




FINAL PROJECT REPORT

**Localizing Canada's Commitment to
the Sustainable Development Goals**

**CAMPAIGN 2000
END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY**



FAMILY SERVICE TORONTO
For People. For Change.



Campaign 2000 acknowledges the traditional and ancestral territories we work on and commits to a spirit of reconciliation in our work. We acknowledge the inherent rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples in Canada and the treaty rights, title, and jurisdiction of all First Nations, Inuit and Métis across Canada. We are grateful for the generously shared knowledge and expertise of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations and individuals. We will continue to join with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples in the work of decolonization and to advocate for the changes needed to uphold rights, and to build a society based on kindness, respect, and self-determination where all children, families and communities can thrive.

Campaign 2000 thanks our dedicated Project Advisory Committee members, National Steering Committee members, community partner organizations, as well as many volunteers and individuals for their contributions to this report. In particular, we thank the community conversation participants from across the country for sharing their knowledge and expertise with us.

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Canada

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From 2021-2024, Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty, Citizens for Public Justice and Canada Without Poverty co-led the national community-based research project, *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals*. The project built on Campaign 2000's ongoing monitoring of government progress towards ending child and family poverty, engaging communities experiencing poverty and marginalization across the country to recommend indicators that measure progress towards eradicating poverty and achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The project used a community-based research approach grounded in an intersectional rights-based research framework. Through this approach, the project co-hosted 17 conversations with local communities affected by poverty and intersecting forms of marginalization, engaging 227 people in the process. Community conversations were held in every province and territory and co-hosted by local partners in each region. Partnership and advocacy activities took place in each region during the project team's tour.

Among other outcomes, the findings resulted in a National Community-Based Indicator Framework for SDG 1: No Poverty, intended to supplement the Canadian Indicator Framework.

The framework includes indicators across twelve dimensions integral to ending poverty: social inclusion and community connection; equality, justice, and freedom; joy, happiness, and hope for the future; income and material security; decent work; education for all; right to housing is realized; food sovereignty and security; health and mental health; equitable access to services, programs, and supports; connected and supported families and children; and accountable and engaged governments and institutions.

These dimensions are interdependent and indivisible. The findings highlight the importance of community-based, culturally relevant, localized measures and indicators for ending poverty and the need to urgently recognize and address the systemic intersecting power structures that create and deepen inequities and experiences of poverty.

The circumstances of deprivation and desperation that people across the country are experiencing were also clear. Action at all levels of government is required to address the unnecessary hardships and rights violations people are facing.

The project findings amplify a broad range of expertise from across the country, but they remain a snapshot of 227 people, in 17 places, at one moment in time. Partners and participants throughout the project highlighted the need that remains. Further engagement, community-based research, and urgent follow-through on human rights commitments is required to continue to centre lived experts in the work of poverty eradication and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

INTRODUCTION

From 2021–2024, Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty, Citizens for Public Justice and Canada Without Poverty co-led the national community-based research project, *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals*. The project built on Campaign 2000's ongoing monitoring of government progress towards ending child and family poverty, engaging communities experiencing poverty and marginalization across the country to recommend indicators measuring progress towards eradicating poverty and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The project resulted in a National Community-Based Indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1: No Poverty, and addressed the following objectives:

- ▶ Identify gaps in knowledge and data to support Canada's efforts to meet the SDGs by using non-traditional, community-based research methods;
- ▶ Support and catalyze the participation of 225 residents from historically marginalized groups to contribute towards building inclusive monitoring and accountability systems to support impact measurement and demonstrate progress for the SDGs through 15–20 community conversations in locations across the country;
- ▶ Leverage and strengthen the relationship between three national anti-poverty networks: Campaign 2000 (representing non-profit organizations), Canada Without Poverty (representing lived and living experts) and Citizens for Public Justice (representing multi-faith groups);
- ▶ Create resources to enhance and share knowledge on the SDGs from community perspectives and increase national awareness;
- ▶ Increase national awareness of social issues related to poverty and inequality through an intersectional and rights-based framework that considers the unique experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples; and,
- ▶ Expand the partnerships within the three national networks to increase representation of historically marginalized groups.

The objectives, outcomes and impact are further outlined in the project's Theory of Change (Appendix A) and throughout the report.

The project began in 2021 and included three phases (see Appendix B, Process Diagram).

The first phase, **Understanding the Issues (2021–2022)**, enabled staff to gain an understanding of the current landscape of poverty eradication in relation to the SDGs in Canada through background research, including a literature review, environmental scan, public survey and key informant interviews. A three-day in-person symposium in Toronto was held to launch the project. A project website was developed for communication and education purposes, a set of guiding principles and an intersectional rights-based framework for community-based research were created.

The second phase, **Engaging Communities (2022–2023)**, used the knowledge gathered in phase one to conduct a gap analysis, which determined the communities engaged in the project. Once the communities were identified, the project developed partnerships and co-hosted 17 conversations across the country with local communities affected by poverty and intersecting

forms of systemic marginalization, engaging 227 people in the process. Community conversations were held in every province and territory and co-hosted by local partners in each region. Partnership development and advocacy activities took place in each region during the project team's tour.

The location, community, and partner(s) for each community conversation are listed below, in the order in which the conversations occurred:

Winnipeg, Manitoba: Youth who have aged out of care through [Voices: Manitoba's Youth in Care Network](#), the [Social Planning Council of Winnipeg](#) and [Harvest Manitoba](#)

St. Stephen, New Brunswick: People experiencing homelessness or housing instability in Charlotte County through Vibrant Communities Charlotte County, the [Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission](#) and the [Human Development Council of Saint John](#)

St. John's, Newfoundland: Youth through the [Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador](#)

Whitehorse, Yukon: People with lived experience of poverty through the [Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition](#) and [Voices Influencing Change](#)

Carcross, Yukon: Members of the [Carcross/Tagish First Nation](#) through the [Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition](#)

Ottawa, Ontario: Inuit families in Vanier through the [Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families](#)

Toronto, Ontario: People with developmental disabilities through [Family Service Toronto](#)

Ulukhaktok, Northwest Territories: Inuvialuit experiencing poverty through the Tahiuqtiit Women's Society

Calgary, Alberta: Parents with lived experience of poverty through [Poverty Talks](#)

Iqaluit, Nunavut: Board members with lived experience of poverty and gender-based violence through [Amautiit Nunavut Inuit Women's Association](#)

Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia: Young people with lived experience of poverty through [Community Cares Youth Outreach](#) and the [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Nova Scotia](#)

Halifax, Nova Scotia: People with lived experience of poverty through the [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Nova Scotia](#)

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island: People of colour through [Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour United for Strength, Home, Relationship \(BIPOC USHR\)](#) and the MacKillop Centre for Social Justice

Québec: People with lived experience of poverty and allies across communities in Québec through [Agir Tous pour la Dignité \(ATD\) Quart Monde](#)

Toronto, Ontario: Tamil women with lived experience of gender-based violence through [Family Service Toronto](#)

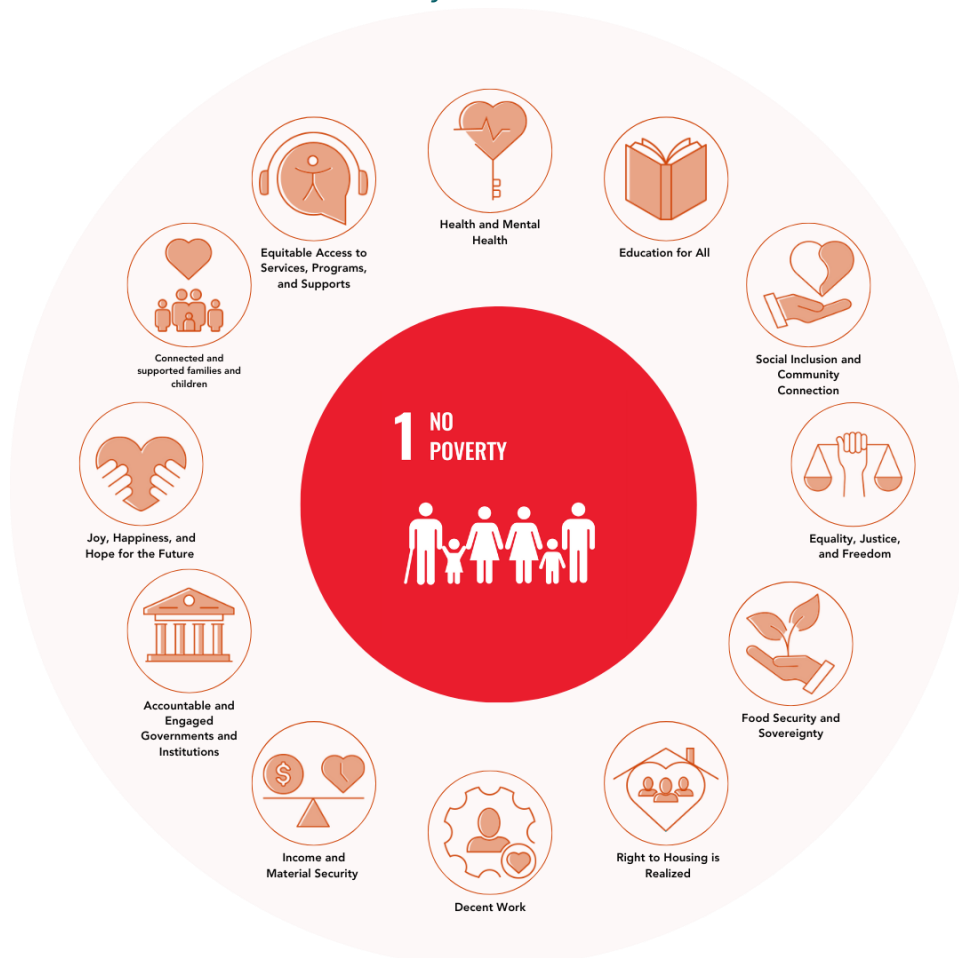
Vancouver, British Columbia: People with precarious immigration status through [Watari, Sanctuary Health](#) and [First Call: Child and Youth Advocacy Society](#)

Regina, Saskatchewan: People with lived experience of poverty through the [Street Workers Advocacy Project \(SWAP\)](#)

In this phase, the project co-lead organizations hosted three national roundtables over three days to strengthen the anti-poverty movement and raise national awareness about the SDGs and poverty in Canada.

The third phase, **Taking Action (2023–2024)**, a scan of existing indicator frameworks that measure poverty and wellbeing was undertaken. Analysis of all the data inputs gathered in phase two was conducted to propose local frameworks for poverty reduction and build a National Community-Based Indicator Framework for SDG 1: No Poverty. The project ended with a national virtual knowledge mobilization summit, bringing together individuals dedicated to ending poverty from across sectors, geographies, and communities to share learnings from the project, build and strengthen cross-country partnerships and to launch the indicator framework.

National Community-Based Indicator Framework



See Appendix Q for Summary National Indicator Framework and full version on [the project website](#).

APPROACH

Advisory Committee and Project Team

The *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project* advisory committee was comprised of diverse representatives from the three national networks co-leading the project: Campaign 2000 (C2000), Canada Without Poverty (CWP) and Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ).

The project team, comprised of the Project Lead, Project Coordinator, and Project Researcher, was created with attention to removing barriers, valuing diverse skillsets, and prioritization of lived experience.

Research Ethics

The project submitted an application for research ethics approval to the Family Service Toronto Research Ethics Board, which included an external reviewer at an academic institution. The project was approved by the ethics board in March 2022 (see Appendix C, Ethics Approval).

In recognition that traditional research ethics approval is only one part of an ethical approach, the project team committed to an ongoing, community-based ethics process, having conversations about ethical practices in each local context with community partners.

Community-Based Research

The community-based research approach was developed and adhered to a principled, intersectional rights-based framework (see Appendix D, Research Framework Visual, and Appendix E, Research Framework). The framework emerged from a review of literature on intersectional GBA+, feminist and rights-based facilitation and engagement practices as well as Campaign 2000's own experiences and best practices of community-based research within a social policy context.

The framework identifies participants as rights holders, centres an analysis of intersecting systems of power, and holds a commitment to action through the research. It emphasizes the understanding that data is never objective and has historically been used to reinforce inequities. Especially in translating findings into policy recommendations, the framework asserts that research needs to be grounded in the knowledge and needs of the communities it represents. Particularly in the context of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, the research should be aligned with the First Nations Principles of ownership, control, access, and possession.

The full framework outlines the project's grounding principles as well as considerations and questions for researchers at the four interconnected levels of Team, Methodology, Analysis, and Action.

The research methods were directly informed by the intersectional and rights-based framework, prioritizing an approach that centred equitable and reciprocal partnerships, with all partners sharing expertise and direction of the project and integrating knowledge into

action for policy and social change that reflects the expertise, decisions, and needs of community partners. Methods involved implementing practical accommodations such as translation, compensation for transportation and child care, using accessible and clear language in all communications and adapting to community contexts.

Ongoing Consent

Letters of information and consent were given to participants of key informant interviews and community conversations (Appendix F and Appendix G) in addition to ongoing verbal consent.

