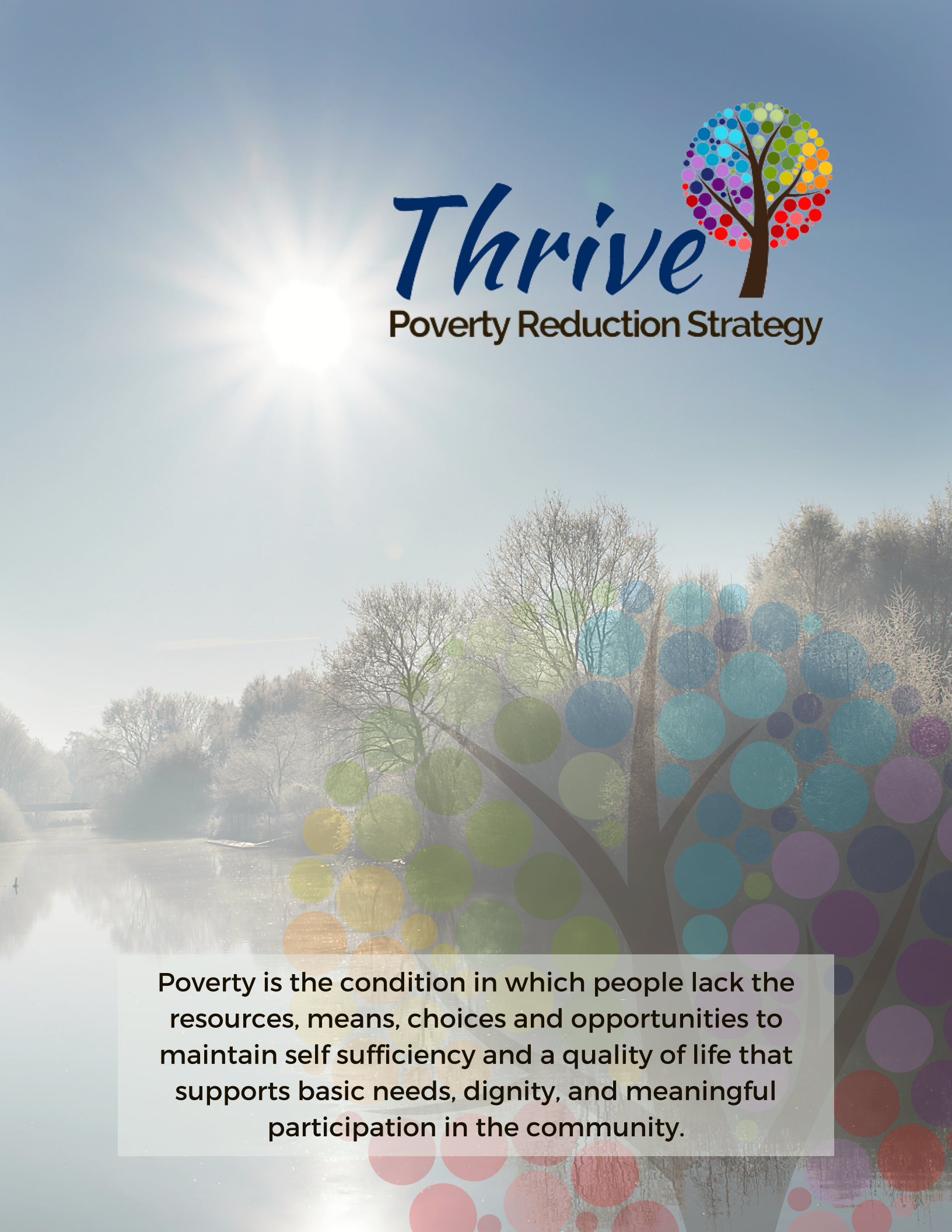




Thrive

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Poverty is the condition in which people lack the resources, means, choices and opportunities to maintain self sufficiency and a quality of life that supports basic needs, dignity, and meaningful participation in the community.

Our Guiding Values and Principles

Poverty is a spectrum not a line – it includes those without income as well as those whose financial situation is so precarious that a small crisis can have catastrophic financial implications.

Dignity and Equal Rights - everyone has the right to live with dignity and be treated with dignity and respect.

Prevention is critical to solving poverty - we must address both the current reality AND future needs to ensure that fewer people live in poverty.

Collective Effort - reducing poverty requires shared responsibility and shared leadership.

Innovation - if we are to succeed, we need to be creative and nimble to leverage opportunities and resources.

Vision and Goals

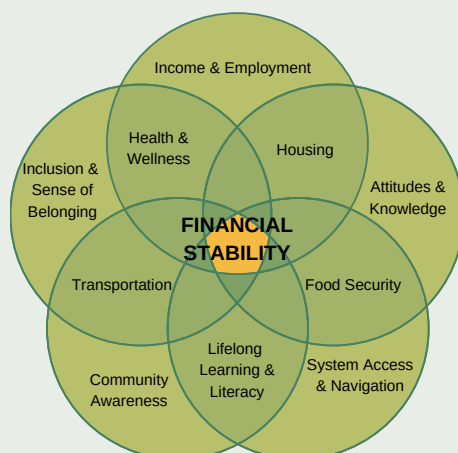


All community members have sufficient income and assets to thrive in our community.

