty</i>	10
<i>What is poverty?</i>	11
<i>Measuring poverty</i>	12
<i>Protective factors</i>	13
<i>Financial empowerment</i>	14
<i>Basic income</i>	15
<i>Education</i>	16
<i>Indicators of poverty</i>	17
<i>Community volunteer income tax program (CVITP)</i>	18
<i>Local indicators of poverty</i>	19
<i>Provincial indicators of poverty</i>	21
<i>National indicators of poverty</i>	25
<i>Work Plan</i>	28
<i>Conclusion</i>	35



Our Mission and Vision

The Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy is managed by the Lakehead Social Planning Council (LSPC). The LSPC aims to provide dynamic leadership for social change and the betterment of community. The LSPC is dedicated to building a better community through strategic alliances, social research and the provision of valid, reliable information.

Our Mission

Our mission is to work strategically and collaboratively, utilizing collective impact to understand poverty, advocate for effective public policy, and implement the recommendations included in the key areas of the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Our Vision

A Thunder Bay where nobody lives in poverty.

Creation of the Strategy

LEADERSHIP OF THE THUNDER BAY POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY (PRS)

The members of the PRS include those from various sectors including Indigenous and Indigenous-led organizations, governments, housing, non-profit organizations, social services, and lived experience.

Members of the committee meet several times over a period of ten months, to provide guidance, share their in-depth knowledge of the community's key challenges, and identify opportunities for change, as well as facilitate connections to people with living and lived experience and expertise of poverty.

LOCAL IMPACTS OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 global pandemic exacerbated and exposed pre-existing inequalities by disproportionately impacting vulnerable groups. Many people experienced job loss, social isolation, and abrupt closures of important social services like school, childcare, and recreation.

While the full impacts of this crisis are yet to be fully understood, the pandemic has exposed the deep systemic inequities and vulnerabilities that currently exist. This Strategy is an opportunity to better support Thunder Bay residents through the recovery and improve the social infrastructure to give people the tools they need to live well and thrive.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT APPROACH

Ending poverty is an issue that needs to be undertaken by the whole community and at multiple scales. A collective impact approach is a best practice in the field of poverty reduction and is a framework that brings together all sectors in a shared movement. This approach is outlined in this Strategy and is supported by the City's Community Safety Well Being Committee and its members.

Collective Impact

Collective Impact has increased in Thunder Bay, since first being introduced by the Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2018. The foundational elements of collective impact have been upgraded to reflect the relationships that span across sectors, organizations and community members. A movement building approach that emphasizes reforms and transforming systems is the goal of collective impact, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, including those not in traditional seats of power to build a vision of the future based on common values and narratives.

The five elements of Collective Impact are:

- 1. common aspiration*
- 2. strategic learning*
- 3. high leverage activities*
- 4. inclusive community engagement*
- 5. containers for change*

Collective Impact

The Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy works collectively with numerous groups, organizations, governments, businesses and community members to ensure the needs of the community are being reflected in the work we do.

- Lutheran Community Care
- BISNO
- Norwest Community Health Centres
- Continuous Communication
- DILICO
- Ecosuperior
- Confederation College
- Lakehead University
- Matawa
- Shelter House
- Injured Worker's Action Group
- Thunder Bay Drug Strategy
- Picton Blucher Windsor Community Group
- PARO
- Service Canada
- Kwae Kii Win
- Our Kids Count
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre
- Community Safety Well Being Committee
- Coordinated Housing Access Table (CHAT)
- Thunder Bay Food Strategy
- City of Thunder Bay
- Housing and Homelessness Coalition Advisory Board
- United Way Thunder Bay
- Thunder Bay District Health Unit
- Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
- Out of the Cold
- Mutually Reinforcing Activities
- 211 Ontario North
- NW-COR Situation Table
- Thunder Bay Public Libraries
- Labour Council
- Alpha Court
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Elevate NWO
- Thunder Bay Youth Multicultural Association
- Thunder Bay District of Social Services Administration Board
- People With Lived Experience Advisory Group
- Lakehead Social Planning Council
- Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic
- Age Friendly Thunder Bay

Roles to Reduce and Eliminate Poverty

Government of Canada

Plays a lead role by influencing macro-level economic policies and investing in poverty reduction programs like the Canada Child Benefit, Employment Insurance, Reaching Home (Canada's Homelessness Prevention Program), as well as funding provincial social programs.

