

A Picture of Poverty in Greater Sudbury

Prepared for
United Way Centraide of Sudbury

Prepared by the
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Introduction

Poverty is the root cause of many problems. It is well known that poverty leads to poorer health outcomes even in developed countries. According to the Conference Board of Canada in their background document created for the newly formed Roundtable on the Socio-Economic Determinants of Health “vulnerable groups and social and economically disadvantaged people have less access to health resources, get sicker and die earlier than people in more privileged socio-economic positions.”¹ This has been the driving force behind research and action on the determinants of health that has been the focus of those interested in getting to the root causes of health and wellness.

There is also ample evidence that outcomes for children in terms of education, health, justice and future employment are very closely related to the amount of financial resource that they have access to growing up. Every step up the economic/social scale can be collated to improved outcomes in all areas.²

Understanding poverty in our community and the overall impact of poverty on the population in general will have a significant impact on the quality of life of all of our community members. There is evidence that the quality of life for the whole community is improved when the depth and level of poverty is reduced. We are all better off when we are all better off!³

In a recent survey conducted for the United Way/Centraide, the *Community Needs Assessment of Social Issues in Greater Sudbury and Espanola*⁴, child poverty and access to health care were rated as the two most serious social issues in our community. Poverty of many other groups was also rated very highly. Child poverty of course cannot be addressed without addressing the poverty of the families in which they live. Given the links between poverty and health it is evident that working to impact the former will have definite consequences for the later.

There is evidence that the numbers of people experiencing poverty in Greater Sudbury is actually declining. In comparison with 20 major metropolitan cities in Canada, Sudbury rates eighth in family poverty and sixteenth in individual poverty (1 being the best rating and 20 being the worst)⁵.

While the number of people living in poverty is declining⁶ there is evidence that the depth of poverty for those left without enough financial resources is worsening. The amount of money provided through social assistance, the safety net of last recourse, leaves individuals and families with anywhere from 1/3 to 1/2 of the amount required to rise above the low income cut off level (Canada’s unofficial poverty line). Even working full time at a minimum wage job in Ontario leaves an individual below the line. A crisis in homelessness and increasing use of food banks and emergency funds are all indicators that those living in poverty are facing severe hardships – this in a country of plenty.

How Do We Measure Poverty?

The most commonly used measure of poverty in Canada is the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO). Statistics Canada does not consider LICO as a poverty line but as a tool to identify those who are substantially worse-off than the average, or the people who are living in straightened circumstances. LICO will be used as a measure of poverty for the purposes of this report

In comparison to the rest of Canada we have a slightly smaller portion of families living in poverty (13% for Canada) with slightly more unattached individuals (38% Canada) and more single mother lead families (48% Canada)⁷.

LICO Levels – in a community the size of Greater Sudbury (100,000 to 499,999) 2005⁸

# of persons	Pre tax income	Post tax income
1	17,895	14,562
3	27,386	22,069
5	37,711	31,351
7	47,354	38,187

For a single person living in a city our size to live in what would not be considered straitened circumstances they would have to earn \$17,895 before taxes.

From the 2001 Census data those living in poverty included:

- 11% of families
- 52% of female headed lone parent families
- 41% of unattached individuals (aged 15+)
- 73% of unattached youth (those aged 15 – 24 who live on their own)
- 29% of the Aboriginal population
- 14% of the non-Aboriginal population
- 17% of the female population
- 13% of the male population

