



Richmond Poverty Response Committee (PRC)

Goals and Actions for a Poverty-Free Richmond

Approved May 2017

Richmond has the highest proportion of people in Metro Vancouver living in poverty, at 22.4 % compared to the average of 17.4%. 38% of Richmond households have an income of less than \$40,000/year, and the child/youth poverty rate is high. Richmond residents’ “overall general and mental health is significantly lower compared to health authority and regional averages.” Clearly, much work is needed to alleviate poverty in our community.

Members of the Richmond PRC accept that poverty should be addressed as a matter of human rights, with a focus on seven areas: income security; housing and homelessness; child care and early learning; training, education, and employment; health; transportation; and food security. In every area, the structural barriers faced by every underserved group experiencing poverty (such as single parents, seniors, youth, individuals, newcomers, and the disabled) need to be removed.

Members of the Richmond PRC believe that through research, projects and public education we can have a positive impact by undertaking specific actions and making specific community-centred recommendations . **The following goals guide our activities.**

1. Income security

Remove barriers that delay and deny people in need, and improve earnings and working conditions of low-wage workers. Be an example to private employers by paying a living wage to all city employees and contractors.

2. Housing and Homelessness

Work actively to end homelessness and advocate for a comprehensive affordable housing plan for those who rent and a plan for wraparound supportive services for those who need extra supports to participate in the community.

3. Child Care and Early Learning

Continue to support the provision of high quality childcare and universal early learning programs that families can access. Build additional childcare spaces to meet the needs of Richmond residents and workers.

4. Training, Education and Employment

Ensure the provision of meaningful long-term training and education in order that people can access stable and well-paying jobs. Advocate for universal access to secondary school education and tuition relief to post-secondary education and training for low-income students.

5. Health

Advocate for the addition of dental care and optical care and mental health services to the public health care system. Support the expansion of integrated approaches to prevention and health promotion services. Advocate for the expansion of public provision of home support, residential care and community wellness services.

6. Transportation

Inspire Richmond to become a multi-modal city with strong alternate forms of transportation, including peer-to-peer car sharing, extensive cycling networks, and affordable public transportation. Increase the number of bus routes that transit users need, especially seniors and disabled. Increase the number of crosswalks on long-block roads.

7. Food Security

Move from a reliance on emergency food relief to more systemic approaches to achieving food security. Support local groups involved in the entire food system, support food drives, and connect service providers with these groups to enable the sharing of foodstuffs to people in need.

References:

Municipal Responses to Child/Youth Poverty, 2015 www.richmondprc.org

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First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Child Poverty Report Card 2016 <http://still1in5.ca/>

Dignity For All, A National Anti-Poverty Plan for Canada https://dignityforall.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/DignityForAll_Report.pdf

The Social Justice Centre, KUC <http://www.thesocialjusticecentre.org/>