



CFP Meeting Summaries

2021

January 2021

To start the New Year at CFP, we heard from those with lived experience in our community. Lavina Boyd and Cynthia Travers joined us, and shared experiences of poverty and impacts of stigma. Experiences stemming from issues within our systems were shared and discussed, from where stigma shows up in our community to our health care systems.

We then heard from Meenakshi Mannoe and TJ Felix from Pivot Legal Society. They presented on “Auditing for Stigma”. Pivot Legal Society “works in partnership with communities affected by poverty and social exclusion to identify priorities and develop solutions to complex human rights issues” (Pivot Legal Society, 2021). During the presentation Meenakshi and TJ spoke to community values, people with lived/living experience (PWLE), peers, identifying stigma, defining systemic stigma, screening for stigma and auditing law/policy for stigma. The presentation can be viewed [here](#)

The group engaged in a “Mentimeter” and were asked to choose three words that describe how stigma harms people. Below are the words the group shared.

Choose 3 words that describe how stigma harms people



The group was then asked how they see stigma showing up in our community. Some examples that were shared include:

“Bylaws “cleaning up” people’s belongings”

“People get angry all the time in life and it's accepted, but if someone gets angry in social services they are branded as “aggressive” and this sticks and leads to criminalization”

“Lack of open dialogue and understanding influenced by fear and prejudice”

“the new bus benches with partitions - can't lie down on them.”

We continue to see stigma show up in our community, what are the next steps to shift this reality?

The CFP has been filming an anti-stigma video that is guided by the voices of those with lived experience. Elevating these voices and including them in decision making is a clear path towards change. We look forward to sharing these stories and voices with you and continuing to reveal injustices in our community, while reflecting on and working towards collaboratively addressing these issues.

Service Provider Updates

Kamloops United Church is happy to announce they are planning a virtual documentary screening of Us and Them in March. More details to follow!

Women's & Sexual Health Service opening February 2021! - STEPS (Supporting Team Excellence with Patients Society) Services include PAP, All contraceptives including IUD's, STI testing- Valley View Clinic Orchard Walk

February 2021

Wednesday, February 24. Pink Shirt Day- Anti- Bullying Day!

On our screen we saw many pink shirts to mark anti-bullying day.

In November 2020, CFP members took part in an evaluation survey that focused on the opportunities, challenges, desires and outcomes of CFP. Survey results can be viewed [here](#). The survey provided insight into members experiences of CFP and showed that the goals and direction feel somewhat unclear. There is interest among members to engage in working groups and focus on specific issues. Suggestions were made to narrow down a focus based on high need in the community. Sub committees of CFP have historically been action oriented and focused on issues including child-care, housing and transportation.

In previous meetings, stigma was identified as an ongoing barrier to change. Over the past few meetings anti-stigma has been a focus, resulting in the filming an anti-stigma video to be released at our next meeting. The dissemination approach will be collaboratively discussed, with the goal of educating and reducing stigma in the community. Defining a primary focus for working groups is a next step by asking "What are the most pertinent issues you would like to see address in our community- specific to poverty?" Community issues discussed at previous meetings will be explored, along with issues that may not yet be identified.

Melba D'Souza Assistant Professor at Thompson Rivers University presented on a study conducted in Kamloops which focused on "Access to Healthcare for People Who are Homeless". The study was conducted in collaboration with local organizations: Canadian Mental Health Association, ASK Wellness, PIT Stop, Lived Experience Community and United Way.

The mixed method study began in 2019 and consisted of a literature review, engagement with community partners and community oriented participatory research with a focus on footcare health. To learn more about the study please connect with Melba D'Souza - mdsouza@tru.ca

The group then discussed what support interventions can be facilitated for improving access to health care for people who are homeless. Some specific ideas for foot care were discussed, along with the need to share these findings with other health focused community groups or organizations that may be able to implement the findings into practice and/or policy.

Service Provider Updates

-Kamloops United working on a virtual viewing and discussion of the documentary US and Them- tentatively scheduled for after Easter. Details to follow!

-STEPS Women's Sexual Health Services and other services including LGBTQ2S+ and Trans Care, general family practice and Indigenous family care. Visit <https://stepshealth.ca/>

-You and/or your clients are invited to join a webinar series on the rights and responsibilities of renters, presented by the Elizabeth Fry Legal Clinic's Poverty Law Advocate, Erik Nelson. The webinar will run on Wednesdays, March 17, 31 & April 14 & 28, 2021 at 11:00 am. You may register for the course here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#), or by contacting E Fry at (250) 374-2119, or email: admin@kamloopsefry.com. Each webinar will focus on a particular point in time of a residential tenancy: Starting a Tenancy, During a Tenancy, Ending a Tenancy, and Dispute Resolution. Attached with this email is a press release and 4 separate posters, if you want to alert your clients by posting.

- TRU has identified students living in hotels along Columbia street. TRU is offering special bursaries for people who want to move into residence or another location in the community. Get in touch with the student affairs office.

