

Healthier Northern Communities E-Brief

November 2021

2020 Annual Report on TogetherBC – BC’s First Poverty Reduction Plan

The 2020 Annual Report on TogetherBC – BC’s First Poverty Reduction Plan – has been posted online. As required by the *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act*, an annual report for each calendar year must be prepared to describe the actions taken by the provincial government to reduce poverty, and any progress made towards achieving the legislated targets of reducing the overall poverty rate by 25% and the child poverty rate by 50% by 2024. The report covers actions undertaken by the province in the 2020 calendar year.



Highlights from the report:

- Between 2016 and 2019, the overall poverty rate has been trending down
- Child poverty rate is the biggest decrease; from 17% to 7.5%
- COVID-19 had, and continues to have, far reaching impacts on communities living in poverty
 - Shuttering of social programs and services
 - The drop in unemployment rates between 2016-2019 was reversed; although is now starting to drop again
 - Youth (ages 15-24) and women experienced the highest rates of unemployment
 - Racialized communities have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19

Despite much success, more work is needed to continue to address overall poverty, and poverty felt by specific populations. To learn more, and to read the 2020 annual report or the Poverty Reduction plan, visit [TogetherBC](https://www.togetherbc.ca).

For Your Information

2021 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Campaign Underway

Date: starts October 18, 2021

Beginning the week of October 18, 2021, seasonal influenza vaccine will be available at Public Health clinics. Influenza vaccine is recommended for everybody > 6 months of age. To find an Influenza (flu) clinic near you use the [ImmunizeBC Flu Clinic Finder](#). For more information about seasonal influenza, immunization clinics, and the vaccine, please visit Northern Health’s [Flu](#) page.

The Ending Poverty Pathways Guide and Podcast

Tamarack's Communities Ending Poverty (CEP) convened more than 1000 people for The End of Poverty national gathering. The event explored 14 proven and emerging pathways to ending poverty, and the many roles that governments, businesses, non-profits and experts with lived and living experience can play. Following the event, CEP has released an [Ending Poverty Pathways Guide](#) and [Ending Poverty Pathways Podcast Series](#) that capture the voices of CEP's top thought leaders, partners and members. CEP's guide and podcast series feature eight innovative ideas that are both transformational and backed by significant Canadian evidence. For more information visit the [Tamarack Community](#).

Resources (toolkits, reports, websites)

Sustainable Affordable Housing Initiative

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) [Sustainable Affordable Housing](#) initiative supports local affordable housing providers – including municipal, not-for-profit organizations and housing co-ops – to retrofit existing affordable housing units, or construct energy efficient new builds that emit lower greenhouse gas emissions. Their list of resources provides useful information on your affordable housing retrofit or new build project. It is focused on the different project stages including: discovery; planning; study; pilot and capital projects; and operations and maintenance. For more information visit the [FCM webpage](#).

Active Start Newsletter

Each month, the Active Start newsletter will give you activities and tips tailored specifically to the age of your child, delivered right to your inbox. To learn more about how to raise an active child, visit [Active for Life](#).

Connecting to the Land through Natural Curiosity

In support of the "Take me Outside" initiative a [one-pager](#) for educators has been developed. This resource is linked to a worksheet for students to enhance the meaning associated with land acknowledgements while facilitating meaningful outdoor experiential learning.

Talking to Youth about Cannabis Vaping: A Guide for Healthcare Professionals

This [guide](#) provides healthcare professionals with the questions they need to ask youth to start a meaningful conversation about the risk associated with vaping cannabis.

Events and Learning Opportunities

Not Just Naloxone: Registration for fall workshops now open

Date: November 4 & 5, 2021 (Northern BC)

The online registration form for the regional **Not Just Naloxone** workshop is now open for fall/winter 2021/2022. Not Just Naloxone (NJN) is a virtual workshop hosted by the First Nations Health Authority and is delivered by the Four Directions Team. This training was developed in response to the toxic drug crisis in BC, which continues to disproportionately impact Indigenous people. For more information please email Sony Subedi at njn@fnha.ca. Please visit the [Not Just Naloxone site](#) to register for this workshop.

Small Towns, Big Steps in Active Transport

Date: November 4, 2021

Small Towns, Big Steps in Active Transport is a project intended to explore what works in smaller towns through in-depth research and case studies featuring 6 unique BC communities. Join BCAHL's webinar where we highlight major project findings, including: BC's small town active transport champions; factors that help or hinder active transportation; and qualitative research that asks the question: 'how do we build up active transport infrastructure and capacity?' To register visit [GoToWebinars](#).

Certification and Learning Initiatives: Dedication Action for School Health (DASH) BC

DASH is a registered charity committed to promoting, supporting, and facilitating the creation of healthy school communities in BC. Two initiatives from DASH are available for educators and schools across the North:

DASH's Healthy School Communities Certification

Registration deadline: November 8, 2021

Register today to become a Certified Healthy School Community. Participating schools will be guided through a 4-step process to build capacity to address their schools' priority health need(s). Four schools in the Northern Health Region were certified last year. They reported increases in student leadership and engagement as a result of participating. Get more information on how to register and listen to testimonials from last year's certified schools across BC [here](#).