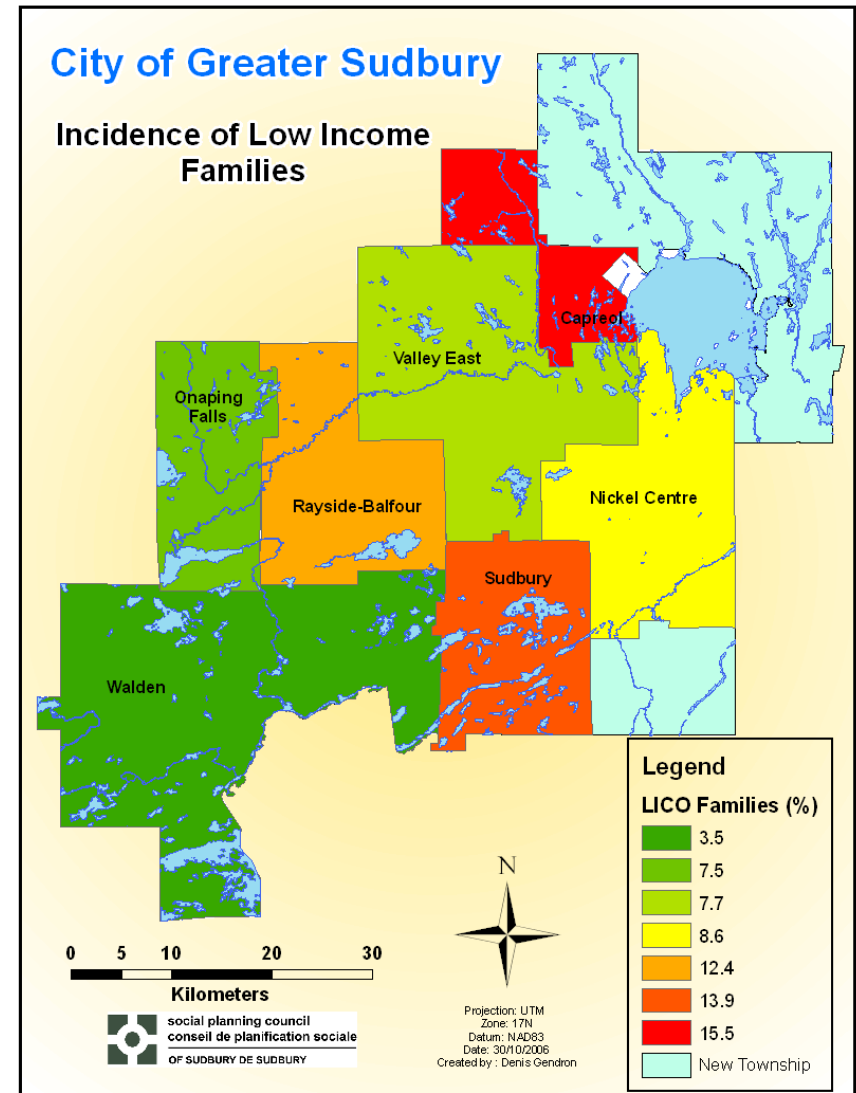
Geographic Patterns of Poverty

Within Greater Sudbury, the poverty level is highest in Capreol and Sudbury and lowest in Walden. More than two-fifths of the unattached individuals in Nickel Centre, Rayside-Balfour and Sudbury are living below LICO.

Incidence of low-income economic families, unattached individuals and households, Greater Sudbury, 2001⁹

Area	Total economic families	Low income families	Percent of low income families
Capreol	1065	165	15.5
Nickel Centre	3820	330	8.6
Onaping Falls	1525	115	7.5
Rayside-Balfour	4590	570	12.4
Sudbury	24405	3385	13.9
Valley East	6665	515	7.7
Walden	3100	110	3.5
Greater Sudbury	45170	5200	11.5
Ontario	3117825	364320	11.7

Area	Total unattached individuals	Low income unattached individuals	Percent of low income unattached individuals
Capreol	385	120	31.3
Nickel Centre	920	380	41.3
Onaping Falls	395	130	32.9
Rayside-Balfour	1260	510	40.5
Sudbury	14990	6470	43.2
Valley East	1225	365	29.8
Walden	760	230	30.3
Greater Sudbury	19930	8205	41.1
Ontario	1309220	445705	34



