

Welcome to the CommUNITY Together to End Poverty Hw-nuts'-ulwum (As One) Questionnaire.

How we experience poverty in our own community will depend on the services and opportunities available. What does poverty look like for Ladysmith and Stz'uminus residents?

The CommUNITY Together to End Poverty Hw-nuts'-ulwum (As One) project aims to create a solutions-focused approach to reducing poverty in our communities that starts by engaging community members on their lived experiences.

While people live and experience poverty in different ways, individual stories in the community will vary. Some examples include:

- A senior living on a fixed income who feels isolated because of lack of transportation.
- A young person who has moved away from home and is working a full-time minimum wage job, living in substandard housing.
- A single parent who works multiple jobs so their kids can participate in extracurricular activities.
- A recently unemployed man who sleeps on the couch at different friend's houses from week to week.

People living in poverty are often making decisions between which basic necessities they can afford day by day, month by month. Rent or hydro? Internet or a cell phone? Medications or healthy food?

We know people are resilient and creative, so poverty is often unseen or hidden. Many feel the stigma of living in poverty every day. They may feel too ashamed to ask for help or fearful that they will be excluded from society, have their children taken away, or be judged unfairly for needing help. The COVID-19 pandemic has only complicated the challenges faced by those already living on the edge financially and socially.

In the communities of Ladysmith & Stz'uminus, some of the barriers & challenges of poverty relate to a lack of:

- Affordable housing
- Steady full time employment or employment that includes a living wage
- Access to health care
- Transportation
- Access to healthy food
- Access to education and/or training
- Income and/or social supports
- Mental health and/or addictions supports

We believe that for people to rise out of poverty a collective effort is needed, with everyone in our communities taking responsibility to take action where they can. We need to involve those with lived experience so that everyone can better understand poverty, and what can be done to make a difference. Our vision for the future is that everyone in our community is thriving and not just surviving.

The information gathered in this questionnaire will be used in the following ways:

- To understand what poverty looks like and identify how poverty affects Ladysmith and Stz'uminus area residents,
- To create an opportunity for people to consider what actions they can take to be a part of the solutions that will help develop a strategy to reduce poverty in Ladysmith and Stz'uminus.

This questionnaire can be filled out anonymously, with an opportunity to keep informed about the results and how to continue to be involved throughout the process.



Thank you for taking the time to participate by filling out this questionnaire! Your completed questionnaire can be dropped off where you picked it up or at the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association office. Please include your email address to be eligible to win a tablet or \$50 gift card! Prize draw March 15th, 2021

This project has been made possible by a grant from the UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning and Action program. A local working group has been formed to help guide the process and includes members from:

- Town of Ladysmith
- Stz'uminus First Nation, Health Centre
- Ladysmith Resources Centre Association
- Stz'uminus Primary School
- Boys & Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island
- Nutsumaat Lelum Child Care Centre
- First Nations Health Authority
- Island Health
- School District 68
- OUR Cowichan Health Network
- Social Planning Cowichan

For more information on this project and for access to community resources and supports, please visit www.communitytogethertoendpoverty.ca.

1. How does living in poverty affect you or the people in your community?

2. How does poverty affect our community as a whole?

3. What ideas do you have or actions can we take to make life easier for someone living in poverty?

4. What helps you to living a happy and healthy life?

5. How will we know when we have ended poverty in our community?

6. Is there anything else you would like to share?

7. Where do you live? [optional]

- Ladysmith
- Stz'uminus
- CVRD Area G (Saltair)
- CVRD Area H (North Oyster/Diamond)
- If other, please specify: _____

8. How old are you? [optional]: _____

9. I identify my gender as: [optional]: _____

10. If you wish to stay updated on the CommUNITY Together to End Poverty Hw-nuts'-ulwum (As One) project or be entered for the prize draw, please provide your email address:

Thank you! Huy ch q'u!

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