Appendix A – Meeting Presentation

Creating a Poverty Reduction Strategy for the City of Winnipeg

Stakeholder Engagement Presentation

Summer 2020

Winnipeg

Poverty Reduction Strategy

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

2. **Introductions**

3. **Project Overview Presentation** **15 minutes**
   - Project Background
   - Approach to Developing the Strategy
   - Review of Initial Strategy Content

4. **Discussion and Feedback** **45 minutes**

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that we are in Treaty No.1 territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation.

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Project Overview

- **Executive Policy Committee of City Council (EPC)**
    - Requested the Public Service report back with **a City of Winnipeg poverty reduction strategy and detailed implementation plan**, all within existing resources
- **Timelines**
    - **June – Sept: Stakeholder Engagement – Phase 1**
    - **Late September 2020: Mid-term verbal update to EPC**
    - **Oct – Nov: Stakeholder Engagement – Phase 2**
    - **Late February 2021: Final Report to EPC**

Poverty Reduction Strategy

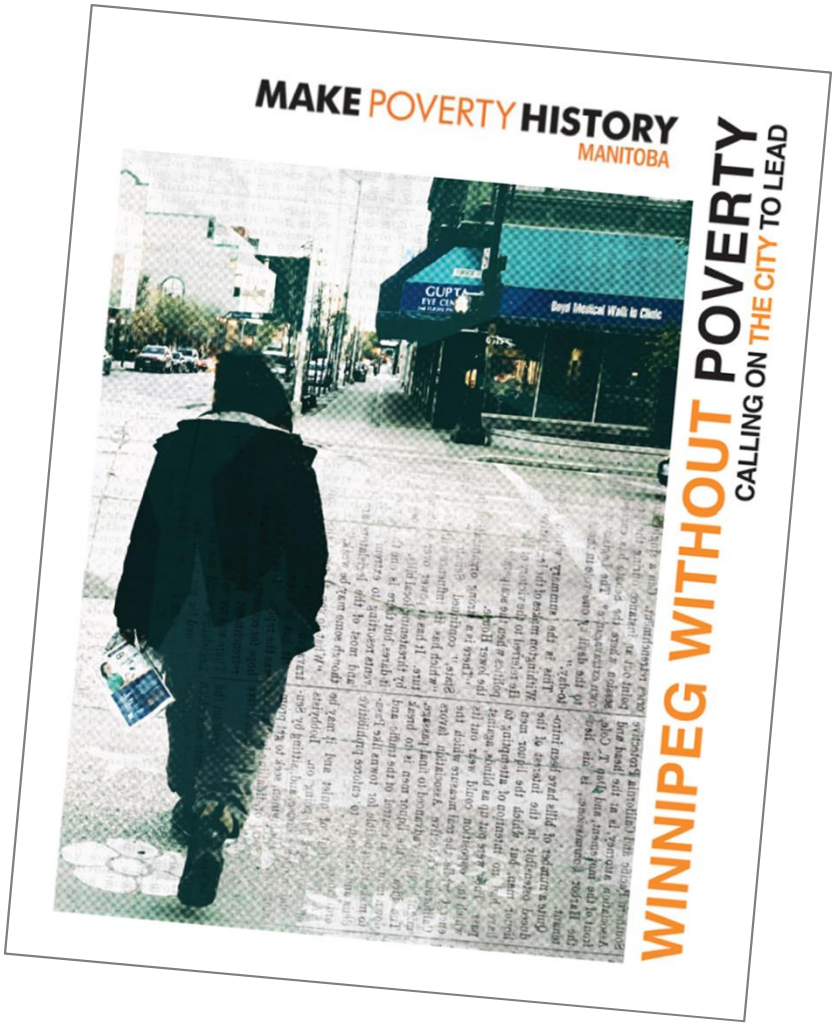
Background

Make Poverty History Manitoba

Report:

Winnipeg without Poverty: Calling on the City to Lead (April 2018)

- 50 recommended actions for the City to take to reduce poverty



Poverty Reduction Strategy

Background

City of Winnipeg

Report:

Poverty Reduction in Winnipeg (April 2019)

Included as an appendix:

Poverty in Winnipeg – By the Numbers (2016 Census)



Poverty Reduction Strategy

Approach to Developing the Strategy

- This strategy is a City of Winnipeg strategy (actions the City can take), not a strategy for
- Co-created with the community: Make Poverty History Manitoba and Poverty Reduction Council part of Core Working Team
- Indigenous worldview incorporated
- Take a ‘building blocks’ approach:
  - Clarify the City’s role in poverty reduction
  - Three year implementation plan
  - Review and renewal after Year 3 – keep momentum going forward, work towards long term goals

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Strategic Framing: *Areas of Jurisdiction*

Federal

- Indigenous Relations
- Employ. Insurance
- Family Benefits
- Immigration & Citizenship
- National Security & Defense
- Postal Service
- Internat'l Relations

Provincial

- Education
- Health Care
- Social Assistance
- Housing
- Families and children
- Natural Resources
- Licenses
- Vital Statistics (i.e. birth certificates)

Municipal

- Public Transit
- Libraries
- Recreation & Local Parks
- Land Use, Zoning & Permits
- Property Standards
- Property Taxes
- Water, Waste & Recycling
- Municipal Roads
- Municipal Police & Fire/Paramedic