Trends in Poverty

Over a ten year period poverty in Greater Sudbury has shifted. For families, there was an increase from 1991 to 1996 with a corresponding decrease in 2001. There was also a spike in the number of lone female parent families living in poverty in 1996 with a drop to pre 1991 levels in 2001. There are more unattached individuals living in poverty both on the whole and in the 15 to 24 year range¹⁰. 2006 Census data will be available in the new year and we will be able to determine if there have continued to be improvements for families and/or if we have stymied the increasing trends for single people. Economic indicators such as an improved economy and lower numbers of Ontario Works recipients would indicate that the numbers should have improved. In migration may have had an impact.

Incidence of Low Income families and individuals,
Greater Sudbury, 1991, 1996, 2001¹¹

Family Type	Year	Percent in LICO
Total Census Families	1991	11.4
	1996	14.1
	2001	11.3
Female Lone Parent Families with children 0-12	1991	67.4
	1996	72.2
	2001	51.5
Unattached Individuals age 15+ years	1991	38.2
	1996	42.7
	2001	41.2
Unattached Individuals age 15-24 years	1991	66.5
	1996	79.2
	2001	72.9

In 2003:

- 118,760 people filed tax returns
- median income was \$25,200
- 20% of filers reported earning less than \$15,000

In 2004:

- Greater Sudbury experienced the highest increase in median income of any community across Canada
- 2.8% to \$26,400
- national level is \$24,400
- City of Oshawa highest at \$31,900

Incidence of Poverty

Key factors that are determinants of poverty in Greater Sudbury include being a lone parent, being unemployed and being older than 20 with less than a grade 9 education.

According to the 2001 census, there were 7,550 lone parent families in Greater Sudbury. In the city, 62 percent of the lone parent families with children under six years of age live in poverty, compared to 48 percent in Ontario and 54 percent in Canada. Female lone parent families are twice as likely to be in poverty than male lone parent families.

Employment and unemployment rates in the community can be difficult to follow. There is a connection between the numbers of those employed/unemployed and the participation rate or those looking for work. According to the Labour Force Survey statistics, the unemployment rate (three month moving average) in Greater Sudbury has been declining in recent years. It has come down from 9.5 percent in January 2004 to 7.9 percent in January 2005. In January 2006 it declined further to 7.5 percent. However at the same time the employment rate also declined from 61.2 percent in January 2005 to 57.1 percent in January 2006. In spite of our apparently buoyant economy our unemployment rate remains the 3rd highest of the 11 Census metropolitan areas in Ontario. In Sudbury, nearly one in seven (14 percent) employees works in temporary positions.

Poverty in Specific Groups¹²

Child Poverty

- Across Canada child poverty has been stuck at about 18% since 2000

In Greater Sudbury

- 18% of children under 15
- 21% of children under 5 are reported living in poverty

Seniors Poverty

- 13% of seniors in Greater Sudbury live in poverty
- 19% of senior women live in poverty
- 6% of senior men live in poverty
- 36% of seniors living alone live in poverty
- less than 3% of the seniors living in private households or with relatives live in poverty
- 33% of seniors do not live in private households or with relatives

Aboriginal Poverty

- 29 percent of the Aboriginals live in poverty
- Aboriginal people living in private households are 2.5 times more likely to live in poverty than the non-Aboriginal people

According to Statistics Canada, In Greater Sudbury in 2000, the average earnings of those with less than a high school education was \$20,541. In comparison, those who had a university certificate, diploma or degree, earned on average \$50,127¹³. The educational level of the population in Greater Sudbury has been increasing although it remains lower than the rest of the province. The proportion of those with less than a grade nine education has declined from 40% in the 65+ age group to 1% in the 15-24 age group¹⁴.

