



# Northeast Poverty Reduction Taskforce

October 2014

# Who Are We?

A network of concerned volunteers and organizations who are collaborating to take action against poverty in northeast Saskatchewan

# Membership

- Concerned volunteers of Tisdale, Nipawin & Melfort
- Salvation Army
- Kelsey Trail Health Region
- Northeast Regional Intersectoral Committee
- Food For All Coalition
- Cumberland College
- Northeast Newcomers Services
- Northeast Supported Employment Program
- Northeast School Division
- Ministry of Social Services
- Ministry of Justice
- Kids First
- Eastern Region II Metis Nation
- Tisdale & Area Community Action Cooperative Limited
- OASIS
- Ministerial representatives
- City of Melfort, Town of Tisdale, Town of Nipawin

# We Believe...

- Poverty is not inevitable and everyone is better off if we address poverty
- Strategic, coordinated, and deliberate effort is required
- We will make a difference if we work together.

# History

- Jan 2012 –2013 Food For All Coalition hosted *Poverty Free Saskatchewan* Conversation Cafes in Tisdale, Melfort & Nipawin.
- Feb 2013- Salvation Army National Office funded yearlong project replacing Cafes; a more strategic approach to the cafes.

# Process

- April 2013- letter of invitation was sent to first voice and agencies in all three communities
- May 2013- 2014- Two facilitators were contracted for initial meetings; specific plans and targets were developed; 10 meetings were held in each community, usually over a meal; each community had its own taskforce

# Communication Strategy

- Partnerships helped us meet our objectives
- Salvation Army had dedicated staff for regional communication & coordination, as well as regional Spokesperson.
- Media releases through Kelsey Trail Health Region

# October 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Poverty No More Day

- Mayors and councils in Tisdale, Melfort & Nipawin received letters requesting the signing of a proclamation honoring October 17<sup>th</sup> as Poverty No More Day.
- Photos of the signing were published in each community newspaper.
- Kelsey Trail Health Region issued a News Release
- Hereafter, we hope for an annual observance of the day.





# PROCLAMATION

**Whereas**, the citizens of the City of Melfort value dignity and prosperity, which enables all citizens to develop their talents and abilities, to actively participate in economic and social life, and to enjoy a good standard of living on a sustainable basis, they therefore are proud to support the observance of **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**; and

**Whereas**, poverty is not just about money or the distribution of wealth in society – it's about the distribution of power. Poverty exists because attitudes and systems exist that exclude people from participation in economic, social, and political decisions that affect them. Poverty exacts a toll on all of us in terms of decreased health, safety and community economic growth.

**Whereas**, there is growing evidence on the importance of the social determinants of health such as income, education, early child development, and the environment, to achieve this goal; and

**Whereas**, people in lowest income areas are many times more likely than their wealthier neighbours to be hospitalized, give birth while in their teens, or have an infant die in its first year of life; and

**Whereas**, **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is observed annually on October 17th to honor the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger, the day is since observed as a day to renew commitment and collaboration towards eradicating poverty worldwide.

**Whereas**, the theme of the 2013 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is **Working together towards a world without discrimination**, by breaking the silence of extreme poverty and building on the experience and knowledge of people in extreme poverty; and

**Whereas**, poverty is not inevitable, coordinated and deliberate action is required and will make a difference; and

**Now, Therefore**, We, the council of Melfort, do hereby proclaim October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 as **Melfort Poverty No More Day**.

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Mayor Rick Lang

# *Poverty Busters*

- Goals: Raise awareness, to educate & to lessen the felt effects of poverty
- KTHR News Release accompanied each Poverty Buster
- Posters and newsletters were developed for each topic by Eastern Region II Metis Nation
- Topics included:
  - Home winterizing kits and tips
  - Low cost and free children's activities
  - Budget shopping tips
  - Income Filing Sessions
  - Gardening Tips

# Poverty Buster Winterize Your Home



- Kits contained plastic window insulation, weather stripping for doors, an energy efficient light bulb, a block heater timer, and information about saving energy and efficiently winterizing your home
- How to install videos
- Sponsors: SaskEnergy, SaskPower, Salvation Army

90- 100 kits were distributed during  
October & November in Tisdale, Melfort &  
Nipawin



# Poverty Buster Newsletters

- December- No Cost /low cost children's activities
- Jan/Feb- Budget Shopping Tips
- March- Income Tax Filing volunteers recruited; filing sessions were held in the day and evening in Tisdale, Melfort (partnered with SaskTel pioneers), & Nipawin; volunteers filed **60** income tax returns



# Poverty Buster

## “Here We Grow Again”

- Planting demonstrations by local green house staff
- Each participant was provided a tomato plant
- One Door prize containing gardening gloves and small garden tools were awarded at each site
- Colourful newsletter with planting tips and ideas



# Piggy-backing on other events...

- Winter coat exchange at local school in Melfort
- Stuff the Bus event in Tisdale with Cumberland Regional College
- Additional listings in City of Melfort Community Services brochure

# Landlord and Tenant Law

- Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan (PLEA) 60 minute seminar
- Presented by Melfort Lawyer
- Hosted at Cumberland Regional College-  
Melfort Campus
- Broadcasted to Regional College campuses-  
Nipawin & Tisdale
- Well attended

# Poverty Awareness Workshops

- 3 ½ hour session facilitated by 3 Saskatoon women living in poverty
- Poverty Game developed by four BC women who had experienced poverty
- Each participant was given an identity, a list of weekly expenses and income for the month that barely covered expenses
- “In my 20 years of continuing education, it was the best workshop I’ve been part of!” Participant



# Partnering to End Poverty Forum

- Hosted by Northeast Regional Intersectoral Committee (RIC) & Poverty Reduction Taskforce
- Objectives:
  - Raise awareness of how poverty affects all
  - Enhance and build partnerships
  - Highlight successful community programs & initiatives
  - Sustain momentum
  - Consult with first voice and community

# Questions?

- Thank-you for your attendance here today.