Shared: Indigenous relations, Laws/Justice, Environment, Regional Roads, Income Tax and other areas

Wpg Charter: *promote and maintain the health, safety and welfare of inhabitants*

Poverty Reduction Strategy

The City has an important role to play in reducing poverty…

Winnipeg Charter Act (legislation)

5(1) The purposes of the city are

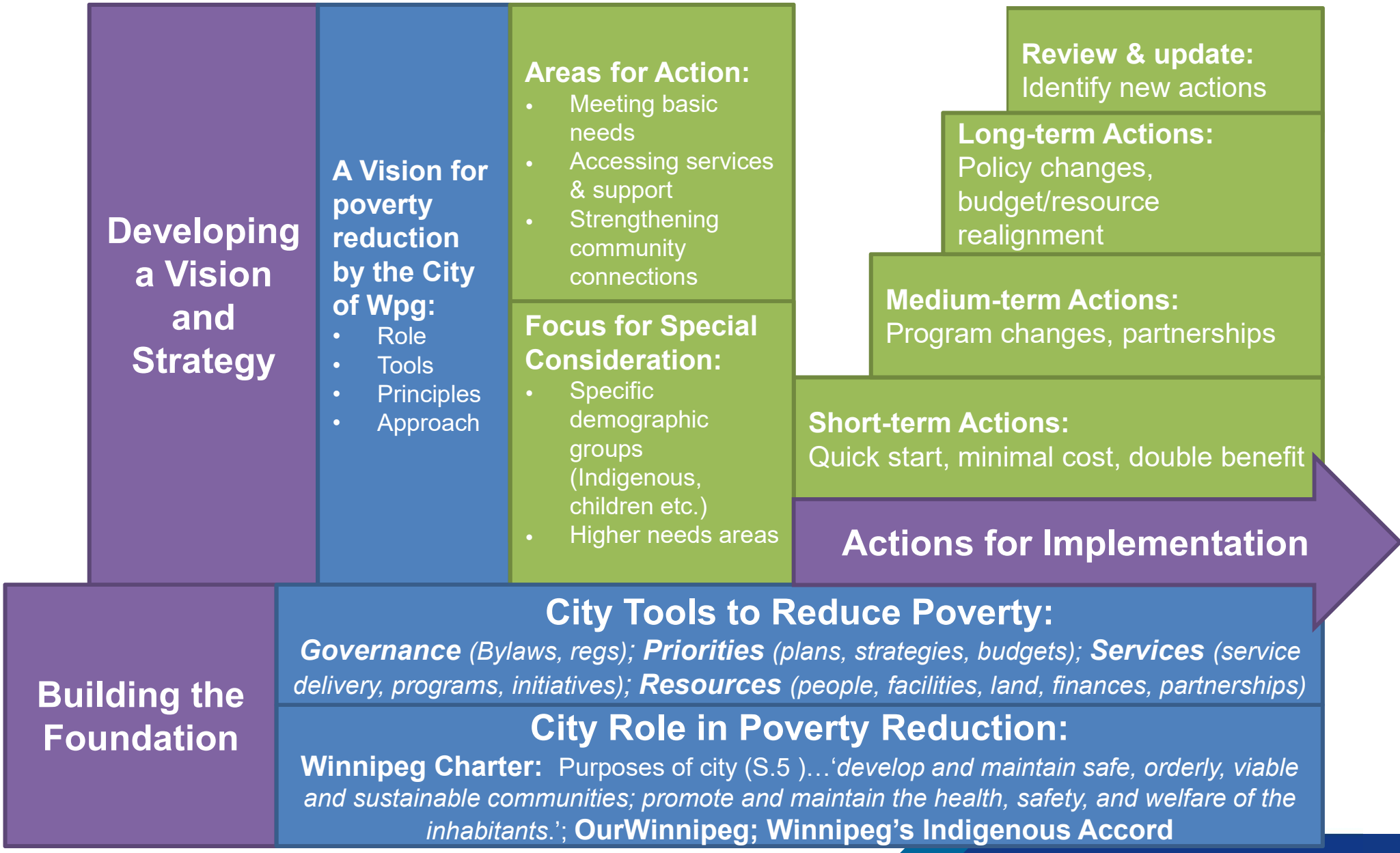
a) to provide good government for the city;

b) to provide services, facilities or other things that council considers to be necessary or desirable for all or part of the city;

c) to develop and maintain safe, orderly, viable and sustainable communities; and

d) to promote and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants

Strategic Framing: *Building Blocks Approach*



Overview of DRAFT STRATEGY CONTENT

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Review of Initial Strategy Content

DRAFT

Vision (City of Winnipeg Corporate Vision)

To be a vibrant and healthy city which places its highest priority on quality of life for all its citizens.

Mission

By implementing the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the City of Winnipeg will demonstrate leadership by taking a proactive and responsive role in reducing poverty, with community partners and other levels of government, to ensure that the basic needs of all residents are met. City services will be developed and delivered using a poverty reduction lens and in a manner that fosters an inclusive, equitable, healthy, and vibrant city where everyone is cared for and can flourish.

