

Central Okanagan Poverty and Wellness Strategy (COPAWS)



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Outline

- Getting Here
- Community Highlights
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Strategy Development Timeline Update
- Community Engagement Update
- Key Engagement Findings – Vision and Barriers
- Community Vision
- Key Values
- Priorities for Process
- Priorities for Intervention
- Next Steps

Getting Here

The Foundation: Work Completed that Enabled this Strategy

2017 – 2019



Setting the Stage

Central Okanagan
Poverty & Wellness
Committee Established
& Begins Building
Understanding

2019



A Deeper Dive

Central Okanagan
Poverty & Wellness
Analysis Creates
Baseline Measurements

2020



Organizing for Action

UBCM Grant is secured
to create a Strategy &
the United Way &
Leadership Committee
begin work

Community Highlights

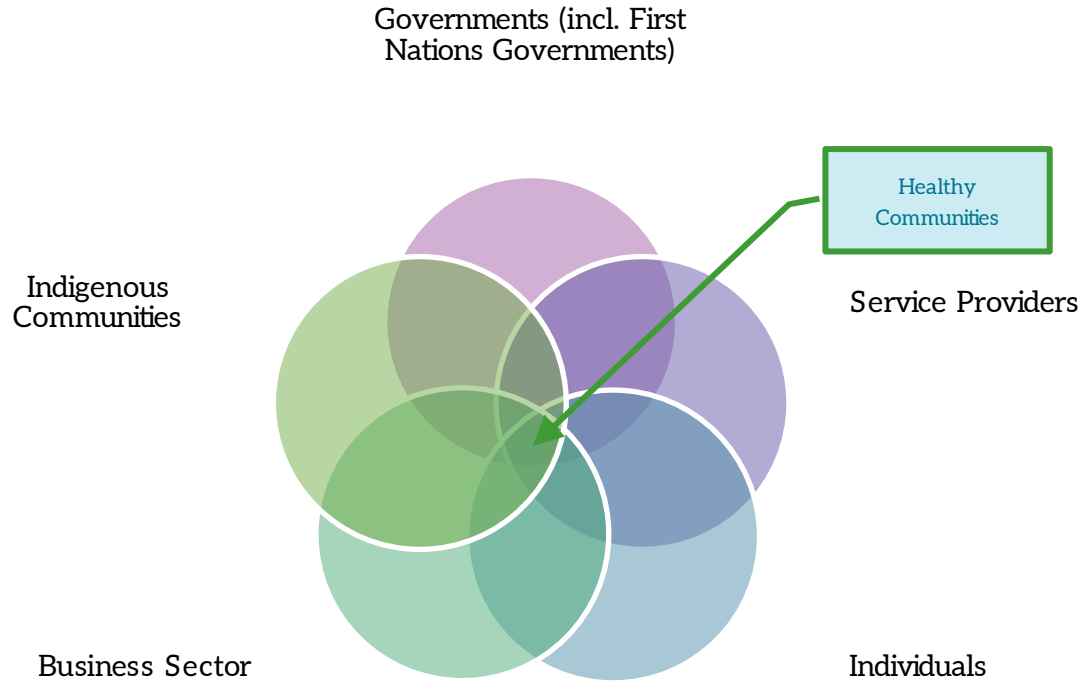
Ongoing Projects

- Indigenous Cultural Centre and Nature Park
- Regional Housing Strategy Collaboration
- Housing Needs Assessment in 2022

Recently Completed Projects

- Multi-Generational Activity Facility completed in 2021

Roles and Responsibilities



Local Government Roles and Responsibilities



Advocacy, Facilitation & Partnerships



Convenor



Monitor, Research & Innovate



Regulator & Educator

Strategy Development Phases



Community Engagement



Public Survey (2022)	748 respondents
People with Lived and Living Experience Survey (2021)	223 respondents
Community Forum	10 participants
Service Provider Interviews	2 organizations
People with Lived and Living Experience Interviews	10 participants
Preliminary Planning and Implementation Sessions	11 organizations
Local Area Focus Groups	16 participants over 3 focus groups
Implementation and Planning Workshops	38 participants over 3 sessions
Leadership Committee Meetings	20 organizations participated in 3 meetings during the project phases

Indigenous Engagement

Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	2 events 9 participants
Métis Nation BC and Métis Community Services	3 leadership interviews
Okanagan Indian Band	3 events 8 participants
Westbank First Nation	2 events 6 participants
Okanagan Nation Alliance	2 events 8 participants

Key Engagement Findings

- Some people are disproportionately impacted by poverty:
 - Seniors and Elders
 - People living with a disability
 - Children
 - Youth and Young adults
- More people need support with managing costs of daily living
- We need to reduce the stigma around accessing help
- Collective action is required at all levels

Key Engagement Findings

Barriers Identified:

- Poverty is coloured by the ongoing impacts of colonialism, capacity challenges, and entrenched racism and stigma
- Access, affordability, and availability of childcare
- Transportation
- High cost of housing



Vision

A community where every person and family feel secure in meeting their basic needs (e.g., housing, food, clothing, transportation, mental health, wellness, etc.), is resilient to challenges and setbacks, and feel a sense of meaningful inclusion. As people move from surviving to thriving, they can explore themselves and their community in new ways that bring joy.

Key Values



Priorities for Process

Reconciliation



**Building
Partnerships**



**Cultural
Safety**



**Data
Sovereignty**



**Calls
to Action**

Systems Approach through Collective Impact



**Governance &
Infrastructure**



**Strategic
Action Planning**



**Community
Engagement**



**Ongoing Evaluation
& Improvement**

Priorities for Intervention

Meeting Basic Needs



Transportation



Housing



Health &
Wellness



Food
Security



Financial
Resources

Priorities for Intervention

Preventative Interventions



**Child
Development**



**Youth
Well-Being**



**Universal Benefits
& Supports**

Inclusion & Community Belonging



**Community
Events**



**Diversity &
Accessibility**



**Welcoming
Places**



Next Steps

Next Steps – Phases of Action



Next Steps – Begin Implementation

Begin Implementation – Key Actions for Next Steps



Governance & Infrastructure

Action

Launch work groups and select backbone organization

Work to Be Completed

Identify a backbone organization and address how to support regional and local community involvement.

Establish a Backbone organization

- Funding and/ or partnership agreement
- Agreements for structure (membership, decision making, participation guidelines, etc.)

Begin discerning roles and responsibilities



Strategic Planning

Action

Develop blueprint for implementation and identify quick wins

Work to Be Completed

Stakeholders and the backbone organization will need to coordinate to assign tasks and take ownership of the actions. Identify a Course of Action

- Conduct Strategic Action Planning when Backbone Organization is established
- Gain consensus on first steps

Key components of this work are sharing resources and building partnerships.

Next Steps – Begin Implementation



Community Engagement

Action

Engage community more broadly and build public will

Work to Be Completed

Continuing to engage with the public and stakeholders through sharing this report, promoting actions as they happen, and articulating the community vision.



Ongoing Evaluation & Improvement

Action

Establish shared measures (indicators and approach)

Work to Be Completed

As stakeholders and working groups act, their data collection and sharing will support additional shared measures for tracking progress.



Thank You