Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership
Framework for Change
September 2010

Every initiative needs to have a view of where it wants to be in the end – a vision for the future. The Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership has chosen the analogy of a house to describe what we are working towards, providing our framework for how and where we can change and improve. The house concept is based on Garry Loewen's work in the Poverty Compendium of Poverty Reduction Strategies and Frameworks (2009). The Partnership integrated research and documentation of our community's local efforts. All of the information presented in the following framework is derived from an analysis of local and national efforts to reduce poverty and improve well-being.

Our house's foundation
The foundation for our work is community leadership and the structure upon which we need to build.

We recognize that poverty is an issue that cannot be addressed effectively by any one agency or sector acting on its own. The dynamic relationship among the various elements makes poverty a complex problem – it consists of a wide range of factors that interact with one another to generate a constantly shifting set of challenges. The complexity can only be tackled successfully when a wide range of actors each involved with different aspects of the issue come together in an orchestrated effort.

Leading practice calls for a new urban policy framework that recognizes the complexity of policy problems, taps into local knowledge and resources, and is characterized by horizontal collaboration within cities and communities, and vertical collaboration across all levels of government. It is essential to build leadership with a focus on building relationships, networks and trust, and developing shared vision and understanding.

Our model of community leadership includes a multi-sectoral local decision-making process that taps into existing community strengths and capacities. It integrates the concepts of "a city that bridges" (a connected and cohesive community) and "nothing about us without us" (inclusiveness). Both of these statements in quotations were made by Saskatoon community members, one as part of a United Way community consultation and the other from people with lived experience of poverty.

Our house's bricks and mortar (what holds the bricks together)
The community data we reviewed supports specific building blocks, which are closely aligned with what are sometimes called the determinants of health.

Our house's chimney and roof
As individuals and communities move through stages of change, from being in crisis all the way through to thriving, they accumulate assets. They are gaining skills, finances, support networks, etc. on their journey, ultimately taking them (and us) to a place of sustainability.

The ultimate vision of all the efforts of the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership is to have *sustained individual and community well-being* for the people of Saskatoon.

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thriving

↑

safe

↑

stable

↑

vulnerable

↑

in crisis

Sustained Individual and Community Well-Being

Individual and Community Assets

Income

Employment

Public Spaces

Neighbourhood Safety

Housing

Food Security

Good Start in Life

Education

"a city that bridges"
A connected and cohesive community

- Re-orienting organizations and services to be responsive to community
- Celebrating and understanding differences
- Community awareness and response
- Community connections

"nothing about us without us"
Inclusiveness

- Community involvement in decision-making, particularly those with lived experience
- Aboriginal self-governance
- Power, inclusion, voice

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- Upstream, preventative approach
- Long term, multi-issue focus
- Visionary and innovative
- Represents local voice and context
- Hands-on, multisectoral collaboration
- Common strategic vision, plan and language
- Balances structure and flexibility
- Accountable and transparent

- High level of trust and credibility
- Hub for streamlined coordination and support of working groups focused on poverty reduction strategies
- Non-partisan
- Learning orientation with ability to critically reflect and adjust
- Strong connections with related work locally, provincially and nationally