Social assistance, known in Ontario as Ontario Works (OW) was revamped in 1995 by the government of the day and rates were slashed by 21.6%. In the last two years there have been slight increases of 2 and 3% per year¹⁵. OW is the assistance of last resort intended to support families or individuals who have few individual assets, are unemployed and if eligible, have used up all of their employment insurance benefits. There is a strong focus in the OW program to assist individuals back to work. Return to work can often mean loss of health care and dental benefits that are available while on OW. Recently legislation has changed that allows individuals to retain these benefits for up to one year while they get started in new employment.

People Receiving Social Assistance¹⁶

- In 2006 the average number of persons receiving social assistance monthly (Ontario Works - OW) was 3446
- This is down from 4,180 in 2005
- The average monthly number of persons receiving disability support (ODSP) was 4,905
- This is an increase from 4,826 in 2005
- Efforts have been made to move eligible clients off of OW to ODSP as the benefits are somewhat better
- A single person on OW receives \$536/month - \$6432 annually
- A mother with 2 pre-teen children receives \$1198 - \$14,376 annually
- A single person on ODSP receives \$959 a month while the same family would receive \$1638

Minimum Wage¹⁷

- A minimum wage worker earning \$7.75/hr working a 40 hour work week for 52 weeks a year would earn \$16,016/yr
- Less than LICO
- Most minimum wage jobs are not 40 hours per week

Working Poor

Those individuals who work full time, part time, seasonal, contract or temporary jobs that have little or no benefits and receive inadequate wages to maintain a decent standard of living are considered the working poor (Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, 2006). In a recent study on low-wage workers aged 16 to 64, Statistics Canada estimated that 1.4 million employees held low wage (less than \$10 per hour) jobs in the country in 2004. They comprised 14 percent of all the full time employees. In Ontario, the proportion of low wage employees was 12 percent. The proportion of women in low wage jobs (e.g. clerical, sales and service) is twice as high as that of men. The study also found that the proportion of low wage workers is high among youth (age 16–24), persons with low levels of education (high school or less), and recent immigrants. Almost half of the low wage earners are the major earners of their families and such families are more likely to experience poverty¹⁸.

Low social assistance rates and low minimum wages contribute to the depth of poverty that individuals are experiencing. While we believe that less people are living in poverty, the circumstances for those who do are worsening.

Case Study

Single Mom on OW with two pre-teen children living in a 2 bedroom apartment

- Monthly income \$1198
- Average rent \$655
- Nutritious food \$378

Leaves \$160 for all other expenses

Homelessness/Housing¹⁹

- In a longitudinal study on homelessness conducted from 2000 – 2003 with 7 point in time counts in Greater Sudbury it was determined that there are anywhere from 400 to 600 persons homeless or at risk of imminent homelessness at any given time in our community
- The homeless population included men, women, children, seniors, and teens
- A disproportionate number of the homeless population were Aboriginals
- At any given time there are over 1000 persons on the waiting list for social housing
- Wait times for housing are close to one year
- In 2000 43.6% of renters were paying more than 30% of their income on accommodations

Food Bank Usage²⁰

- Food bank usage has been increasing over time throughout the community
- 13,454 visits in the month of March 2006 up from 13,000 in March 2005 and 11,000 in March 2004
- 4545 households monthly in 2006
- 66% of food bank users in 2006 were recipients of social assistance
- The Sudbury and District Health Unit Nutritious Food Basket measure calculates that in 2006 it costs \$139.93 per week to feed a family of four²¹

What do People Who Live in Poverty Say They Need and Want?

