



Ending Poverty in Edmonton: collaboration and innovation in advancing SDGs in a municipality

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Edmonton

Treaty 6 Acknowledgement

“ We begin this presentation by acknowledging that we are gathered on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene and Nakota Sioux.

We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries, and recognize that we are all beneficiaries of this peace and friendship treaty.

(Adapted from Indigenous Relations Office,
NorQuest & EPE Indigenous Circle)



Drawing on Lived Experience

- Can you imagine how Ling, Clay, or Zara and Bassel might feel on a day- to- day basis?
- What do you imagine might be uppermost in their minds on a regular basis? What do they think about?
- What do they need to make their day easier? What are their needs and issues or what barriers are they facing?
- What strengths are they using to get through their day?
- What could be done to change their situation?
(Whether programmatic, policy, or cultural in nature.)



What's the Story in Edmonton?

- 10.5% Poverty Rate = 135,000 people
- 81% of those earning \$16.48 (living wage) or less are 20+
- Median Incomes for those below AT LIM are \$13,000 less
- 32.2% of lone- parent families in poverty
- 79.9% of lone- parent families headed by women
- 44,590 0- 17 year olds in poverty



The Journey to Here

2013: City of Edmonton Poverty Elimination
Steering Committee



The Journey to Here

2014: Mayor's Task Force for the Elimination of Poverty

22 members from multiple sectors of the community bringing their diverse voices and perspectives in creating a shared vision and collective solutions



The Journey to Here

2015:

EndPovertyEdmonton
Strategy approved by
City Council

The document contains the
case for ending poverty and
28 priorities, as well as the
Game Changers.



**END
POVERTY
IN A
GENERATION**

A STRATEGY

SEPTEMBER 2015

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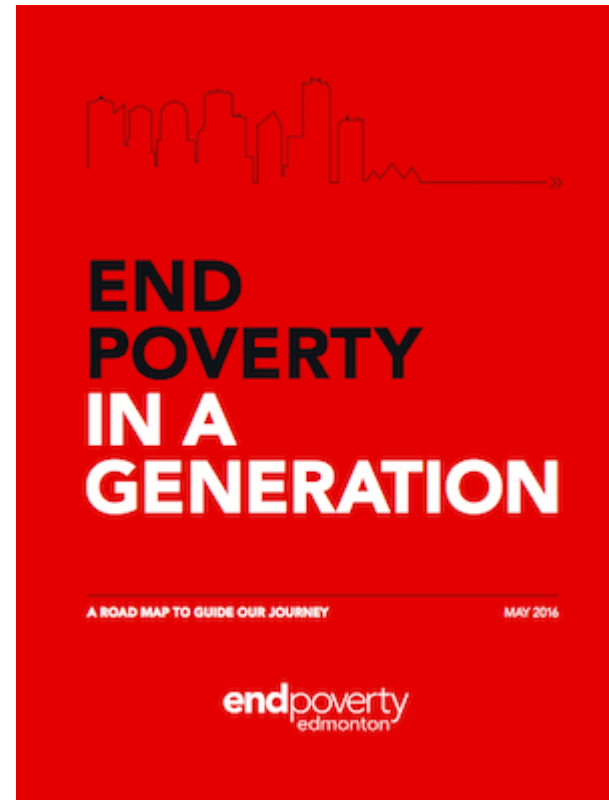


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The Journey to Here

2016:
EndPovertyEdmonton
Road Map approved
by City Council

The document contains a call for a backbone organization and 35 actions to begin the work to end poverty.



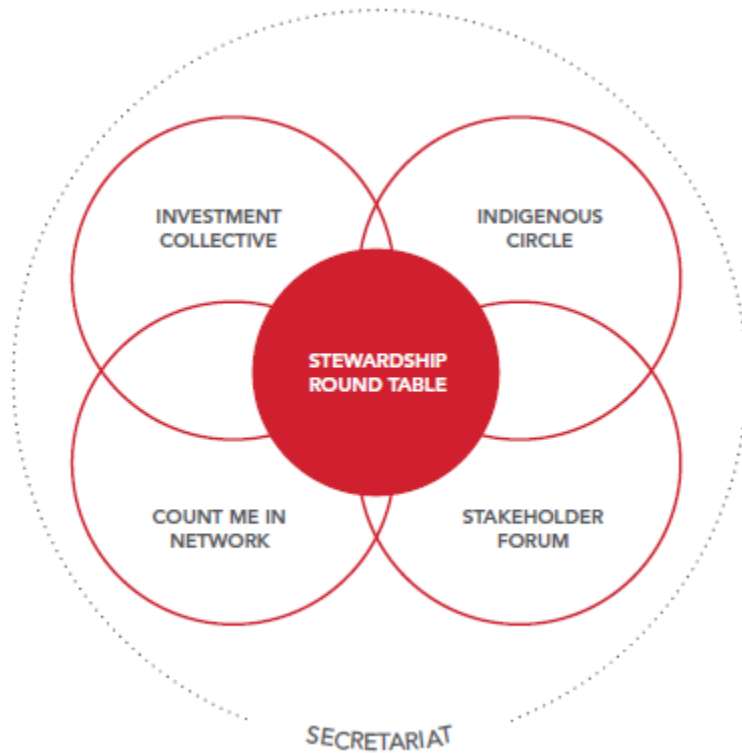
The Journey to Here

2017: EndPovertyEdmonton Secretariat initiated; Poverty Elimination Council Initiative formed