March 2021

Maureen Doll and Marian Anderberg joined us from the BC Association of Community Response Networks and presented on "It's Not Right: Neighbours, Friends & Family." The presentation was an introduction to a training opportunity on defining elder abuse and introducing a tool to assist with starting conversations with someone who may be experiencing abuse. Spots are still available for a training opportunity on May 5th from 1-2:30pm. Please contact Maureen at CRNkamloops@gmail.com to sign up or learn more. Presentation can be viewed [here](#)

We previewed the first draft of the Anti-Stigma Video, followed by a discussion where meeting attendees provided feedback. Edits will be made as per the feedback provided. A video series was discussed, with a second video focusing on Hidden Poverty. After some further editing, the film will be shown again to CFP members and disseminated publicly. If you are a business or work in a sector outside of social services and would like to reduce poverty stigma, we encourage you to connect with us and share the video on your platforms.

A video is only as powerful as the eyes on it. Our hope is this video will reach a variety of sectors and decision makers. Contact us to learn how to share the video at info@kamloopsfoodpolicycouncil.com

Service provider updates:

- The Salvation Army has employment opportunities available in their Family Support office. Please connect with them to apply! [Salvation Army Kamloops | Job Opportunities \(kamloopssalvationarmy.ca\)](#)

- March 29th is the final Monday meal being served by Kamloops Reach with PITstop.

- The COVID Meal Train celebrated it's one year anniversary on March 28th visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2629304904024530> to learn more!

- Jan Vint from Kamloops United is currently seeking panelist to be part of a discussion after the viewing of US and THEM. Please connect with Jan to express interest in joining the panel janvint55@gmail.com to learn more about the documentary visit [US & THEM documentary film - US&THEM documentary film by Krista Loughton \(usandthemthefilm.ca\)](#)

- The US and THEM Documentary viewing will be for Kamloops United Congregation members (due to viewing policies), if you would like to secure a spot for the viewing please call Kamloops United 250-372-3020

April 2021

Over the past four months Kamloops Food Policy Council (KFPC) has been working with social work practicum student Stone Healey on deepening our understanding of the emergency food system in Kamloops. Stone shared their research findings on an Assets and Gap Analysis of the emergency food provisions in Kamloops. These food provisions were analyzed through five lenses: preventative care, localizing our food system, anti-oppression, emergency preparedness and accessibility. Stone shared limitations to conducting research during the pandemic such as limited ability to visit service providers and conduct in person interviews. Presentation can be viewed [here](#) .

After the presentation, we asked meeting participants guiding questions to inform future research related to the emergency food system. Below are some thoughts meeting participants shared.

What assets and gaps resonated with you?

"I liked the reflection on pros and cons of local vs distant food sources."

"Can't say enough good things about Food Bank & foodSHARE program. Amazing asset!"

"The social network as an asset! AND Misunderstanding of local food as a gap!"

"I appreciated the thinking around relationships and connection with food security and being healthy and well in general."

What do you think is missing in the food system?

"I see one gap as local neighborhood access."

"getting back to community kitchens would also be helpful in all neighbourhoods"

"Neighbourhood associations should be resurrected for this planning"

"we totally could use a tool library :)"

"Our new apartment building should have rooftop garden and composting to grow more food with bees"

"backyard shares could be a good option"

"Having homeowners share their front yards set up for gardening have the taxes lowered for sharing the caring"

What do you think we should ask people who access the emergency food system?

"Do you need help getting your food home"

"I'd be curious whether people felt comfortable if they were stuck on a recipe to borrow an onion (or cup of sugar) from a neighbor..."

"STOP – Is there anything we are doing that is not serving you?"

START – Is there something you have been hoping for?"

CONTINUE – What is working for you?"

"I'm curious about culturally appropriate and desired food"

"How far do you travel to access food?"

"Where do you get your food from?"

"What's working, what's not?"

Lastly, we discussed the newly released Anti-Stigma Video "Don't Fight the Poor, Fight Poverty" which can be viewed [here](#) ! This video is meant to be an education piece that shifts thinking around poverty. If you have any ideas for disseminating the video or would like to learn more please connect with Emily Pletsch at emilylepletsch@gmail.com We encourage community members and service providers to share the video with their networks, friends, family members and groups that may not be part of the conversation.