A log (Appendix H) was used to record participant consent. After being fully informed about the project through the letter of information (LOI) or a verbal explanation of the LOI, participants provided written or verbal consent before participating in an interview or community conversation.

In the community conversation context, the consent process was ongoing, involving tailored processes for each community and negotiating consent at all stages of the conversation.

Reciprocity

Key informants engaged in the research in their professional capacity and did not receive honoraria or compensation. Survey participants could enter a draw to win one of three \$50 Amazon gift cards.

The community conversations involved dynamic and flexible reciprocity practices. The project team sought to acknowledge that communities who are often labelled as underrepresented in decision-making can be over-consulted in research while not seeing changes they are identifying as necessary. The project aimed to provide tangible, ongoing benefits to these communities. The engagement with communities began with a discussion of reciprocal relationships and ongoing partnership-building. For local organizations who co-hosted the conversations, the project provided a flexible budget that included compensation for staff time. Other actions or items of recognition were also offered when appropriate, such as tobacco or sweets for elders.

Participants in community conversations received \$50 as an honorarium to participate and a culturally appropriate, healthy meal during the conversation. They could also access compensation for travel, childcare, elder care, or other accessibility needs, on an as needed basis. Honoraria were paid in cash at the start of the conversation to ensure accessibility and recognize the participant's agency. Paying participants for their time was essential to building reciprocal relationships and concretely demonstrating the value of their knowledge. Giving the honorarium at the start of the event was important so that participants could leave at any time, as needed.

Data Collection

The research activities involving participants included the key informant interviews, survey, and community conversations.

Key Informant Interviews

Key informants were identified through the literature review, environmental scan, and project co-leads' networks. They were recruited based on their expertise on one or more of the following topics: SDG localization in a poverty context, centring community knowledge in policy recommendations, and/or expertise of a community impacted by poverty. Geographic representation and a variety of areas of work were also considered. 18 interviews were conducted by phone or video call between April-May 2022. The interviews were 45-60 minutes each and were audio recorded and transcribed. (See Appendix I, List of Key Informants, and Appendix J, Key Informant Interview Guide.)

Survey

The survey was disseminated virtually in April 2022 through the project co-leads' networks and open to any interested participants. It was short, with 6 main questions. 104 people responded. (See Appendix K, Survey Questions.)

Community Conversations

Data collection for the community conversations occurred from August 2022-June 2023.

Communities were identified through the gap analysis process, which included a collaborative workshop with the project advisory committee and Campaign 2000 steering committee members, considering communities that experience poverty and marginalization, are typically excluded from policy and decision-making processes, and who may be absent from Campaign 2000's network. The ability to build an ethical and reciprocal relationship within the timeline of the project was also a factor. The workshop resulted in a longlist that was refined with attention to the background research and project objectives. The project team brought a draft community list back to local partners in each region for a final round of input to ensure the decision-making was grounded in regional understanding. See this report's **Introduction** for the final list of communities engaged.

Outreach and engagement with community members was conducted through local partners in each region. Relationship- and trust-building were prioritized, with the earliest community conversations organized with established partners, allowing for more time to build partnerships with communities and organizations new to Campaign 2000.

Conversations were co-hosted with local partners, who conducted outreach to participants. The project provided funding, resources, and support for the organization of the conversations. The conversations were tailored to each local context. They were typically 3-hour gatherings that involved sharing a meal and at times another local or cultural activity, like a sewing circle. Accessibility and support options, such as an active listener and resource list, were provided at each conversation, and adjusted based on community needs.

After the meal, the group typically sat together in a circle and the facilitators led a strengths-based group discussion about visions of a community with no poverty, participant experiences, strengths of communities, and priorities for government action (See Appendix P, Sample Community Conversation Participant Package, and Appendix M, Community Conversation Facilitation Guide). One facilitator took notes, usually on a large flipchart, at the front of the room so that participants could see a summary of their responses in real time and clarify if

necessary. Participants were also provided with writing and/or art supplies to brainstorm their answers and take notes as desired. Participants were welcomed to take breaks, visit the active listener, or leave the conversation at any time.

The conversations were most often conducted by the Project Lead and Project Researcher, but the approach was flexible, and at times it was more appropriate for local partners to lead and facilitate the conversations. For example, the conversations with French, Spanish, and Tamil-speaking communities were facilitated in their respective languages, and the conversation in Ulukhaktok was facilitated by a community leader on the project advisory committee. In some cases, the project team was present in the conversation space, while in others, it was more practical and appropriate for the team to support the event at a distance and receive transcriptions or summaries after the conversation. Accessibility of participation and comfort of participants were prioritized at all times.

Optional demographic and evaluation surveys were offered to conversation participants (see Appendix N, Community Conversation Demographic Survey, and Appendix O, Community Conversation Evaluation Form).

Ongoing Participant and Partner Input

In line with the research framework, ongoing consent process and valuing reciprocity, the project provided participants with multiple opportunities for input in the various stages of research. Local partners, too, were provided with these opportunities, to ensure that the local context was reflected accurately and that the materials developed were useful for their work.

After each conversation, the project team drafted a ‘What We Heard’ summary for participants and partner organizations to review. All feedback was incorporated into finalized summaries and also informed the data analysis. (See Appendix P, Sample Community Conversation Summary.)

The conversation data informed the development of indicator frameworks for each community. Partner organizations were able to review these drafts and provide feedback. The local data in turn informed the development of a draft National Community-Based Indicator Framework. The national framework was reviewed by partners through an interactive virtual workshop on December 8, 2023, which explored the framework’s structure and content. Participants of the workshop included members of the Campaign 2000 steering committee, project advisory committee, and local partners across the country.

Data Analysis

Interviews and community conversations were audio-recorded and transcribed, except in the case of one conversation, in which participants were not comfortable with audio recording and instead the facilitator took detailed notes.

The data was analyzed using MAXQDA with a qualitative thematic approach that reflected the guiding principles of the project, with attention to the intersectional rights-based research framework (see Appendices D and E) and feedback from participants and partners. The analysis was collaborative with the project team and reviewed regularly with members of the project advisory committee.

Indicator Framework Creation

During the data analysis process, the project team conducted a scan of existing indicator frameworks for measuring poverty and wellbeing. The scan provided insight into how to translate community knowledge into indicator recommendations, organize the framework, and prevent the duplication of existing work.

Rising themes were identified in the data. Informed by the indicator framework scan, these themes resulted in the framework being organized by 12 dimensions, all relevant to SDG 1: No Poverty (see **Research Findings: Community Conversations** and Appendix Q, Summary National Indicator Framework, for dimensions).

A local indicator framework was created for each community engaged. The local frameworks (available on the project website) reflected all community input and were aggregated to create the National Community-Based Indicator Framework. The local frameworks are intended to be living documents. The indicators included in the national framework are not listed by prevalence, but roughly by theme, beginning with more general indicators and gradually growing more specific.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Background Research

Literature Review

The literature review, available in full on the [project website](#),¹ assessed the current landscape of SDG localization related to poverty reduction in a Canadian context and informed the each phase of the project. 81 sources, including academic literature, grey literature, community documents, and webpages, were reviewed between November 2021 and March 2022.

Findings from the literature review included:

- ▶ Limitations of the narrative of sustainable development;
- ▶ Limitations of the Canadian Indicator Framework for tracking progress toward the SDGs, in part due to the use of the Market Basket Measure as well as lack of community consultation in developing indicators;
- ▶ The corresponding need for community-informed, culturally relevant, localized targets and indicators for ending poverty—these should go beyond income measures, highlight wellbeing, and use non-traditional data including qualitative local data, especially in light of systemic intersecting power structures that create and deepen inequities and particular experiences of poverty, and the challenges of quantification of human rights approaches;
- ▶ The need for community ownership over knowledge and data, considering the historic use of data to reinforce inequities in society, and particularly in the context of Indigenous self-determination, data rights, and data sovereignty; and

- ▶ Limitations in accountability for the SDGs, particularly to local communities and the general public.

“Standard poverty measures do not account for the interlocking, co-constitutive systems of oppression, exclusion, and discrimination that create particular experiences of poverty for different groups.” -Literature Review

The literature review's findings provided essential context and rationale for the following phases of the project.

Environmental Scan

The environmental scan, available on the [project website](#),ⁱⁱ provided an overview of existing initiatives aiming to localize the SDGs related to ending poverty across the country as of March 2022.

The scan provided a snapshot of 41 initiatives and included information about communities engaged or centered within each project, whether the project developed indicators or not, whether the project had the stated goal of localizing the SDGs, and whether the project engaged with lived and living experts. The findings of the environmental scan included identification of potential key informants, organizations to connect with throughout the project, as well as good practices for indicator frameworks related to poverty and the SDGs.

Key Informant Interviews and Survey

As part of the background research conducted in phase one of the project, findings from the key informant interview and survey informed the following project phases, including the gap analysis; opportunities for partnership; good research, engagement, and indicator development practices; and an early understanding of project themes, explained further here. (For details on this stage of data collection, see Appendix I, List of Key Informants; Appendix J, Key Informant Interview Guide; and Appendix K, Survey Questions.)

Interview and survey participants expressed a range of perspectives on the SDGs. For example, almost 70% of survey respondents who were aware of the SDGs said that they are somewhat or very helpful for reducing poverty in Canada. Critiques of the SDGs were also common, with participants expressing that the goals are not useful or meaningful without action, and that they do not speak to the holistic approach that would be necessary to actually achieve the goals. A more neutral perspective was also shared, with these participants noting that the SDGs are a starting point – they are not necessarily useful in themselves but are a good place to start a conversation or leverage for other work.

“[The SDG framework] is a way of bringing people together, based on their shared values. So we didn’t frame it as the be-all-end-all. It’s just really a way for us to come together on common ground.” -Key Informant

At this stage of research, the project also heard critiques of government accountability for the SDGs and for ending poverty in Canada. At the time of the survey, Canada's official poverty line, the Market Basket Measure, showed that poverty rates had been decreasing across the country in the past years. But 70% of survey respondents disagreed with that perception. Key informants and survey respondents shared that people's experiences were not reflecting the data that the federal government was presenting.

"Where I work, I see deeper poverty, homelessness and addictions. A marked difference from 10 years ago." -Survey Respondent

Participants had recommendations for better government accountability for achieving the SDGs and ending poverty, such as increased funding and community control of that funding; better government coordination of the SDGs between departments; increased transparency on progress towards the SDGs; community-informed evaluation; and increased accountability through having people with lived experience in leadership positions.

Key informants and survey respondents shared their visions for communities with no poverty, like community conversation participants would later in the project. At this stage, visions for no poverty included:

- ▶ Income security, housing, childcare, health care, pharmacare, employment, food security, clean drinking water, access to services, public transit, and equitable access to all of these;
- ▶ Feelings of belonging, being respected, treated with dignity, having collective well-being, and community connection; and
- ▶ Systemic changes, such as ending systemic oppression of all kinds, Indigenous sovereignty, no prisons or policing, decriminalizing sex work, no children in the child welfare system, and moving towards systems that are equitable and just.

"Poverty-free, to me, looks like decolonization." -Key Informant

Participants at this stage of research identified the importance of inclusive, community-based, localized, qualitative, non-traditional indicators of positive change towards these visions. The project team heard it was essential to create additional indicators that tell a fuller story than relying merely on existing quantitative statistics; what is needed are ways to measure culture shifts and systemic change, holistic visions of no poverty, and thriving communities. Stories and other kinds of qualitative data were suggested to complement quantitative indicators. The importance of disaggregating this data for various marginalized demographics to ensure poverty is truly being reduced for all was also named as essential to localization, inclusivity, and the actualization of human rights.

Community Conversations

Gap Analysis

The gap analysis was conducted from March–May 2022 and determined which communities to engage for this project. However, it also resulted in its own findings. Through the process outlined in this report's **Approach: Data Collection** section above, the gap analysis resulted in a longlist of proposed communities identified as important to engage. For this project's engagement, this list was further narrowed by analysis from the team and input from local partners. It is important to note that, through a short workshop, over 75 specific communities were identified as deeply impacted by poverty and intersecting forms of marginalization but typically excluded from policy processes or decision-making aimed at ending poverty. This underscores the urgent need for further ethical, reciprocal engagement with these communities and many others who were not named in any efforts towards poverty eradication and achieving the SDGs.

Demographic Context

The demographic survey was offered to participants at community conversations. It was optional. 146 participants completed the demographic survey (see Appendix N for survey). Some groups of participants did not complete them, including the participants of the Whitehorse Voices Influencing Change conversation, the Carcross Tagish First Nation conversation, the Amautiit Board and service providers in Iqaluit, and the participants of conversations held in Québec via ATD Quart Monde. In other conversations, not all participants chose to complete them. Within the survey, questions were also optional, to allow for comfort and agency of participants. This is a partial snapshot of the diverse range of participants the project engaged. The term 'respondent' is used below to denote that these percentages reflect respondents to the demographic survey rather than participants in the conversations overall.

