



In 2017, our community started to put words into action to address the priorities identified in Phase 2 of Stony Plain's plan to end poverty and homelessness.

In the fall of 2017, Stony Plain FCSS hired a Community Development Coordinator to assist in coordinating our community's poverty reduction initiatives. Since being hired, **Sharida Csillag** has been meeting with community groups and stakeholders, mapping poverty reduction projects in our community, and researching new poverty reduction initiatives.

This community report provides an overview of some of the community projects and initiatives currently at work to reduce poverty in our community.

There are many remarkable things going on in Stony Plain and area. We hope to connect like-minded initiatives, partner to fill identified gaps, and inspire action to move our community towards ending poverty in our area.



Watch for **Hand Clap** icons throughout this report highlighting actions making a difference in our community.



Watch for **Hand Up** icons highlighting call to action opportunities for you to make a difference in our community.



Contact us for more details about any initiatives highlighted in this report.

Let us know of community initiatives we missed and we will highlight them in the next report.

Share with us your ideas for reducing poverty in our community.

REDUCING POVERTY Report to the Community



Defining an End to Poverty

Poverty is not just about money. It's about food, education, healthcare, shelter, and barriers to those basic needs. It's about understanding, compassion, reducing prejudices, and bringing community together. Together, we can be stronger and healthier.

The Stony Plain plan to reduce poverty is a working document. As our community explores their vision of what an end to poverty will look like in Stony Plain and area, new actions and initiatives will be developed, and our community's plan will be reshaped and refocused.

FUTURE ACTION:

- Continue consultations with our community members to further develop our poverty reduction plan.



Share your ideas with us on poverty, poverty reduction, and what we can do to make our community stronger.



Lived-Experience Perspectives

Poverty exists in our community. Engaging the perspectives of people at-risk and people with lived-experience will ensure our community actions are positive and meaningful.

FUTURE ACTION:

- Complete focus groups and consultations with community members with lived-experience to address reducing poverty in our community.



Tri-Region Approach

As a region, we continue to build relationships and work together to streamline services and programs that serve our mutual goals while at the same time identifying areas of enhancement for future collaboration.



Address Issues of Those Most At Risk

In 2017, **Stony Plain FCSS Youth Centre** launched a Work Experience program with PSD70 to assist, train, and connect at-risk youth with local businesses. **Alberta Parenting for the Future's** Young Mom's group offered support, training and kinship.

Bredin Centre for Learning supported their clients with WorkSource Job search and placement assistance to empower and connect them to education and employment.

NeighbourLink Parkland worked to fill the gaps connecting people at-risk with essential items such as furniture, rides and services. **Compassionate Connections** used social media to facilitate connecting people in need to required items.



Alberta Parenting for the Future supplied 3,851 coats to community members in need.

Stony Plain FCSS helped 620 clients with connections, resources and support.

Stony Plain FCSS Youth Centre engaged youth in 330 volunteer hours with community events.

FUTURE ACTION:

- Assess the feasibility of a youth emergency/domestic violence shelter.



Join an action group to discuss shelter feasibility in our community.



Cultural Awareness

Awareness brings understanding, acceptance, and togetherness. With togetherness, we are stronger. We can help each other. We can end poverty.

Alberta Culture Days celebrated local arts, heritage, and cultural diversity, providing our community with greater connectiveness in 2017.

The **Stony Plain Public Library** continued on work to build a traditional healing garden and partnered with **PSD70** with programs such as More than Tea and Bannock to promote dialogue and build community.

Connecting with Indigenous Neighbours worked with community partners to host a First-Responders Ball to raise funds for self-esteem development in young women on Paul First Nation and Enoch Cree First Nation.

Spruce Grove FCSS raised Indigenous awareness with training and consultations throughout our area through their New Beginnings project.

Stony Plain FCSS Youth Centre offered Cultural Connections with youth to celebrate multicultural food, music, stories, crafts, and traditions.

FUTURE ACTION:

- Host a cultural awareness workshop for service providers.
- Promote multicultural awareness.



Share cultural information and activities with friends and community to raise awareness and build community.



Food Security

Parkland Food Bank continued to be a strong organization with addressing emergency food for people in need in our community. They also worked with local grocery stores on food rescue projects to make better use of food resources in our community.

Neighbourlink Parkland worked to fill in gaps by providing food vouchers and transportation to the food bank. **Aboriginal Parent Link** coordinated the **Wecan Food Baskets** program to provide quality food at substantial savings.

Auggie's Café hosted by the **Parkland Anglican Church** continued to provide weekly hot meals serving up food and building community.

The **Spruce Grove FCSS Community Kitchen** program helped local residents prepare meals while providing food literacy and education. **Alberta Parenting for the Future Association** will be taking over this initiative in the coming year.

Stony Plain FCSS Youth Centre continued to promote food literacy with their Healthy Together program.



Auggie's Café fed over 1000 people.

The Parkland Food Bank supplied over 16,000 food hampers.

The Pet Food Bank of Parkland County provided almost 500 pet-food hampers and helped almost 100 families access subsidized vet treatment for fixing their pets.

FUTURE ACTION:

- Address barriers of transportation to food banks.
- Explore opportunities for community meal initiatives in Stony Plain and area.



Help a family in need get to the food bank to pick up their hamper.

Join an action group for community meals in Stony Plain.



Lifelong Learning

Literacy, early childhood development, and continuing education allow people at risk to get a step ahead and out of poverty.

Collaborations such as **First 5 Forever**, **Alberta Parenting for the Future** and **Tri-Cala Adult Learning Association** continue to provide strong and fundamental programming to all members of our community.



Tri-Cala Learning offered 22 different learning programs to 64 adult learners.

FUTURE ACTION:

- Emphasise literacy and numeracy skills in education and training.



Access to Recreation, Social, and Community Opportunities for All

Tri Community Health & Wellness

Foundation coordinated the TLC For Everyone program which provided subsidy for almost 100 people to get active in our community in the first half of 2017.

The **Stony Plain Public Library** allowed patrons to borrow a weekly TLC family pass and provided free membership to all.

KidSport Parkland offered \$500 grants to low-income families to assist with children activities.



KidSport Parkland helped 327 kids enter physical activities totalling \$98,030 of funding.



Transportation

A transportation plan for our region is in the works but there is hope that it will begin to address many of our community's transportation barriers.



Awareness, Education and Advocacy

Achieving Community Together (ACT)

continued to work from the Change Summit to connect and educate our community in areas of mental health, wellness and holistic living. They also launched a **Mental Health Navigation Community Compass** website to help connect people in need and build community. Visit www.ParklandCC.ca to check out this great resource!

Stony Plain FCSS produced a pocket-sized, user-friendly guide to supports for people at-risk in our area.

FUTURE ACTION:

- Continue to engage community through consultation sessions.



Housing

Stony Plain FCSS produced Housing Booklets providing concise and user-friendly housing information in our area.

The Alberta Government released their Affordable Housing Strategy in 2017 to guide municipalities in providing safe and suitable affordable housing for households with low-income.



Meridian Foundation provided subsidized senior housing to 234 seniors in our area.

FUTURE ACTION:

- Develop affordable housing partnerships among local stakeholders.



Talk about poverty and help break stereotypes, reduce stigma and raise compassion and understanding.

Share ideas for reducing poverty.

Inspire others with your action.

Volunteer with groups already hard at work to reduce poverty.



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Thank you to everyone for providing information for our snapshot of 2017.

Look for our next update in **April 2018.**

