

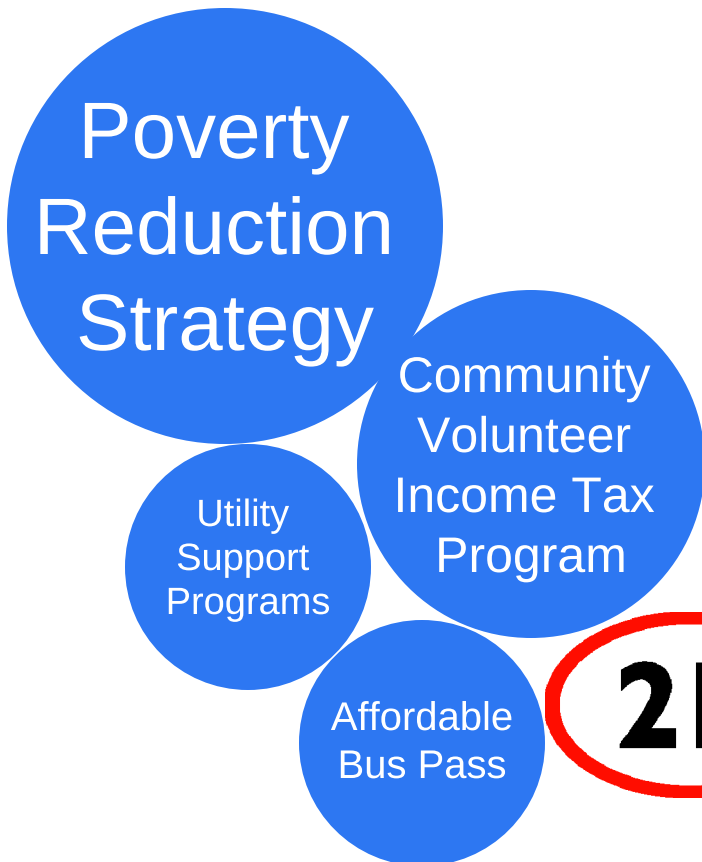
June 2024

Thunder
Bay

Poverty Reduction
Strategy



Poverty Reduction at the Lakehead Social Planning Council



Discover what the Lakehead Social Planning Council is doing to help reduce poverty in Thunder Bay.

Join us at our AGM, Thursday, June 27 at 6:30 pm at Roots to Harvest. E. Brenda Small will discuss EDI plus...join us for conversation and coffee after! Hope to see you there!

**Northern Region[®]
Ontario**



Annual General Meeting

D Diversity
E Equity
I Inclusion
+

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-  **Thursday, June 27, 2024**
 -  **6:30 pm – Business meeting**
7:00 pm – Keynote
 -  **Roots Community Food Centre**
450 Fort William Road

Refreshments will be served

You are invited...

Join the Lakehead
Social Planning
Council for its
AGM

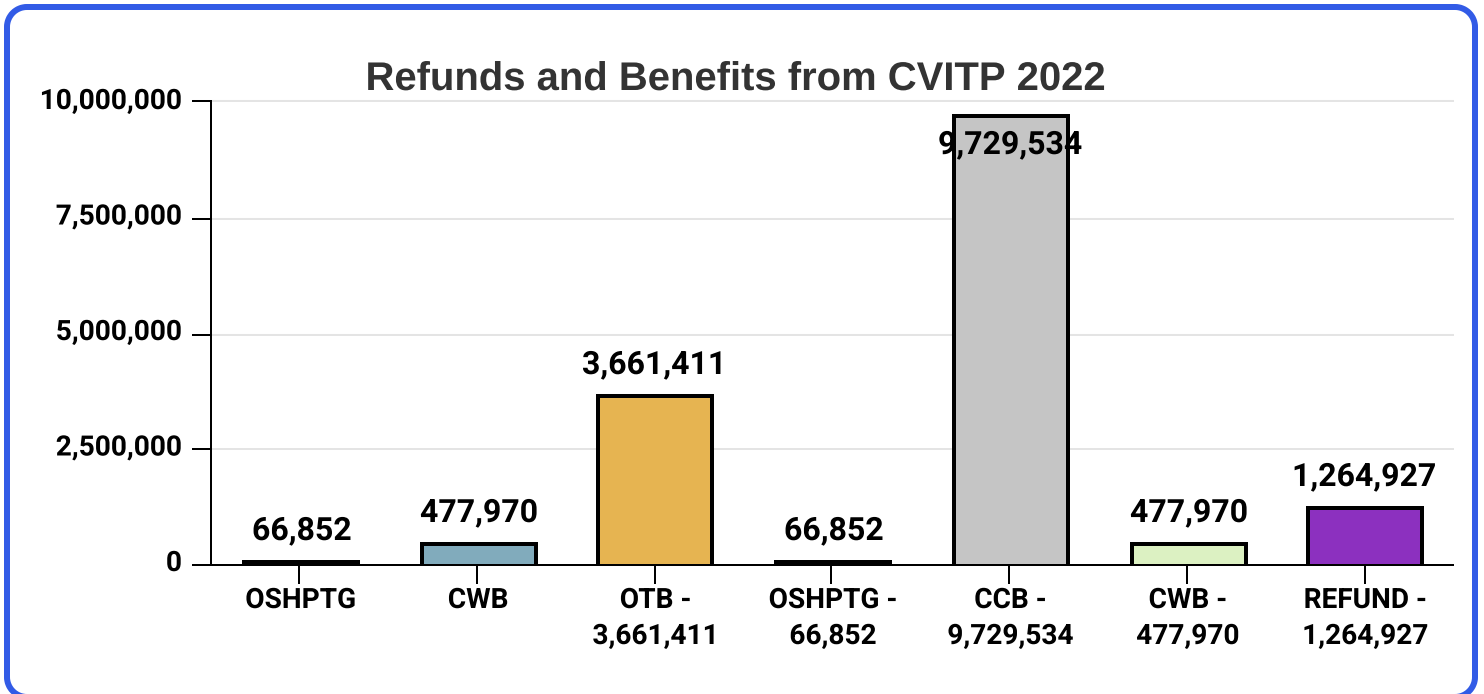
"Let's talk DEI"