Opportunity for All (2018), Canada's first Poverty Reduction Strategy, aims to reduce poverty by 30% by 2030.

Province of Ontario

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) is the service system manager for child care, social and affordable housing, and Ontario Works for the District of Thunder Bay. The Provincial poverty reduction strategy outlines a cross-government plan that builds on the government's response to the COVID-19 outbreak to prevent people from falling into poverty and dependence on social assistance while supporting economic recovery.

The Ontario government is committed to addressing the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, driving economic recovery, supporting those who are most vulnerable.

City of Thunder Bay

The City of Thunder Bay's Strategies help to advocate for poverty reduction and elimination. In 2022 a fund was created for capital projects to support those issues surrounding poverty and homelessness, with hopes to leverage funding from the provincial and federal governments.

What is poverty?

Opportunity for All, Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy, defines poverty as:

The condition of a person deprived of the resources, means, choices, and power necessary to acquire and maintain a basic living standard needed to promote and facilitate integration and participation in society.

The connection between health and poverty is so clear that in 2017 the World Health Organization declared poverty to be the single largest determinant of health.

Poverty is not merely a lack of financial resources, but it includes a lack of financial empowerment, opportunities or support systems, as well as issues of injustice, inequality, inequity, and discrimination. Its causes are complex, impacting different people in different ways. Poverty is preventable, and solvable; however, historical trends show that poverty and its impacts can last multiple generations.

Barriers and gaps within interrelated systems, such as health, housing, education, transportation, community services and food, make it difficult for people to break free from poverty. Personal vulnerabilities including age, gender, ethnicity, and disability, as well as life events and disruptions increase the risk and depth of poverty.

Measuring poverty

Market Basket Measure (MBM)

In recent years, governments have adopted the Market Basket Measure (MBM), which determines the level of income needed to provide a household with a modest “basket” of defined basic goods and services and designates anything below that as low income or poverty. It is calculated by region and takes into account the local cost of goods and services and size of household. The governments of Canada and Ontario have now adopted this measure of poverty. It does not reference overall average incomes or the mean income in Canada, and it omits some items like childcare and prescription medication.

Low Income Measure - After Tax (LIM-AT)

Many governments also use the Low Income Measure after tax (LIM-AT), which is calculated by determining the national household median income and setting the low income threshold at 50 percent below that median income, adjusted for household size (but not region or size of community). “The LIM is the most overtly relative measure of poverty. In theory, it is a measure of inequality, not between the bottom and the top but between the bottom and the middle.” (Aldridge 2017).

Shifts from one method of measurement to another have created difficulties in ascertaining the degree of poverty reduction that has been achieved, nationally, provincially and locally, as each method produces different results.

Protective Factors

What are protective factors and how do they help to reduce poverty?

Protective factors are characteristics associated with a lower likelihood of negative outcomes or that reduce a risk factor's impact

Protective factors help to reduce poverty by creating opportunities and experiences that foster healthy outcomes. Providing a livable wage, or a regular stream of income, allowing for safer secure housing, healthy food, the ability to offer children positive childhood experiences, participate in society and feel included. Protective factors also ensure that ethnicity and race are not determining factors of income.

The next few pages will examine a few of the most popular protective factors that are or have been practiced locally, provincially and/or federally. The following protective factors help to reduce risks of poverty and also aim to increase the social determinants of health for individuals and families, creating a "better Thunder Bay for all".



