



MOVIN' ON UP
COWICHAN LAKE
POVERTY REDUCTION

STRATEGY REPORT AT A GLANCE

JULY 2021



STRATEGY AT A GLANCE



The Movin' On Up Vision

We are a caring community where everyone:

- Lives a vibrant, healthy life
- Feels valued and connected
- Is supported and can contribute to our community.

The Movin' On Up Guiding Principles

- Empower those with lived experience to direct and prioritize local actions
- Provide inclusive care for everyone
- Build strong relationships and a supportive network
- Collaborate and work together to create positive change
- Share skills and learning to build resiliency among all age groups
- Identify root causes and “whole cost accounting” for investments

The Movin' On Up Values

Inclusion Diversity
Empowerment Collaboration
Connection Equality
Working Together

Poverty Themes & Community Actions

- Create Affordable Housing Options and Improve Living Conditions
- Improve Transportation Options
- Increase Local Employment and Educational Opportunities
- Improve Access to Healthy Food
- Fill Gaps in Community Infrastructure and Services
- Improve Access to Complete Health Care, Mental Health and Addictions Services and Support
- Support Mental, Physical and Emotional Wellbeing
- Alleviate the Pressure to Meet Basic Needs

COMMUNITY ACTIONS SUMMARY

Residents of the Cowichan Lake area engaged in a questionnaire, interview and/or virtual community conversation to provide insights into the unique challenges they face with living in poverty in their community. These conversations, along with Working Group discussions and an analysis of the existing community and government services, frame the list of recommended community actions listed below. The recommendations are neither definitive or complete, rather they launch what can hopefully be a collaborative process amongst all levels of government, First Nations, community groups, schools, businesses, and individuals who commit to end poverty together.

The 8 Community Actions Themes

- Create Affordable Housing Options and Improve Living Conditions
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[Click here to read the full Strategy Report for complete details & recommendations.](#)

CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS AND IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS



Establish a Cowichan Lake area Task Force to develop a strategy to move affordable housing options forward as identified in the Official Community Plan.



Implement changes to Bylaws that support affordable housing options such as secondary suites, rental and multi-unit housing.



Establish a rental bank and development protections for local renters such as rent control and local advocacy for tenants and landlords.

IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS



Consider undertaking a Walkability study and establishing a local car-pooling or ride-share program.



Advocate to increase public input on the BC Transit Future Action Plan and complete recommendations in the Active Transportation Network Plan.

INCREASE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Develop local employment training programs in partnership with VIU.



Advocate for Guaranteed Universal income and support local businesses and employers to provide liveable wages and benefits.



Offer incentives to encourage hiring of those with disabilities or employment barriers.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD



Expand and coordinate community food services including the Food Bank, community garden program, school meals, meal sharing, and food recovery programs.



Develop food skill building programs and grow the number of volunteers who support local food programs.

FILL GAPS IN COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES



Establish wrap-around services to help lift families out of poverty including access to internet services, washrooms, childcare, legal aid, life skills, and job finding.



Secure funding for a Community Advocate role to connect community members to services.



Establish a youth centre for young community members to connect.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO COMPLETE HEALTH CARE, MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS SERVICES AND SUPPORT



Work with Island Health to bring affordable mental health and addictions services to the Cowichan Lake area.



Make services available for low income individuals by subsidizing alternative health practitioners and ensuring adequate transit.



Ensure that necessary agencies use trauma informed care.



Develop a directory of available mental health services.

SUPPORT MENTAL, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING



Increase connection across socio-economic divides through community events and expansion of interrelated services.



Reduce stigma and discrimination against those living in poverty by hosting community awareness building workshops.



Expand affordable recreational activities by establishing a Community Fund for youth and low income families to access.

ALLEVIATE THE PRESSURE TO MEET BASIC NEEDS



Develop a Barn-Raising Program where locals can connect to share time, skills, funds, and goods.



Establish a community fund to support individuals and families with Emergency Rent and Utilities Subsidies.



Visit www.movinonupcowichanlake.ca or click here for the full Strategy Report for complete details & recommendations.