The demographic data presented here is not intended to inform conclusions about the participants and their experiences of poverty, but instead to understand the diversity of the participants engaged and provide context to the community conversation data and indicator framework to track progress toward ending poverty. It is important to understand the extent to which marginalization, violence, and encounters with harmful systems affect the lives of people with lived experience of poverty and highlight the need for trauma-informed approaches and critical analysis of systems of marginalization and oppression in anti-poverty research and advocacy.

*"Safety is jeopardized when people's human rights are not being met."
-Halifax, NS Conversation Participant*

Age: The age of respondents ranged from 18 to 70 years. The average age of respondents was 37.9 years. The median age was 34 years.

Country of birth: 72.4% of respondents were born in Canada. 27.9% of respondents were born in a country other than Canada. Of the respondents born outside Canada, half were born either in Mexico or Sri Lanka (this reflects the specific communities engaged for two conversations).

Other countries of birth with more than one respondent included Bangladesh, India, Lebanon, and the United States.

Arrival in Canada: Of the respondents born outside Canada, most arrived in Canada either 1–5 years ago or more than 15 years ago. (These time frames had 16 respondents each, or 35.6% each of the respondents born outside Canada.)

Race: About three quarters (72.2%) of respondents were racialized, while about one quarter (22.2%) were white, and 5.6% preferred not to answer. Of the total respondents, 38.2% identified as Indigenous, 13.2% as South Asian, 8.3% as Latine, and 5.6% as Black.

Indigenous identity: Of the 58 respondents who identified as Indigenous, 56.9% identified as Inuit, 34.5% as First Nations, and 6.9% as Other ('Other' responses included specification such as Indigenous Black and European/Métis).

Respondents were welcomed to specify further. Additional responses included 20 respondents identifying as Registered, Treaty or Status First Nations, 13 respondents living in Inuit Nunangat, 8 respondents identifying as non-status First Nations, 3 respondents identifying as Inuvialuit, and 2 respondents who were members of Métis organizations or settlements. Some respondents named the First Nation or band to which they belong, and examples included the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Piapot First Nation, the Miawpukek First Nation, and the Cowessess First Nation.

Citizenship status: About three quarters of respondents were Canadian citizens (74.5%). 7.6% of respondents had no status, 6.2% were permanent residents, and 2.8% were refugees or refugee claimants. The remainder selected 'Other' or preferred not to answer.

Annual household income after tax, 2021: Most respondents had household incomes below \$39,000. 21.4% had incomes between \$10,000 and \$19,999, 15% had incomes between \$5,000 and \$9,999, 12.4% had incomes between \$20,000 and \$29,999, and 11.4% had incomes below \$5,000. 20.7% did not know or preferred not to answer.

Household or family structure, with gender breakdown if including children: When asked about household and family structure, 34.8% of respondents identified as single with no children and 7.8% identified as part of a couple family with no children. 29.8% identified as a single parent, 18.4% identified as part of a couple family with children, and 9.2% identified as 'Other' or preferred not to answer. 48.2% of total respondents had children.

Of the single parents, all were female lone parents (or preferred not to answer). Of the couple families with children, all were female and male couple families (or preferred not to answer).

Gender: Respondents were welcomed to select multiple responses for gender identity. 73.8% of respondents described themselves as women (including specific responses of cisgender and transgender women, with 7 and 1 respondents respectively), 18.6% as men (including specific responses of cisgender men, with 5 respondents), 3.4% as non-binary, 1.4% as Two Spirit, 0.7% as bigender, and 0.7% as agender. 2.8% of respondents selected Other or preferred not to answer.

Sexual orientation: Just over half of respondents identified as heterosexual/straight, at 54.5%, while 23.8% of respondents identified as part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and 21.7% preferred not to answer. Bisexual was the most prevalent response within those who identified as 2SLGBTQIA+, with 13.3% of total respondents. Other responses included pansexual, Two Spirit, asexual, gay, lesbian, demisexual, and queer.

Experience of harmful systems: Respondents could select multiple responses for their experience of harmful systems. They were also reminded that the question was optional and of where to find resources for support. Of the 143 respondents to this question, 53.1% had experience of multiple harmful systems. 20.3% had experience of one harmful system. 14% had no experience of harmful systems, and 10.5% preferred not to answer.

61.5% of respondents were survivors of violence or abuse. 35% had experienced homelessness. 20.3% had experienced institutionalization and 18.2% had experienced incarceration. 15.4% had been in conflict with the law. 10.5% had been involved with the child welfare system as a child.

Disabilities or chronic health issues: 70.2% of respondents identified as having one or more disabilities or chronic health issues. 22.7% stated they had no disabilities or chronic health issues, while 7.1% preferred not to answer. Mental illness, mental health disabilities, or other difficulties with mental health was the most common disability or chronic health issue reported, followed by mobility disabilities.

Current employment status: 20.6% of respondents were not employed and not looking for a job. 19.6% were employed full-time, 16.9% were employed part-time, 7.4% were volunteering, and 6.6% were employed occasionally. 2.9% were self-employed. 14.7% of respondents selected 'Other' or preferred not to answer. 'Other' included responses such as retired, unpaid medical leave, in treatment, and full-time mom.

Primary source of income: 32.6% of respondents' primary source of income was formal employment. Income or social assistance was the primary source for 24.8% of respondents, while 14.2% listed disability assistance as their primary source of income. 5.7% of respondents listed informal employment. Other primary sources of income, all with 5% of respondents or below, included none, Canada Pension Plan, self-employed, student grant/loan, Employment Insurance, and child benefits.

Current living situation: The majority of respondents lived in rental housing, with 36.9% renting an apartment or condo, 27.7% renting a house, and 10.6% renting a room. 9.2% of respondents lived in a house they owned, and 4.3% lived in a shelter. The remainder of respondents, other than the 2.1% who preferred not to answer, gave other responses that included living in a group home, on a friend's couch, or staying with family.

Highest level of education: 40.7% of respondents had a secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate as their highest level of education. 20.7% had no certificate, diploma, or degree. 16.4% had a college, CEGEP, or other non-university certificate or diploma. 8.6% had a university certificate or diploma at the bachelor level. 3.6% had a university certificate or diploma at the master's level. 2.9% had Indigenous land-based education, and 2.9% had an

apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma. The remainder had other responses, including unfinished studies.

Indicator Findings

A primary goal of the project, reflected in the gaps identified in the background research, was to analyze community experiences and knowledge to propose community-based indicators for tracking progress towards SDG 1 at local and national levels, supplementing the Canadian Indicator Framework. The National Community-Based Indicator Framework (see Appendix Q, Summary National Indicator Framework) and corresponding local frameworks reflect the findings of this aspect of the project in detail. These can be found in full on [the project website](#).ⁱⁱⁱ

The indicators used in the Canadian Indicator Framework for measuring progress towards SDG 1: No Poverty are the Market Basket Measure (MBM) and the prevalence of asset resilience.^{iv} Campaign 2000 report cards and early research from this project highlighted the limitations of these two indicators to track progress towards SDG 1.^{v vi}

The community conversations focused on local visions of communities free from poverty, experiences of participants, strengths of their communities, and priorities for change. The indicators drawn from this research reflect participants' subjective, multidimensional experience of poverty, which is wide-ranging, affects every aspect of life, and differs place to place and community to community. Synthesized across community contexts, the national indicators also reflect poverty as a violation of human rights resulting in short- and long-term physical, mental, spiritual, and social harm.

The National Community-Based Indicator Framework outlines dimensions, measures, indicators, and data sources for poverty eradication (including recommendations and gaps, where no indicators exist) that reflect the knowledge and experiences of lived experts and community organizations across the country. Measures and indicators are strengths-based and positive where possible, reflecting participants' visions of communities without poverty.

“Be celebrated for your purpose, no matter what that purpose is [...] Everyone has value.” -St. Stephen, NB Conversation Participant

The community conversation data resulted in indicators across twelve dimensions integral to ending poverty and achieving SDG 1:

- ▶ Social inclusion and community connection
- ▶ Equality, justice, and freedom
- ▶ Joy, happiness, and hope for the future
- ▶ Income and material security
- ▶ Decent work
- ▶ Education for all
- ▶ Right to housing is realized
- ▶ Food sovereignty and security

- ▶ Health and mental health
- ▶ Equitable access to services, programs, and supports
- ▶ Connected and supported families and children
- ▶ Accountable and engaged governments and institutions

These dimensions are interdependent and indivisible. The findings highlight the importance of community-based, culturally relevant, localized measures and indicators for ending poverty and the need to urgently recognize and address the systemic intersecting power structures that create and deepen inequities and experiences of poverty.

The need for urgent change was also underscored in the community conversation findings. While conversations were strengths-based and emphasized visions of no poverty, the circumstances of deprivation and desperation that people across the country are experiencing were also clear. Urgent action at all levels of government is required to address the unnecessary hardships and rights violations people are facing.

*“It used to be that it was proven that a hunter would support seven households. They can't anymore. They can barely support their own.”
-Iqaluit, NU Conversation Participant*

*“It's beyond hurt. Hurt was so far back. I wish it was hard. But it's desperate. The government needs to hear that, it's desperate, it's not hard. Not asking for easy, asking for some sort of hope for a future for my life, for my child.”
-Calgary, AB Conversation Participant*

While the findings depict a broad range of expertise and experience from across the country, they remain a snapshot of 227 people, in 17 places, at one moment in time. Further engagement and community-based research are required to continue to centre lived experts in the work of poverty eradication and achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Relational and Place-Based Findings

In addition to indicator-related conclusions, the research also allowed for broader relational and place-based knowledge. The project team spent between 2-7 days in each community context. The relationships and understanding of place that this experience facilitated were integral to the project.

The project team was able to be immersed in a local community, witnessing its beauty, strengths, and unique regional context, and at the same time learning and holding space for the challenges and structural inequities people are experiencing there. We witnessed this in different ways in every province and territory yet found threads of commonality across the country. For example, in speaking with young people in St. John's, Newfoundland and hearing about their visions of self-sustaining food systems in their particular island context, and in learning from peer leaders in Whitehorse, Yukon about traditional First Nations food sharing

practices, the team witnessed these parallel narratives materializing from geographically distant and culturally distinct conversations:

*"If you know somebody that goes out fishing, they'll bring you fish. It's a really big community thing to share what you already have."
-St. John's, NL Conversation Participant*

"Every family in that community got fish. Because if someone did good there was that sharing, there was that building." - Whitehorse, YK Conversation Participant

These findings are reflected in the indicator framework, but the rootedness in place, the storytelling through which the content emerged – these are their own learning.

Participants shared generously with the project team. They asked to begin conversations in different and deeply productive ways, held space for each other to be vulnerable and emotional, showed pictures of their experiences, brought petitions to the conversation and used the space for their own advocacy, connected with each other and exchanged numbers, sent follow-up emails, and stayed after to talk more.

As participants connected with each other, the project team also built a relationship or connection with each person who shared their knowledge and expertise in the spaces we created together. A fundamental learning of this project is the importance of honouring that connection, and being accountable and in good relationship, honouring what community members shared by amplifying their expertise and their priorities, and advocating for these in all arenas possible.

Participant Evaluation

Participants were given the option to complete a short evaluation form after each community conversation and asked to rank different aspects of the event on a scale of *1: Poor* to *5: Excellent* (See Appendix O for evaluation survey.) The average ranking for each aspect was 4.7. Comments ranged from "Fantastic to get everyone together and just to let people know someone is listening :)" to "Dismayed by some people's despair," from "Hope the word gets out in regard to change" to "Need to have more of these conversations in the future." The team is grateful for all the feedback and reflection that participants shared.

OUTCOMES

Partnerships and Advocacy

The community conversations across the country supported the project's partnership-related objectives. In each region, the project team partnered with local organizations to support local advocacy and events. In addition to the community conversation, a roundtable with

community organizations was often held, to learn from each other about the regional context and ongoing work and priorities. These sessions also contributed to increased national awareness of the SDGs and considerations of their local advancement.

Other activities varied depending on the context. These included community events, advocacy with all levels of government, media relations, partnership in ongoing work, and more.