211 provides free, confidential, multilingual access to information & referrals to the full range of community, social, health and government services. 211's Certified Community Resource Specialists assess each person's needs and connect them to the best available resources. Click [here](#) to watch a video to find out more about how 211 helps individuals and families.

Financial Empowerment

"Financial empowerment is an approach to poverty reduction that focuses on improving the financial security of low-income people. It does this by introducing a set of interventions that together help individuals earning a low-income to grow their incomes, improve their credit scores, savings and debt levels, and build wealth through education, employment, entrepreneurship and improved housing.

Financial empowerment isn't like most other poverty reduction approaches. It focuses on helping low-income people participate and feel included in our financial system. It increases their opportunities and knowledge, and fosters behaviours that are critical to their economic security and their ability to invest in their future.

The Financial Empowerment approach focuses on community level strategies that encompass five main types of interventions that have been identified as both necessary for low-income households to improve their financial outcomes, and effective at helping them to do so.

1. Financial Information education and counselling
2. Help accessing income boosting benefits and tax credits
3. Safe and affordable financial products and services
4. Access to savings and asset building opportunities
5. Consumer awareness and protection

Financial Empowerment strategies are not designed to replace other important poverty reduction interventions, but to be a complementary set of interventions that, in many cases, can be built into other existing programs to improve their outcomes (e.g. social assistance, employment, housing, etc.). This has become known as the 'supervitamin' effect – boosting program outcomes by addressing underlying financial issues that many programs currently ignore or are not equipped to address."

Financial Empowerment, Prosper Canada, 2021

Basic Income

What makes basic income different from other programs, such as income assistance or welfare, is that it comes with no strings attached. In the simplest terms, it's a regular payment without conditions, sent from the government to families and individuals.

There are two types of Basic Income:

1. Universal basic income (UBI) means that everyone in a society — rich or poor — gets a monthly cheque for the same amount. At the end of the year, the government uses the tax system to balance out the scales and recoup that extra cash from the higher income earners who didn't end up needing it.
2. Guaranteed basic income (GBI) is the system most people are referring to when they talk about basic income in Canada. It is an income-contingent system, meaning monthly payments only go to families and individuals with lower income.

Canada's History with Basic Income

In the 1960s, Canada introduced Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), providing income guarantees for Canadian seniors, regardless of current or past work status. This reduced poverty and insecurity among seniors dramatically.

In the 1990s, a new national child benefit system was set up by federal, provincial and territorial governments and it has grown over time. Child benefits are a partial basic income proven to help parents meet the needs of raising children under 18 and maintain employment. For over two decades the Canada Child Benefit has lifted families out of poverty and enabled possibilities for millions of Canadians.

Education

Education, training and access to employment are all protective factors that reduce the risk of poverty. Schools and the school environment are an important protective factors for the well-being of students and their families. Whether attending in-person or online, school connectedness is an important part of the healthy development of students, by providing a sense of belonging and the belief by students that the adults in their school care about their learning and about them as individuals.

Through daily contact and with caring and supporting relationships, schools facilitate healthy development for children and youth. Schools offer children and youth opportunities to:

- participate and contribute in their learning and growth
- promote confidence in a child or youth's ability to achieve
- strengthen resilience and reduce the effects of stressful life events
- encourage positive social and emotional learning.

These protective factors foster positive experiences which can help children and youth avoid risky behaviours.

Policies that combat poverty may also include greater access to third-level education, as well as the systematic provision of vocational training and lifelong learning programs to individuals at a higher risk of social exclusion, such as those who are unemployed, disabled and older adults.

Completing or receiving more than primary school education has also been shown to significantly reduced the negative association between depressive mood and memory performance. Participants who did not complete primary schooling showed a decline in memory test scores depending on the level of depressive mood; whereas participants who have completed or received more than primary education displayed relatively stable memory function despite varying level of depressive mood.

Indicators of Poverty

Why do we have poverty indicators?