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Review of Initial Strategy Content

DRAFT

Drivers / Approaches

- Demonstrate a **Culture of Caring, Compassion and Cooperation**
- Use Our **Tools and Resources** to Improve Lives
- Respond to **Immediate Needs** in our Community
- Address **Root Causes** of Poverty
- Cultivate a **Prosperous Future Full of Opportunities** for Everyone

Poverty Reduction Strategy

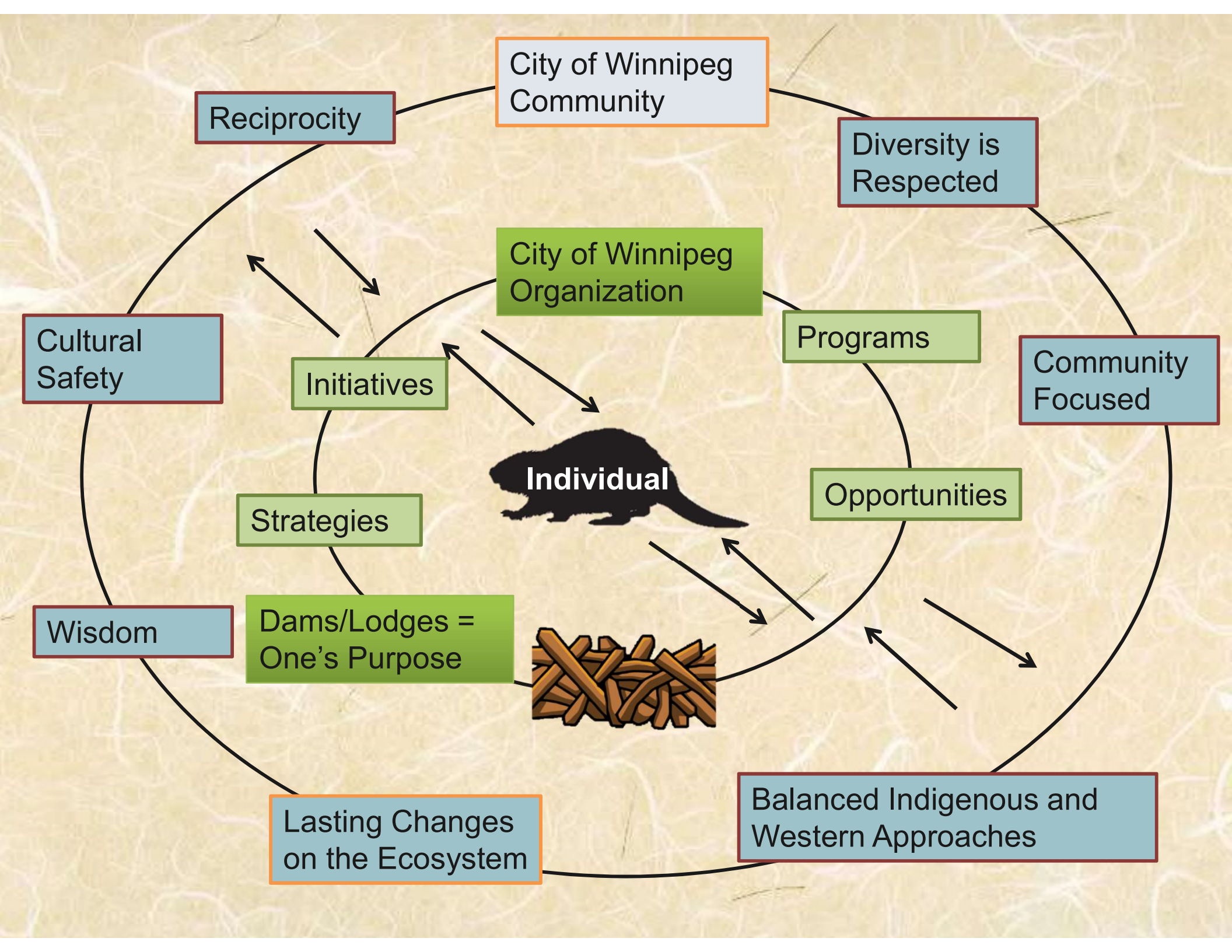
Indigenous Worldviews

- The concepts and principles that have been discussed throughout building the strategy thus far lend themselves to creating a strategy built through a balanced and respectful relationship amongst Indigenous and Western approaches
- We will aim to maintain relations with our land, languages, people, ancestors, animals, stories, knowledge, medicine and spiritual environment
- We will acknowledge the colonial experience. To deny the impact of colonization on Indigenous worldviews would only contribute to the solidification of colonized perspectives

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Amik (Beaver) Teachings of Wisdom

- The Beaver represents Wisdom in the Seven Sacred Teachings. Wisdom is not to be confused with knowledge. Wisdom is the gained experience and knowledge to know the difference and accept responsibility and accountability.
- The Poverty Reduction Strategy we are creating is possible due to the Wisdom we carry as a team, and the wisdom that has been gifted to us from our stakeholders, and those with lived experience who are showing us the way


City of Winnipeg Community
Reciprocity
Diversity is Respected
City of Winnipeg Organization
Cultural Safety
Programs
Initiatives
Community Focused
Individual
Strategies
Opportunities
Wisdom
Dams/Lodges = One's Purpose
Lasting Changes on the Ecosystem
Balanced Indigenous and Western Approaches

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Review of Initial Strategy Content