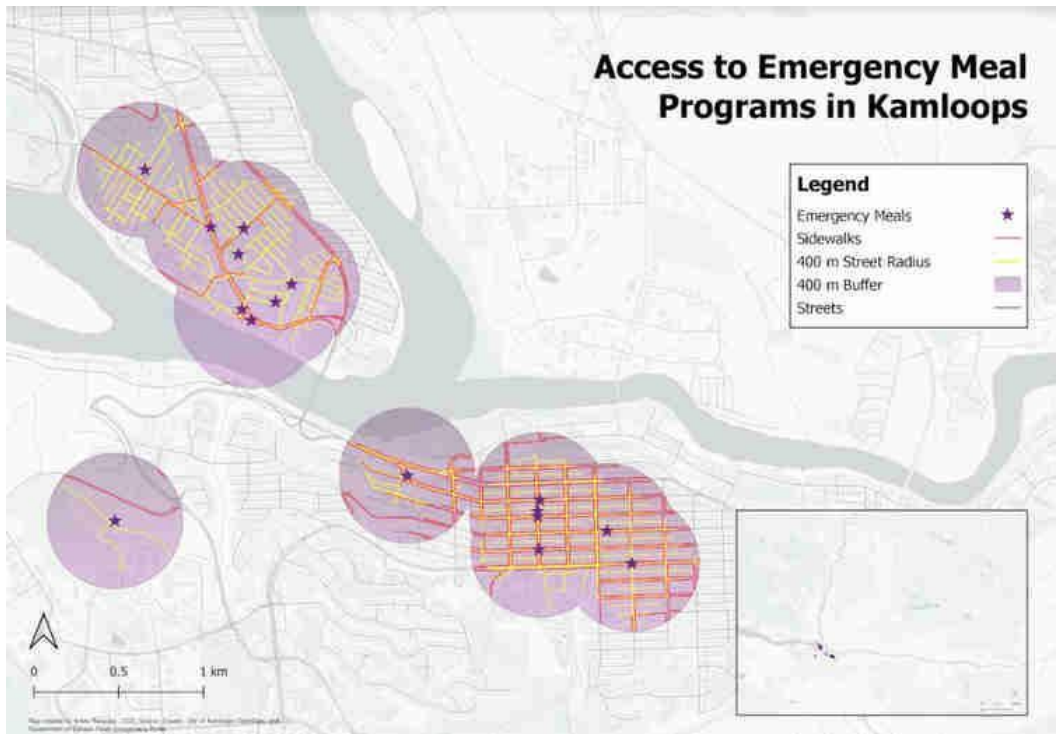
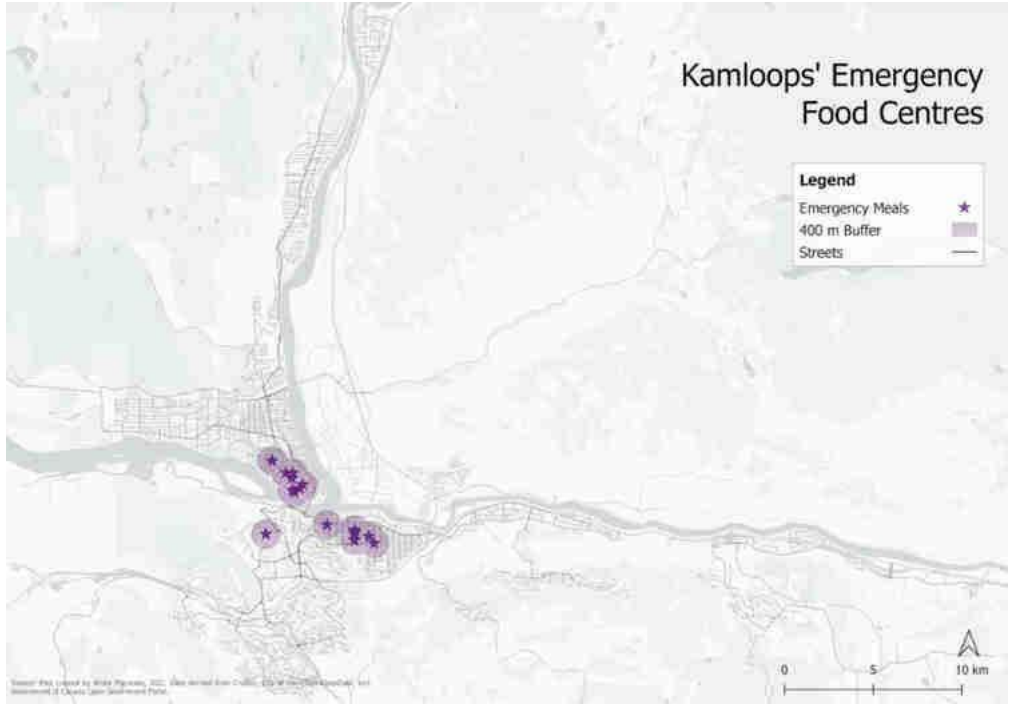
May 2021

At the April CFP meeting, a discussion sparked around strengthening neighbourhood connections and networks. To continue the conversation, we invited Sarah Kim to join us at the May meeting to discuss strengthening neighbourhoods.

Sarah Kim is a passionate advocate for systems change, racial justice and food justice. Sarah has worked as the coordinator of the Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks <http://vancouverfoodnetworks.com/> and currently works on contract with PHABC (Provincial Health Association of BC) on food security initiatives. She also works as a community developer at Collingwood Neighbourhood House <https://www.cnh.bc.ca/> in East Vancouver on anti-racism and civic engagement initiatives using a systems change lens.