S. Brenda Small
keynote speaker

diversity
equity
inclusion
and its impact on
community

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Each year the Lakehead Social Planning Council (LSPC) and their volunteers prepare and return nearly 6,000 income tax returns for individuals in the Thunder Bay Region, as part of the the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP). This results in millions of dollars returning into the local economy. The following chart shows the millions of dollars that were received by individuals that used the LSPC's CVITP.



LEAP Emergency Financial Assistance Synergy North

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) provides emergency financial assistance to Synergy North (formerly Thunder Bay Hydro) customers who are in arrears.

The program offers assistance up to \$650 towards arrears or \$780 for electrically heated residences, paid directly to the utility company.

Individuals can call 2-1-1 to submit the initial intake information to begin the application process. In-person appointments are available if required - call to make an appointment, as walk-in or drop-off services are not available at this time.

Affordable Bus Pass Program (ABP)

Residents ages 25-59 can apply for a bus pass subsidy through the LSPC. Each approved member of a household may purchase one adult monthly bus pass at half price from the Transit Services Office (570 Fort William Rd.)

If approved, individuals will receive a \$350.00 credit to use towards any City of Thunder Bay recreation and culture program, facility booking or service, (excluding anything eligible for PRO Kids subsidization).

Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy

The Thunder Bay Poverty Reduction Strategy committee works 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 Strategy.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy was formulated to develop community-specific recommendations for immediate, medium, and long-term community poverty reduction. Since its inception in 2013, the Poverty Reduction Strategy committee has worked diligently to ensure that the goals and recommendations of the Strategy are being met.

Many of the social issues in Thunder Bay are directly related to poverty and issues surrounding poverty. Through collaborative work, community engagement and using a collective impact approach through programming, data collection and data dissemination, the Poverty Reduction Strategy committee has been able to make strides that have helped to reduce and advocate for the elimination of poverty. Some of the committee's successful initiatives to date include:

1. Tiny Homes Thunder Bay Committee
2. Local Living Wage Campaign
3. Advocacy for the Guaranteed Basic Income
4. Poverty Reduction Strategy newsletter
5. Homelessness data management (HIFIS) in Thunder Bay
6. Managing federal funding for homelessness initiatives - Reaching Home
7. Poverty and homelessness data dissemination to organizations, governments, committees and groups



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211 is a multi-channel information and referral system. 211 is accessible to Ontarians 24/7 – 365 via:

- Telephone (2-1-1)
- Email (questions@211north.ca or gethelp@211ontario.ca)
- Online Chat (211ontario.ca)
- Online database of Human Services

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.

211 is a critical information system and an easy way to find, or give help in your community. 211 also:

- links residents to the community and helps them access services
- eliminates confusion and frustration about where to go for help
- reduces workers' time researching services to help their clients
- improves community planning via user needs and other statistics
- aims at directing non-emergency calls away from 911
- responds to municipal and community needs in an emergency and disaster

Simple & trusted navigation for individuals, families and social agencies.

Helping those in need understand and access benefits and supports available to them, quickly and easily in a trusted, free, multi-lingual and confidential manner. 211 services are available 24/7, 365 days a year

A comprehensive human services database of health, government, social & community programs, available in Ontario. The accurate, up to date human services database is available for anyone to use and can reduce workers' time researching services to help their clients. Visit 211 North's human services database, 211north.ca

Evidence-based reporting for social planners and decision makers. Provides planners and decision-makers more information about respective community needs, as well as geographic & demographic trends, the impact the referrals make on well-being, and guides planning and investment for a more responsive human service system.