DRAFT

Overarching Principle

- We will be **Guided by Wisdom and the Teachings of the Beaver**
  - Using wisdom we already have and accepting responsibility
    - *Gained experience and knowledge - listening to people with lived expertise*
    - *Implementing existing plans and policies*
  - Everyone has unique gifts and needs the opportunity to use them
    - *Support and ensure people are being heard in what they can offer*
    - *Strengths based approach - what do you need to fulfill your purpose? What is needed to feel like your life is flourishing?*

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Review of Initial Strategy Content

DRAFT

Draft Principles

- *We will **Uphold Human Rights**.*
- *We will **Honour Treaty Relationships and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.***
- *We will **Address Systemic Oppression, Trauma, and Social Inequity**.*
- *We will **Promote and Maintain the Welfare of all residents**.*
- *We will **Develop Meaningful Partnerships** to find solutions and drive change.*

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Review of Initial Strategy Content

DRAFT

Themes - Areas for Action:

1. Food Security, Good Health & Well-being
2. Housing for All
3. Transportation Equity
4. Employment, Training & Livable Incomes
5. Community Safety
6. Social Equity, Inclusion & Community Connections
7. Access to Information and Services
8. Access to Recreation and Social Infrastructure
9. Healing and Reconciliation
10. Active Implementation & Systems Change

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Discussion

- **Are we are on the right track? Is anything missing?**
- **What actions (short and long term) would you like to see included in the Strategy?**
- **What are the top priorities?**

Poverty Reduction Strategy

For more information:

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Winnipeg

Appendix B – Meeting Notes

Poverty Reduction Strategy – Lived Experience Circle Meeting

Location: Hamilton Building
395 Main St.

Date: June 25, 2020
Time: 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Attendees: 8

Meeting Notes:

General Comments

- How does the City communicate with different levels of government?
    - Sometimes it feels like government departments work against each other. One department is building while the other department is taking down.
    - Better communication needs to occur within the City and with the Province.
- Relationships need to be more coherent with the Province.

Discussion Topic #1: Initial Strategy Content

- The strategy seems to be going in the right direction and uses the correct terms like inclusion and equity
- The Indigenous world view is clear in the strategy
    - It is very important to acknowledge the colonial experience
    - The colonial experience has had a lasting impact on people.
    - Many people have been left traumatized
- Addressing the root cause of poverty is important because there is a lot of racism and stigma.
    - Systemic racism is everywhere.
    - It is the unspoken behavior that has become normal behavior.
    - This is one of the root causes of poverty.
- The most important principle is to uphold human rights.
    - People call security on homeless people.
- The term 'trust' needs to be added to the principles.
    - Homeless people lack trust in governments and agencies.
- The most important theme is livable incomes.
    - People should not need to commit crimes to get by or collect beer cans at the end of the month to get by.
- The City needs to assist in the creation of more affordable housing.
    - While the City can't build housing, they have surplus land that can contribute to affordable housing.
    - There needs to be partnerships with other organizations and governments to use the City's surplus lands for permanent housing.

    - Most housing right now is temporary housing. There is a strong need for permanent housing.
    - A lot of cities have policies so surplus land goes to affordable housing
- There needs to be system changes to achieve the goal of food security, good health, and well-being.
- Healing is an important priority
    - A lot of people have trauma and come for residential schools.
    - Some people would not be comfortable in a dwelling alone because of this trauma.
    - The City needs to understand the person first, so appropriate support can be provided.
- People experiencing homelessness need to build themselves up again every day.
    - Supports are needed and people cannot do it on their own.
- There is not a lot of mention of mental health and addictions in the strategy.
    - What are the entry points for the City? The City could start with paramedics and social workers.
- The themes need to be more specific on what the City is actually capable of doing within existing resources.
- The mission statement is good because it indicates that leadership needs to be proactive.
- It is important for the strategy to have poverty deduction lens.

Discussion Topic #2: Implementation and Priorities

What would be a 'game changer' for poverty reduction in our city?

- Affordable housing and a minimum income would be a game changer.
- Life skill programs would be a game changer. Program ideas include:
    - Building friendships and interactions.
    - Seven teachings.
    - Budgeting, referrals, and where to access resources.

What actions are 'low-hanging fruit'? (NOW)

- Affordable transit would be a low hanging fruit.
- Offer bursaries for people wanting to go back to school.
    - Can't get a job that is good enough to pay off loans
- Expand free recreation programs in the Leisure Guide.
    - Recreation helps people mentally.
    - Recreation gets people engaged.
- Public education campaign.
    - There is a lot of outrage on social media about homeless encampments.
    - Some people would rather sweep the homelessness issue under the rug so it is out of sight out of mind.

    - A public education campaign would eliminate stigma.
    - The public education campaign could include:
        - “This could be you”.
        - Fifty percent of people are one or two paychecks away from homelessness.
- Review and extend operating agreements.
    - A lot of long term agreements are coming up for renewal.

Poverty Reduction Strategy – Make Poverty History Manitoba City Working Group Meeting

Location: Online **Date:** June 24, 2020
Time: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Attendees: 13

Meeting Notes:

Project Overview Questions and Comments

- What relationship will the Poverty Reduction Strategy have with the Winnipeg Police Service and their strategic planning process?