Council Initiative oversees the 18 Road Map actions lead by the City. Funding for the secretariat operational budget provided by:



So, How Does EPE work?



| TABLE | KEY ROLES |
|-------------------------|---|
| STEWARDSHIP ROUND TABLE | Steward and oversee the Road Map, vision and Secretariat |
| INVESTMENT COLLECTIVE | Guide funding commitments, reporting accountability, and new partnerships |
| INDIGENOUS CIRCLE | Ground the work in Indigenous knowledge |
| STAKEHOLDER FORUM | Bring the voice of Edmontonians with diverse experiences of poverty |
| COUNT ME IN NETWORK | Mobilize Edmontonians and build their capacity for action |
| SECRETARIAT | Coordinate, communicate, and support the work |



What's a backbone organization?

- Foundational Support from the Secretariat:
 - Steward the Road Map and the vision to end poverty
 - Convene, coordinate, and build capacity
 - Advocate for policy change
 - Grow the movement



Using Game Changers

- Eliminate racism
- Livable incomes
- Affordable housing
- Accessible and affordable transit
- Affordable and quality child care
- Access to mental health services & addiction supports



Equity and Reconciliation

We see eliminating poverty as a profound act of reconciliation.

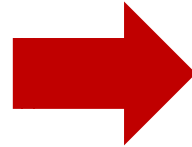
- Task Force Co- Chairs, Mayor Don Iveson and Bishop Jane Alexander



The City's Evolving Role



2014- 2017



2017 - 2021



What is poverty?

Poverty is defined as when people lack, or are denied, economic, social and cultural resources to have a quality of life that sustains and facilitates full and meaningful participation in the community.

Mayor's Task Force, 2014



EPE Road Map: SDG Action

| SDG Goal | EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map Actions |
|--|--|
| GOAL 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere | EPE Road Map Goal: End poverty in a generation (30 years). |
| GOAL 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. | Action #32. Advance the development and stability of local food system providers through access to appropriate business skill training, mentoring, and capital sources (both for start-up and to scale) |



EPE Road Map Action # 32

Solutions concluded from mapping:

- Create business development supports for local food entrepreneurs;
- Develop an Edmonton food hub;
- Create value out of food waste;
- Create bridgers/system navigators for small- medium based actors in the local food system;
- Educate and advocate for local food development;
- Pursue disruptive distribution pathways;
- Distribute, market, and promote culturally appropriate food;
- Incubate technology production that benefits local food system actors.



EPE Road Map: SDG Action

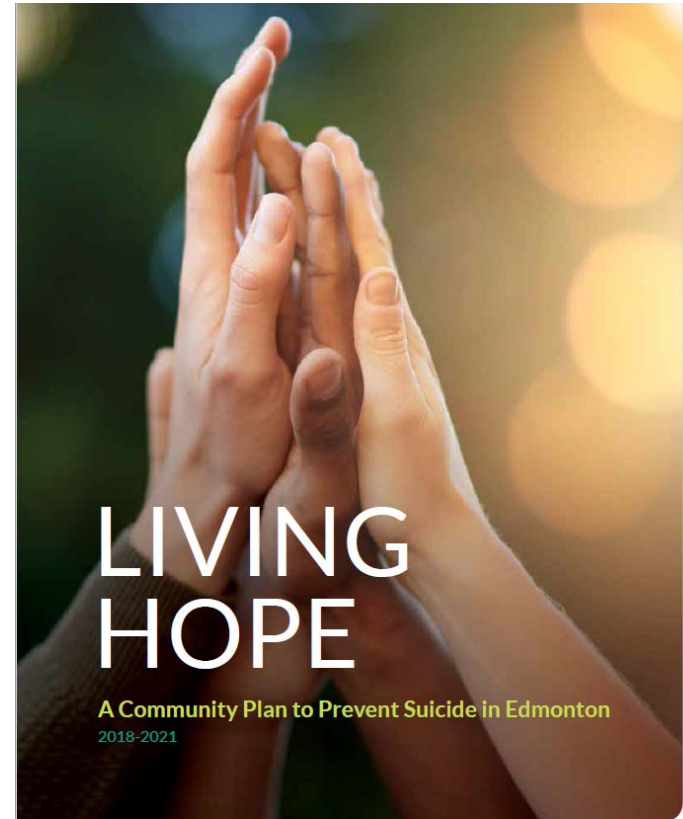
| SDG Goal | EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map Actions |
|--|--|
| <p>GOAL 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p> | <p>Action #25. Resource the Edmonton Mental Health Steering Committee to implement the coordinated community mental health action plan</p> <p>Action #26. Advance partnerships to support the implementation of the Edmonton Suicide Prevention Strategy and the Managed Alcohol Program</p> <p>Action #27. Advocate to increase funding and access to mental health services and education including the expansion of full service hours for multi-disciplinary mental health services</p> |