Focus Groups

The Sudbury & District Health Unit in partnership with Laurentian university conducted focus groups with working poor individuals as part of their Working Poor Project. The input included information relating to difficulties in regards to employment conditions including being underemployed, overworked, being without benefits, shift work and receiving no respect from employers. They described living in poor housing that was too expensive. They spoke about gaps in the health care system, a lack of communication about the programs that are available to help them, racism, discrimination, the problems of living in a consumer society, child support enforcement issues, and the costs of transportation.²²

In focus groups conducted by the Social Planning Council for this report we learned that people living in poverty face major challenges in the City of Greater Sudbury. These challenges are wide ranging and impact the lives of these individuals in numerous ways. Perhaps one highlight of these meetings was the underlying theme concerning the emotional impact of living in poverty. Participants spoke at length of their inability to gain confidence and self-esteem, their inability to reconnect with their own families, of feeling isolated within the community, and the emotional impact of stereotypical assumptions about people living in poverty. Participants also spoke of numerous other barriers and challenges, including; lack of affordable housing, gaps in health care, homelessness, food security, lack of resources and low income, discrimination and bias within the community, lack of opportunity, underemployment, lack of services, the need for improved communication between those living in poverty and the rest of the community, raising costs of living, and their inability to get their voice heard. One important distinction must be highlighted; there was a clear difference between the Aboriginal People's focus group and the working poor focus group. Within the working poor group, there were general feelings of hope and a view that all that was needed was a little help to stay out of the path of poverty. In contrast, the general view within the Aboriginal group was one of hopelessness and of little hope for them in breaking the cycle of poverty.

Services and Responses to Poverty

Many individuals and organizations work to address the impacts of poverty in our community. Volunteers, faith based organizations, non-profit organizations, government agencies, business and labour groups have all been involved in responding to the ever present needs of those who live in poverty in our community.

Meeting the immediate needs of those in poverty are generally responded to through food bank and feeding programs, emergency shelters and homelessness programs, clothing depots, emergency funds, and counselling and support services. At various levels government departments and agencies provide support that is geared more to the long term support of people living in poverty i.e. Ontario Works, child care subsidy etc. Many agencies and organizations that work with a variety of clients work to ensure that their services are accessible to those living in poverty.

Food Support

Sudbury Food Bank²³

- Umbrella organization supporting 42 member agencies including individual food banks run by volunteers and food distribution programs
- Raised \$916,284.53 in food and cash donations in 2005 for member agencies - \$348,284.53 which were dollars used to buy food
- Every \$1 in actual cash is turned into \$8 in food through discounts from suppliers
- As members of the Canadian Association of Food Banks and the Ontario Association of Food Banks the Sudbury Food Bank receives
 - 1785 free litres of milk every week from Parmalat
 - 12,600 eggs at no cost
 - other discounts and food sources

The gap in food bank services is stable, ongoing funding for program coordination. This has been a Trillium funded position and the Board is currently (and must constantly) find sources of funding for the coordinator position.

Food Support (con't)

Breakfast Programs²⁴

- Breakfast and snack programs are available in 49 area schools supported by Ministry of Children & Youth Services and Breakfast for Learning (national foundation)
- Programs supported through coordination efforts of Better Beginnings Better Futures and delivery efforts of the Human League and Childhood Enfance
- New schools can access these programs if they chose

The Food Security Network is a community-based network of partners committed to supporting individuals and communities to access sufficient, safe, healthy, affordable and environmentally friendly foods and to the development of sustainable food systems which will strengthen the local economies. Their focus is on zero hunger, healthy food choices, local food resources and a sustainable environment. They have developed a food charter and a Food Security Report Card. Their focus is on a more long-term strategy for food insecurity. Emergency food suppliers are members of the food security network.

The Food Security network supports self-help models that promote community participation and coalition development as being key to offering a long-term solution to building community food security. GEODE, Canada Prenatal Nutrition Programs, Community Gardens, Community Kitchens, Community Food Advisor Program, Better Beginnings Better Futures, and Our Children Our Future / Nos enfants, notre avenir are examples of organizations using the self-help model.

