

## Closing the Gap in Surrey

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Like many Canadian communities experiencing rapid growth in population, Surrey is experiencing a growing polarization in economic wealth and income. Approximately 18.26% of the region's residents live with incomes under the Low Income Cut-Off.



Vibrant Surrey, a group of representatives from business, labour, government, non-profit groups and those living with low income, have been exploring over the last two years how they might best work together to turn back poverty in their community.

In the autumn of 2004, Vibrant Surrey confirmed their commitment to develop a comprehensive approach to reduce poverty and are now busily implementing a one-year workplan to build the partnerships and financial resources to make it happen.

While the group is busy laying the foundations for a long-term campaign against poverty, they have selected a number of concrete initiatives to demonstrate their unique contribution to the many existing poverty reduction efforts in their community:

*Seeing is Believing* - One of three Canadian pilots (with Vancouver & Toronto) to engage business leaders in tackling social issues. The project is led by Canadian Business for Social Responsibility

*Social Purchasing Portal* - This made in Canada program links businesses with organizations that assist people to find work and with ventures that sell social products.

*CED Project* - The development of a multisectoral leadership table to follow up on the key findings identified in the report "Surrey: the Hidden Opportunities - community economic development potential."

The Vibrant Surrey collaborative has a busy year ahead of it! The resilience it has displayed over the last year, its commitment to multisectoral collaboration, and its interest in working comprehensively are excellent building blocks for what promises to be important work in this growing region.



[Vibrant Surrey](#)

### Related Links:

- [Local Businesses Take on Poverty Issues](#)
- [Seeing is Believing](#)
- [Social Purchasing Portal](#)

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