EPE Road Map Actions # 25 & # 26



Community
Mental Health
Action Plan



EPE Road Map: SDG Action

| SDG Goal | EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map Actions |
|---|---|
| <p>Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p> | <p>Action #29. Resource a new Early Learning and Care Steering Committee to guide the implementation of an integrated system and strategy for early learning and care in Edmonton</p> <p>Action #30. Resource and grow the All In for Youth wrap-around initiative in five school sites</p> |



EPE Road Map Actions # 29 & # 30



“I was an emotional wreck. I was in constant burnout. But once I got into Grade 10, (at a school supported by All in for Youth) I had so much help that that burnout became a flame of ambition.” - student



EPE Road Map: SDG Action

| SDG Goal | EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map Actions |
|---|---|
| <p>GOAL 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p> | <p>Action #14. Draft a living wage policy for all City of Edmonton staff and contracted services to be approved by City Council</p> <p>Action #15. Actively encourage local employers in all sectors to learn about and implement living wage policies</p> <p>Action #16. Expand the spectrum of financial empowerment initiatives</p> |



EPE Road Map Actions # 14 & # 16

Through e4c's Make Tax Time Pay, **MORE THAN \$11.5 MILLION WENT BACK** into the pockets of low-income individuals and families (2017). (ACTION #16)



The living wage

for a two-parent family with two children (where both parents work full time) was **\$16.48 per hour in 2018.**

A living wage is the hourly amount needed in order to enjoy a **modest standard of living.**

Contending with Costs: Edmonton Living Wage 2018 Update, Edmonton Social Planning Council



EPE Road Map: SDG Action

| SDG Goal | EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map Actions |
|--|--|
| GOAL 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable | |
| Affordable Housing | <p>Action #22. Increase supports to the Community Bridge initiative to prevent evictions</p> <p>Action #23. Revisit and renew affordable housing agreements with other orders of government, implement a housing awareness campaign, and initiate a Centre of Excellence for social housing</p> <p>Action #24. Research leading practices on housing design and innovation and raise awareness of the need for and right to affordable housing</p> <p>Action #31. Establish a Community Development Corporation to invest in affordable housing and community economic development</p> |



EPE Road Map Actions # 22 & # 31



The Community Bridge program at the Bissell Centre provided 177 vulnerable households **SUPPORT THAT PREVENTED AN EVICTION.**
(ACTION #22)



EDMONTON CDC
People First Community Development



EPE Road Map: SDG Action

| SDG Goal | EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map Actions |
|--|---|
| GOAL 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable | |
| Accessible Transport System | Action #18. Implement a low-income transit pass at 60% discount for eligible low-income transit customers Action #19. Provide free passes for agencies to distribute to vulnerable youth and adults Action #20. Conduct a feasibility study of the costs and opportunities of free public transportation for children under 12 years |



EPE Road Map Actions # 18,19,20



EPE Road Map: SDG Action

| SDG Goal | EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map Actions |
|---|--|
| <p>GOAL 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p> | <p>Action #3. City of Edmonton to complete a review of programs and services to better reflect the needs of Indigenous peoples and champion the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action</p> <p>Action #5. Host an annual Day of Dignity to recognize and honour human rights and dignity for all</p> <p>Action #6. Provide opportunities and supports to vulnerable populations to participate in all City committees</p> |



EPE Road Map: SDG Action

| SDG Goal | EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map Actions |
|---|--|
| <p>GOAL 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p> | <p>Action #7. Support and promote training opportunities to build understanding and end stigmatization between vulnerable people and law enforcement personnel</p> <p>Action #8. Develop policies and amend bylaws to provide law enforcement with structured flexibility when issuing minor infractions</p> <p>Action #9. Implement a social lab project to generate ideas and test prototypes to end racism</p> |



EPE Road Map Actions # 5 & # 9



A light gray silhouette of a city skyline is positioned at the top of the slide. It features various building shapes, including a prominent dome on the left and several tall, rectangular skyscrapers in the center and right. The skyline is set against a white background.

Reflections

- What can cities do to end poverty?
- What can I/We do?



Sharing Reflections & Discussion

- What are you already doing to help end poverty?
- What are you already doing that advances the Game Changers?
- What would you recommend people can do to help end poverty?



Learn More about the RM Actions

endpovertyedmonton.ca/Progress