- There are 3 collective kitchens operating in the community
- There are a small number of community gardens located in various areas of the community – gardens tend to cycle through their productivity depending upon the residents in a particular area – the garden at 1960 Paris street has been successful for over five years
- Community food advisors are volunteers available through Our Children Our Future to provide workshops and training on healthy food preparation
- There are no food buying co-ops such as the Good Food Box actively functioning in Greater Sudbury²⁵

Homelessness and Housing²⁶

Currently:

- 25 emergency shelter beds for men at the Salvation army
- 12 beds for male youths at Cedar Residence managed by Salvation army
- 11 beds for female youth at the Foyer Notre Dame on Pine Street
- Homeless women who are victims of domestic violence are housed in 32 beds at Genevra House operated by the YMCA and funded through different funding from the province
- Homeless women and families are housed in area motels as there is no shelter currently for women or families
- The number of single women using the motels rooms has been decreasing while the numbers of families fluctuates
- In 2005 the average occupancy rate for all shelters was 86% with the provincial average at 80%
- In the first 6 months of 2006 occupancy rates on average are down slightly at 74%
- Funding for the shelters is in crisis as the amount that is provided by the province with an additional amount from the city is not sufficient to meet the needs of the shelters
- There is close to a \$640,000 shortfall in funding for shelters in 2007 from available funds
- The federal government which had been involved in funding homelessness initiatives in the last few years is pulling that funding away
- The Samaritan Centre houses the Mission, the Corner Clinic, the Blue Door Café (soup Kitchen) and First Steps—a support program

- The Sudbury Action Centre for Youth provides support to homeless youth
- The Canadian Mental Health Association provides support to individuals experiencing mental illness in terms of housing
- Elizabeth Fry, the John Howard Society, the Association de les jeunes de la rue and the N'Swakamok Friendship centre all are engaged in services to various sub populations of homeless persons
- Outreach services that work to engage homeless individuals on the streets and move them into safety – either into housing, shelter or temporarily off the street – are offered in a variety of ways through a number of agencies
- There are many volunteers engaged in this work
- Funding to all of these agencies is at risk because of low levels of funding from the provincial government and the end of funding from the federal government
- The Solutions Team appointed by city council is working on a plan to integrate service delivery more closely
- Stronger links are being attempted with more main stream programs – i.e. an Ontario Works case worker has been assigned to work with homeless men and another with homeless women
- There will be a transition period while plans are translated into actions

Emergency Funds

Emergency funds are used in the community to prevent eviction or loss of heat or hydro to a home. They are also used for food, medication, moving expenses, job preparedness, or other emergencies for which an individual can find no other source of income.

- The Red Cross coordinates a rent registry that provides information about available housing as well as distributes funds provided by the provincial government for housing emergencies – rent/heat/hydro
- In 2005 the RC distributed \$114,000 – significantly increased from 2004 due to the provincial governments increased funding of a rent bank
- The Social Planning Council raises funds for the Community Emergency Fund – two fundraisers contribute over \$12,000 a year which is distributed through a community process that allows agencies to tap into the funds for the needs of their clients – while much is distributed for rent, heat and hydro the fund has more flexibility and can be used for other needs – it is considered a fund of last resort
- Changes to the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Program have allowed for more flexibility and support from these programs in order to prevent eviction or respond to emergencies – numbers of dollars are not available however community programs report more cooperation and support from these programs
- Individual service organizations such as the Lion's club, Knights of Columbus etc. as well as individual community members make funds available to various individuals however we do not have access to those amounts

At the same time many advocate to address the root causes of poverty. Of late some very significant arguments have been put forward that would see governments at the senior levels addressing the core need of those in poverty – more financial resources. International and national campaigns are underway to influence public policy. These campaigns range from calls for ending third world country's debts (Make Poverty History) to provincial calls for the ending of the National Child Benefit claw back (Ontario Public Health Association along with many others) to Campaign 2000's national call for the end of child poverty.

The Task Force on Modernizing Income Security for Working- Age Adults (MISWAA) was formed in the fall of 2004 in Toronto and was made up of a broad-based coalition of civic leaders from a diverse group that included major employers, labour unions, policy institutes, academia, community organizations, advocacy groups, foundations, governments, and individuals with firsthand experience of income security programs. The MISWAA report²⁷ lays out a strategy to integrate policies that would address the root causes of poverty. They address issues of social assistance and minimum wage as well as health benefits for those living in poverty. Support of these efforts is essential in any community strategy to address poverty.