Discussion Topic #1: Initial Strategy Content

- There is concern about the use of the term 'citizens'. Can the policy use the term 'inhabitants' instead of 'citizen', as that is used in City of Winnipeg Charter? Citizen is not an all-encompassing word. It excludes people living in Winnipeg who are paying taxes but do not have citizenship.
- Transportation equity is an area of concern. For example, the City abdicated parking to Winnipeg Parking Authority. The Winnipeg Parking Authority does not maintain parking meters and/or are removing them and not replacing. The message is that the app is a better way to pay for parking. Unfortunately that means that in order to park equitably, you have to have a cell phone and a credit card to open the account.
- Good job on mission. It covers a lot of ground and happy to see poverty reduction lens included. Getting people to consider poverty reduction in a broader sense.
- Will there be anything in the mission that addresses systemic racism and racial discrimination? This could this be a lens to include in the mission alongside the poverty reduction lens? Racial discrimination could be front and center instead of having to read between the lines in the mission.
- Could the mission use the term "intersectional", which would include race, ethnicity, gender, ability, status etc.? If we are going to talk about racial discrimination, there are a lot of other forms that intersect with racial discrimination.
- There needs to be a way to present very complicated ideas to Winnipeggers and Council. The Strategy needs to use language that people can rally behind easily. It needs to be simple and readable.
- The Strategy content so far is spot on. The City shouldn't get hung up on specific language at this point.
- The Poverty Reduction Strategy must include a very easy-to-read vison and mission to help prevent the Strategy from sitting on a shelf.
- The document is branching out in a lot of great directions.

- The Strategy is very thoughtful and thorough. It is important that the City is incorporating an Indigenous world view.
- It is important to track the impact of the Strategy because there are world views that are resistant to the poverty reduction initiatives. For example, the Healthy Child Initiative included a strong evidence based research component that measured its impact.
    - Here is an example of measurement from the Neighbourhoods Alive evaluation: https://ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/toolbox/neighbourhoods-alive-community-outcomes-evaluation
    - There are more examples from the Healthy Start. Some of the staff from this program are still around Winnipeg: https://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/pdre/pop_based.html
- What is the budgetary element of this?
    - The City can be strategic on how resources are used despite the Strategy being limited to existing resources. The City does not need to leave out actions out that are not within existing resources but the City does need to be conscious of the budget.
- More thought needs to be given to how parking fees and property taxes are allotted to those experience poverty. The City currently tries to provide services in an equitable manner. But the City also collects revenue and revenue collection needs to be done in an equitable manner.
    - For example the compost pilot project. There was discussion on if the budget should be a flat fee on every household. However, is it equitable to apply the same fee for everyone despite people having different incomes?

Discussion Topic #2: Implementation and Priorities

What would be a 'game changer' for poverty reduction in our city?

- Establishing the right to housing would be a game changer.
- The Mayor making a strong statement in support would be a game changer (i.e. political will)
- Human Rights City – Actions need to look not only at individual human rights but also collective rights. Right to the City Framework. When you leave the Human Rights Museum, you would get information on how to apply it in the City of Winnipeg.
- The Right to the City as a Foundation for Social Justice: https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/monitor/right-city-foundation-social-justice
- How can the City pivot to provide free daycare programming in the summer for parents?
- Can the City provide fee masks for riders to use on public transit during the pandemic?
- Can the City provide public toilets?
- Edmonton's game changers are:
    - access to mental health services
    - affordable housing
    - affordable and quality childcare

- accessible and affordable transit
- eliminating racism
- livable incomes

What actions are 'low-hanging fruit'? (NOW)

- Improve access to transit through the low income bus pass.
  - The low income bus pass must be more discounted than what was approved by Council.
- Support the report on homeless encampments.
  - The Poverty Reduction Strategy should back up the conclusions of the report on homeless encampments.
- Commit to not start charge rent to child care centers in City facilities rent to show support for child care.
  - If the City is committed to child care than the City should be committed to providing child care in their buildings.
  - Any new building the City is involved with should have child care built in.
- Make improvements to the cold and hot weather spaces in Winnipeg. With not all facilities are open this summer and it will be challenging for people to access spaces. The current facility network is very haphazard right now with respect to the available spaces.
- Adopt a living wage policy
  - Although most employees are already payed above $15/hour and there are very few people at the City that make below the wage cut off.
  - Thirteen percent of City workers are not paid a living wage.
  - The policy needs to link to the cross-Canada research on what a living wage is.
- Implement social procurement.
  - There is a good opportunity to implement social procurement now with money flowing in from other levels of government for infrastructure.
  - Social procurement is important in the economic recovery from COVID-19.
  - Those with multiple barriers to the labour market will have trouble in the much more competitive labour market with more people unemployed. It is important that they are not left further behind.
  - There are other community benefits from development through social procurement. For example childcare centres.

What process or criteria would you use to prioritize the possible actions?

- Actions that align with existing political commitments of elected officials should be a criteria to prioritize actions.
  - What has the Mayor and Council politically committed to? How does this fit with what they are trying to achieve? The Mayors priorities are what he will go to bat on.
- Actions that reach the greatest number of people should be a criteria to prioritize actions.

- Actions that reach the people in most need should be a criteria to prioritize actions.
- Actions that can leverage funds from other levels of government or organizations should be a criteria to prioritize actions.
    - What gives the City more bang for its buck?
    - Would the Canadian Federation of Municipalities have funds to support some initiatives in the strategy?

