



**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM  
FOR THE MEETINGS HELD  
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022**

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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Delegation	Supplemental Information	Tamitik Status of Women - Poverty Reduction Assessment Presentation 2022
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# Kitimat Poverty Reduction Assessment

Presented by : Tamitik Status of Women in collaboration with DOK

# Content

## Provincially:

- ▶ Effective November 8th 2018, the Province of BC adopted its very first poverty reduction initiative
- ▶ [Together BC](#), British Columbia's Poverty Reduction Strategy, sets a path to reduce overall poverty in B.C. by 25% and child poverty by 50% by 2024.

## Locally:

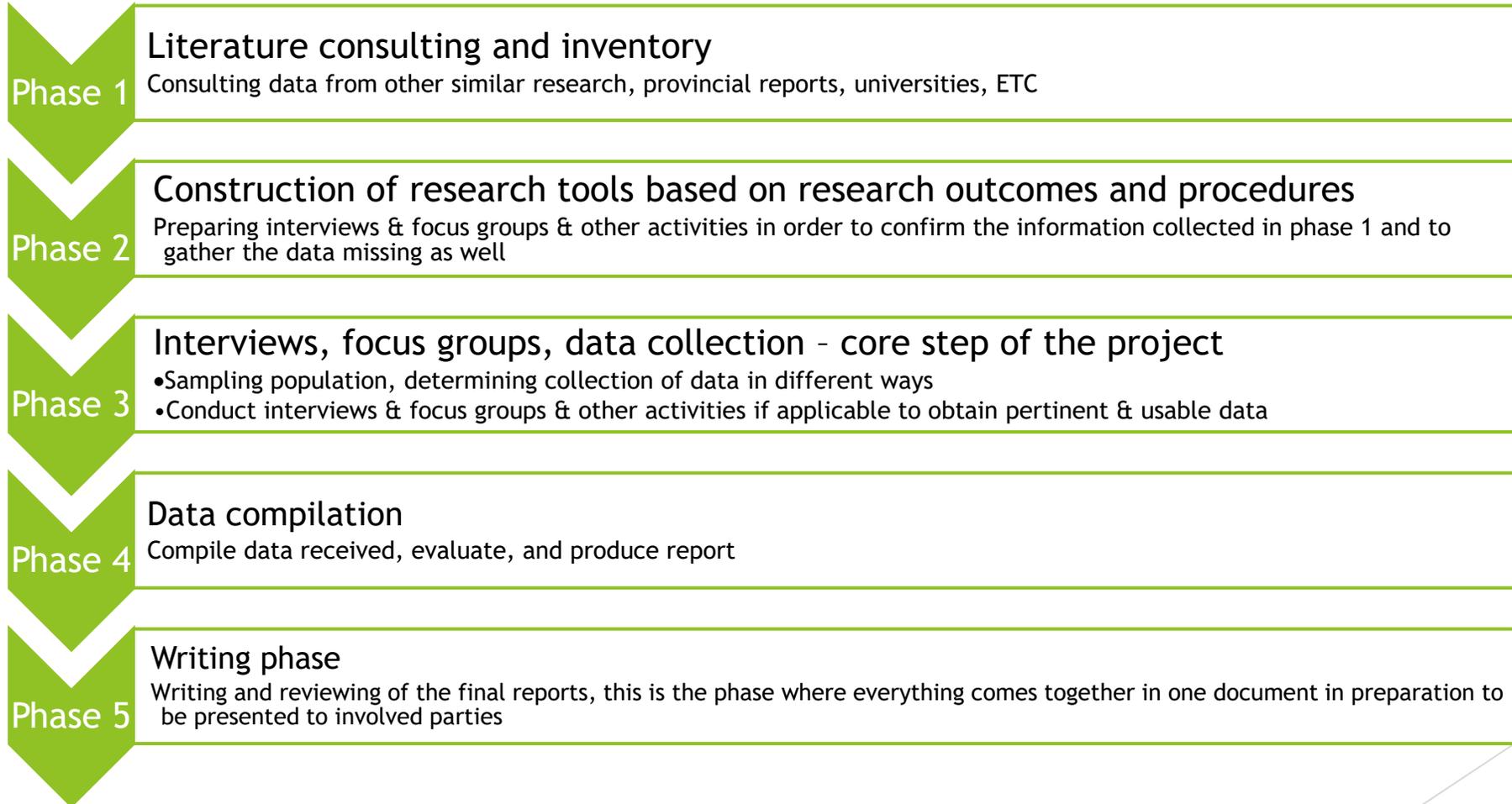
- ▶ Since Rio Tinto's Kitimat Modernization Project (KMP), service providers have expressed concerns over a growing disparity between the quality of life of the population they serve versus community members who are able to participate in or benefit from large scale industrial projects.
- ▶ This trend has continued with LNG Canada's positive FID. While economic development is good for many, there is a significant portion of the population experiencing major downsides that we cannot ignore and it's important to distinguish that those suffering are of different demographics typically than those who are prospering.