Examples include:

- ▶ Attending and supporting the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition's Poverty and Homelessness Action Week in Whitehorse, including media engagements, meetings with elected officials, public presentations, and a community celebration, in partnership with lived experts. The team amplified local calls for immediate solutions to the housing crisis in the Yukon, better income supports and community services, and action to address systemic racism and colonialism in the territory.
- ▶ Supporting the launch of the first Disability Poverty report card with Disability Without Poverty through participation in a press conference in Burnaby, BC. Campaign 2000 had co-authored the report card, and the partnership offered the opportunity to leverage Family Service Toronto's long history in the developmental disability sector, Campaign 2000's research and advocacy on poverty, and the opportunities provided through the Localizing SDGs project.
- ▶ Establishing or deepening relationships through community conversations that resulted in first annual child and family poverty report cards for Newfoundland and Labrador (with the Community Sector Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Jimmy Pratt Foundation, and Choices for Youth) and for Nunavut (with Amautiit: Nunavut Inuit Women's Association).
- ▶ Supporting Agir Tous pour la Dignité (ATD) Quart Monde in hosting their annual People's University process, a forum where people from different social backgrounds can come together to discuss a dimension of poverty, in eight communities across Québec. This year's People's University focused on the project's community conversation questions and allowed for the engagement to be conducted by the ATD team in trusting, language-appropriate settings.
- ▶ Remotely supporting a project advisory committee member based in Ulukhaktok, NWT, to host a conversation with Inuvialuit experiencing poverty in her community. She leveraged the community conversation to engage in cultural activities with the participants, including a sewing circle that received positive feedback.
- ▶ Working closely with the Community Centre for Policy Alternatives in Nova Scotia on events in Halifax, such as a dental care book launch, but also on events with their partners in Cape Breton, Community Cares Youth Outreach. Leveraging this project to support deepened partnerships between local organizations was a key success.
- ▶ Publishing a press release calling on the federal government to accelerate efforts to eliminate poverty and meet its human rights obligations under the SDGs during the United Nations' 2nd SDGs Summit and 78th General Assembly, marking the halfway point to the 2030 Agenda. The story was picked up by CBC Radio and the Project Lead spoke to morning shows across the country with UNICEF Canada, sharing learnings from lived experts through the community conversations and reiterating Campaign 2000's recommendations for the federal government to meet these obligations.

Events

Toronto Symposium

In the first phase of the project, the team hosted a three-day symposium in Toronto for over 30 partners from across the country. Partners included those from academia, community agencies, grassroots networks, and advocates from Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon. This symposium served as the official launch for the project and an opportunity to share research findings and knowledge, build networks and partnerships and gather input for considerations for the remaining phases of the project.

National Roundtables

In the second phase of the project, the team hosted three national roundtables to strengthen the anti-poverty movement and raise national awareness about poverty. The roundtables included a presentation from the team about the project and Campaign 2000's work, a panel discussion with community leaders who were engaged through the national tour, and small group discussions. The roundtables focused on meaningfully engaging lived experts, advocating for policy change and strengthening the anti-poverty movement. The three events continuously highlighted the expertise and experiences of people marginalized by systems, including First Nations, Inuit, Métis, Black, racialized, and disabled communities. A total of 214 people from across the country attended the event, representing a diversity of sectors including community agencies, academia, philanthropic organizations, grassroots networks, government agencies, lived experts and more. The roundtables elevated several poverty-related issues such as housing, food insecurity and discrimination to a national audience.

Knowledge Translation Summit

The project culminated in a virtual knowledge translation summit, with 75 attendees, marking the end of the *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals* project and beginning of renewed community-led mobilization to end poverty in Canada. The summit brought together individuals dedicated to ending poverty from across sectors, geographies, and communities to share learnings from the project, build and strengthen cross-country partnerships and advocate for the implementation of a community-based indicator framework and action plan for the SDGs. The event included speakers, panels, and facilitated activities and was the official launch of the National Community-Based Indicator Framework.

Materials and Tools

The project developed materials and tools throughout its three phases. These materials were useful to the project itself but will continue to have use after its completion. They are discussed throughout the report and are all available on the project website, and listed here for reference:

- ▶ Research framework (Appendix E)
- ▶ Interactive website
- ▶ Literature review
- ▶ Environmental scan
- ▶ Community conversation summaries (Appendix P for example)

- ▶ Local frameworks
- ▶ National Community-Based Indicator Framework

Implementation of these tools will be key to their utility. The National Community-Based Indicator Framework offers specific recommendations for its implementation, included here:

- Integrate the National Community-Based Indicator Framework into the Canadian Indicator Framework and Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy.
 - Enshrine human rights within the Poverty Reduction Act to reflect Canada's international human rights obligations as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and increase accountability for the SDGs.
 - Mandate and resource locally-led meaningful engagement of communities impacted by poverty, reflecting regional, demographic, and cultural diversity, to continually evaluate the efficacy and representativeness of federal poverty reduction and human rights efforts and measurement.
- Collect data that addresses the indicator recommendations and data source gaps in the National Community-Based Indicator Framework.
 - Mandate a data-collection strategy that collects data disaggregated by local, provincial, and territorial geographies; First Nations, Inuit and Métis identity; ability; race; gender; migrant status; and 2SLGBTQQI+ identity among other sociodemographic identities.
 - Centre First Nations, Inuit, and Métis approaches, knowledge, solutions, and data collection in all measurement, policy and decision-making that affect First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.
- Fund and support the implementation of National and Local Frameworks in provincial, territorial, and local contexts.
 - Integrate the Frameworks in provincial, territorial, and municipal poverty reduction strategies.
 - Fund and support local, community-based data collection (by and for communities) to address data gaps and exclusionary data sources and ensure local realities are reflected in national data; resource the development of community-based surveys and data collection methods based on project findings adapted to local and cultural community contexts.
 - Fund and partner with existing organizations and groups already engaged in this work.

Honouring Relationships

An important positive outcome of the project resulted from its focus on ethical and reciprocal relationships. The project created spaces where participants felt heard when sharing their stories and priorities for change. Some participants shared that the space made them feel less alone, valued, and connected to a larger sense of community. Some highlighted the value of being connected to national-level advocacy on many of the issues they are experiencing locally. The project team and co-leads echo the value of this connection and the spaces that were co-created through the project. We will honour these relationships in the project and beyond it.

The Feather of Love and Hope



During the knowledge translation summit, Jack Bogaard, the impetus behind the [Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition's Voices Influencing Change](#)^{vii} peer leader group and a community conversation participant, carved a feather in his Whitehorse workshop as he attended the event. Jack presented this feather at the end of the summit and mailed it to the Campaign 2000 team to share its message across the country. Jack named this feather the Feather of Love and Hope. In Jack's words:

"May you share this feather with respect, love, and hope. The ones that touch this feather will feel the grounding and balance they seek." -Jack Bogaard

The project team plans to build on the work of this project and bring the Feather of Love and Hope across the country, sharing its beauty and its message with communities.

CONCLUSION

Agenda 2030's commitments to eradicate poverty and to leave no one behind must be reflected in action. Tracking progress towards these goals must be inclusive, using community-centered targets, indicators, and data; involve corresponding policy change; and clearly demonstrate the impact of community knowledge and priorities. *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals* aimed to fulfill these needs through community-based research, connecting with communities with lived expertise of poverty

across the country to create a National Community-Based Indicator Framework that addressed existing gaps and augmented the Canadian Indicator Framework.

The project findings amplify a broad range of expertise from across the country, but they remain a snapshot of 227 people, in 17 places, at one moment in time. Partners and participants throughout the project highlighted the need that remains. Further engagement, community-based research, and urgent follow-through on human rights commitments is required to continue to centre lived experts in the work of poverty eradication and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

APPENDICES

Note: Please see the project website, sdg.campaign2000.ca, for the Literature Review, Environmental Scan, Community Conversation Summaries, Local Frameworks, and National Community-Based Indicator Framework, as they are not included in full here.

Appendix A: Theory of Change

Appendix B: Process Diagram

Appendix C: Ethics Approval

Appendix D: Research Framework Visual

Appendix E: Research Framework

Appendix F: Key Informant Interview Letter of Information and Consent

Appendix G: Community Conversation Letter of Information and Consent

Appendix H: Community Conversation Consent Log (Blank)

Appendix I: List of Key Informants

Appendix J: Key Informant Interview Guide

Appendix K: Survey Questions

Appendix L: Sample Community Conversation Participant Package

Appendix M: Community Conversation Facilitation Guide

Appendix N: Community Conversation Demographic Survey

Appendix O: Community Conversation Evaluation Form

Appendix P: Sample Community Conversation Summary

Appendix Q: Summary National Indicator Framework

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Project Website: <https://sdg.campaign2000.ca>. See Our Work: Research for Literature Review.

ⁱⁱ Project Website: <https://sdg.campaign2000.ca>. See Our Work: Research for Environmental Scan.

ⁱⁱⁱ Project Website: <https://sdg.campaign2000.ca>. See Indicator Framework page.

^{iv} Statistics Canada. (2021). The Canadian Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals. Statistics Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-26-0004/112600042021001-eng.htm>

- ^v Campaign 2000. *Pandemic Lessons: Ending Child and Family Poverty is Possible*. February 14, 2023. https://campaign2000.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/English-Pandemic-Lessons_Ending-Child-and-Family-Poverty-is-Possible_2022-National-Report-Card-on-Child-and-Family-Poverty.pdf
- ^{vi} Barrie, H., & Sarangi, L. (2022). Literature Review: Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty. <https://sdg.campaign2000.ca/wp-content/uploads/Campaign-2000-Localizing-SDGs-Project-Literature-Review-May-2022.pdf>
- ^{vii} To learn more about Voices Influencing Change, visit <https://yapc.ca/actions/detail/voice-influencing-change>.

Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project

Theory of Change Diagram



Appendix B

Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project

Research Process Diagram

Engaging New Networks & Strengthening Movements



Mobilizing Knowledge for Action



Toronto, 1 March 2022

Leila Sarangi
Director, Social Action; National Director, Campaign 2000
Family Service Toronto and Campaign 2000
Email: [Removed]

Dear Leila,

Re: Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals: Community approaches to Data collection, Measurement and Accountability

The FST Research Ethics Board (REB) has reviewed your ethics application and additional submissions. The REB is supportive and is granting full approval for the above study.

We are aware that all data collected will be kept confidential in accordance with FST policies and best practices for ethical research. We understand that none of the study participants will be identified in any report of findings.

We do request that any substantive changes are submitted to us for further review and that we receive an update on this study by March 2023 or at the time of study completion, whichever is earlier.

We confirm that we have the authority to grant ethics approval on behalf of the agency.

We wish you and your team all the best for this highly important study,

Maria Huijbregts
Director, Knowledge Building
Chair FST Research Ethics Board
website: www.familyserVICEToronto.org
email: [Removed]
CC:
[External Reviewer Name]
Hannah Barrie, Project Researcher

Objective

Engage in community-based research through equitable and reciprocal partnerships, with all partners sharing direction of the project, and integrate knowledge into action that reflects the expertise, decisions, and needs of community partners.

Guiding Principles

valuing human rights principles. centering lived expertise. accountability. solidarity. transformational change. working across categories. adaptability. embracing complexity.

Project Team

Diverse range of skillsets and experience. Commits to critical reflexivity. Holds vision of systemic change.

Methodology

Dismantles traditional research power dynamics with ongoing consent, reciprocal relationships, and community-centred methods

Data Analysis

Collaborative. Reflects complexities of intersecting inequalities. Highlights themes identified by community partners. Attends to context and limitations.

Action

Centered in existing local movements. Prioritizes partnerships. Reflects research findings. Has tangible, measurable, equitable results.

Community-Based Research: An Intersectional Rights-Based Framework

Localizing Canada’s Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project

OBJECTIVE			
To deepen knowledge and increase understanding of issues through equitable and reciprocal partnerships. All partners share expertise and direction of the project with attention to power dynamics. Knowledge is integrated into action for justice, policy and social change.			
GUIDING PRINCIPLES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A commitment to a critical understanding of intersecting structures of oppression and the interdependence of inequalities. * A commitment to centering communities who are marginalized and the knowledge of people with lived or living experience of poverty; to being accountable to these communities; to relationship-building grounded in solidarity; to transformational change; to working across categories, organizations and departments; to flexibility and adaptability; to room for complexity in the research process; and to the human rights principles of universality and inalienability, indivisibility, inter-dependence and inter-relatedness, non-discrimination and equality and participation and inclusion. * A commitment to a vision of a just and equitable future. 			
PROJECT TEAM	METHODOLOGY	DATA ANALYSIS	ACTION
Team is created with attention to removing barriers, valuing diverse and non-traditional skill sets, and prioritization of lived and living expertise. Team engages in ongoing critical reflexivity with a recognition of own biases, privileges and power. Team commits to intent of structural change.	A range of research and communication methods used to engage communities (ie. storytelling, conversations, interviews, visual mapping, photography, etc.). Community members are co-creators and partners.	Process is iterative and collaborative. Qualitative and quantitative data analysis attends to intersecting systems of power and engages communities at multiple stages.	Project outputs (engagement, recommendations, accountability framework, events, meetings with officials, etc.) seek to effect change and create a just and equitable future.