Poverty Reduction Strategy – Winnipeg Committee for Safety

Location: Online **Date:** June 29, 2020
Time: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Attendees: 11

Meeting Notes:

Discussion Topic #1: Initial Strategy Content

- It seems like the City is on the right track. The background work carried out by the project team is visible in the strategy.
- It is important to see that the City recognizes what they can do instead within their mandate instead of deferring actions to other different levels of government.
- Transportation equity is one of the top areas for the strategy.
    - The City has implemented the low income bus pass but the success of the low income buss pass needs to be evaluated.
- Winnipeg Transit is profit oriented so COVID-19 presents a huge challenge.
        - Winnipeg Transit is losing a lot of money so they have reduced service to reduce financial losses, yet some Winnipeggers rely on public transportation and do not have other options.
- Has the project team reached out to the Winnipeg Food Council and the Human Rights Committee of Council?
- What and who is involved in Housing for All?
- Can the City include language to indicate that people do not experience poverty equally (intersectionality)?
    - Women and men experience poverty differently.
    - People with disabilities experience poverty differently than those without disabilities.

Discussion Topic #2: Implementation and Priorities

What would be a 'game changer' for poverty reduction in our city?

- Access to education.
    - Impossible for many to imagine that you can further your education when you are too busy working two or three jobs.
    - Not sure where the City's role would be in education.
    - Programs that reach people at a younger age and get them access to education is important, like the youth initiative with the Indigenous Relations Division.
        - Is there a way to expand that model to other City departments?
- Affordable housing.
- Community support .

- Allowing the focus to be where the individual needs it to be.
- Increased access to services, including public and greenspace.
- The City needs to stop the brutalization of city spaces, for example putting boulders or other deterrents to prevent people for sitting.
- The idea of making unwelcoming spaces seems counter-intuitive.
- Community support makes a difference in people's lives to help reduce poverty. Listening to individuals who are experiencing poverty; understanding them and assisting them with resources that are available to help meet their needs (whether it is recovering from addiction, survivors of domestic abuse, mental health etc.).
- Community supports must involve the community and build awareness and education.

- Addiction support.
  - Proper facilities to help/support individuals with addiction issues, mental health issues etc., which would include short and long term wellness of those individuals.
  - Addiction facilities, safe injection sites, and community support. This would include having members of the community trained to handle crisis, decreasing the number of police-public interactions.
- Transportation equity.
  - Transit is still very stigmatized for those who rely on transit and require transit.
  - The stigma prevents a lot of other people from taking the bus.
  - If you improve transit for everyone, more people will take transit. More people taking transit will create a safer community so there is more eyes on the street and at bus stops.
  - Winnipeg Transit is facing a huge challenging with COVID-19 trying to get people back on the bus and more people on the bus.
- Culture shift.
  - One of the major challenges is cultural. We currently do not live in a supportive culture so much as an enforcement culture. How do we get the public to want to involve themselves in the lives of folks experiencing poverty and any of the intersections discussed? One hand seems to be undoing what the other hand is doing.
- Public awareness campaign for people who have lived experience
  - Many, if not most of us, are only a couple of paycheques away from homelessness.
  - However, there is an assumption that it is people who have made bad choices in life or have character flaws that are homeless.

Poverty Reduction Strategy – Poverty Awareness & Community Action

Location: Online **Date:** July 6, 2020
Time: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Attendees: 14

Meeting Notes:

General Comments

- Who installed the noise generators under the bridges?
- What percentage of the budget is allocated to the Winnipeg Police Service?
- What is the approval process for the strategy?
    - Human rights language put legal obligations on governments to fulfill and therefore is there a possibility that language could be forcibly removed in order for approval?

Discussion Topic #1: Initial Strategy Content

- It would be beneficial to specify 'mental health' in the themes.
    - Mental health is too easily overlooked if it's lumped under the general 'health' theme.
- Why can't poverty awareness/homeless reduction be front of mind for businesses when selecting charities?
- Can the strategy include the language 'ones that are in a reduced quality of life'?
- A housing first approach must occur before the City works on mental health. If you don't have a roof over your head, you are too busy worrying about your housing and food situation. We need safe spaces and housing with food security before we can start addressing metal health. Without housing, it is difficult to accomplish the City's other priorities.
    - The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority has a housing department built into their mental health program because it is so important.
- Would creating these "lenses" result in organizations potentially losing funding for doing important work in the community that doesn't fit under a lens?
    - The province did something similar Community Supports and Grants Initiative, which create intense compensation for grant money.
    - Will some organizations be shut out if they don't fall into a category, despite doing good work.
- How much is harm reduction included in the strategy?
    - Is harm reduction part of the City's jurisdiction or the province's jurisdiction?
    - Winnipeg is falling behind other jurisdictions in harm reduction.

Discussion Topic #2: Implementation and Priorities

Are we are on the right track? Is anything missing?