DASH's Youth-led Vaping Reduction Initiative

Last year DASH piloted a youth-led vaping reduction initiative in 4 secondary schools across BC. *Vaping: The More You Know* involves 3 components:

- A presentation with information about vaping and youth vaping statistics.
- A facilitated discussion with students to discuss the complexity of reasons for vaping and how to mitigate risks.
- Support youth to develop a project to share what they've learned with their peers.

To learn more about this initiative and how to involve your school, visit [DASH's website](#).

Funding Opportunities

Northern Resilient Communities Grants is Now Accepting Applications!

Deadline: November 30, 2021

Northern Health is looking for community partners with ideas for projects that will improve the health of those living, working, learning and playing in northern BC. The next opportunity to apply for Northern Resilient Communities Grants will be launched on November 1, 2021. The Northern Resilient Communities Grants provide funding to community organizations, service agencies, Indigenous organizations, schools, municipalities, regional districts, and other partners with projects that support community resiliency. This funding is aimed to support groups and organizations who need assistance adapting, maintaining or establishing practices in response to emerging community health and wellness needs. For more information, please visit [Northern Resilient Communities Grants](#).

Capital Project – GHG Impact Retrofit

Deadline: On-going

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Community Buildings Retrofit (CBR) initiative helps to optimize the energy performance and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of community buildings owned by municipalities and not-for-profit organizations. Projects must aim to achieve a minimum 30 percent GHG reduction from current or baseline performance. Eligible projects may be a single building retrofit, or a portfolio of buildings (across a single municipality or group of municipalities) where each building meets the 30 percent reduction threshold. Maximum of \$5 million per project. For more information and to apply, visit the [FCM webpage](#).

Farm to School BC Grants

Deadline: November 14, 2021

The Farm to School BC grants include start up grants and scale up grants valued at \$3000 and \$1000. These grants support a variety of school-driven farm to school initiatives and activities including salad bars, school garden, greenhouses, indoor growing (e.g. microgreens, growing towers), farm/ocean/land field trips, local food

harvesting and preserving projects, learning about traditional foods and foodways, and more. For more information visit [Farm to School BC Grants – Farm to School BC](#).

Childcare BC New Spaces Fund

Deadline: November 16, 2021

The Childcare BC New Spaces Fund provides funding to create new licensed child care, helping families access quality, affordable, and inclusive child care while strengthening communities across British Columbia. This year, the focus is on supporting child care projects that are run by public-sector and non-profit partners that will create child care centres that remain in community long-term. Local governments are encouraged to apply for funding. For more information, and to apply, visit the [Government of BC webpage](#).

Community Cycling Grants

Deadline: November 22, 2021

The BC Cycling Coalition (BCCC) is launching a new series of grants to kick start safer cycling in smaller communities across the province. As of October 22, 2021, the BCCC is now accepting applications for our 2022 [Community Cycling Grants](#). There will be \$15,000 distributed annually to cycling organizations province wide, with the goal of helping smaller communities further cycling objectives shared with BCCC. Our [Grant Guidelines](#) are posted online, so if you are eligible for the grant, we encourage you to apply before the November 22 deadline!

Vision Zero in Road Safety Grant Opportunity

Deadline: December 10, 2021

The British Columbia Vision Zero in Road Safety for Vulnerable Road Users Program (Vision Zero in Road Safety Program) provides funding to local governments, Indigenous community governments and non-government organizations to directly support evidence-informed road safety improvements. The goal of the program is to reduce severe injuries of vulnerable road users. Individual level grant projects are funded between \$5,000 and \$20,000 depending on the scope of the project and in alignment with the program principles, aims and objectives. Grants as large as \$20,000 may be awarded for exceptional applications. For more information visit the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit: [BCIRPU | \(injuryresearch.bc.ca\)](#)

Northern Health Stories

Take flu out of the mix this season: Get your flu shot!

As we enter cold and flu season during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to take flu out of the mix and get your flu shot. Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory disease...[continue reading](#).

Celebrating International Allied Health Professions Day!

October 14 was International Allied Health Professions Day! This was the first time for BC to formally recognize the broad range of professions that make up the allied health workforce and the...[continue reading](#).

Canada appoints first Indigenous governor general

On July 6, 2021 Mary Simon was appointed as the 30th governor general of Canada. Simon is the first Indigenous person to be appointed to the role. "I can confidently say that my appointment...[continue reading](#).

See the latest stories at stories.northernhealth.ca.

E-Brief Information

The Healthier Northern Communities [E-Brief](#) is produced by [Northern Health's regional Population and Preventive Public Health program](#).

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