Sara shared insights on place-based community development and the history and current context of Neighbourhood Houses in the Vancouver area. She also shared the pros and cons of food system networks in relation to centralized and decentralized perspectives using the Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks as an example. A centralized model may result in greater output and delivery but might not reach as many groups and focus on general need rather than meeting the unique needs of neighbourhoods or service users.

We spoke about the geography of Kamloops and the unequal distribution of services, noting that services are primarily located Downtown or on the south end of the North Shore. Multiple neighbourhoods in Kamloops have limited access to food programs, especially when community members have accessibility barriers. Please see the maps below created by Krista Macaulay showing the emergency food assets in Kamloops.



We discussed if people cannot access services due to distance, how can we get people to them? What are the community assets that can be used? What spaces are there in neighbourhoods where services could be offered? Are there parks, schools, churches? Can we bring food to these places? Are there distribution spaces that can be utilized?

Kamloops food network is robust and there is so much food to be shared and distributed in community although food deserts remain, and emergency food is only accessible in certain areas. Over the past year, food delivery services have been emphasized. As services begin to shift models again, how do we continue to reach neighbourhoods? How do we build up food accessibility in multiple neighbourhoods? How can this work be done in a way that gives people dignified access to food?

Calls to Action Discussion

Part of the work of the CFP over the past year is looking at Calls to Action. An ongoing question is how to influence groups like business owners, neighbourhood associations and other citizens.

We would like to do a city delegation to share the work we have done over the past year. We would like to present some tangible Calls to Action at this time. Some examples mentioned that got people engaged in the past were the Addictions Matters Kamloops Pledge or the Bring Your Own initiative with the City of Kamloops.

Calls to Action can be simple actions that work towards building a more connected community. Actions can be simple and impactful such as: learn about services at local non-profits, get to know two residential or business neighbours, learn about social issues in the community, volunteer 1 day a month, post the community meals calendar and food resources document in your place of business or share community resources with your neighbourhood association.

How can we shift messaging and connect more citizens to this work and to each other?

If folks have past documents, plans or strategies that have been put out by the city, for the city, or by local organizations that have a Calls to Action component please send them to Emily at emilylepletsch@gmail.com

Equity Resources Shared:

Two resources were shared that are available for neighbourhoods, community groups and work places to engage in.

[1\) Sparking Community Equity Conversations - TRU Student Union Equity Committee](#)

- Equity training for your group or community organization offered by the TRUSU Equity Committee

[2\) KAIROS \(Virtual\) Blanket Exercise](#)

- Interactive online sessions led by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers aimed to build positive relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Service Provider Updates:

- Kamloops United Church- June 21st is National Indigenous People Day. Kamloops United is doing a special service on June 20th.

- An affordable market is in the works at Mount Paul Community Food Centre. Services will be shifting at the centre in the coming months to focus back on the CFC's hand up not a hand out model. Stay tuned for more updates, and visit the CFC Facebook page to learn more

<https://www.facebook.com/icsfoodcentre>

June 2021

In 2018, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Act was passed in legislature requiring an official provincial poverty reduction plan to be set into action. This month we decided to take a further look at the provincial strategy to learn what has happened since 2018 and how this work relates to our community. The CFP has been working with a TRU student Georgia Aldus, who developed a knowledge brief on Together BC: British Columbia's Poverty Reduction Strategy. We encouraged meeting attendees to get comfortable and settle in to watch Georgia's pre-recorded presentation. The power point portion of the presentation can be viewed [here](#).

We then went into breakout rooms and had a conversation guided by the below questions:

- Have you seen any of this progress translate into the work you do?
- How do these policies translate into community?
- Are service providers aware of these policies?

Meeting attendees discussed work happening in community and work they would like to see. It was shared that there is an ongoing disconnect between policies that are put forth and how they are being implemented on the ground. Local issues were discussed such as the continued challenges with accessible childcare, affordable housing, student housing and knowing what resources exist in community and how to access these services. The Community Child Care Planning Program was shared as an example of work happening on a municipal level to address gaps in community. We then came back to the main session and split into breakout rooms for a second time. We discussed the following questions:

- What priority do you see as having the most leverage/potential for systems change in our community?
- What poverty reduction priorities outlined in the strategy are most urgently/immediately needed right now?

New hires at the City's social department were discussed, the group was pleased to hear that the City is hiring some new staff that will be working on different community concerns. One being to strengthen the City's relationship with federal and provincial governments to increase our access and understanding of work being done at this level of government. The upcoming re-envisioning of the Kamloops Social Plan was also discussed and how there will be opportunities to influence change within that process.

It was shared that there is an ongoing need for different sectors to come together to address complex needs that are increased with housing insecurity and poverty. A change in mindset was also discussed and the importance of thinking differently about the system we are a part of and how it can be reformed into something that meets the needs of all community members.