To better understand whether we are on track to reduce and eliminate poverty, and how individuals and families are faring, we must regularly measure progress. Poverty measurement and analysis has been a key aspect of the the Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy for years, as is our work to share knowledge and methods for how to measure poverty more accurately and more frequently. By measuring poverty, we learn which poverty reduction strategies work and which do not. Poverty measurement also helps new and innovative supports, services, and interventions gauge program effectiveness and guide their development strategy in a rapidly changing economic environment.

Types of poverty indicators

Thunder Bay examines local demographics along with local, provincial and national indicators to help keep track of poverty in the city. Locally, the LSPC's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program serves thousands of individuals and families earning low incomes and data is gathered for the local indicators from that source, along with statistics Canada, taxfiler information and other local data collections.

Provincially, the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy's indicators measure outcomes that are either indicative of the state of poverty in Ontario today or that are proven risk factors that increase a person's chances of experiencing poverty later in life. Data for all indicators are measured and reported on an annual basis except for school readiness.

Canada's national Poverty Reduction Strategy established a dashboard of indicators to track progress on poverty for Canadians and their households.

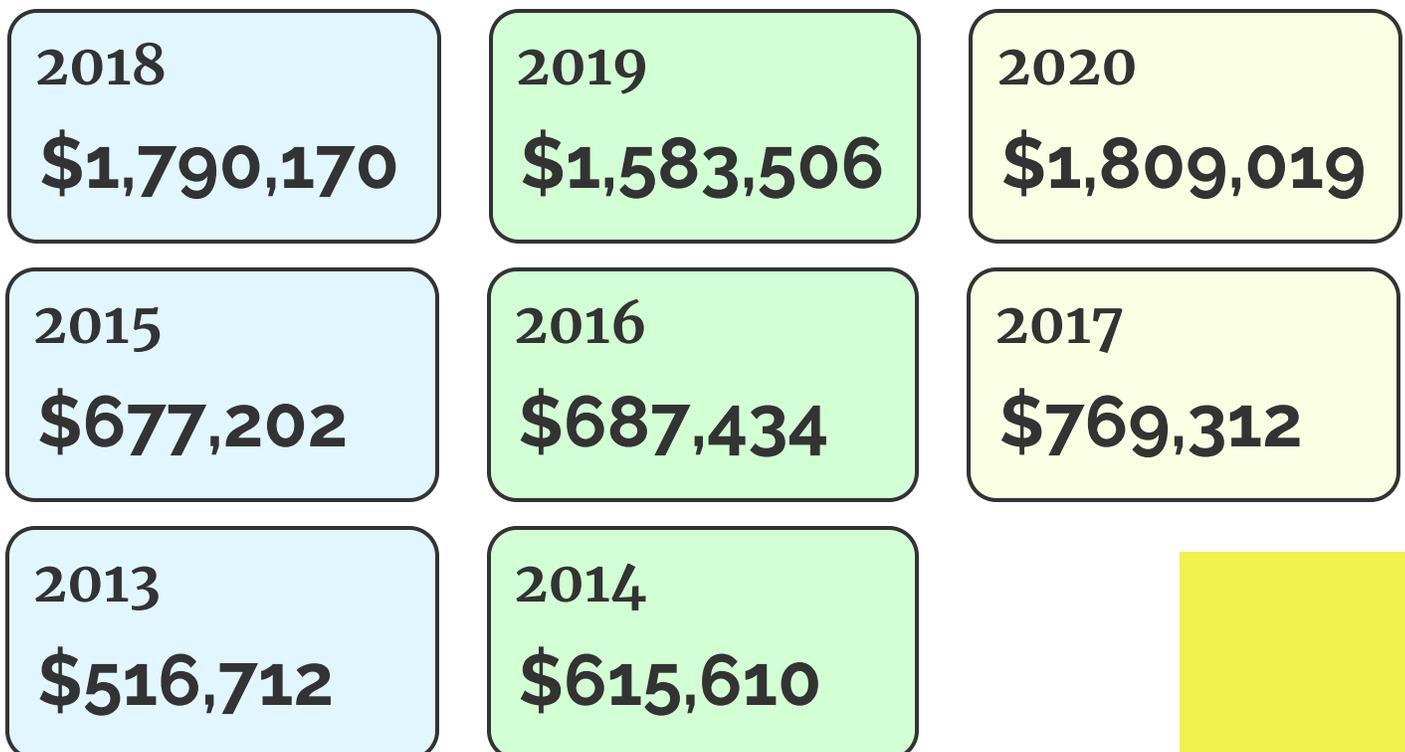
Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)