QUESTIONS TO ASK	QUESTIONS TO ASK	QUESTIONS TO ASK	QUESTIONS TO ASK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What knowledge, values and experiences do team members bring to this project? * What are the team members' personal values, experiences, interests, beliefs and political commitments? How do these personal experiences relate to social and structural locations and processes, particularly in relation to the project? * How are team members addressing the biases and power dynamics inherent in research? * How is the project team influenced by/accountable to advisory bodies, project partners, funders, communities with lived experience, and other stakeholders? * How does the project team recognize and name its own limitations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * How do the proposed methods centre the knowledge and lived experience of participants? How do they emphasize the way communities define and address their own concerns? How is the project implementing a rights-based approach that emerges from community action? * What relationships is the project building or deepening? * What practical accommodations are implemented in the data collection process to reflect a rights-based approach (e.g., compensation, accessibility, translation)? * Is the project team using accessible language in all communications? * Does the consent process reflect the dynamic relationships we are building, grounded in solidarity and care? Is it an 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * How do systems of power interact to create the experiences and/or inequities expressed in the data? How does this analysis add to existing findings on the project topic, and how could it go further? * How is the project team partnering with/centering the affected communities in the data analysis process? * What is the method of analysis and how might that shape our results? Does it reflect our guiding principles? * How does the analysis consider the social, economic, and political relationship between those in poverty and those in relative positions of power and influence? * What perspectives and diverse knowledge systems are not being considered? How might those perspectives change the interpretation/analysis? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Are the project recommendations equitable in effect (not just intent)? Does the input from lived experts directly influence advocacy and knowledge mobilization? * What role will diverse communities play in these developing recommendations/actions? How will they be centered and supported? * How will results address intersectional inequities and rights violations? How will they promote social justice and structural change? How will we ensure that the proposed actions do not produce further inequities for some communities? * How will the recommendations interact with existing policies? * How do the recommendations encourage solidarity and coalition building across divergent interests, groups, and departments?

	<p>ongoing process rather than a box to check off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does the data collection method challenge dominant modes of knowledge production? What are the power dynamics at work in the methodology? * What kinds of reciprocity does the project offer in addition to compensation? * How does the methodology adapt to the specific community context? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What is the historical, social, cultural, and temporal context of this data? How does this context affect the analysis and findings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What factors will be measured in the evaluation process? How will they be measured, and how do they reflect the project principles? * What will be the measure of success? How will affected communities be engaged in assessing the reduction of inequities? * What are the means of communication and information sharing for the results of the project?
GOAL	GOAL	GOAL	GOAL
Project team involves diverse range of skillsets and experience, commits to critical reflexivity, holds vision of systemic change through community-based research.	Methodology dismantles traditional research power dynamics with ongoing consent process, reciprocal relationships, and community-centred methods.	Analysis is collaborative, reflects complexities of intersecting systems of power and resulting inequities, highlights themes identified by community partners, and attends to project context.	Action is centered in existing local movements, prioritizes partnerships, reflects research findings, and has tangible, measurable, equitable results.

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Please Note: this reference list covers the content in the research framework and does not include the references for the entire literature review.

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Letter of Information and Consent Form: Key Informant Interviews

Research Project: Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals

Research Team: Leila Sarangi, Hannah Barrie, and Athavarn Srikantharajah

Contact Information: [Removed for report]

You are invited to participate in an interview for a project hosted by Campaign 2000 and Family Service Toronto (FST). Your participation is completely voluntary. Your decision to participate will have no effect on any potential access to services at FST. Please read this carefully and take your time in making your decision. Please direct any questions to Hannah Barrie, the Project Researcher (contact listed above).

Who is leading this project?

Campaign 2000, a cross-Canada network of organizations working to end child and family poverty, is leading this project. Campaign 2000 has been working on ending poverty in Canada for over 30 years. The national and Ontario levels of Campaign 2000 are hosted by Family Service Toronto, a Toronto social service organization with a focus on counselling, community engagement and public education programs, and advocacy work.

What is the purpose of this project?

The purpose of this project is to expand on Campaign 2000's ongoing monitoring of poverty, community engagement, and policy development to explore measures of poverty reduction in the context of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on local indicators. The project will engage local communities who face systemic barriers in developing new indicators for what thriving, poverty-free communities look like and developing calls to action to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

We are inviting you to participate in a Key Informant Interview to share your views and perspectives. The Key Informant Interviews will inform the locations and themes of the community conversations that will occur in the next phase of the project. They will also contribute to knowledge-building on the current landscape of poverty-related SDG localization in Canada. We believe that you would be an excellent key informant for this phase of the project based on your knowledge and experience.

What will my participation involve?

In April 2022, the project researcher or another member of the project team will conduct a phone or video interview with you. The interview will last 45-60 minutes. With your consent, it will be audio-recorded.

Do I have to participate?

No, your participation in this project is voluntary. Deciding not to take part in the project will not affect your relationship with FST or Campaign 2000, or result in loss of any services you might receive from FST. If you choose to participate, you can still withdraw your consent at any time up until the final report is published in December 2023 without giving a reason. Deciding to withdraw from the project will not result in any penalty, and we will delete your information and data. You may also refuse to answer any questions you do not wish to or feel uncomfortable with and still participate.

Confidentiality and privacy

Your name, role, and organization will be collected and reported in the findings in a list of all Key Informants, but your information will not be linked to the content of your interview, in order to strike a balance between recognition and anonymity for Key Informants.

Interview audio recordings will be saved on a secure internal server, accessible only by the members of the project team.

Appendix F

What are the possible risks of taking part in the project?

There is potential for psychological risks for project participants. The content of an interview may cover sensitive material due to the project topics of poverty and marginalization. However, we will send the interview topics in advance to mitigate this risk, and you are also welcome to decline to answer any question you feel uncomfortable with.

There is also potential for social risks; while the interview content will not be linked to your identifying information, people in the vicinity of the data collection may be aware that you are participating in the research, which could have potential social risks depending on individual and community relationships. Again, receiving the project information and interview topics in advance will limit this risk. You are welcome to withdraw or participate partially with no consequence.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The benefits of this project are wide-ranging. Ultimately, the desired impact of the project is that local communities will shape and drive decision-making and evaluation of the federal government's work towards Agenda 2030 – ensuring that those most impacted by poverty are shaping government response. Increased inclusivity, engagement, education, accountability, and impact related to the UN poverty-linked SDGs are all benefits of this project. Research partners, participants, communities, governments, organizations (including FST and Campaign 2000), and society more broadly will benefit from the increased understanding of local measures of poverty reduction through this research and engagement.

What will happen with the results of this project?

Results of the research will be written and published online at various stages of the project. These findings will be shared with our coalitions, government, civil society, and local communities through digital media including an interactive website, networking and movement building activities including a national conference and a knowledge mobilization summit, and advocacy with parliamentary officials. They will also be shared with FST, Campaign 2000, and the project funder, Employment and Social Development Canada.

CONSENT

- I have read the information presented in the information letter
- I have had the opportunity to ask questions about my involvement in this project and to receive additional details I requested
- I understand that if I agree to participate in this project, I may withdraw up until the final report is published.
- I agree to participate in the project

Name

Signature

Date

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. I agree that the interview can be audio recorded.

- Yes
- No

2. I agree to have my anonymized data from this project used in future projects (for example, the Campaign 2000 report card on child and family poverty).

- Yes
- No

3. I would like to receive a summary of the project's results.

- Yes, I would like to receive a summary of the project's results

Appendix F

- No, I do not want to receive a summary of the project's results

If yes, please provide email address if we do not already have it: _____

Letter of Information and Consent

Please read this information and sign if you agree to participate. A copy of this letter is included in your participant package for you to keep. You are also welcome to give your verbal consent to participate instead.

Research Project: Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals

Project Team: Leila Sarangi, Hannah Barrie, and Athavarn Srikantharajah

Contact Information: [Removed for reporting]

You are invited to participate in a community conversation for a project hosted by Campaign 2000 and Family Service Toronto. Your participation is completely voluntary. Your decision to participate will have no effect on any potential access to services at any organization. Please read this carefully and take your time in making your decision. Please direct any questions to Hannah Barrie, the Project Researcher (contact listed above).

Who is leading this project?

Campaign 2000, a cross-Canada network of organizations working to end child and family poverty, is leading this project. Campaign 2000 has been working on ending poverty in Canada for over 30 years. The national and Ontario levels of Campaign 2000 are hosted by Family Service Toronto, a Toronto social service organization.

What is the purpose of this project?

The purpose of this project is to gather and develop local knowledge about poverty reduction in communities across the country, and use that knowledge to support local work toward ending poverty and make a difference in the federal government's approach to ending poverty. What does ending poverty mean to you? What would that feel and look like in your community? The federal government has named a goal of No Poverty. We want the way they measure progress towards that goal to centre your experiences, address your needs, and build on the movements already happening in your community.

What will my participation involve?

The project team will partner with a local organization to host a conversation in your community with about 15 participants. The conversation will last 2 hours. With your consent, it will be audio-recorded.

Do I have to participate?

No, it is your choice to participate or not. Deciding to not participate will not affect your relationship with your local organization, Family Service Toronto, or Campaign 2000, or result in loss of any services. If you choose to participate, you can still withdraw your consent at any time before or during the conversation without giving a reason. Deciding to withdraw from the project will not result in any penalty, and we will delete your information and data. If you withdraw, you can keep your honorarium and any reimbursement you already received. You may also refuse to answer any questions you do not wish to or feel uncomfortable with and still participate.

Confidentiality and privacy

Your name and contact information will not be linked to your demographic data or the content of the conversation. Your demographic data will also not be linked to your name or the content of the conversation. All content you share in the conversation will be made anonymous. All data will be saved on a secure internal server, accessible only by the three members of the project team.

Appendix G

What are the possible risks of taking part in the project?

There are some risks for this project. The conversation content may cover sensitive material due to the project topics of poverty and marginalization. However, we will give you an overview of the conversation topics at the start of the conversation and in your participant package, and you are also welcome to decline to answer any question.

People nearby or within the community conversation may be aware that you are participating, which could have potential social risks depending on your individual and community relationships. Knowing the project information in advance will limit this risk. You are welcome to withdraw or participate partially with no consequence.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

You will directly receive \$50 to honour the time and knowledge you share with us by participating in the project. You will also receive reimbursement through the local organization for transit and other costs. We hope that the project will also benefit you, your community, other organizations, and society as a whole through the increased understanding of local measures of poverty reduction.

What will happen with the results of this project?

You can choose to receive the results of the project by giving us your email address or asking your local organization to share the results with you when they receive them.

Results of the research will be written and published online at various stages of the project. These findings will be shared back with all communities who participate, as well as through an interactive website, networking and movement building activities including a knowledge mobilization summit, and advocacy with parliamentary officials. They will also be shared with Family Service Toronto, Campaign 2000, and the project funder, Employment and Social Development Canada.

CONSENT

I have read the information presented in the information letter.

I have had the opportunity to ask questions about my involvement in this project and to receive additional details.

I understand that if I agree to participate, I may withdraw any time before or during the conversation.

I agree to participate in the project.

Name

Signature

Date

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. I agree that the conversation can be audio recorded.

Yes

No

2. I agree to have my anonymized data (data that does not identify who I am) from this project used in future projects (for example, the Campaign 2000 report card on child and family poverty).

Yes

No

3. I would like to receive a summary of the project's results.

Yes, I would like to receive a summary of the project's results

No, I do not want to receive a summary of the project's results

If yes, please provide email address if we do not already have it, or let us know if you would like to receive a summary of the results through your local organization: _____

List of Key Informants

Note: This lists Key Informants alphabetically by last name with the position they held at the time of the interviews in 2022. Positions and organizations may have changed.

Sobia Ali-Faisal, Executive Director, *Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour United for Strength, Home, Relationship*

Amanda Avertick, Community Resource Facilitator, *Family Service Toronto*

Ruth Belay, Director of Policy and Urban Planning, *Black Urbanism Toronto*

Amber Cannon, Steering Committee Member, *Poverty Talks!*

Marie Christian, Director, *VOICES: Manitoba's Youth in Care Network*

Jenn Clamen, National Coordinator, *Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform*

Jonathan Dewar, Chief Executive Officer, *First Nations Information Governance Centre*

Lema Ijtemaye, Department Manager, Social and Economic Development, *Pauktutit Inuit Women of Canada*

Stefan Jungcurt, Lead II, SDG Indicators and Data, *International Institute for Sustainable Development*

Sue LaPierre, Director of Community Impact, *United Way Halifax*

Meenakshi Manoe, Criminalization and Policing Campaigner, *Pivot Legal Society*

Tamara Medford-Williams, Director of Black Community Initiatives, *DisAbled Women's Network of Canada*

Amaranta Ng, Passport Coordinator, *Family Service Toronto*

Yusra Qadir, Director: Innovations, Advocacy, and Multicultural HIPPY, *Mothers Matter Centre*

Nancy Vail, Member, *Alternatives North*

Shaelyn Wabegijig, Program and Outreach Coordinator, *Kawartha World Issues Centre*

Victor Willis, Executive Director, *Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre*

Aniqah Zowmi, Community Engagement and Gender Equality Specialist, *Ontario Council for International Cooperation*

Key Informant Interview Guide

Note: Interviews were semi-structured. Questions and follow-ups depended on role of Key Informant and followed the flow of conversation.

- Can you tell us about your work?
 - How it relates to poverty reduction / SDG localization / bridging community knowledge with policymaking in your community
 - Who is included and who is excluded, and why? What are the barriers?
- Tell us about your vision for a poverty-free community.
 - How do you define poverty? What does it mean to you?
 - What will your community look like, feel like, sound like, taste like, smell like when there is no poverty?
 - What does a community look like when we all thrive?
- What are you/your organization doing that's working towards that vision?
 - How have you engaged/centred communities in that work?
 - What's worked and what hasn't in that process?
- Government accountability for ending poverty
 - Your work, your thoughts, how can governments be more accountable to this goal at any level?
- Given what you've identified, are there communities or organizations you're connected to that we should connect with for this work? Option to follow up for survey dissemination or community conversation organization?
- Anything else you want us to know?