- People in poverty today feel that the City just doesn't care and they don't believe that the City will make changes. It is very hard to get people to even speak up about what they need.
    - This would speak to lack of trust.
    - The City not dedicating any resources to the Poverty Reduction Strategy won't improve trust. It shows that is not a priority for the City.
- Communication within the City departments is missing (internal dialogue).
    - How is information currently shared?
    - The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority widely distributes emails throughout departments and networks that make it easy to see what kind of changes are going on within MH departments, community organizations, stakeholders etc.
    - It could be helpful to try something different or new within the City of Winnipeg.
- Manitoba is making good progress in some of the ways we are addressing mental health but there is room for improvement.
    - Why can't we implement approaches from other provinces for mental health and harm reduction?
- Why can't funding for poverty reduction use a hybrid funding system with money from governments and private businesses? Why can't businesses contribute to reduce competition for grants.
    - If a government grant does not go through, the project currently gets scrapped.
    - Business can pool resources together so we don't always have to rely on government grants.
    - Government grants fall short or do not work too frequently.
- The strategy explicitly states you want to address systemic oppression. What specifically are you doing about it?
    - Some members of the provincial government don't even believe that systemic oppression even exits.
- How are we going to get the message out to people that the City is interested in helping people?
    - People are tired of hearing the same messaging again without seeing any actions.
- Transportation is an issue.
    - Low income bus pass will only help a small portion of people.
- The City should host a day of poverty where decision makers experience a day in poverty.
    - They could try to live on $3 a day and have them simulate poverty.
- Mandatory workshops for a City of Winnipeg, Winnipeg Police Service, and Winnipeg Regional Health Authority employees.

What would be a 'game changer' for poverty reduction in our city?

- The biggest action the City could do is hand it off the responsibility to the community organizations that are on the ground and are familiar the needs.

    - The City needs to provide resources, funding and support to organizations to do the work.
    - The City cannot do the work if they are not present in the community.
- Funding. We can do a lot of small things in the beginning. But the real issue is people need more money. They cannot make ends meet on the money they have.
    - Budgeting is impossible when you don't have enough.
    - Income is a major issue when it comes to poverty.
    - What actions can the City take to address income?
- The messaging behind the Poverty Reduction Strategies is important to build trust.
- Would people start to lose jobs if we took hard action on poverty?
    - Government employees will try to keep the status quo because they do not want to lose their jobs.
    - People can make money from other people's oppression.
- The pandemic bailouts were not well received by people living in poverty.
    - People who lost their jobs were given more money from the government than those who are on EIA and have been struggling for years.
- Resources should not be taken from other programs and services to fund the Poverty Reduction Strategy.
    - For example the Low Income Transit Pass was funded by cuts to the UPass for students.
- A poverty reduction lens should be applied to ticketing.
    - For example parking tickets.
- It is important to keep family resource centres and community renewal corps open in food deserts.
    - Have seen examples of children who are now excited to eat fruits and vegetables because of markets
    - There needs to be more opportunities for community gardening in open spaces.
- Some people need pets for emotionally therapy.
    - There is a lack of veterinarians that are willing to provide care to animals of people living in poverty.
    - Licensing, vet bills, spay/neuter is very expensive.

Poverty Reduction Strategy – Winnipeg Food Council

Location: Online **Date:** June 25, 2020
Time: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Attendees: 11

Meeting Notes:

General Comments

- Happy to see we are partnering with Make Poverty History Manitoba
- These are not comfortable issues
- Feels as a society and city we are not dealing well with issues of poverty and homelessness
- Feels the City has obligations

Discussion Topic #1: Initial Strategy Content

- Feels like we are on the right track
- Loves the indigenous worldview piece.
- Heard about the core services review and asks if we can reflect on any changes that come from this process? Need to address this in the strategy
- Food security is more an access issue (responsive) whereas we should be having a conversation about food sovereignty – in particular indigenous food sovereignty
    - Indigenous food sovereignty is more solutions based, about ownership and empowerment
- Poverty is not unique to a geographic part of the city – it exists all over the city
- The 'how' piece will be the big struggle
- Other jurisdictions
    - To advocate to the province and feds for other policy measures that we know – for example when talking about income and housing
- For each thematic area and action – we should indicate the lenses that are being used
    - Harm Reduction, Oppression reduction, indigenous worldview, poverty reduction – these approaches are what are informing all of the actions
- Interest in having a specific meeting looking at the actions

Discussion Topic #2: Implementation and Priorities

- In terms of a game changer to really help people in poverty – she says Housing is the biggest priority, giving people a place to sleep
- Another game changer is re-allocating funds – away from police toward poverty reduction – since the poverty reduction work needs resources. She says the City needs to look at how much some departments get and how much others get and re-distribute.
- Wants to learn more about the tools we have

    - For example – poor people are paying a larger amount of taxes in proportion to their income – could we change this? A more progressive tax system
- Morrow Ave has the lowest median income area outside the core
    - These areas should not be overlooked
- The strategy should advocate for a living wage for all City staff
- Suggested we get all of these committees to make motions to say these support the Poverty Reduction Strategy – this would give it more support
- The game changers are the lenses – it is about people thinking and acting differently
    - What does this actually mean for people to think differently
    - We need to explain and build on what those lenses are into all of our action areas
    - This is especially critical for City staff
    - How do we get people to USE these lenses in their everyday work and decision making?
- Another priority is awareness and training
    - It is not just about education (ie: what is racism), it is about unconscious bias and anti-oppression training
- Is there a place to have an advisory council for the strategy? This could include indigenous elders, people with lived experience, the business community etc…
- How will you track your progress and impact? Ie: on food security and food sovereignty