As a final activity we got meeting attendees to take part in a "Soap Box", all meeting attendees got to share one issue or idea as a way to educate the group about it. Many different issues and

ideas emerged including housing concerns, poverty stigma, engaging community members with lived experience in decision making, student housing, living wage, transportation, programs for low-income children and ideas on changing what we do by re-imagining new ways of living including housing cooperatives and “Our Heart Gardens”.

August 2021

At our last CFP meeting we discussed TogetherBC, British Columbia's first-ever poverty reduction strategy. To build on this learning, we engaged Tamarack Institute to deepen our understanding of poverty reduction across the province and municipal opportunities for poverty reduction. We were joined by City Council Members, City staff and community organizations.

We were delighted to welcome Jill Zacharias from Tamarack Institute, Jill is part of the Vibrant Communities team as the BC Manager of Growth and Impact, Cities Ending Poverty. Jill brings extensive experience in municipal government, social planning and poverty reduction, and has worked closely with Tamarack as a Cities Reducing Poverty Member and as chair of the BC Community of Practice on Poverty Reduction.

Jill presented on Tamarack's work, including Vibrant Communities Canada four practice areas: Cities Ending Poverty, Cities Deepening Community, Communities Building Youth Futures and Community Climate Transitions. Jill also spoke to Conditions of Collective Impact, Levers for Change, and the Social Role of Local Government. The full presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Programs that are making an impact were shared, including child tax and credit benefits, municipal level financial literacy, programs that decrease the cost of living, free public transit, wage increases and more. Restorative justice was also discussed as an impactful community level approach to creating change. An anti-stigma YIMBY campaign in Ontario was shared as an example of advocacy- <https://caeh.ca/bright-spot-yimby/>.

The group discussed work happening in Kamloops, and the current level of outrage and polarization in the community. The challenging times we are living in is impacting all of us, the importance of doing this work together shined through. We reflected on past collective impact projects and what made these successful in Kamloops. We discussed the need for common ground, trusting relationships and collaboration as the foundation of this work. The complexity of poverty remains, and the solutions that are rooted in doing this work together.

Service Provider Updates:

-BC Legislature Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act Survey: CLOSING Friday September 3, 2021 at 5:00pm - <https://bclegislature.checkbox.ca/rpa-survey>

-Update from The Mustard Seed (TMS) - The Gathering Place is now open at 48 West Victoria Street (beside Mini Storage) it is open from 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm 7 days a week. This is partnership with Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society & TMS. Individuals will have access to outdoor safe space, advocacy and connection to other community services.

-A friendly reminder that Kamloops has a subsidy transportation and recreation program for low-income community members! KamPASS- <https://www.kamloops.ca/our-community/building-strong-communities/accessibility/kampass-program>

September 2021

With changing seasons comes changing work. The act of letting go of something can leave room for something new to emerge. At the top of the meeting, the CFP facilitation team let the group know they will not be applying for funding to continue facilitation. Current funding for CFP goes until November 1st, 2021. The September meeting focused on the CFP's transition as will the October meeting.

At the wake of the pandemic, Kamloops Food Policy Council received funding to facilitate the CFP. At this time, food security and coordination of emergency food provisions was a top priority. Poverty is a complex issue that requires multi sectoral efforts to address, which includes but is not limited to food security. As a food focuses organization, the KFPC will continue to support poverty reduction efforts in relation to community food security and equitable access to healthy, local and culturally safe foods.

Questions emerged around what kind of group is needed? Is information sharing the best use of the group? Should the group be solely action oriented? Are other committees in Kamloops doing similar work? Is there a backbone organization with capacity and interest in taking on the group? Does CFP need to be reimagined and reformed into something new?

To deepen our understanding of work happening in Kamloops, we heard from Ty Helgason on the ecosystem of city committees in relation to social and community development. Although other groups exist throughout the city, this is a general overview of groups with a social purpose in connection with the city.

City Led Groups:

- Reaching Home Community Advisory Board
- COVID Response for Vulnerable Populations
- Coordinated Outreach Response

Council Committees and Subcommittees:

- Safe and Secure
- Social Services
- Enforcement Education
- Neighbourhood Associations and Business Improvement
- Community Services Council

Engagement Groups:

- Early Learning and Childcare Engagement Group
- Agriculture Engagement Group
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Social Planning Engagement Group
- Community Mobilization Group
- Healthy Kamloops Collective

External Groups and Subcommittees (not city led):

- Community Action Team
- Indigenous Team of Champions for Wellness
- Addiction Matters Kamloops
- Kamloops Mom Stop the Harm
- BC Housing Coordinated Access and Assessment

Over the past year and a half, the CFP has learned a lot and engaged with many groups. To share our learnings, thank our supporters and make recommendations on next steps to addressing poverty the CFP facilitation team will be doing a delegation to the Community Services Council on October 28th. Emily shared the draft delegation presentation to receive feedback from CFP members. Presentation tips and input on recommendations were made by the group.

