

Gender Analysis and Community-based Poverty Reduction

Terms of Reference

Pan Canadian Gender and Poverty Working Group

The overall goal of the Gender and Poverty Project is to strengthen the capacity of members and sponsors of Vibrant Communities to promote gender equity and to further deepen its work in poverty reduction. Its aim is to enhance the capacity of participating communities, and the overall initiative, to recognize and address gender dimensions of poverty.

Through the Gender and Poverty project, a pan Canadian working group will be convened on a voluntary basis to direct and sustain the project outcomes. The two project leads will facilitate the working group in developing and adapting tools and processes for:

- a. profiling (identifying the characteristics, assets, and challenges) of low income women in the communities represented
- b. understanding the gender dimensions of poverty
- c. creating strategies and actions to address the gender dimensions of poverty and to reduce women's poverty in local communities, and nationally through and policy development.

Local research and workshops on gender-based analysis for poverty reduction will be held in five to six participating communities. Low-income women will participate in both the working group and local workshops.

Working Group Responsibilities

- To play a leadership role in making the gender dimensions of poverty a focus of attention as participating communities in ***Vibrant Communities*** across the country carry out their work
- To provide input into the design and implementation of the local research and workshops to be held in communities across Canada
- To review outcomes of workshops and provide input into the final report/recommendations for specific community strategies and public policy changes that can help counter the factors contributing to the disproportionately high rates of poverty among women
- To periodically report on the progress of its work to other key participants in Vibrant Communities, both at the local and the Pan-Canadian level

Participants in the Gender and Poverty Working Group specifically from communities where workshops will be held will also be responsible for assigning an organizational lead to project manage the local research and workshop organizing in their region. In addition, convening groups holding workshops in their region will be asked to prepare local profiles to support a gender-based analysis of poverty. The Working Group will serve as a sounding board for issues related to this project management as well as the workshop design and organizing/outreach.

Timeline and Scheduling

- The working group will be formed in early July 2003 and will continue to be convened through Vibrant Communities until the end of the Gender and Poverty project, March 2004. The group may opt to continue meeting following project end.

Appendix 1

- Participants in the Gender and Poverty Working Group will participate in up to 5 conference calls (July, August, September/October, November/December, January/February) of approximately 1.5 hours in length. These calls will be organized and convened by Tamarack Institute/Caledon Institute and chaired by the project leads. Additional background reading will be forwarded to working group members between conference calls and meetings and prior to workshops.

A face to face meeting of the Working Group will be organized in conjunction with the Vibrant Communities meetings during the week of September 21, 2003.

- Local workshops in up to 6 communities will be held from September to November 2003.

Other Roles and Responsibilities

Project Leads

- The Tamarack Institute and the Caledon Institute have contracted Cathy Lang and Toby Goldberg-Leong to act as project leads for the Gender and Poverty project. Cathy and Toby will work collaboratively to: chair working group meetings, provide support to the working group in its leadership responsibilities, develop consensus around workshop and research design, advise on local workshop organizing and research, and facilitate discussion on learning about Gender and Poverty through the working group that may be shared with the larger Vibrant Communities pan Canadian learning community.

Cathy and Toby are also responsible to: finalize the design of workshops, facilitate those workshops with local convenors, report on the workshops, manage the research and development of learning tools, and provide a final report to the Caledon Institute, the Tamarack Institute and the Vibrant Communities Policy Working Group.

External Advisors and Researchers

- The project leads have contracted a researcher to identify appropriate tools and research on Gender and Poverty that may be adapted for Vibrant Communities. In addition, a gender analysis specialist has been retained to advise the project leads and the working group on the field of gender analysis.

Community Convenors/Workshop Researchers/Organizers

- As noted above, in up to 6 designated regions local convening groups will be responsible to assign an organizational lead to project manage the local research and workshop organizing in their region. The working group will act as a sounding board for issues arising in organizing the workshops. Funds will be available through the Gender and Poverty project for this local research and workshop organizing.

Tamarack Institute and Caledon Institute

- Contract administration, support to Project Managers, logistical support for Working Groups meetings
- Coordination of the Gender and Poverty Project with other facets of Vibrant Communities (e.g. Policy Dialogue, Coaching)
- Translation, production (e.g., editing, formatting, lay-out), and dissemination of the project's final report and tools for use by Vibrant Communities stakeholders
- Input on whether and how the process and products of the Gender and Poverty project can be adapted to assist communities with issues showing similar dynamics (e.g., inclusion of visible minorities, persons with disabilities, recent immigrants, etc.)