Community Planning

The Social Action Planning Conference (SAPC) held in 2003 as a joint venture of the United Way Centraide and the Social Planning Council of Sudbury brought together over 150 community members to dialogue about various social issues in the community and to propose action plans to address those issues. In *Convening for Change*²⁸, the report of the proceedings there are suggested action plans for ten identified social issues.

In the poverty report the goals were simple: meet the basic human needs of those in our community living in poverty and address the underlying structural causes of poverty. The actions called for included the development of a wrap-around model that encourages collaboration and coordination of existing resources, assistance at the grass roots level to ensure that low income people themselves were engaged in the strategies to reduce poverty and to expand poverty reduction strategies to a broader sector so that all levels of government and the business community were engaged as well. The group also called for the continuing monitoring of poverty indicators so that we could measure our progress.

In a follow up to the Social Action Planning Conference in 2006 the Social Planning Council held a forum entitled *Community Experience, Capacity Building and Public Policy: Empowering the Voluntary Sector*.²⁹ In an attempt to move forward on the action plans of the *Convening for Change* report the participants were engaged in dialogue in terms of civic participation and in particular civic participation as it related to poverty reduction. Again the general themes of the report related to better coordination between agencies delivering services, more sharing and access to information – both for service providers and those living in poverty, a drive for the entire community, including local government, organizations, and the public to become more proactive in the poverty issue including the shifts required in public policy and the education that was required to bring this about. Participants believed that this was an issue that we would have to deal with at the local level in order to have an impact.

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Building on the Convening for Change Report, the second planning conference was a step forward in the development of a poverty reduction strategy being lead by the Social Planning Council in partnership with community agencies and local government. Through the support of Human Resource Development Canada staff have been provided to the SPC to lead in the development of the strategy. First on the agenda is the work with the City of Greater Sudbury's Solution Team on homelessness services. A plan is being developed to address the chronic funding shortages experienced by the agencies delivering services to the homeless. As well work is being done to review job training strategies in the community to ensure that we are making the best kind of training available to the people who need it most. Models of poverty reduction strategies currently being implemented in other communities are being reviewed in order that we might move forward with engaging more partners in our own community in working at the roots of poverty while we continue to ensure that the needs of our communities most vulnerable members are being met.

Social Issues

Poverty

The Goals:

1. To meet the basic human needs of those in our community living in poverty.
2. Address the underlying structural causes of poverty.

The Objectives:

1. Develop resources to meet the need for food, shelter and clothing for all community members who require assistance.
2. Empower grassroots development including those living in poverty to facilitate change to system/government policy.
3. Incorporate 'planning for poverty reduction' in local economic development strategies as well as all other community strategic planning.

The Actions:

1. **Create a wrap-around model that encourages collaboration and coordination of existing resources in order to meet the needs of those requiring assistance.**
 - Co-ordinate a network of service providers in order to create the necessary links.
 - Involve decision makers at the highest level to ensure buy-in Create an easily accessible directory of community resources to be posted in busy accessible areas.
 - Identify all 'last resort' resources and co-ordinate their use.
 - Launch a fund raising campaign to ensure adequate resources are available.
 - Organize semi-annual agency fairs in order to ensure that networking and sharing of information happen.
2. **Provide community development resources to assist grass-**

roots development with low income/no income community members in order to advocate for change.