CVITP

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) is a free service administered by the Lakehead Social Planning Council (LSPC) to help individuals earning a low-income complete and file their income tax and benefit return. The program accepts income taxes year-round and is able to complete multiple years (up to 10 years).

CVITP is a collaboration between the LSPC and the Canada Revenue Agency. This volunteer-run program helps ensure that older adults, newcomers, students and all residents earning a low-income maintain access to all the benefits to which they are entitled.

The following graphic demonstrates the amount of benefits and refunds that clients of the CVITP earned each year in the Thunder Bay District. The benefits provided to individuals each year contribute to financial empowerment, which creates the ability for people to have more financially secure futures, and be able to meet the social determinants of health.



Local Indicators of Poverty

Local Indicators of Poverty

There are eight data sets and seven indicators that are examined by the CVITP annually, so that there is a better understanding of the local data surrounding poverty.

Local Data

Local data information from the CVITP regarding those individuals living in poverty is collected and analyzed to better understand the vulnerable groups that are experiencing poverty. These demographics are important for developing policies and programs that aim to reduce and eliminate poverty.



Sex at Birth



Age



Marital Status



Indigenous Status



Canadian Citizenship



Type of Housing



Number of Children Under 18 Living in Household



Type of Income

Local Indicators of Poverty

Local Indicators of Poverty

Vacancy rate

- The vacancy rate represents the percentage of time rental income is lost due to a property being unoccupied during the year

Average rent costs by bedroom

- The typical amount an individual or family pays for a bachelor suite, a one, two or three-bedroom apartment or house

Number of home-owners earning low-income

- Total number of home-owners that use the CVITP

Number of Indigenous people earning low-income

- Total number of Indigenous peoples that report an income below the Market Basket Measure

Prevalence of low income - Market Basket Measure (MBM)

- Total number of individuals and families earning below the MBM

Hourly wages for Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations

- A comparison of the hourly wage that Indigenous vs non-Indigenous workers earn

Amount of income

- Total amount of earnings annually

Type of income

- The types of incomes and amounts of each income for all individuals

Provincial Indicators of Poverty

The Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy has produced indicators to measure the province's progress and identify areas for improvement. The following section provides updated information on some of the specific poverty indicators. The strategy is mostly aimed at creating training and employment to those receiving social assistance to foster employment opportunities that lead to financial stability. The provincial government hopes to increase the number of social assistance recipients moving to employment each year from 36,000 in 2019 to 60,000 by 2024.

Poverty Rates Based on Market Basket Measure

- Why it matters: Vulnerable populations represent more than half of the people in Ontario living in poverty.
- Measure: The poverty rate reports the percentage of individuals in low income. The MBM threshold is the disposable income required for a family to purchase a specific basket of goods and services defined as the minimum needed to meet a basic standard of living (2018-base).
- Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey

The provincial poverty rate measures the percentage of people in low income, based on the Market Basket Measure (MBM), which establishes an income poverty threshold based on the cost of a basket of goods and services that individuals and families require to meet their basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living. The basket includes items such as healthy food, clothing, appropriate shelter, transportation, and other necessities. Individuals and families with disposable income less than the applicable threshold based on family size and region of residence, are considered to be in poverty.