Poverty Reduction Strategy – Indigenous Relations Division Reconciliation Leadership Circle

Location: Online **Date:** August 14, 2020
Time: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Attendees: 8

Meeting Notes:

Discussion Topic #1: Initial Strategy Content

- The Our Winnipeg process discussed different approaches and lenses
    - The City needs to set up the space to operationalize them
    - We need to outline the questions or considerations if you are going to apply these things to your work – elevate this to the Our Winnipeg strategic planning process
- Everyone needs to look at poverty reduction differently
    - I.e. a gender lens, a gender budget lens, anti-oppression lens
    - Education needs to happen about what that actually means
- Strategic Framing – police lens, overrepresentation of indigenous people in the justice system
- There is potential with restorative justice legislation – how can the City plan to connect to this?
- Police have contact with people who reside outside of Winnipeg, need better info sharing
- Incorporate MB Association of Chiefs and Police (MACP)
- Need to connect the dots – provincial, federal and municipal jurisdiction
- What happens at the municipal level affects the provincial level, i.e. RCMP

Discussion Topic #2: Implementation and Priorities

- The empty space in the City Hall court yard would be great to do something in that space like making masks for Winnipeg Transit or another social enterprise
- What makes a difference in people's lives to reduce poverty?
    - In one of the First Nations, a Chief developed a program to make unhirable people, hirable
    - The program involved people that did not have any work experience for various systemic reasons
    - The Chief developed a convenience store on the reserve to employ people from the program
    - The employees developed a sense of ownership working there by calling it 'our store' and not giving up on them
    - The Chief saw a real change in people's lives
- An indigenous operator program was also developed
    - The program helped youth develop a resume and drove them to their site for interviews
- The strategy should look at how to create truly entry level positions with the City for people trying to move out of poverty
- OurWinnipeg is developing criteria for prioritization

- How does the City weigh competing priorities
- The City needs high level priorities

Appendix C – Key Themes and Action

Topic 1: Preliminary Strategy Content

Topics to Include in the Strategy

Good Health and well-being (11)
- Mental health (6)
- Harm reduction (2)
- Addictions (1)
- Healing (1)
- Other (1)

Intersectionality (10)
- Oppression and stigma (4)
- Racism (3)
- Ability (1)
- Ethnicity (1)
- Gender (1)

Communication (8)
- Trust (3)
- Internal communications (2)
- Awareness campaign (2)
- Mandatory workshops for City staff (1)

Housing for All (6)
- Supportive Transitional Housing (i.e. Housing First) (3)
- Affordable housing (1)
- Temporary vs. permanent housing (1)
- Surplus land (1)

Transportation Equity (6)
- Access to transit (4)
- Parking fees and fines based on income (2)

Support for Preliminary Content (6)
- City is headed in the right direction (6)

Budget and Resources (5)
Food security (4)
Indigenous World View (3)
- Colonialism (1)
- Other (2)

Human Rights (2)
Living wage and Minimum Income (2)
Plain Language (2)
Policing and Restorative Justice (2)
Equitable Property Taxes (1)
Monitoring Policy Implementation (1)

(x) represents the number of times an idea appeared in the meeting notes

Topic 2: Implementation and Priorities

Game Changing Actions

Commitment and Effective Implementation (9)
- Increase budget and resources allocated to poverty reduction (2)
- Political will to address poverty reduction (2)
- Address the lack of trust with government (2)
- Establish an advisory council of oversee the strategy implementation (1)
- Monitor the strategy's success (1)
- Hand off responsibility to the community organizations that are on the ground and are familiar the needs of those experiencing poverty (1)

Employment and Education (7)
- Create job opportunities (4)
- Increase childcare in City facilities (2)
- Create a life skills program (1)

Good Health and Well-being (5)
- Provide mental health supports (3)
- Provide addictions support (2)

Housing for All (5)
- Support affordable housing (5)

Intersectionality (4)
- Racism (2)
- Oppression and stigma (1)
- Human rights (1)

Transportation Equity (4)
- Improve access to transit (3)
- Apply a poverty reduction lens to parking fines (1)

Living Wage and Minimum Income (4)
- Advocate for a minimum income (2)
- Implement a living wage for City employees (2)

Food Security (3)
- Address food security (3)

Service Animals (1)
- Provide help with veterinary bills other expenses for those who require service animals (1)

Property Taxes (1)
- Create equitable property tax rates (1)

Low Hanging Fruit

Community Supports (5)
- Eliminate unwelcoming spaces (i.e. the use of sitting deterrents) (1)
- Install public toilets (1)
- Improve network of public facilities also used as extreme heat/cold shelters (1)
- Provide mental health supports (1)
- Support the report on homeless encampments (1)

Communication (4)
- Generate awareness (2)
- Create an awareness campaign (2)

Employment and Education (4)
- Create bursaries for people experiencing poverty to advance their education (1)
- Develop a social procurement program at the City (1)
- Implement a living wage for City employees (1)
- Increase childcare in City facilities (1)

Transportation Equity (2)
- Improve access to transit (2)

Operations Agreements (1)
- Renew operations agreements (1)

Recreation programs (1)
- Expand free recreation programs in the Leisure Guide (1)

(x) represents the number of times an idea appeared in the meeting notes