



OUR GOAL:

The goal of Vibrant Surrey is to encourage and facilitate collaborative efforts to reduce poverty and the issues related to poverty, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all who call Surrey home. Leaders from all facets of the community who care about Surrey and its neighbourhoods, businesses, workforce and residents have founded the Vibrant Surrey Initiative.

Join us in this challenge of building economic and social opportunities for all.

OUR BELIEFS: The members of Vibrant Surrey share the following beliefs and basic ideas with each other and other members of the Pan Canadian Learning Community of Vibrant Communities with regards to finding local solutions to poverty reduction in Surrey and Canada:

1. Communities can have a deeper impact if they focus on reducing not just alleviating poverty
2. Local organizations are effective in mobilizing broad based community support for efforts to deal with local problems.
3. We can do more together than we can do on our own
4. We can create increased credibility, capacity and capital for the entire field of community poverty reduction by working together.
5. We can compliment the efforts of municipal, provincial and federal governments in tackling social and economic challenges.
6. We do not have the answers only a commitment to learn, change and grow.

OUR PRINCIPLES:

The following principles have been borrowed from the Vibrant Communities Initiative. As they guide the work across Canada they will also guide the work of the people committed to Vibrant Surrey.

1. We are rooted in a commitment to learn, model and apply the strategies of comprehensive thinking and action, multi-sector collaboration, community asset building and community learning.
2. We are *comprehensive*: we are broad in scope and working with umbrella issues. We collaborate on projects that are interconnected. We intervene at several levels, from systemic to individual, and work beyond service provision to asset building. We empower neighbourhoods and communities. Our work results in changes to the broader social and economic context.
3. We are *holistic*: we break down artificial boundaries (silos) to identify links between various issues and engage diverse sectors.

4. We are *multisectoral*: we encourage partnering and collaborative work and recognize the value of contributions from diverse backgrounds, networks and areas of expertise. We believe this bring new value in terms of resources, insights and expertise. In order to embrace this concept, we are governed by a coordinating mechanism that encompasses our plurality.
5. We are *inclusive* not just with issues but also in membership. We have a commitment to fostering new relationships, with a special emphasis on ensuring that low-income residents shape solutions meant to address their needs. We provide support to enable their contributions, which means recognizing and addressing the realities of those living on low income. We acknowledge the diversity of experiences of poverty. We support community organizing and believe that broad social inclusion is a priority. To that end we are prepared to commit resources and focus on ongoing learning and improvement
6. We understand that everyone is part of the problem and part of the solution
7. We focus on the strengths and assets of communities rather than their deficits.
8. We ensure a safe, non- judgmental environment where everyone can share their knowledge, experience and stories.
9. We respect and embrace diversity of opinions, ideas, outlooks and abilities and engage in the work in a spirit of trust, appreciation and generosity.
10. *We are prepared to take risks, be creative and innovative in our work.*
11. We emphasize mutual support for and among all those participating in the work of poverty reduction
12. We measure our success by our results

OUR DEFINITION OF POVERTY:

- Poverty is more than just a lack of income. It is multidimensional - including things like safe and affordable housing, a feeling of hope for the future, participation in community, financial savings, etc. A variety of factors outside of an individual's control can contribute to poverty: age, gender, ethnicity, migration, health, physical and developmental ability etc.
- A household's/person's journey out of poverty can be understood and captured by their progress along a multi-dimensional continuum. Vibrant Surrey has chosen to adopt the Caledon framework for poverty reduction to reflect a way of achieving an enhanced quality of life.

OUR APPROACH TO POVERTY REDUCTION:

Community Economic Development: a participatory process bringing together a diversity of interests and sectors by which communities initiate and generate their own solutions to socio-economic problems leading to positive concrete changes for individuals and communities.

Community Capacity Building: strengthening the capacity of the community infrastructure to respond to a variety of needs and opportunities. Together we can do more!

Research and Education: in order to understand the socio-economic factors that contribute to poverty, we will develop, implement and evaluate various approaches that are appropriate to the target populations, in partnership with community.

OUR STRUCTURE:

Convening Committee:

The convening committee is comprised of members representing the diverse facets of the community. This committee facilitates the community development process and will provide administrative support to the Community Roundtable. This group will act as the link to the funders, to the Pan-Canadian Vibrant Communities Initiative and the community. A representative from the Convening Committee will be appointed to act as the spokesperson for Vibrant Surrey. The work of the Convening Committee will be guided by the following principles:

- To subscribe to the mission and beliefs of the Initiative
- To make a commitment to support the efforts of Vibrant Surrey by providing resources which may include funding, staffing, space or expertise
- To be committed, valued and consistent representatives of their organizations.
- To make decisions by consensus whenever possible
- To work collaboratively to strengthen the capacity of individuals, organizations and community
- To believe in ongoing learning from others and our experiences and to share these learnings
- To celebrate the strengths and assets of our community

Roles and Responsibilities of Convening Committee members:

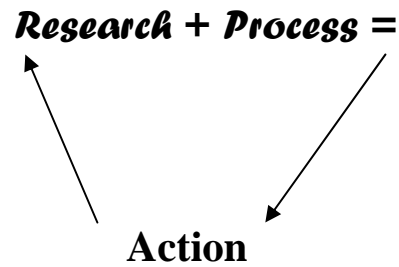
- To commit to attending meetings and contribute to the process however any alternate representatives are to be approved by the committee. The term of membership is open
- To recruit members to the Community Roundtable
- To manage all funding revenues and expenses
- To supervise support staff when funding is available
- To liaise with various community groups in the process of developing strategies and supporting the activities of the Roundtable
- To be responsible for appropriate communication tools and material for the initiative

Community Roundtable:

The Community Roundtable is an open forum for all sectors including business, labour, non-profit, residents and all levels of government. The Community Roundtable will undertake the following tasks that will lead to an increase in Surrey's community capacity to build economic and social opportunities with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life and reducing poverty.

- Identify and meet measurable targets
- Lead collaborative initiatives/ strategies
- Build supportive partnerships with community organizations, businesses and low-income leaders

- Ours is a process of continuous improvement driven by quality research, strategic action and ongoing evaluation



Administrative Support:

Based on the availability of funds, administrative support will be provided to the convening committee for clerical support, management of communications, maintaining regular contact with Vibrant Communities, arranging committee and community meetings and responding to enquiries from the community.

For further information about the Pan Canadian Vibrant Communities Initiative connect with the website www.vibrantcommunities.ca.

