

Poverty Reduction Action Plan Public Engagement Report

March 5, 2018 Community Partners Kick-off Meeting

Intent

This initial meeting kicked off the public engagement process to develop a poverty reduction action plan by fall 2018. Community partners from across the province with an interest in poverty reduction were invited to:

- Learn more about the approach to develop the action plan
- Provide input into the public engagement process
- Hear how the results of the public engagement process will be used

Where

The half day session was held at Central Queens United Church in Hunter River on Monday, March 5.

Who attended

Sixty community groups with a focus on poverty attended. The groups included the following interest areas:

- Academia
- Accessibility & intellectual disabilities
- Business
- Career development
- Education
- Faith
- Francophone
- Health
- Housing
- Indigenous groups
- Justice
- Mental health
- Municipalities
- Poverty & food security
- Seniors
- Transportation
- Women & family violence
- Youth

What was heard

There was a great deal of wisdom shared, including:

- Advice on how to move forward with a good Public Engagement Process. For example:
 - Work on a common understanding of poverty
 - Create safe spaces by partnering with community groups
 - Offer supports for people to take part
 - Ensure the voices of those who take part are heard and acknowledged
- To ensure all voices are heard, we need to focus on people living in poverty as well as the broader community, including:
- To move forward, we need to:
 - Build on existing programs and services
 - Make sure people see themselves reflected in the Action Plan
 - Collaborate
 - Set targets that are meaningful and realistic

How information will be used

The input provided by the community partners was used to shape the overall public engagement process for the development of the Poverty Reduction Action Plan.