Provincial Indicators of Poverty

Deep Poverty Rate (MBM)

Deep poverty rate refers to the percentage of individuals with disposable family incomes below 75% of the MBM threshold for their family size and region.

- Why it matters: This type of poverty is deep and persistent poverty: a chronic state characterized by multiple, serious challenges—including addiction, homelessness, disabilities, and chronic illness—that can stand in the way of work. It's a place where families can get stuck, generation after generation, without enough help from the safety net to move up and out.
- Measure: Number of families living in a household with a total cash income below 50 percent of its poverty threshold.
- Source: Ministry of Finance, based on Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey.

Share of Population Earning Social Assistance

- Why it matters: It is important to measure annually the number of individuals and families and depend on social assistance, so that the right resources and supports are offered.
- Measure: Number of households assisted across community housing programs, as a proportion of all Ontario households below the low-income measure (LIM) threshold.
- Source: Ministry of Finance, based on Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey.

Provincial Indicators of Poverty

Percentage of households in core housing need

Why it matters: Core housing need helps to understand how well housing needs are met. It is used for research, and to support housing programs and policies in Canada.

Measure: Percentage of households living in housing that is inadequate, unaffordable or unsuitable and who would need to spend 30% or more of total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable.

1. Inadequate: in need of major repair
2. Unaffordable: costs 30% or more of household's total before-tax income
3. Unsuitable: does not have enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household according to National Occupancy Standard requirements

Source: Statistics Canada, Census

Time to become employed or exit social assistance

Why it matters:

Measure: Average time between entering Ontario Works and ODSP and leaving or becoming employed (while remaining eligible for assistance), within the first year on assistance..

Source: Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Provincial Indicators of Poverty

Poverty Rates of Vulnerable Populations

- Why it matters: Vulnerable populations represent more than half of the people in Ontario living in poverty.
- Measure: Percentage of adults in five populations considered to be vulnerable who have a household income of less than half the median. The vulnerable groups include: newcomers, persons with disabilities, female lone parents, unattached individuals aged 45 to 64 and Indigenous people living off-reserve.
- Source: Ministry of Finance, based on Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey.

Homelessness Indicator

- Why it matters: This indicator will track progress on our goals to eliminate chronic homelessness in Ontario in 10 years.
- Measure: The indicator is defined as the rate of chronic homelessness per 10,000 people.
- Source:

National Indicators of Poverty

Deep Income Poverty

- Why it Matters: Deep income poverty is one of the four inter-related indicators found in the Dignity pillar of Opportunity for All – Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy. The indicators in the Dignity pillar are meant to track the progress of initiatives used to help lifting Canadians out of poverty by ensuring everyone's basic needs are met.
- Measure: This measure examines persons with income below 75% of Canada's Official Poverty Line
- Source: Statistics Canada, Custom tabulation

Number of Individuals Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

- Why it Matters: Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness have complex needs but limited access to services, contributing to high rates of morbidity and mortality. It is important to identify individuals' barriers to care, and examine factors associated with specific unmet service needs.
- Measure: Unmet housing needs refers to the number of Canadians who are in housing that is unaffordable (i.e. having shelter costs that are more than 30 percent of before-tax household income), in need of major repairs, or unsuitable for the size and composition of the household, and whose household income is such that they could not afford a suitable and adequate home in their community.
- Source: Statistics Canada. 2016 Census Table: Core housing need

National Indicators of Poverty

Relative Low Income

- Why it Matters: Family income is a key determinant of healthy child development. Children in families with greater material resources enjoy more secure living conditions and greater access to a range of opportunities that are often unavailable to children from low-income families. On average, children living in low-income families or neighbourhoods have poorer health outcomes.
- Measure: The Relative low income indicator uses Statistics Canada's Low Income Measure (LIM) to measure the proportion of Canadians living in low income. According to the LIM, individuals live in low income if their household after-tax income falls below half of the median after-tax income, adjusting for household size. The median income is the middle of the income distribution: it is the amount at which half the population has more income and half the population has less income.
- Source: Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0135-01 Low income statistics by age, sex and economic family type

Median Hourly Wage

- Why it Matters: Fair wages create less staff turnover, improved employee morale, improved productivity, and more profitability
- Measure: The hourly wage at which half the population has a higher wage and half the population has a lower wage.
- Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0340-01 Employee wages by occupation, annual. Consumer Price Index, Statistics Canada. Table 18-10-0005-01 Consumer Price Index, annual average, not seasonally adjusted.

