



Poverty Reduction Business Partnerships Healing through Arts and Culture

2017 Northern Perspectives

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Presentation by Lindsay Turner
Director, Poverty Reduction Division
Department of Family Services

Poverty in Nunavut

- Poverty is more severe in Nunavut than anywhere else in Canada.
 - Median income : \$26000, with 25% of the population earning less than \$9000
 - 40% of the population are recipients of social assistance
 - Nunavut wide - 52% live in social housing, with 38% of social housing tenants living in overcrowded conditions
 - 56% of Inuit households are food insecure
 - Struggles with addictions and family violence
- Cost of living is 30% higher with food costing twice as much as in southern Canada

Nunavummiut describe many community strengths including youth, culture and heritage, environment and resources, the skills and potential of community members and community based programs

Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

- Provides an opportunity for communities to work together to recommend ideas and actions for resolving social challenges related to poverty reduction.
- By working together, sharing knowledge and resources, and coordinating our efforts, the organizations and people of Nunavut can respond to the complex issue of poverty.
- Work is based on the belief that the way forward to a Nunavut without poverty is the path of collaboration and healing





Healing through Arts and Culture

- *Roundtable members clearly and strongly linked cultural identity to community relationships, skills development and healing and wellbeing*
- *Cultural and land based activities were seen as critical to poverty reduction*
- *Roundtable members have called for increased supports for individuals and families to overcome past traumas and to strengthen identity and self-reliance*



Challenges and Barriers

Food Insecurity

Homelessness, overcrowding and couch surfing

Mental Health and Addictions

Family Violence

Impact and trauma of colonization and residential schools

Upfront costs of tools and materials

Spaces and forums to create, showcase and sell art

Spaces to teach and learn arts

Numeracy, financial literacy and access to banking and credit

Business and Marketing skills



Community Economic Development

- *Community economic development as both social and economic development aimed at benefitting the community as a whole*
- *Community economic development that is aligned with community wellness planning*



Business, Employers and Poverty Reduction

- **Partnerships that invest in community wellness**
- **Partnerships with community based organizations** – Supporting access to meeting, office, storage and programming space; support and mentorship for board of directors, governance and financial management
- **Commitment to an Inuit Employment Plan** - Addressing barriers to employment and supporting Inuit in management level jobs.
- **Make work in the private sector accessible by supporting employees to be successful at work** - help address challenges: wellness, housing, childcare, use of Inuit language, employment readiness and “on the job” training and mentorship programs.
- **Creating positive and supportive work environments** - Work environment which recognizes Inuit culture and values, promotes wellness and enables artistic creation
- **Ensuring local development through business practices** – Recognizing, investing in and using community assets and capacities in the development of the local economy before bringing in outside resources.



Qujannamiik/Koana

Poverty Reduction Division

Family Services

Lindsay Turner, Director

(867) 975-5211

lturner@gov.nu.ca

www.makiliqta.ca

www.nunavutfoodsecurity.ca