Next, we engaged in a “Mad Tea” activity to hear from the group on potential next steps for the CFP and accomplishments of the CFP since its inception in 2006. Below are responses shared by meeting attendees.

To what extent do you feel there have been changes to what people in poverty are experiencing since this committee started?

“I can see how it has increased collaboration and communication with agencies etc”

“I do know that [CFP] has helped me pass on pertinent information to the students...and has helped me help clients navigate issues tied to poverty.”

“There is more housing, more food programs and potentially more awareness. Yes, there continues to be the same challenges at play for those living in poverty and potentially, more people experiencing poverty”

“Better coordination of services, improved dissemination of information regarding services”

“Cost of everything has drastically gone up- HUGE housing crisis, childcare crisis, cost of food.”

“the cost of housing has escalated, neighborhoods have gentrified, people have been displaced from rural areas, the visible signs of utter poverty have increased, many others have become more hostile to poverty.”

“rising housing costs, increased social isolation, mental health”

“barely any raise in welfare rates in bc, increased settlement/population and housing crunch on secwepemcul'ecw, more cost based analysis contingent funding for social programs, sell off then buy up of bc housing”

“Increased issues with misinformation about how people in poverty are ending up in Kamloops or on the street.”

“The gap between those who have and those who have not has been widening, the cost of living in Kamloops has gone up significantly, access to essential services like childcare and health care has been declining”

How has CFP contributed to any changes to the experiences of those in poverty?

“Holding a space for those in poverty to share their experiences, VIDEO, collaborative approach, sharing of information and resources”

“A venue or space for shared resources and information among services providers is so valuable in ensuring needs by those experiencing poverty and looking to access resources are met.”

“Looking at other communities responses, thinking outside the box for new ideas”

“Coordination of efforts, helping organizations be aware of “what else” is going on in the city, what other helps are available or applicable, building a sense of collaboration, identifying gaps/outstanding needs - hopefully this has resulted in better access?”

“The ability to share information, and to brainstorm reactions to government policies such as disability rates. The improved communication especially with local government. Building of relationships between NGOs, faith based groups and others.”

“I'm not sure.”

“acted as a non-government or law enforcement led voice for equality and services for community members; provided a space for like-minded community members and service workers to share and engage in broader advocacy, helped connect projects and share strengths to avoid duplicating or remaking existing resources.”

"I believe CFP helps by bringing people together to build relationships to support those experiencing poverty and conditions that are a result of poverty."

"I think CFP has brought more awareness to the issue and had on-the-ground success in initiating responses to alleviate some of the impacts of poverty (i.e. rent bank, food access, advocacy around laws/policies impacting those living in poverty)"

Is there a role for a group like CFP in addressing the current conflict around 'polarization' and stigma around poverty and crime? Please describe.

"I sure hope so. I sense the growing "big feelings" you mentioned and can understand the fear and frustration, but see such a need for education and opening up places to help and to treat all those involved with dignity and decency."

"I think any group that brings community organizations together helps to reduce stigma. I also think groups, such as CFP, help to support service providers so they can each continue to serve the community in their own individual capacity. I am unsure of the role CFP has in addressing this polarization, as I'm sure many of us are."

"One role the CFP could be to redefine what a citizen of Kamloops is. If only affluent people are seen as belonging, then the poor are buitenlanders (outsiders) who will never be seen as having a place. CFP can help bring these people into the conversation - e.g. advocate for people at Emerald House or Spero to be part of the Seniors Lite Tour"

"CFP can show commonality between community members experienced high costs of housing, lack of access to health and other services, lack of inclusive and accessible public services - regardless of whether we are housed and "decent" or what our substance use of choice may or may not be. For example: what are our shared experiences and stories of finding housing, going to the park, finding a primary care provider, etc? I would prefer if CFP didn't automatically include the city and government, but could invite them."

"More education to community members, more workshops, shared spaces, initiatives that bring the community together. Space to educate on the many root causes of homelessness. Becoming a group that is easily reachable to answer any questions individuals may have."

"I agree there is a lot pf "potency" in the community around crime and poverty right now. I believe there has been a significant increase recently and this is lending itself to community frustrations. The world in general is under a significant amount of stress and I think many people are facing severe stress in relation to covid - this adds to the polarization - and stigma for sure. Tough issue. Not sure I really answered the question...."

"With the current membership and folks who attend the meetings I would suggest no. It seems to me that in order to hold space for those larger systemic conversations we need to increase the mandate of the group and invite stakeholders from multiple sectors not just NGOs and municipal reps"

What do you hope to see for CFP moving forward?

“More info/resource sharing which can lead to collaboration and then broadening out participants from a wider cross-section of groups, organizations, areas.”

“I would like that there is a monthly open meeting open to NGOs, faith-based groups and individuals that provides a safe space to share ideas and support initiatives. It would be good if it had some money to do a few small projects. Finally, ask how many people even know CFP exists - is it a group that should be known by the larger community. Also, is there work to ask others to join it.”

