



HELP BUILD A POVERTY-FREE HALIFAX

POVERTY SOLUTIONS STRATEGY UPDATE
United Way Halifax

Poverty in Halifax

- 50,000 residents of HRM are living below the Low Income Cut-off
- 33% of individuals in Dartmouth North and 30% in Fairview and Spryfield are living at incomes below the Low Income Measure
- The rate of child poverty in HRM is 18.7% but within HRM alone we range from 3.7% in one neighbourhood to 40% in another
- 1 in 7 in our city are food insecure and food bank usage in Nova Scotia has increased 41% since 2008
- 1 in 4 spend 30% or more of their income on housing

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Topics for Discussion

- Context
- Phases of the Work
- Community Consultation
- The Path Ahead
- Questions

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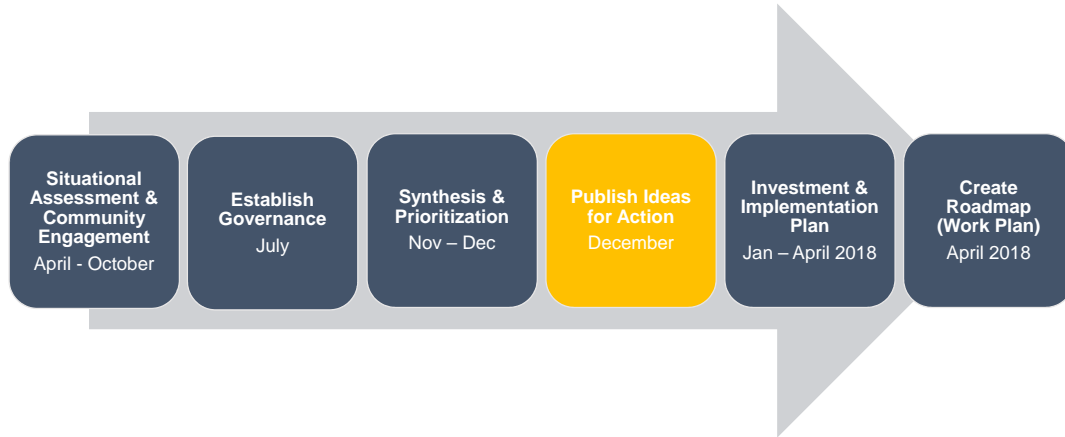
Context

- February 2017 – Presentation to the Community Planning & Economic Development Committee
- April 2017 – Regional Council unanimously passed a motion to collaborate with United Way Halifax and other partners on the development of an anti-poverty strategy for the municipality
- April 2017 – Present – HRM and United Way staff have been working hard to consult and communicate with community and develop solutions

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Phases of the Work



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Community Consultation

Engagement & Community Conversations

- To date, 1139 individuals in HRM have been consulted on poverty solutions
- 432 people from this groups are individuals with lived experience
- United Way Halifax and HRM provided all individuals with lived experience contributing to this work with a living wage (as well as transportation passes, childcare, and food) to recognize them for their time and value to this work

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Poverty Solutions Advisory Committee

- 22 members representing a cross-section of community
- Met six times from July to December

Solutions Task Teams

- 6 task teams comprised of representatives from government, business, community and those with lived experience
- Total of 48 individuals involved

Business Alliance

- Engaged ~20 business leaders across HRM in solutions development

United Way and HRM Poverty Solutions Public Gallery – Taking Action on Poverty

- Report back to the community of the Poverty Solutions work, gathering feedback on the draft calls to action.
- 80+ in person and 1154 views on Facebook Live

Focus Groups

- Community partners hosted sessions targeting specific communities including newcomers, persons with disabilities, rural populations and youth

Shape Your City Online Engagement

- Online platform engaging HRM residents available from October to November 9th
- 621 people completed the survey

Political Outreach

- Presented to all 3 provincial caucuses
- Partnered with community groups for a Policy Forum on the Federal Poverty Reduction Strategy

Themes

- Access & Equity
- Quality Jobs & Livable Incomes
- Transit Equity
- Food Access
- End Homelessness
- Housing Stability
- Education & Early Childhood Development
- Service Access

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The Path Ahead

Next Steps

- Keep listening, refining what we've heard
- Finalize the report
- Determine the governance on a go-forward
- Build the implementation plan
- Rally public ownership

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Questions

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Voices from Community

“A community where those with less are working along side those with more and everyone is equally supported.”

WAVERLEY, FALL RIVER, MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY
RESIDENT

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“My poverty free Canada, not just its communities, would allow for individuals currently living in poverty to have access to the basic guaranteed income. This is simply a starting point. We need to start thinking about poverty differently and look at it as a public health issue.”

TIMBERLEA, BEECHVILLE, CLAYTON PARK,
WEDGEWOOD RESIDENT

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“My poverty-free community would have ample affordable housing and job opportunities for all those that can work. Educational and re-training options along with childcare spots for moms wanting to work.”

SPRYFIELD, SAMBRO LOOP, PROSPECT ROAD
RESIDENT

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“Clean energy, low emission vehicles, friendly for walking / cycling, community gardens and engagement to ensure inclusion and chances to reach out to those living in isolation.”

LOWER SACKVILLE RESIDENT

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“Free accessible recreation for families, more affordable food and housing.”

PRESTON, CHEZZETCOOK, EASTERN SHORE
RESIDENT

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“Safe, clean and better access to services.”

MIDDLE UPPER SACKVILLE, BEAVER BANK,
LUCASVILLE RESIDENT

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“A clean, treed and green environment, community gardens, social programs and mental health programs within the community.”

HARBOURVIEW, BURNSIDE, DARTMOUTH EAST
RESIDENT

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“A poverty-free community has a blending of income and demographic groups. There are small local businesses operated by locals as well as chain stores. More public spaces such as community centres and learning centres as well as public gardens. More small businesses than we currently see.”

HAMMONDS PLAINS, ST. MARGARETS RESIDENT

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“A universal basic income for all people, including children. Safe, clean, abundant, affordable housing. Accessible free health care, pharmacare, mental health care, and disability supports.

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE RESIDENT

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“Halifax as a truly inclusive city. Right now, construction and development is benefitting the middle/higher class. It should be expanded to include the lower class. The ideal community is one where everyone belongs and can contribute in a meaningful way.”

HALIFAX SOUTH, DOWNTOWN RESIDENT

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“Ideally, we could have ‘blocks’ where each block was mixed residential and included a neighbourhood park and rec centre.”

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH RESIDENT

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“Integrated communities, not isolated low income communities.”

HALIFAX BEDFORD BASIN WEST RESIDENT

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“Nobody should be homeless, and nobody should be living under the threat of food scarcity or poor nutrition. There shouldn't be stigma attached to social assistance, and everyone should have realistically attainable opportunities to improve their situations. ”

DARTMOUTH SOUTH, EASTERN PASSAGE RESIDENT

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“All residents have access to affordable, good quality, safe housing and also access to sufficient, healthy food options. Stable employment for all who are able and income supports for those who are not.”

DARTMOUTH CENTRE RESIDENT

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“People enjoying life, eating well, and not hurrying around needlessly to make ends meet.”

COLE HARBOUR, WESTPHAL RESIDENT

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“A community where nobody goes hungry and everyone has a safe and comfortable place to live. Diverse employment opportunities so that people can choose to work for a living wage. Resource sharing and relationship building across demographics, communities, cultures, etc. (ex. programs that support youth in assisting seniors, or that help to foster inclusivity among new Canadian populations).”

BEDFORD, WENTWORTH RESIDENT

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