- Encourage Community Action Networks (CANs) to consider outreach projects in low income neighbourhoods.
 - Work with existing projects i.e. Better Beginnings Better Futures, Ontario Works, Youth Action Centre etc. to create strategies and work plans.
 - Work with existing advocacy groups to encourage greater community participation.
3. **Ensure anti-poverty strategic planning exists at all levels of municipal government and encourage all other community agencies and boards to incorporate poverty reduction strategies into their business planning.**
 - City of Greater Sudbury economic development plan to include reference to poverty reduction.
 - Other CGS departments to consider poverty reduction in their business plans i.e. tax relief to low income residents, no user fee's for low income residents, etc.
 - Create a social marketing campaign to assist other community boards/agencies to incorporate anti-poverty strategies into their overall planning process i.e. school boards and post secondary institutions acknowledge and address poverty of students in their business plans.
 4. **Continue to monitor levels of poverty and trends in the community to acknowledge changes and keep community informed of anti-poverty campaign progress.**
Annual report of poverty statistics including those living below LICO level, break out for specific groups, numbers receiving social assistance, numbers using food banks, number of homeless etc.

Summary and Recommendations

Poverty appears to be a constant in society. One might say it has always been with us and always will be. However we are now well aware that living in poverty is not only a difficulty for the person experiencing it but impacts on health outcomes of the whole population. There are ways and means to ensure that no one in our community goes without the essential supports required to enjoy a decent quality of life.

- While the numbers of people living in poverty is decreasing in our community the depth of poverty for those remaining in it is more severe
- We must respond to the immediate needs of those living in poverty while at the same work to change the policy and practices that keep people living in poverty
- Greater Sudbury has developed a food bank system that can respond to the needs of individuals
- The leadership of the Food Bank system has the capacity to raise funds and donated foods in amounts that seem to meet the needs
- Having adequate, quality food for everyone is the next step in a food secure community and programs such as community gardens, collective kitchens, collective buying etc. are important
- The Community Food Charter is a sound guide for the development of a food secure community
- The situation in terms of homelessness that includes inadequate funding for emergency shelters and cuts to funding for outreach workers has risen to a crisis state
- A community based Solution Team that includes the United Way is working on recreating the system of delivery services
- This new system has yet to be adopted by the community or local government
- There is a need to ensure that services that directly impact on the safety and well being of individuals who are on the street are maintained – shelter, protection from the elements of weather etc.
- Prevention strategies such as emergency funds must be maintained in order to ensure more people do not fall into homelessness
- There will be a need over the next year to transition to a new system helping to ensure that we do not lose vital services when a new model of service delivery is implemented
- The availability of emergency funds for shelter and other necessities needs to be monitored to ensure that current sources of money remain adequate
- Initiatives and programs should be integrated with existing community programs to ensure no duplication
- Attention must be paid to an overall strategy of poverty reduction based on community planning and direction

End Notes

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- 2) Research and Knowledge Mobilization Directorate of the Canadian Council on Learning. *The Social Consequences of Economic Inequality for Canadian Children: A Review of Canadian Literature*. Report prepared for the Canadian Council on Learning. pp.1-47. March 3rd, 2006
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- 4) Social Planning Council of Sudbury. *Community Needs Assessment of Social Issues in Greater Sudbury and Espanola*. pp.1-36 August 2006.
- 5) Nangia, Parveen. *Situational Analysis of Poverty in Greater Sudbury*. Report prepared for the Social Planning Council of Sudbury. pp.1-16. June 2006.
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- 7) Social Planning Council of Sudbury, pp.1-36.
- 8) Nangia, pp.1-16.
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- 13) Statistics Canada. 2001 Census. Report prepared for Statistics Canada. available from <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01/CP01/Details/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3553005&Geo2=PR&Code2=35&Data=Count&SearchText=sudbury&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=35&B1=All&Custom=> (last accessed on October 27th, 2006)
- 14) *Ibid.*
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- 17) Government of Ontario. Fact Sheet Employment Standards Act: Minimum Wage. pp.1-8. available from http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/es/factsheets/fs_wage.html (last accessed on October 26th, 2006).
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- 22) Social Planning Council of Sudbury, pp. 1-36.
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