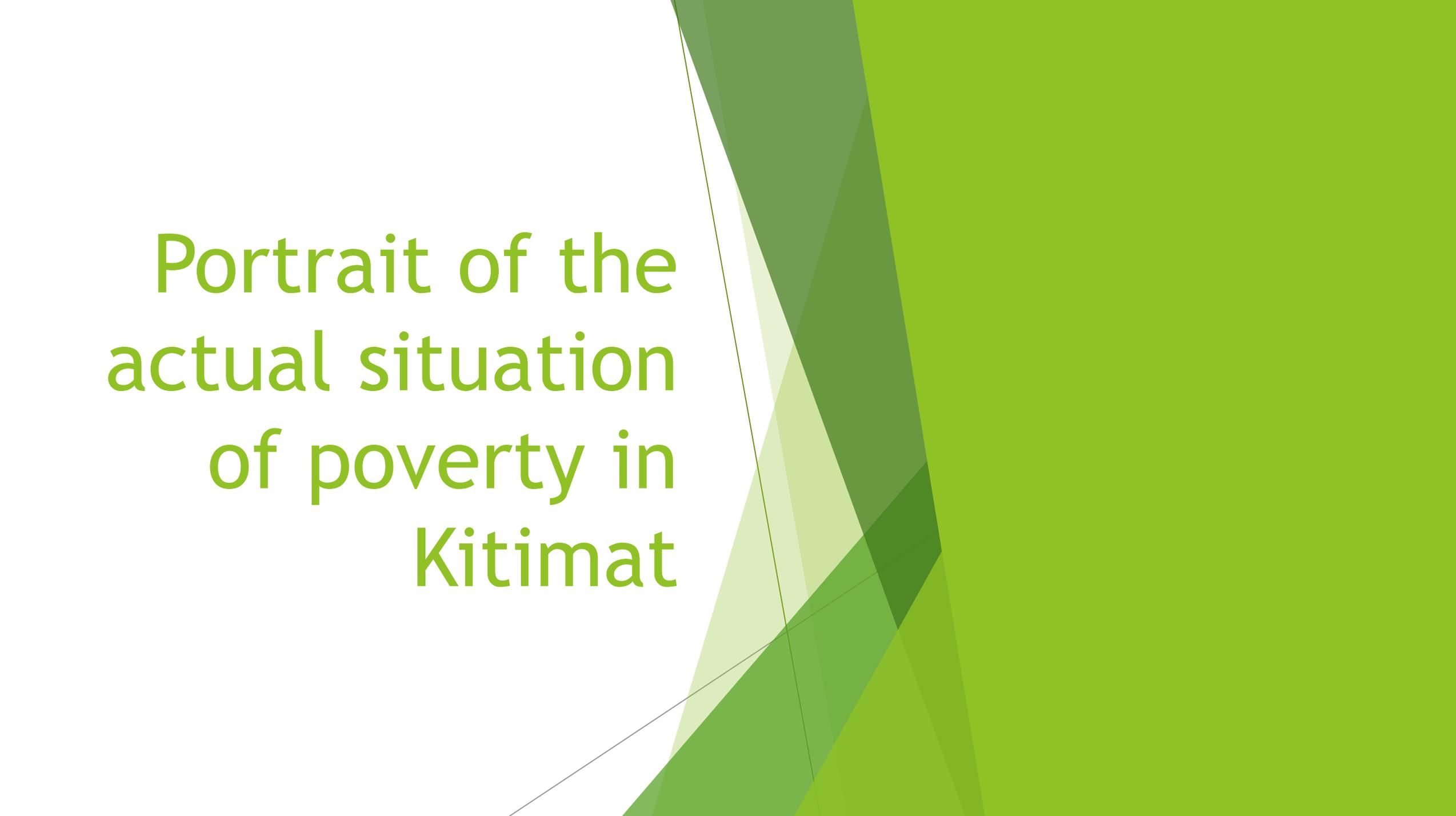
# The Project

# Overview

Main goal			
Goal: To produce a complete assessment of the situation of poverty in Kitimat			
Deliverables	Milestone / Key tasks	Target date	Responsible
To establish evidence-based information regarding the spectrum of poverty in Kitimat to determine action items and recommendations to council based on recurring themes / concerns	Collect data relevant to the 11 priorities outlined by Together BC & DOK, listed as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Housing</li><li>• Transportation</li><li>• Food security</li><li>• Families, children &amp; youth</li><li>• Employment</li><li>• Education &amp; training</li><li>• Social support</li><li>• Income supports</li><li>• Mental health</li><li>• Access to health care</li><li>• Considerations of possible effects of local industrial projects on poverty reduction priority</li></ul>	August 2022	TSW, DOK

