

Boundary Regional Poverty Reduction Plan – General Introduction to the Project (October 2020 – April 2021)

LevelUp Planning & Consulting is honoured to be working with the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) and the project's steering committee on the development of a Poverty Reduction Plan for the Boundary area.

The project's workplan consists of three phases:

1. Phase 1 (completed in early January) laid the groundwork for the project. We reviewed key background documents brought together relevant literature, completed an environmental scan about best practices in poverty reduction plans across Canada, and gathered and analyzed data about community health and well-being, poverty and inequities in the Boundary.
2. In Phase 2 (in progress) we are developing a community engagement strategy that will build on the existing relationships within the region and the ways in which services are provided on both a local and a regional scale. The strategy will help to ensure that a broad range of voices from across the Boundary are heard and included in the development of the Poverty Reduction Plan. This phase will include interviews with service providers, community volunteers and people with lived experience of poverty, as well as a community survey. Phase 2 will conclude with a workshop with members of the Steering Committee, representatives of local and regional organizations, and some community members. The aim of the workshop is to identify a shared common agenda, key focus areas of the Regional Poverty Reduction Plan, and opportunities for partnerships moving forward.
3. In the final phase of the project, Phase 3, we will build on the learnings from Phases 1 and 2 to develop a Regional Poverty Reduction Plan for the Boundary region. The plan will be developed with the guidance of the project's Steering Committee and staff from the RDKB and will encompass a 4-year timeline.

The overall result of this project will be a Boundary Regional Poverty Reduction Plan that brings together the best information and best practices we have, together with local and regional wisdom. The Plan will include a set of concrete strategies and actions, with a timeline, a set of indicators to measure success, and a plan to collect the data needed to monitor success in both the short term and longer term. The Plan will align with the new provincial strategy and will identify the ways in which key local government policies and plans contribute to the collective goals and objectives. This project is expected to be complete by the end of April 2021.

For more information, please contact Victoria Barr, PhD, Project Manager and Principal of LevelUp Planning & Consulting at Victoria@levelupplanning.ca or 250-595-7111. Alternatively, please connect with Donna Dean, Manager of Planning & Development for the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary at ddean@rdkb.com or 250-368-9148.