National Indicators of Poverty

Low Income Entry and Exit Rates

- Why it matters: Most low-income Canadians live in poverty for a short period of time, improving their incomes to exit low income within a year.
- Measure: The low income entry and exit rates describe how Canadian tax filers' low income status changed from one year to another. These rates are estimated for Canadians who filed tax returns for two consecutive years, while those that did not file tax returns for two consecutive years are excluded from the calculations.
The low income entry rate is, out of those who were not in low income in the first year, the proportion who entered low income in the second year.
The low income exit rate is, out of those who were in low income in the first year, the proportion who exited low income in the second year.
- Source: Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0024-01 Low income entry and exit rates of tax filers in Canada.

Youth aged 15-24 who were not in employment, education or training

- Why it matters: Youth engagement can lead to increased academic performance and improved social-emotional well-being. It helps young people build skills and networks that are valued in the workplace, and can thus be a source of economic mobility.
- Measure: The Youth engagement indicator measures the proportion of youth aged 15 to 24 who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).
- Source: Statistics Canada, Custom Tabulation.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Work Plan

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Activities</u>
Work collectively with and actively support the other local strategies (Community Safety Well Being Plan, Drug Strategy, Age-Friendly & Food Strategy, Housing and Homelessness Coalition Advisory Board {CAB}) and share data to help move goals and recommendations forward.	<p>Meet regularly with the CSWB plan committee to inform community of PRS action items and gain partnerships and collaboration to move items forward.</p> <p>Meet regularly at PRS meetings with TBDS and Thunder Bay Food Strategy to determine common goals and agendas and to create a collective impact of ideas, endeavours, and initiatives moving forward.</p>
	Share information with other strategies, groups and organizations via social media, website, posters, and email.
	Work collectively with the Community Safety Well Being Plan data team to continue gathering and updating data and information
	Work with United Way on the ConnectNORTH project, ConnectNORTH brings a GIS based supply chain mapping tool to Ontario's northern regions.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Work Plan

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Activities</u>
<p>Work collectively with and actively support the other local strategies (Community Safety Well Being Plan, Drug Strategy, Age-Friendly & Food Strategy, Housing and</p>	<p>Provide advisory to the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board's CHPI Advisory Board regarding funded activities.</p>
<p>Homelessness Coalition Advisory Board {CAB}) and share data to help move goals and recommendations forward.</p>	<p>Work together with Designated and Indigenous CAB's and Community Entity's to ensure that Coordinated Housing Access is operational and functional in Thunder Bay by April 2023</p>
	<p>Work collectively with partners to gather and share data, facilitate funding for overflow and isolation shelters for pandemic response.</p>
	<p>Provide updates at all meeting regarding COVID-19 specific information re: poverty reduction resources (i.e income tax clinic, 2-1-1, data for deputations from other committees)</p>
	<p>Utilize partnerships to access funding opportunities that aim to decrease or eliminate poverty and increase the social determinants of health.</p>

Poverty Reduction Strategy Work Plan

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Activities</u>
Work collectively with funding partners to determine how funding should be utilized most appropriately to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness.	Meet with municipal, provincial and other federal funders often to discuss overflow and isolation funding, operations and management.
	Complete surveys and enter data for Service Canada to determine the statistics regarding COVID and the utilization of federal funding for individual experiencing homelessness.
	Work collectively with partners to gather and share data, facilitate funding for overflow and isolation shelters for pandemic response.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Work Plan

