

COMMUNITY INCLUSION NETWORK

Vibrant Communities Saint John/ CIN 2

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Carleton Community Centre

October 8th, 2013

What is a CIN?



- Group set up to implement objectives of the provincial poverty reduction plan (OPT)
- In Region 2, Vibrant Communities Saint John is the CIN and also stewards the Poverty Reduction Strategy for Greater Saint John
- At the heart of building community awareness
- Promotes community engagement
- Has a Leadership Roundtable with representatives from : Residents, Business Community, Community Organizations and 3 Levels of Government
- Vibrant Communities Saint John was created 2004

Our regional priorities



Priority action #1

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Priority action #2

NEIGHBOURHOOD REVITALIZATION AND HOUSING

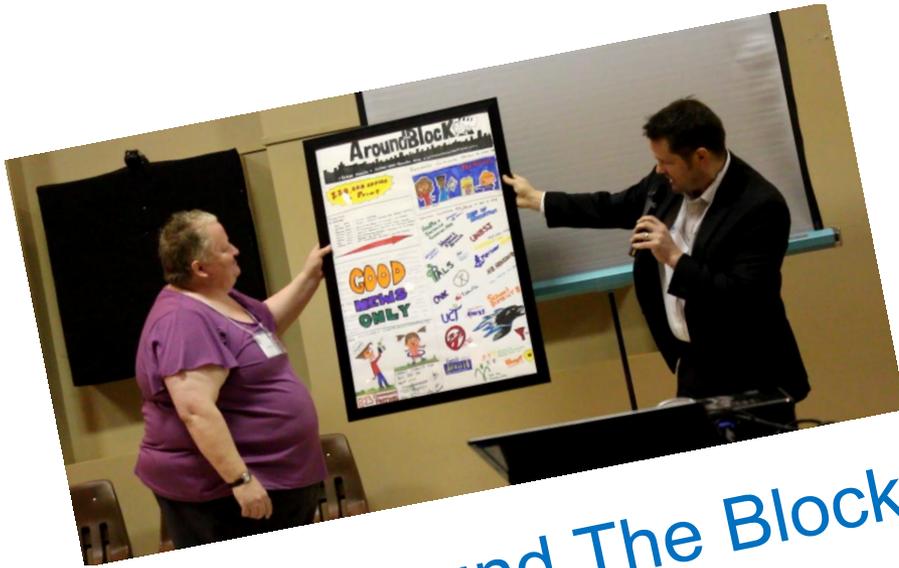
Priority action #3

WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION

Highlights: CIN 2 – Vibrant Communities SJ

- Driving Toward Health: Sussex and Area Vibrant Communities.
- Early Childhood Services for Families in Low Income Neighbourhoods
- Transportation in Saint John- *Getting Around if you are Just getting By & Multi-City Initiative*
- Learn and Go
- Social Plan for Saint John
- EVALUATION / MEASUREMENT PILOT PROJECT
- WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION

Stories of partners projects



Around The Block



Early Childhood



Moving Forward

In the news

"We want a stronger focus on the family, the child and the parent together," said Monica Chaperlin, co-ordinator of the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative. "That is one of the things we want."

Wendy MacDermott, executive director of United Way of Greater Saint John, spoke on behalf of the neighbourhoods group. "One of the biggest things is finding ways to overcome apathy," she said, "and developing leaders from within."



Vibrant Communities hosted a gathering Wednesday morning at the Kent Theatre to discuss poverty reduction in the city. Many community leaders were in attendance. Here, Kit Hickey takes notes on ideas for neighbourhood improvement. PHOTO: KATE BRAYDON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

A wealth of ideas

Community Vibrant Communities hosts poverty reduction strategy brainstorm

KATE WALLACE
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN – Barry Galloway was in a hardware store recently when he heard four women at the checkout chatting about poverty in Saint John.

As they shared their views on teen pregnancy and other challenges, Galloway, co-ordinator of Vibrant Communities Saint John, was struck by how openly the issue is discussed locally.

"In Saint John, we don't hide from poverty," he said.

Some might say we can't. The city has the highest concentration of neighbourhood poverty in Canada. Almost half of the poor live in five neighbourhoods, one of which has a poverty rate of 68 per cent.

On Wednesday, Vibrant Communities Saint John hosted "Poverty Reduction ... Moving Forward," a half-day community gathering at Kent Theatre to get ideas for a new iteration of the Saint John Poverty Reduction Strategy.

"We wanted to identify some more priority goals," Galloway said.

It was last revised in 2009. "We are revising it again because we met some of our goals," he said, citing the example of programs such as PALS and other spinoffs that have had success working with area schoolchildren.

After early sessions offering an overview of the last 10 years and speakers on the topic of "poverty reduction in action," the crowd broke into groups to discuss four key topics: neighbourhood revitalization and housing, children and youth, workforce participation and single parents/economically disadvantaged adults.

For over an hour they explored: What the priorities for action? What do we need to know? Have we engaged the necessary leader/partners? Are there policy barriers?

Around the table on children and

youth, representatives from government departments, early childhood programs, medicine and more shared ideas.

Some themes emerged.

Integration is an issue between organizations, programs and services, but also in how families are serviced, not as units, but often individually.

Before breaking for a brown-bag lunch, the groups shared their findings, distilling the issues into a single priority.

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Wendy MacDermott, executive director of United Way of Greater Saint John, spoke on behalf of the neighbourhoods group.

"One of the biggest things is finding ways to overcome apathy," she said, and developing leaders from within.

Sharon Amirault, executive director of First Steps Housing, brought forward the suggestion that the federal child tax credit be issued on the 15th of each month – not the 20th, as it is currently, to bridge the gap between social assistance payments at the start of each month.

The feedback will be gathered and integrated into a report that will be shared with the 40 or so members of the local Vibrant Communities roundtable, which includes people from five city neighbourhoods, three levels of government, the business community, and the non-profit sector.

Galloway, a Newfoundlanders who has worked across the country, has been impressed by the co-operation he sees here.

"The thing that struck me is that this community works together," he said. "Everyone works together."

A final report is expected by the end of April.

Our CIN by the numbers



- **313** + meetings
- **391** citizens mobilized
- **\$107,194** leveraged by community
- **\$284,521** total value of the projects
- **\$177,170** invested by ESIC
- **149** partner organizations
- **4** projects

THANK YOU

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