Appendix K

Survey Questions

(Note: Survey was conducted virtually using a survey tool. These questions were loaded into the survey tool.)

Closed Answer Questions

1. The federal government says that poverty has been reduced across Canada. Do you think that's true where you live?
Disagree completely / Disagree somewhat / Neither agree nor disagree / Agree somewhat / Completely agree/ Unknown/ Prefer not to answer
Do you have any comments? _____
2. Are you familiar with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals?
I don't know what they are / I've heard of them / I know a bit about them / I am somewhat familiar with them / I am very familiar with them / Prefer not to answer
Do you have any comments? _____
3. (If answered 2-5 for Question 3) In your opinion, are the Sustainable Development Goals helpful for reducing poverty in Canada?
Very unhelpful / Somewhat unhelpful / No impact / Somewhat helpful / Very helpful / Unknown / Prefer not to answer
Do you have any comments? _____

Open Answer Questions (short answer, with max. character limit)

4. In your opinion, which communities are affected deeply by poverty, but don't get a say in how to end poverty?
(These could be any kind of communities – for example, a neighbourhood could be a community, but so could a group of people who have something in common.)
5. Imagine a community without poverty. What are the most important things that community would have?
(Feel free to think about poverty broadly. For example, a community without poverty might have adequate income, but it also might have healthy relationships, a connection with the land, affordable housing, and so much more. Please list as many things as you would like.)
6. How would you know that poverty is being reduced in your community?
(For example, what would you see in your neighbourhood or your life if poverty was being reduced? What would you feel? What would be happening? How would different kinds of people experience that?)
7. Is there anything else you want to share with us?



Community Conversation

Hi there! Thank you for agreeing to participate in this community conversation.

This project, *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals*, aims to gather local knowledge about ending poverty in 15-20 communities across the country. That knowledge will support local work toward poverty reduction and aim to make a difference in the federal government's approach to ending poverty.

In this conversation, the project team hopes to learn: *What does ending poverty mean to you? What would that feel and look like in your community? How would you know it was happening?*

We want measures of progress towards that goal to centre your experiences, address your needs, and build on the movements already happening in your community.

The project is partnering with the Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth, and Families to host this 2-hour conversation in your community with about 15 participants. The conversation will be a group discussion centred around your visions for a thriving, poverty-free community.

We're grateful for your interest and participation and look forward to connecting with you!

Conversation Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Your vision of a community without poverty
3. Your experience as an Inuit family in Ottawa
4. Strengths of you and your community
5. What governments should be doing differently
6. Closing

Background Information

Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty

Campaign 2000, a cross-Canada network of organizations working to end child and family poverty, is leading this project. Campaign 2000 has been working on ending poverty in Canada for over 30 years and has been funded by the federal government to develop local community-based indicators to help track progress towards ending poverty as part of the commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

CAMPAIGN 2000
END CHILD & FAMILY
POVERTY

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, Canada, along with all United Nations Member states, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It lays out 17 Sustainable Development Goals to address global social, economic and environmental challenges.

The first of the Sustainable Development Goals is **no poverty**. Poverty is a cross-cutting and intersectional issue that weaves through many of the SDGs. Below are the SDGs that the project has identified as particularly related to ending poverty.



Project Outcomes

Today:

- Support the work of the local partner organization
- Offer a space for sharing, discussion, and new connections
- Pay participants for their time and knowledge

By 2024:

- Analysis and summary of the knowledge developed in the conversation, sent back to your community for feedback and later as a report
- Create a Community-Driven Indicator Framework, which will propose a new set of community-informed indicators to measure ending poverty in Canada
- Create a Call to Action Plan, which will outline the actions and recommendations put forward by communities for making the vision for poverty-free communities a reality
- Advocacy with parliamentary officials, sharing the insights gained from the community conversations
- Strong, lasting partnerships between Campaign 2000 and the communities engaged in the project

Contact Us

Email:
campaign2000@familyservicetoronto.org
[Others removed for report]

Website: Campaign2000.ca

Twitter:
@Campaign2000

Phone:
[Removed for report]

Resource List

If you are experiencing crisis or need support, please contact one of the resources below:

Multiple language options and potential police involvement are noted if they are specified by the support.

Crisis and Counselling Supports:
If you or someone you know is in immediate crisis, call 911 or go to your nearest emergency room
<p>Local Resources</p> <p>Sexual Assault Support Centre at 613-234-2266 – available 24/7</p> <p>Talk4Healing for Indigenous Women at 855 554 HEAL</p> <p>Unsafe at Home Ottawa is a secure text and online chat service for women who may be living through increased violence and abuse at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Text: 613-704-5535</p> <p>Tel-Aide Outaouais (FR) from 8 a.m. to midnight every day: 613-741-6433</p> <p>Youth Services Bureau (24/7): 613-260-2360 or 1-877-377-7775 chat online 24/7</p> <p>Mental Health Crisis Line: 613-722-6914</p> <p>Seniors Safety Line: 1 866 299 1011</p>
<p>Hope for Wellness Help Line</p> <p><i>Immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention for all Indigenous peoples across Canada</i></p> <p>Available by phone in English, French, Cree, Ojibway, and Inuktitut.</p> <p>Call 1-855-242-3310 (toll-free) or connect to the online chat https://www.hopeforwellness.ca/</p>
<p>Canada Suicide Prevention Service</p> <p><i>If you're thinking about suicide or are worried about a friend or loved one, the Canada Suicide Prevention Service is available 24/7 for voice and 4pm to 12am ET for text.</i></p> <p>Available by phone in English and French. Every effort made to avoid involving police, but it is a possibility.</p> <p>Call 1-833-456-4566 (24/7) or text 45645 (4 pm to 12 am ET)</p>
<p>Indian Residential School Survivors and Family Crisis Line</p> <p><i>Available 24-hours a day for anyone experiencing pain or distress due to their residential school experience.</i></p> <p>Call 1-800-721-0066</p>
<p>Kids Help Phone</p> <p><i>For Canadians aged 5 – 29</i></p> <p>Available by phone in English, French, and Arabic. May involve police in certain situations.</p> <p>Call 1-800-668-6868 (toll-free) or text CONNECT to 686868</p>
<p>Trans Lifeline</p> <p><i>Offers direct emotional and financial support to trans people in crisis.</i></p> <p>Available by phone in English and Spanish. Will not involve police.</p> <p>Call (877) 330-6366</p>
<p>211</p> <p><i>Source of information for government and community-based, non-clinical health and social services. Free and confidential service, can be accessed 24 hours a day.</i></p> <p>Available in more than 150 languages, by phone, chat, text, and web.</p> <p>Dial 2-1-1 to connect to community services.</p>
<p>Wellness Together Canada</p> <p><i>Mental Health and Substance Use Support</i></p> <p>Available in more than 200 languages and dialects.</p> <p>Adults text WELLNESS to 741741, youth text WELLNESS to 686868, or visit https://www.wellnesstogether.ca/en-CA/crisis</p>
<p>Bean Bag Chat</p> <p><i>Free online peer support and mental health support tools for young adults (age 16-29)</i></p> <p>https://beanbagchat.ca/</p>

Your Copy of the Letter of Information and Consent

This is a copy for you to keep. If you would like to fill out a paper consent form, we have them available in the room. You are also welcome to give your verbal consent to participate instead.

Research Project: Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals

Project Team: Leila Sarangi, Hannah Barrie, and Athavarn Srikantharajah

Contact Information: [Removed for report]

You are invited to participate in a community conversation for a project hosted by Campaign 2000 and Family Service Toronto. Your participation is completely voluntary. Your decision to participate will have no effect on any potential access to services at any organization. Please read this carefully and take your time in making your decision. Please direct any questions to Hannah Barrie, the Project Researcher (contact listed above).

Who is leading this project?

Campaign 2000, a cross-Canada network of organizations working to end child and family poverty, is leading this project. Campaign 2000 has been working on ending poverty in Canada for over 30 years. The national and Ontario levels of Campaign 2000 are hosted by Family Service Toronto, a Toronto social service organization.

What is the purpose of this project?

The purpose of this project is to gather and develop local knowledge about poverty reduction in communities across the country, and use that knowledge to support local work toward ending poverty and make a difference in the federal government's approach to ending poverty. What does ending poverty mean to you? What would that feel and look like in your community? The federal government has named a goal of No Poverty. We want the way they measure progress towards that goal to centre your experiences, address your needs, and build on the movements already happening in your community.

What will my participation involve?

The project team will partner with a local organization to host a conversation in your community with about 15 participants. The conversation will last 2 hours. With your consent, it will be audio-recorded.

Do I have to participate?

No, it is your choice to participate or not. Deciding to not participate will not affect your relationship with your local organization, Family Service Toronto, or Campaign 2000, or result in loss of any services. If you choose to participate, you can still withdraw your consent at any time before or during the conversation without giving a reason. Deciding to withdraw from the project will not result in any penalty, and we will delete your information and data. If you withdraw, you can keep your honorarium and any reimbursement you already received. You may also refuse to answer any questions you do not wish to or feel uncomfortable with and still participate.

Confidentiality and privacy

Your name and contact information will not be linked to your demographic data or the content of the conversation. Your demographic data will also not be linked to your name or the content of the conversation. All content you share in the conversation will be made anonymous. All data will be saved on a secure internal server, accessible only by the three members of the project team.

What are the possible risks of taking part in the project?

There are some risks for this project. The conversation content may cover sensitive material due to the project topics of poverty and marginalization. However, we will give you an overview of the conversation topics at the start of the conversation and in your participant package, and you are also welcome to decline to answer any question.

People nearby or within the community conversation may be aware that you are participating, which could have potential social risks depending on your individual and community relationships. Knowing the project information in advance will limit this risk. You are welcome to withdraw or participate partially with no consequence.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

You will directly receive \$50 to honour the time and knowledge you share with us by participating in the project. You will also receive reimbursement through the local organization for transit and other costs. We hope that the project will also benefit you, your community, other organizations, and society as a whole through the increased understanding of local measures of poverty reduction.

What will happen with the results of this project?

You can choose to receive the results of the project by giving us your email address or asking your local organization to share the results with you when they receive them.

Results of the research will be written and published online at various stages of the project. These findings will be shared back with all communities who participate, as well as through an interactive website, networking and movement building activities including a knowledge mobilization summit, and advocacy with parliamentary officials. They will also be shared with Family Service Toronto, Campaign 2000, and the project funder, Employment and Social Development Canada.

CONSENT

I have read the information presented in the information letter.

I have had the opportunity to ask questions about my involvement in this project and to receive additional details.

I understand that if I agree to participate, I may withdraw any time before or during the conversation.

I agree to participate in the project.

Name	Signature	Date
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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. I agree that the conversation can be audio recorded.

- Yes
- No

2. I agree to have my anonymized data (data that does not identify who I am) from this project used in future projects (for example, the Campaign 2000 report card on child and family poverty).

- Yes
- No

3. I would like to receive a summary of the project’s results.

- Yes, I would like to receive a summary of the project’s results
- No, I do not want to receive a summary of the project’s results

If yes, please provide email address if we do not already have it, or let us know if you would like to receive a summary of the results through your local organization: _____

Conversation Guide: Location

Preparation

Outreach

Email template, social media posts, flyer for outreach

Refreshments

Meal to be arranged, considering community preferences and dietary restrictions
Consider: Snacks/drinks available to take afterwards

Accessibility

Accommodations, translation, harm reduction to be provided as needed

Reimbursements and honoraria

Transit: Reimbursements provided as needed
Childcare: To be offered at the event or reimbursements provided as needed
Honoraria: \$50 cash to be given to participants at the event

Roles

Facilitators: Leila Sarangi and Hannah Barrie from Campaign 2000

Active listener

Support for event (set-up, clean-up, meal prep, etc. as needed)

Note: Ideally only facilitators and participants in the room for the actual conversation for confidentiality. One additional support person or an elder, if present, can remain if appropriate.

Supplies

Meal supplies

Discussion supplies:

- COVID-19 supplies
- Nametags
- Pens
- Markers
- Small sets of coloured pencils or markers for participants
- Flipchart stand
- Flipchart paper
- Masking tape
- Loose paper

Research supplies

Day of Prep

Set-Up

- Ensure quiet space outside main room for active listener

Arrival and Meal

- Hellos and welcomes, nametag, receive honoraria and reimbursements
- Consent forms/process, demographic forms (optional)

Facilitation Guide

Introduction – 15 minutes

- Land acknowledgment, community-specific opening (from organization or elder if present)
- Team and Project Introduction
 - Campaign 2000, what we do, what the project is about
- Housekeeping
 - Consent, incl. option for verbal consent. Ongoing consent.
- Group Agreement

Appendix M

Campaign 2000: *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project*

Discussion

Note: Timing and content may be adjusted based on what comes up in the conversation. Different methods of discussion (storytelling, creative activities, etc.) also possible to include.