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Activities</u>
<p>Using the poverty-specific data collected in the community and with the input from the Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee members, develop the annual report “Making a Better Thunder Bay for All – a community action plan to reduce poverty” and share recommendations to City, community and partners.</p>	<p>Gather data from Statistics Canada, CVITP, Tax Filer, 211, and other data sources to create the annual deputation to be delivered November 2022.</p>
	<p>Create a ppt to inform City Council and District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board.</p>
	<p>Create a document with local poverty information to be shared online.</p>
	<p>Work with Poverty Reduction Strategy committee members, People with Lived Expertise committee members and others to ensure the 2022-2027 five-year plan for poverty reduction in Thunder Bay is kept up to date.</p>
	<p>Create a new data report each month related to local poverty issues (ie. Seniors and poverty, children and poverty, poverty and COVID, poverty annual report, CVITP report)</p>

Poverty Reduction Strategy Work Plan

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Activities</u>
Continue to advocate for the Tiny Homes initiative	Partner with businesses and organizations Support the investigation of Create steering committee to help complete CMHC application for tiny homes feasibility
	Work with the City of Thunder Bay to ensure collective impact is taking place
	Collaborate with CAB and other organizations re: By-Law reform in Thunder Bay and how that will affect tiny homes – support the letter that was written by the CAB last year (LSPC and JHS worked together on the letter) to ensure by-law reform supports the building of tiny homes and removes any barriers to do so
	Apply for CMHC grant for Indigenous Youth at KZ Lodge program to build a tiny home

Poverty Reduction Strategy Work Plan

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Activities</u>
Outreach of poverty reduction strategy to students, community members, and colleagues	Creation of infographics to be shared widely
	Work collectively with Rebecca Schiff re: UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and creating a voluntary local review (recommendation from the UN)
	Partner with National research team to look at data re: northern homelessness (At Home in The North - AHIN)
	Mentor LU students throughout the year (3'rd and 4th year HBSW students and MSW students) to give them a macro experience of services and supports in Thunder Bay
	Present to Leadership Thunder Bay regarding the SDOH and poverty indicators and data for Thunder Bay

Poverty Reduction Strategy Work Plan

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Activities</u>
Through community engagement and using the collective impact approach, create a repository of targeted data from various community entities that will help make strides in enabling people to make their way out of poverty. This data will be made available to all organizations upon request, supporting research projects, funding applications etc.	Creation of local data reports re: funded projects (Out of the Cold, Coordinated Housing Access, Point in Time Count, Reaching Home sub-projects, pandemic issues)
	Continue to develop network of colleagues to share information with – Indigenous partnerships, healthcare, academia, etc.
	Update of website, social media to include recent data that can be shared throughout the community
	Partner with United Way and Chamber of Commerce to create, work on and report on recommendations regarding the Cross Collaboration Event

Poverty Reduction Strategy Work Plan

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Activities</u>
Continue to Implement the Living Wage Campaign in Thunder Bay and continue to work with the People With lived Experience Advisory Committee.	Advocate with all affiliated organizations of the PRS to join the living wage campaign
	Meet with at least two businesses/organizations each month to explain the living wage and recruit them to join the campaign
	Continue social media coverage of Local Living Wage Campaign
	Continue working with the Ontario Living Wage Network to help have the calculation done
Advocate for Universal Basic Income and UBI Recovery so that the federal government creates a UBI program and utilizes UBI as an economic recovery tactic	Create advocacy for UBI and universal UBI



Conclusion

Poverty reduction and elimination are the priority for the Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee.

We will align our priorities with poverty elimination and ensure that our activities are coordinated, effective and have a positive impact.

We will measure and monitor our actions, refining our commitments as we learn and listen to the needs of our community.

We have set ourselves a challenging ambitious agenda, but with determination and a consistent focus we are confident that we will succeed.