All community members live in a strong, supportive and inclusive community.

All community members, including those who are Indigenous and/or non-white, feel a sense of belonging and inclusion, and are full and equal participants in community life.

Complexity of Poverty



Roles in Poverty Reduction



14% poverty rate in Williams Lake in 2016

21% children 0-19

27% of youth age 15-19

17%
of women

34% of Indigenous people in Williams Lake
live in poverty (2/3 of those are women)



Half of those living in poverty have employment income...



Poverty is the condition in which people lack the resources, means, choices and opportunities to maintain self sufficiency and a quality of life that supports basic needs, dignity, and meaningful participation in the community.

Priority Populations

Children and
Youth



Indigenous
People



Women and
Single Mothers



Foundations for Change



System Access
& Navigation



Inclusiveness



Community
Awareness &
Attitudes



Financial
Stability

Building Blocks for Action



Financial
Security and
Employment



Housing and
Homelessness



Food
Security



Lifelong
Learning and
Literacy



Health and
Wellness



Transportation

Poverty Reduction Priorities for Action - Tier 1

FINANCIAL SECURITY & EMPLOYMENT

- Advocate for a Guaranteed Basic Income program to support those who are unable to meet their basic needs through employment
- Develop a 'Day Labour' Program to connect those with employment barriers to short-term employment opportunities that build skills and attachment to the labour market
- Increase availability and access to financial education, awareness, and coaching to reduce debt loads and support increased financial stability

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

- Ensure everyone who may be eligible is aware of and can access rent supplements and housing loss prevention support.
- Establish a rent bank to respond to crisis situations that put housing stability at risk.
- Build capacity for increasing affordable housing development

FOOD SECURITY

- Ensure maximum use of locally available food – establish mechanisms to ensure any un-used but still safe food is re-distributed to community food programs

LIFELONG LEARNING AND LITERACY

- Every school incorporates trauma sensitive awareness and practices – understanding and providing increased attention to mental health and trauma impacts on students and effects on their learning
- Increase access to literacy and essential skills training programs and support for adults
- Identify gaps in digital access and work with community stakeholders to find innovative solutions that increase access
- Support early childhood development events and opportunities to connect families who have young children to supports and services that strengthen early learning and healthy parenting skills

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Work together to gather data and develop collective responses to child and youth mental health, including completion of the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey and establishing a Foundry to provide support, early intervention and wrap around services for youth and their families
- De-stigmatize mental illness and support increased access to early intervention and support for individuals experiencing mental health and substance use challenges
- Continue to support development of The Foundry as a youth centred service delivery model
- Support access to primary care services for all community members

TRANSPORTATION

- Explore options for new public transit models that better meet the community needs

Poverty Reduction Priorities for Action - Tier 2

FINANCIAL STABILITY & EMPLOYMENT

- Support the development of Social Enterprises, particularly those that provide supported employment, training and laddering to the mainstream labour market for youth and those with barriers to employment
- A Space for Every Child – Child Care Plan: Ensure affordable, quality child care spaces are available for all families. This requires investments in infrastructure, and a commitment to raising wages and increasing access to training
- Regulate predatory loans businesses and develop alternatives for those in a short-term financial crisis.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS:

- Develop a strategy and build capacity for increased investment in new affordable rental housing and staffed supportive housing for those unable to live independently without support Increase access to supports needed to maintain stable housing. This includes rent supplements as well as support services, including tenancy advocacy and assistance

FOOD SECURITY

- Establish consistent and equitable school food programs to support both food security and school connection that enhances education outcomes
- Continue to work towards enhancing local food production and availability to increase community food security

LIFELONG LEARNING & LITERACY

- Provide free and accessible parenting support and skills training for all parents as a 'normal' expectation for the challenges of parenting
- Support collaboration between schools and community partners – develop pathways to support increased attention to building a sense of belonging and inclusion in both schools and the community
- Increase access to literacy and numeracy support in the school system to improve future education opportunities and outcomes, as well as connection to post-secondary education and training.

PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH

- Ensure every person has access to primary health care services, and leverage that system to support access to and navigation of services Increase access to affordable dental care services

TRANSPORTATION

- Expand public transit to outlying communities (including Wildwood, Pine Valley, and 150 Mile) and support late-night service to Prosperity Ridge
- Explore feasibility of shifting to an on-demand public transit system that could provide greater reach, longer hours, and more efficient routes that would increase ridership



IMPLEMENTATION

- **Gain endorsement** of the strategy by key organizations and community leaders
- Continue **connections** to existing community networks and collaborative tables
- **Coordinate priorities for action** from the Thrive Strategy with other community initiatives
- **Inspire and engage Leadership Champions** to collaborate on specific actions and priorities focused on Tier 1 initiatives
- **Launch, pilot and support seeds of hope** to explore new and innovative possibilities
- **Develop** new working groups as required to **focus on moving forward** key initiatives from both Tier 1 and Tier 2
- **Inspire community engagement** through awareness/education campaigns and engagement of individuals



AN INITIATIVE OF

Social Planning Council of Williams Lake and Area,
in partnership with Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy
& organizations and community members of Williams Lake.

www.wlspc.ca/Thrive