“I think CFP is at a crossroads and need to clearly define mandate and purpose. Is this a table for sharing updates or is this an action table looking at creating impact and change? If the latter than more resources will need to come from somewhere...”

“Perhaps a more focused direction. Clear overarching goals. Perhaps sub-committees within to tackle different content areas”

“a priority of hosting accessible events to hear the ideas of people living in poverty on a regular basis- and least quarterly.”

“I agree, there is a need for a committee/group outside of other structures that will allow for latitude with innovation, realness, etc. I’m not sure where this fits? There is a Local Health Action Committee (Venture Kamloops is Chairing I believe). Maybe there is a possibility there?”

“the role of a non-City group is key for bringing forward ideas and building relationships. As an equivalent, the Chamber of Commerce advocates for businesses, even though there are City committees and groups that have responsibilities for these as well.”

The group then had an open discussion and reflected on where the CFP has been, its past accomplishments and what people feel is needed in community. This includes more advocacy, a space to engage with folks with lived experience, a poverty reduction strategy, increased access to services, dedicated capacity for collaboration, accessibility audits, explainers committees and more. Whether a group is funding by the city or external was discussed, including the freedoms of a group external to the city and the risks of not having municipal support.

The CFP facilitation team welcomes community members and organizations to connect with us if they have questions, thoughts, concerns or interest regarding CFP facilitation. Feel free to connect with Emily at emilylepletsch@gmail.com .We would love to hear from you!

Service Provider Updates

- City of Kamloops received funding from the finance committee for additional 2021 Social and Community Development Grants, applications are now open! Application deadline is October 6th at 8:00am. Please note these are for projects beginning in 2021. Separate applications will

open in November for the 2022 Social and Community Development Grants.
<https://www.kamloops.ca/node/39841>

- Raise a Reader Day September 22, 2021 - www.raiseareader.ca

- Connect with Sally at United Way BC (250-372-9933) to learn more about their Collaboration Centre in Kamloops and how your organization can use the space.

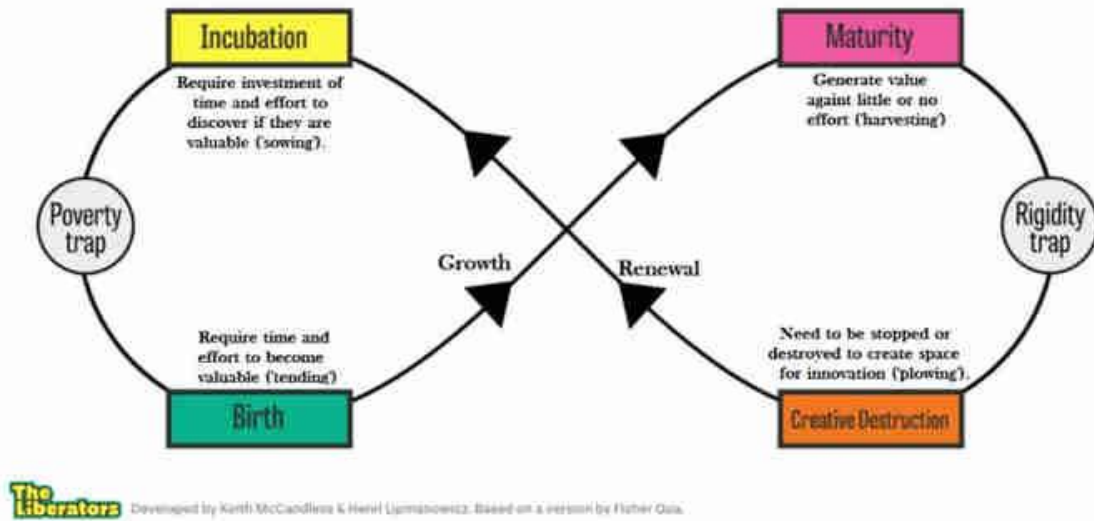
October 2021

"There's a trick to the 'graceful exit.' It begins with the vision to recognize when a job, a life stage, or a relationship is over--and let it go. It means leaving what's over without denying its validity or its past importance to our lives. It involves a sense of future, a belief that every exit line is an entry, that we are moving up, rather than out." Ellen Goodman



This month we held our final CFP meeting. We gathered online to acknowledge 15 years of AMAZING work. We looked at lifecycles and used this Eco-cycle image to reflect on how CFP is in a place of creative destruction. We found the group to be in a place of “needing to be stopped or destroyed to create space for innovation”. We recognize the value in having CFP continue and see value in forging new paths in addressing poverty in Kamloops that can be built off the historical work of CFP.