1. **Names and icebreaker**
2. **What is your vision of a community with no poverty?**
 - a. Use all of your senses.
 - b. Write about it or draw a picture. Get specific.
 - c. What services would you have access to?
 - d. How would you meet all of your needs?
 - e. What would you do to experience joy?
3. **What role has [experience/location] played in any experiences of poverty you may have had? (20 minutes)**
 - a. What could be different to help set you up for success?
 - b. What could be different to help set the community up for success?
4. **What is working for you or in your community right now?**
 - a. What are your strengths?
 - b. What are the strengths or assets of your community?
 - c. How do you know those things are working?
5. **What should governments be doing differently or better in their promises to end poverty?**
 - a. What actions need to be taken?
 - b. What 'data' should they be collecting?
 - c. How can they be held accountable?

Closing

- Check-out: Go-around, opportunity to share how you're feeling after the conversation
- Reminder for resources for support, next steps for project, how this might be useful to your community, how to contact us
- Community-specific closing if appropriate

Afterwards

- Evaluation forms (optional)
- Snacks/drinks to go

Demographic Survey

It's helpful to know details about who is participating in the project. This information won't be connected to your name or contact information. Please only fill out as much as you're comfortable sharing. You are welcome to skip any questions.

1. How old are you?

2. What country were you born in?

3. If you were not born in Canada, when did you arrive in Canada?

- Less than 1 year ago
- 1-5 years ago
- 6-10 years ago
- 11-15 years ago
- More than 15 years ago
- Not sure
- N/A
- Prefer not to say

4. What are the first 3 digits of your postal code?

Appendix N

Campaign 2000: *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project*

5. How do you identify your race? Please select all that apply.

- Black, African
- Black, Caribbean
- Black, North American
- East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Korean, Japanese)
- Indian-Caribbean
- Indigenous, First Nations
- Indigenous, Inuit
- Indigenous, Métis
- Indigenous, Other
- Latine, Hispanic
- Middle Eastern (e.g. Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan)
- Mixed heritage
- South Asian (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)
- Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipina, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian)
- White, European
- White, North American
- Other (please specify) _____
- Prefer not to answer

6. Do you identify with any of these labels? Please select all that apply.

- Registered, Treaty, or Status First Nations
- Non-Status First Nations
- Residing in Inuit Nunangat
- Residing on-reserve
- Residing off-reserve
- Member of specific First Nation or band (please specify) _____
- Member of a Métis organization or settlement (please specify) _____
- Other Indigenous identity (please specify) _____
- Prefer not to answer
- N/A

Appendix N

Campaign 2000: *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project*

7. What is your status in Canada? (Again, your responses are confidential and will not be shared)

- Refugee
- Refugee claimant
- No status
- Permanent resident
- Canadian citizen
- Temporary worker in Canada
- Visitor to Canada
- Landed immigrant
- Other (please specify) _____
- Prefer not to answer

8. What was your annual household income after tax for 2021?

- Under \$5,000 (including losses)
- \$5,000 to \$9,999
- \$10,000 to \$19,999
- \$20,000 to \$29,999
- \$30,000 to \$39,999
- \$40,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$59,999
- \$60,000 to \$69,999
- \$70,000 to \$79,999
- \$80,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 and over
- Do not know
- Prefer not to answer

Appendix N

Campaign 2000: *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project*

9. What is your household or family structure?

- Single
- Single parent with 1 child
- Single parent with 2 children
- Single parent with 3+ children
- Couple family with 0 children
- Couple family with 1 child
- Couple family with 2 children
- Couple family with 3+ children
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (please describe) _____

10. If your household includes children, what is the gender breakdown of your household or family structure?

- Not applicable – does not include children
- Female lone parent
- Male lone parent
- Lone parent identifying otherwise
- Couple family: female and female
- Couple family: female and male
- Couple family: male and male
- Couple family: one or both parents identifying otherwise
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (please specify) _____

11. How do you describe your sexual orientation? You may select multiple options.

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Pansexual
- Gay
- Heterosexual/straight
- Lesbian
- Queer
- Two Spirit
- Other (please specify) _____
- Prefer not to answer

12. How do you identify your gender? You may select multiple options.

- Agender
- Cisgender Man
- Cisgender Woman
- Genderqueer
- Man
- Non-Binary
- Transgender Man
- Transgender Non-Binary
- Transgender Woman
- Two Spirit
- Woman
- Other (please specify) _____
- Prefer not to answer

13. Are any of these true for you? Please select all that apply. (A reminder that you are welcome to skip this or any question if you would rather not respond. Resources for support are included in your participant package.)

- Survivor of violence or abuse
- Have been in conflict with the law
- Have been affected by the legacy of colonization, such as residential schools
- Have done sex work
- Have been involved with the child welfare system as a child
- Have been involved with the child welfare system as an adult
- Have experienced incarceration
- Have experienced homelessness
- Have experienced institutionalization (e.g. mental health institution, long-term care)
- None are true of me
- Prefer not to answer

14. Do you experience any disabilities or chronic physical or mental health issues? Please select all that apply.

- Mobility disabilities
- Deaf or hard of hearing
- Blind or low vision
- Environmental sensitivities
- Chronic medical conditions or illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure, asthma, HIV
- Mental illness, mental health disabilities, or other difficulties with mental health
- Substance use, addiction
- Cognitive, developmental or intellectual disabilities
- Learning disabilities
- Brain injury
- Other (please specify) _____
- I do not experience any disabilities or chronic health conditions

Appendix N

Campaign 2000: *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project*

- Prefer not to answer

15. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

- Employed – Full-time
- Employed – Part-time
- Employed – Occasionally
- Self-employed – Full-time
- Self-employed – Part-time
- Self-employed – Occasionally
- Volunteering
- Unpaid internship
- Retired
- Not employed and currently looking for a job
- Not employed and not looking for a job
- Other (please specify) _____
- Prefer not to answer

16. What is your primary source of income?

- Employed, formal (i.e. paid via salary or wages)
- Employed, informal (i.e. paid in cash)
- Self-employed
- Employment Insurance (EI)
- Child/Spousal Support
- Child Benefits
- Disability assistance
- Income or social assistance
- Long Term Disability (LTD)
- Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPP-D)
- Old Age Security (OAS)
- Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)

Appendix N

Campaign 2000: *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project*

- Student Grant/Loan
- Savings/Investments
- None
- Other (please specify) _____
- Prefer not to answer

17. Which best describes where you currently live?

- Condo/Apartment (owned)
- Condo/Apartment (rented)
- House (owned)
- House (rented)
- Room (rented)
- Group home/living
- Shelter
- No fixed address
- Other (please specify) _____
- Prefer not to answer

18. What is your highest level of education?

- No certificate, diploma or degree
- Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma
- College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma
- University certificate or diploma below bachelor level
- University certificate or diploma at bachelor level
- University certificate or diploma at master's level
- University certificate or diploma at doctorate level
- Indigenous land-based education
- Other (please specify) _____
- Prefer not to answer

Appendix N

Campaign 2000: *Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project*

Thank you for sharing this information!

Please share your experience of this conversation and event.

How was the facilitation?

Poor

Not Great

Fine

Great

Excellent

Comments

How was the event space?

Poor

Not Great

Fine

Great

Excellent

Comments

How were the supports available?

Poor

Not Great

Fine

Great

Excellent

Comments

Do you have any other comments?

Thank you for your participation and feedback!

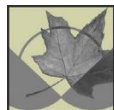


Halifax, NS

Community Conversation Summary

April 19, 2023

CAMPAIGN 2000
END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY



CCPA
CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES
CENTRE CANADIEN
de POLITIQUES ALTERNATIVES

Introduction

Below, we've summarized the main themes of the community conversation in Halifax, Nova Scotia with nineteen people with lived experience of poverty.

The conversation was hosted by the *Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Nova Scotia* in partnership with *Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty*.

This summary is in four sections based on the topics of discussion. Main themes with related content and quotes are presented for each topic. The conversation content will be further analyzed over the next year, alongside content from other conversations across the country, to help create a community-driven indicator framework and recommendations for action.

This summary was created after sending a draft to the participants and host organizations to see if these points sounded right, offer an opportunity for corrections or clarification, and ensure that they had the chance to hold and use this information as soon as possible. This finalized version (August 2023) reflects the feedback we received, and the content will be further analyzed over the next year with attention to that feedback. Thanks to everyone who participated and responded!

We've tried to be true to the content and emotion of the conversation, which touched on the sensitive and difficult topics of experiencing poverty and discrimination, and that may come through in what's presented here.

Since this is a summary, we have listened to what participants shared and reflected that back here. With that in mind, there may be content presented here that does not align with Campaign 2000's values or platform.

The urgent need to address the housing crisis was a major theme. Participants described the way that having safe, secure, affordable housing is a human right that, when violated, leads to trauma, violence, and cyclical poverty, but if fulfilled, would allow for health and wellness, community connection, and the ability to engage in society. Systemic racism and discrimination against Black, Indigenous, and immigrant communities was also a prominent theme, in particular the disenfranchisement of land, gentrification of historic communities, and perpetuation of systemic oppression through white-led non-profits. The immediate need to increase social assistance rates and overhaul the existing system to address discrimination and provide better coordination of supports was also clear.

A community with no poverty has...

Safe, secure, and affordable housing

- Accessible, affordable, safe housing in good condition
 - No threats of eviction, no term leases, safe from pests, landlord is responsive to issues
 - Heat, hot water, and water included
- Housing and utilities that cost no more than a third of your income
- Ensuring housing for all would lead to healthy individuals and families, less crime, violence, addictions caused by trauma, more community investment, greater sense of belonging
- People contribute to housing construction/maintenance as a way to build skills and be invested in their community
 - People are valued, trained, resourced to build their community

Everyone is valued and connected

- Community participation, care, social connection, and support
 - Speaking up for each other
 - “Everybody’s valued.”
- Communal, collaborative community so people are invested
 - As mentioned above for housing, people would contribute to their community and be resourced to do so: “People have an investment in their community, in their infrastructure, you have value and accountability shared and collaborative and you give them skills... they’re learning construction, gardening, masonry – have them work side by side. Teach them the skills to build their community.”
- Community-oriented alternatives to consumerism: meal kitchens, free haircuts, access to resources, community gardens, bartering, skill-sharing.

Employment and education

- Free education, training, and work experience for everyone
 - “They all become then trained and experienced workers that are able to provide back to society.”
 - Access to structure and opportunities in day to day: “Access to job training, actual jobs, even if it’s only part-time work or a volunteer opportunity.”
 - Jobs that meet people’s needs and offer job security
- Employment for everyone
- Education and literacy for everyone

Income security and wealth equality

- More money to be able to meet basic needs, including housing
- Living wage and basic income
- Substantial disability support that accounts for high costs of medical care and supplies
- Student loans are forgiven
- Tax reform, because government services depend on taxes, and having more money for that would let services continue and expand, but the money “shouldn’t come out of the pockets of the most vulnerable folks in our society.”
 - Inheritance tax laws
 - Increased capital gains tax
 - Condensed income tax bracket

Safety, health, and mental health

- Community would have less mental health challenges and better mental health supports
 - E.g., a support line for mental health challenges and free, accessible in-person counselling
 - Rehabilitation and support for all forms of mental health and addiction issues, including PTSD and ADD/ADHD
- Less guns and violence
- Less drugs, more harm reduction
- Rehabilitation and support for people who have been incarcerated

Equality and supports for children and youth

- Support for youth aging out of child welfare system
 - Supports would include independent living skills, financial literacy, interpersonal skills, self-advocacy, support for experiences of abuse or trauma.
- Equality: “Every child, no matter what, would have the same opportunities.”

Experiences of poverty in Halifax

Social assistance, disability assistance, and other benefit programs

- System is set up to perpetuate poverty and marginalization – inadequacy of rates and supports
 - Social assistance system is “set up to keep you in it.”
 - Rates are far too low: “You can’t live off what they give you. You never could. You’re taking from one bill to pay another.”

- Very low shelter allowance from social assistance – not enough to rent a unit, perpetuating homelessness: “We have to stay in the shelter for three, four, five, six months and build up our money.”
- Comparing rates with how much it costs to have someone in a shelter or incarcerate them – government pays much, much more for those costs than they give a person to house and support themselves.
- Disability assistance is not enough: “It’s not much more than income assistance. And an able bodied person can hardly live on income assistance and wouldn’t have extra needs like medication and mobility support and therapies.”
- Benefits won’t cover costs for children’s programs, e.g., theatre program
- Discrimination and judgment from system and workers: “Even just how you’re treated as a person. How you’re talked to. How they try to make you feel less of a person. Nobody deserves to have to be made to feel like that just to live day by day, just to get the basic needs and supports that everybody should have.”
- System is not proactive or supportive with helping find work: “I was supposed to get an employment support worker. I’ve been waiting [for six months].”
- Barriers to access and coordination of services
 - Barriers with unnecessary paperwork and administration for social assistance
 - “Everything from the special diet to the telephone allowance – needing a doctor’s note for a telephone allowance, that is ridiculous.”
 - Accessibility barriers: “When I went to go on income assistance, I needed to sign the paperwork. They could not or would not provide me accessible versions.”
 - Threats of child apprehension: “I was left a single parent with two children with an apartment and no family income. I was told, in order to keep my children, I had to go on income assistance.”
 - No coordination between services
 - Income assistance doesn’t help with finding work, but social workers will direct you to them.
 - “Same with housing – almost anything you ask them, they pass it on.”
 - “They just shuffle you around.”
 - Even for the supports available, “They put you through a hard time trying to qualify for any of that and the case workers won’t talk to you. And the waitlist is long for people to get in and see an Employment Support Worker.”
 - Wanting to go back to school – getting cut off
- Stigma and discrimination for being on social assistance
 - Stigma and discrimination from landlords – won’t rent to someone on social assistance when they have an alternative applicant.
 - Lack of support and connection from family and friends due to stigma of being on income assistance.