# Steps

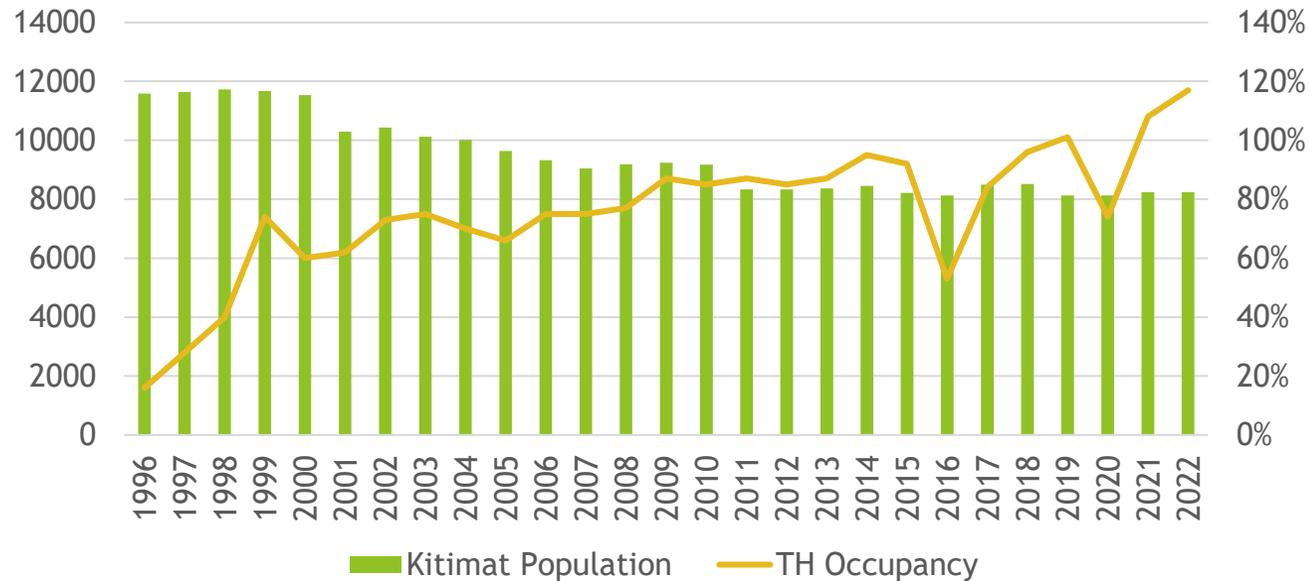


The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and trapezoids, that create a dynamic, layered effect. The colors range from a light, pale green to a vibrant, saturated lime green. The shapes are positioned on the right side of the frame, extending towards the center.

# Portrait of the actual situation of poverty in Kitimat

# A correlation amongst many:

## Population Ratio VS TH Occupancy



This graph demonstrates that industrial and economic fluctuations are having an impact on the ratio of women experiencing abuse, homelessness, and other related issues.

- ▶ We observed a direct correlation between movements in local economics and the occupancy of our Transition House.
- ▶ Methanex closed in November 2005, 953 persons move out of town.
- ▶ In 2009, Eurocan closed which has impacted around 535 families. We see an increase in our services during this massive layoff.
- ▶ In 2011, KMP starts. The rate of occupancy at the TH spikes up even if the population decreased by 9.18%.
- ▶ 2016 was a lull year between KMP & LNG.

# A word on housing

## Real estate

- The real estate market is considered affordable in comparison to the rest of the province, the average selling price for a house in Kitimat being more than [400,000 according to the BC Northern Real estate board](#).
- On an average, cheaper houses (below \$400K, mostly between \$150K & \$250K) are described by listings as “project”, “fixer upper” or “needs some work”.

## Rental

- The rental market has fluctuated greatly since the announcement of LNG projects and since the publication of Housing Facts by the DOK in July 2019.
- According to the [same document](#), the home rental starting price jumped from \$1,400/month in January 2019 to \$2,400/month in July 2019- an increase of over 70% in a six-month period.
- According to the DOK’s 2021 Housing Fact Sheet, the average rent for 2 bedrooms in Kitimat is \$2,276 a month based on online listings.
- At this price, A household would need to make more than \$92,000 a year to pay around 30% of their income on basic shelter costs alone for a 3+ bedroom unit.