Ecocycle Planning



Memories of the groups were shared, including:

The relationships that have been built

The value of law poverty advocate updates

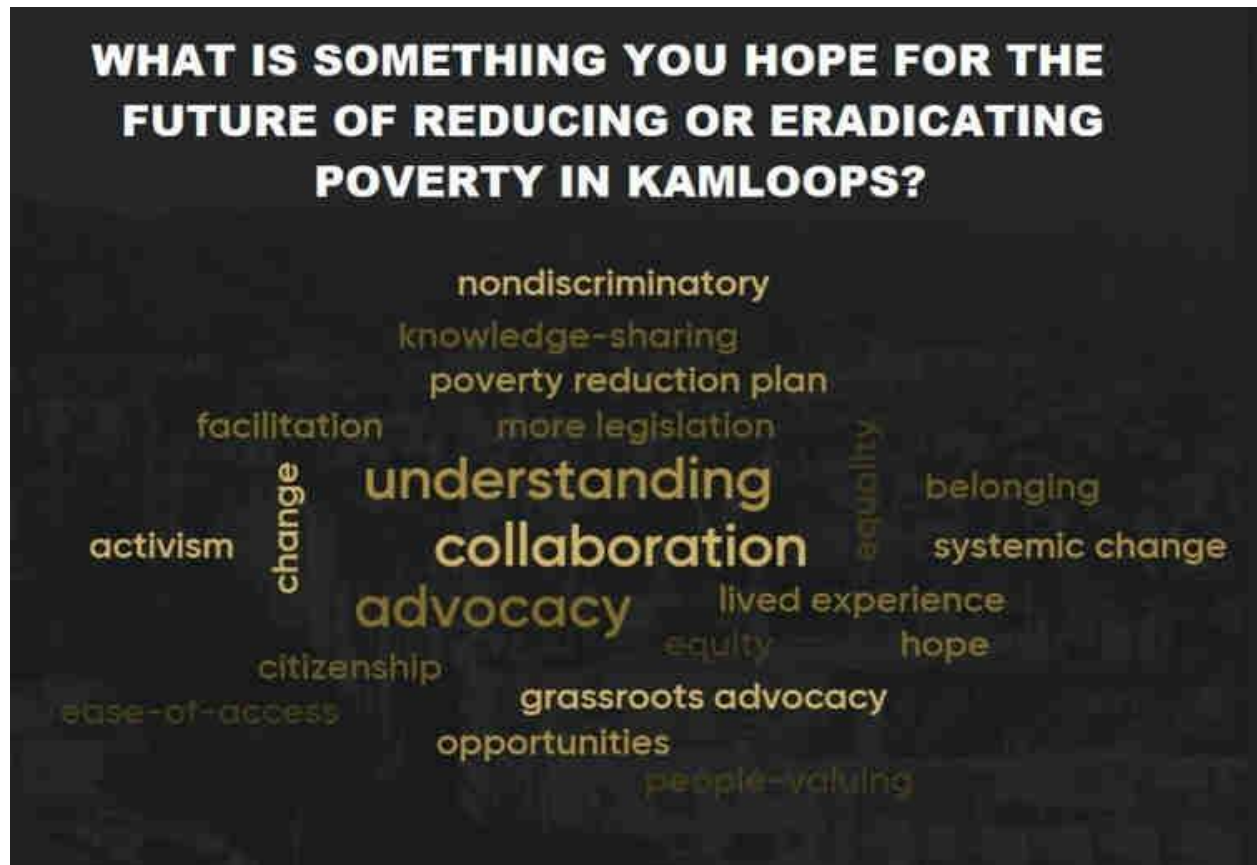
Projects that CFP took on gave life to other projects outside this committee

Insightful and inspiring guest speakers

Information sharing and a helpful place for navigating the system

A safe space for support

Future hopes from the CFP:



Although CFP is formally ending, we know this work does not stop here. We received a good news share that the City of Kamloops has become a member of Tamarack Institute, we are so excited about this relationship and deepening our approach to ending poverty. We are hopeful other groups will emerge and build off of the learnings of CFP in the near future.

Trust that an ending is followed by a beginning.

Service Provider Updates

-Saturday, November 6, 2021 Transition Kamloops is co-sponsoring a climate rally at Stuart Wood at 11 am. Climate change impacts are already disproportionately felt by the marginalized, and they are expected to continue to exacerbate inequality, so please feel free to share this event to show support for strong climate action. Details at www.transitionkamloops.net.

-The Loop is working on a free thrift store; food shopping will also be available. Contact Glenn for more information 250-879-0465

-Salvation Army Kamloops Christmas Dinner and Adopt a Family. Connect with them to donate, volunteer or to support a family this Christmas. Families for Families is back! From November 15th to 20th, donations will be accepted at the Sahali Save On Foods location and you can pop by the store on November 20th for the live on-location broadcast too.

-2022 City of Kamloops Social and Community Development Grant Application now open till November 15th! <https://www.kamloops.ca/node/39841>

- Kamloops Reach is doing soup kitchens starting Nov 18 at the United Church

Thank you to each and every one of you for the work you do. This work does not come easy, yet we continue to show up every day for it. We are a network of passionate people dedicating our lives to building a greater community for all.

There is a reason we are here in this community together.

Our work does not stop here, this we know.