Child welfare system and ageing out

- Injustice of parents not being supported to raise and care for their own children but foster parents being given money to care for those children.
- Poor conditions of group homes:
 - Lack of accommodation for youth with disabilities: "I have ADHD and my chores were late – not by even an hour – two minutes late – when I was [kicked out early], I had nowhere to go."
 - Example of group home with no blankets, sheets, or towels
- Lack of support for youth aging out of care
 - No financial or other supports, increased risk of your own child being apprehended, cycle of poverty and child welfare interaction: "It just circles because you get out of care, but you have nowhere to go. And then if you have a kid, they steal your kid – because you can't provide for this kid because of poverty."

Housing, homelessness, and gentrification

- Housing is completely unaffordable
 - Housing costs are so high, all income has to go to it, people can't afford food
 - Inability to afford housing while expensive condos keep being built: "You can't afford housing. [But] every time you turn around there's condos."
 - Housing is often geared to students rather than other renters
 - Feels depressing and hopeless
 - Housing shortage and labour shortage means that immigrants are coming to Nova Scotia to work and can't find a place to live
- Gentrification as major contributor
 - In North End and Uniacke Square areas in particular (historically African Nova Scotian communities) – community is being pushed out
 - Injustice of gentrification:
 - "They want to come in communities, into the places where years before they were deemed no good and nobody wanted these places."
 - Places that were deemed unfit land in the past, marginalized, discriminated against: Now condos are going in, rents are increasing, "and it takes away from the community.... Just look at North Preston, you have people paying for years and years and years for land [for which] they won't give them the land titles. You gave them that land because you didn't think they'd be able to live off and sustain it, grow it to what it is – and they've been there for over 400 years. And then now, they want to come in ...because all of a sudden now, they can make money off it."
- Social housing

- Government hasn't built new public housing for 30 years, is disorganized with current units, both their condition and occupancy
 - Stigma and stereotypes based on your address, if you live in public housing: "When an employer looks up your address, you don't get a call back."
- Renters can't make improvements to their units that would lower costs
 - Power bill is always going up, but as renters, no autonomy in building, can't do upgrades to increase power efficiency which would decrease bills – tenant can't even apply for grant for this.
- Homelessness is increasing
 - Homelessness is growing: Even two people, working, often can't find a place to live.
 - One participant told us, "I don't know where I'm sleeping tonight."
 - Homelessness affects every aspect of life: "People without housing find a hard time to be situated in any other aspect. It's hard to function at a job if you're homeless. It's hard to stay employed if you're homeless. It's hard to be a productive member of society in any aspect, without falling for addictions, or mental health, or anything like that if you're having all of the trauma of homelessness."
- Housing people in hotels is unsustainable and the funds could be better used elsewhere
 - High costs of housing people in hotels – the high amounts could be given to people for rent: "They'll spend thousands of dollars to put people in a hotel that [doesn't] have the necessities – but they won't find you a place and pay your rent every month for \$1200."
 - Hotels are profiting but are not set up to adequately support people, no proper kitchen, only allowed limited belongings.
 - Hotel regulations are devaluing and dehumanizing, staff stigmatize people staying there.

Historic and ongoing systemic discrimination against African Nova Scotian community

- Historically Black neighbourhoods in Halifax are disproportionately affected by poverty, homelessness, and incarceration.
- Direct result of government policies and investments – the lack of intentional anti-racist policies and investments, particularly around housing, means: "A lot of folks experiencing homelessness are of Black or Indigenous descent. And a lot of folks who are suffering from periods of incarceration are Black or Indigenous descent."
- Black community members have "always been side-tracked in jobs, for education, for opportunities; [are] locked up unjustly... not having an opportunity to get out of a vicious cycle."

Racism and discrimination from non-profit sector and service providers

- Non-profits and service providers benefit from projects and funding meant to help marginalized people: “A lot of the times, the only ones that benefit from it are the people that actually work for those programs and who work for those non-profits.”
- Whiteness and covert racism of non-profit sector that serves diverse demographics
 - Should instead be by communities, for communities: “If you’re trying to help a certain group of people, and you’ve never walked in their shoes, it’s hard to understand their vision and their needs and the assessments they have to have done, in order to suit their needs properly and appropriately.”
 - Perpetuates cycles of poverty and marginalization while non-profits benefit and maintain their position: “None of these programs become sustainable – because these non-profits profit and the community never profits – because if they profited they ... would be sustainable on their own without the non-profit.”
- Service providers discriminate against marginalized groups: “They sometimes take away services ... to give to other people, to suit their own needs, and in the process, they degraded the little people who are more vulnerable systematically. That’s what it’s like living in poverty conditions in North End Halifax.”
- Particular systemic discrimination related to land and housing against Black communities in Nova Scotia:
 - Non-profits harming Black communities through supposedly equitable projects: “Some of these organizations would want to go into historically Black neighbourhoods, buy up the properties, and then fill it up with folks who are not from the community.”
 - Example of land trust meant to be for Black communities but headed by white organizations/people: “In Nova Scotia, they have a history of taking – expropriating land from historic communities – and they never give [it] back. But then they want people to buy into the land trust that people never gained fruition off of, yet everybody who is running it always benefits.”

Systemic inequality for newcomers

- Difficulty finding employment – still can’t find a job after a year, and running out of money
- Inequities of newcomers not being able to work in their own profession
- Unfair and untransparent lack of supports and resources: “There’s people that moved here, thinking, ‘Oh Canada’s a great place.’ And now they want to move to other places because they feel it was going to be different than what it is. I didn’t think I was going to come from one country to another and struggle.”

Cycles of poverty, daily stress, trauma, and not seeing a way out

- Stress and trauma of just trying to survive every day:

- “When you’re wondering where you’re going to sleep, what you’re going to eat, when you have to decide between paying for your rent or paying for medications – that’s a lot of stress on somebody just trying to live from day to day.”
- “You’re in trauma mode every day trying to survive.”
- Cycle of unmet needs and lack of supports at all levels of government: “These basic things that we need just to live ... are not being met on a provincial or federal level – then we have a snowball effect. Addictions, mental health, homelessness, and it’s just going to keep going and going and going.”

Employment and education

- Post-secondary education is unaffordable and loan repayment perpetuates poverty
- Ageism and ableism create barriers to employment
- Employment income is inadequate, often not a living wage:
 - People get jobs then leave because wages aren’t enough – jobs can’t keep people sustainably to put money back into communities
 - People are forced to move away: “They’re leaving but you can’t blame them ... Nobody wants to leave their place they grew up and the place they love.”

Violence and incarceration as a result of poverty

- Violence in communities is due to poverty and violations of human rights
 - “Your safety is jeopardized when people’s human rights are not being met. Because then they do things, in order to make money, in order to help support themselves and their families. ... It would get rid of a lot of the crime and violence with guns, drugs, [sex work], you name it– if there wasn’t a dire need.”
 - Gangs, violence, putting self at risk of incarceration – this is all a result of poverty: “Where people get incarcerated, the reasons why they do the stuff that they do, a lot of times, it’s in order to survive.”

Challenges with community and government action

- Mass mobilization of people living in poverty is difficult
 - People do not have the time or capacity as they are focused on survival
 - Systems are inaccessible and bureaucratic
 - People sometimes aren’t comfortable to come forward and speak about their situations due to stigma
- Frustration with government inaction and lack of accountability: “Right now I think it’s a lot of excuses and not solutions.”

What is working in your community?

Due to the large group, we weren't able to ask this question – the conversation focused on the vision and experiences, then moved to brief action items at the end. But participants still found a way to share the strengths of their community when discussing the other prompts, and those are included here.

- Poverty can be a misleading term – the North End is a rich and vibrant community in so many ways, especially its children and youth:
 - “The North End of Halifax... this is one of the richest and most diverse groups of people I've ever lived amongst. The kids are great, you know what I mean? They're active. They're involved. I'm sitting here in the library every day, regardless of colour, race, creed, or whatever. Somebody's doing a good job somewhere – parents – but just to say that I think it's a very rich community in a lot of ways.”
- Opportunities to specialize in high schools: “If you have a propensity towards nursing, or tech, or robotics in your Grade 11 year onwards, you can now specialize.”
- Food provided at events and meetings is helpful and should continue
- Ecology Action Centre program for new Canadians related to green energy through the Nova Scotia Community College was named as a good opportunity

Actions that the government needs to take are...

Housing

- Prioritize housing security:
 - “Even if you didn't have secure jobs but you had secure housing and you had the basic things you need – you could build from there.”
 - “Housing is health.”
- More binding language and policy to enforce housing as a human right in Canada.
 - Housing is “a human right, not a commodity.”
- Government needs to provide housing, continue to build it, give it to people who need it.
- Housing should be regulated in both public and private sectors.
 - “[Regulate] housing by square footage – you can only charge so much money per square footage for the amenities that you're having – then people could afford to live in homes.”
 - “Rent being tied to square footage, or the unit as opposed to the lease. I think that would be really important.”

- No fixed term leases, landlord abuse, unregulated rent increases.
- Do this provincially and federally so the problem is solved everywhere.
- Accessible housing for people with disabilities (all kinds of disabilities)
- Coordinate with communities and find creative housing solutions, e.g., seniors wanting to scale down, families in need of housing, address both problems at once.
- Deprivatize electricity

Income and income assistance

- Set a basic income for everyone
- Address discrimination against those on income assistance
- Politicians should earn what basic citizen earns: “If you can’t survive on what the basic system earns you – that needs to change. And how are you going to change that, if you have not experienced it?”

Employment

- Increase minimum wage to living wage
- More job opportunities for new immigrants
- More support systems to help people find jobs and sustain them, help with budgeting
- More employment opportunities
- Employment programs that take disabilities into account

Tax reform

- Tax changes to address wealth inequality and allow everyone’s basic needs to be met
 - Inheritance tax laws
 - Increased capital gains tax
 - Condensed income tax bracket

Meet basic needs

- Ensure access to basic needs: housing, nutrition, education
- Basic needs need to be met “before you can get out of this trauma space and be an entire functioning person.”

Anti-racist action and policy change

- Full recognition from multiple levels of government of historically Black neighbourhoods, including Uniacke Square
- More support both for newcomers and historic residents of communities
- Government should invest into antiracist equitable policies

Institutions

- Jails should be more supportive, rehabilitative environments
- Group homes should be reformed

- E.g., better funding, youth should have more agency, homes should not be centred on punishment for behaviour, but instead offer care and support to solve problems together.

Disability

- Solutions by disabled people for disabled people: “Nothing about us without us.”
- Funding for disability community for land trust in condos – convert to affordable, accessible housing
- Disability resources that don't require a diagnosis in order to receive support (medical misogyny and medical racism can prevent people from accessing diagnoses)

Class

- Add legislation for discrimination against people based on class: “I think that could be one basic change even to the Canadian Charter, which would help to build more of a framework about laws that could address poverty.”

Systemic change based on root issues

- Explore and address root causes of poverty
- Work against divide and conquer mentality – “we're all up against the same problem”
- More unifying, collaborative solutions

More conversations with real change as a result

- Implement real change based on people's concerns: “It would be really nice if this could all be followed up by action, rather than more talk, more talk. There has to be something concrete.”
- More conversations and meetings like this, with a meal, with new faces: “conversations like this need to continue.”
- Value people and their contributions: “People being valued... for whatever they can contribute – encourage people to contribute and collaborate. That builds community.”

National Community-Based Indicator Framework

The National Community-Based Indicator Framework, developed by Campaign 2000 & Citizens for Public Justice, is intended to supplement the Canadian Indicator Framework, reflecting community conversation participants' subjective, multidimensional experience of poverty, which is wide-ranging, affects every aspect of life, and differs place to place and community to community.

Synthesized across community contexts, the national indicators also reflect poverty as a violation of human rights resulting in short- and long- term physical, mental, spiritual, and social harm.

The framework outlines dimensions, measures, indicators, and data sources for poverty eradication (including recommendations and gaps, where no indicators exist) that reflect the knowledge and experiences of lived experts and community organizations across the country.

These findings highlight the importance of community-based, culturally relevant, localized measures and indicators for ending poverty and the need to urgently recognize and address the systemic intersecting power structures that create and deepen inequities and experiences of poverty.