## Subsidized housing, shelters and resources

- Dunmore Place transition House has 4 bedrooms with 10 beds available - With Covid we are to have only 1 family unit per room
- CDC’s cold weather shelter is operating with 4 beds with reduced capacity due to COVID-19 and the last month was mostly operated at capacity
- Both Homeless Prevention Programs from TSW & CDC are operating at capacity with a waitlist (maximum amount of \$450/month)
- TSW’s 2<sup>ND</sup> stage operates 6 units at capacity with a waitlist
- Douglas Place operates 14 one-bedroom units for single seniors and persons with disability, at capacity with a waitlist managed by BC Housing
- Kiwanis Village operates 12 units at capacity with waitlist for seniors and persons with disabilities

# Impact of poverty at different ages

## Youth:

According to [Canadian Feed the Children](#), the consequences of child poverty are:

- Poor physical health
- Mental health problems
- Low sense of well-being
- Underachieving at school
- Poor employment prospects in adult life
- Social deprivation and stigma
- Lack of physical safety & security

## Adult:

• There are fewer studies about the consequences of poverty on adults, but they remain the same from youth, with more severe instances of:

- Poor physical health
- Mental health problems
- Low sense of well-being
- Underachieving at school
- Poor employment prospects in adult life
- Social deprivation and stigma
- Lack of physical safety & security
- Domestic abuse
- Homelessness
- Criminality

## Seniors

- Increased physical health risks and issues
- Lower access to medication, treatment and aids due to lower/fixed income
- Social exclusion and solitude
- Mental health, depression and suicide
- Food insecurity
- Difficulty to connect with others due to reduced income and limited mobility

# A human perspective, personal stories:

This story includes a family of four. The father Leo, the mother Agnes, and the children Yan and Amy.

Leo has never been a book smart person. He never completed his high school diploma and what he knows, he has learned on the job. Leo is great at what he does but he does not have any certifications. He works for a sub-contractor of Rio Tinto for \$20.00/hour for full time.

Agnes was successful in school; she received an administrative assistant diploma. Before having children Agnes worked as a receptionist full time earning \$18.00/hour. Agnes stopped working once they had their daughter because childcare was unavailable. They have been on a waitlist for childcare since Amy was born in 2019.

Yan is 6 years old and attends school full time.

Their financial situation:

Leos earns \$41,600/year.

The family receives \$15,547 in government transfers this year.

Their total income is \$57,147, which represent \$4,762.25/month.

Recently, the family was evicted from their townhouse home as the new landlord needed to complete renovations. They were able to secure new housing accommodations, a detached 3 bedrooms house up the hill for \$2,300/month plus utilities.

Their bills consist of: Gas & electricity \$300/month, \$100 for internet, \$1000 for groceries, personal hygiene and pet supplies.

They also carry cellphone plans for \$90 each a month, a car payment of \$500/month and insurance that is \$150/month.

This currently leaves them with \$532.25/month for education, clothing, recreational activities, medical expenses, gas, vehicle repairs and maintenance and retirement savings.

When Amy can go to daycare, Agnes would like to work part time. She is interested in a job posting offering \$25/hour for 15 hours a week. This would increase their household income by \$19,500 to \$61,100.

With the increased household income, they could receive up to \$330/month for a part time place at a licensed daycare, bringing the rate down from \$850 a month to \$520. This would bring their Childcare benefit down to \$11,192, and their monthly income would be \$6,024 or \$72,292/year.

In this circumstance, this means they would be \$20,000 under the \$92,000 prescribed in Kitimat. Their new budget would leave them with \$1,274.25/month for extra expenses.

But for now, Amy is not going to daycare.

# Towards a Kitimat Poverty Reduction Strategy

**Equity, decolonization, and reconciliation:** An opportunity to create more equity and work towards reconciliation.

**Social inclusion:** Including the voices of lived experiences.

**Human rights approach:** Every Citizen has the right to enjoy basic freedoms and rights to fully participate in community life.

**Evidence based:** Drawing on good research and data to make informed decisions.

# A roadmap for a Kitimat Poverty Reduction Strategy

- ▶ Livable incomes & quality jobs
- ▶ Affordable housing
- ▶ Accessible & affordable transit
- ▶ Food security
- ▶ Childcare & early learning
- ▶ Health services, including mental health & addiction
- ▶ Social inclusion, social cohesion, or social equity
- ▶ Racial equity
- ▶ Stigma & discrimination - Changing the conversation
- ▶ Systemic change
- ▶ Community economic development
- ▶ Access to services

# Key Action Items

## Local Level

- ▶ Housing first models, cooperative housing
- ▶ Challenging acceptance of poverty / eliminating poverty
- ▶ Economic development strategies/ diversification, transition economies, adult education, and skills training
- ▶ Accessible and affordable transit, improved routes
- ▶ Community garden programs, social enterprise, low-cost nutritious food programs
- ▶ Involvement of diverse and lived experiences voices
- ▶ Apply racial / gender lens
- ▶ Accessible services
- ▶ Consider other levels of government

## Advocacy at Other Levels

- ▶ Improved income assistance, commitment to living wage
- ▶ Childcare spaces and programs
- ▶ Access to doctors, dental, harm reduction services, mental health, and counseling

# Moving Forward

