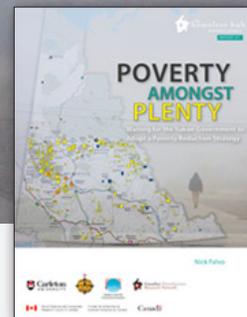


Poverty Amongst Plenty:

Waiting for the Yukon Government to Adopt a Poverty Reduction Strategy

This is a summary of a long report about poverty in Yukon. The long report talks about how the Yukon Government helps people who are poor. The report makes suggestions for change.

BY NICK FALVO



Read the full report at
www.homelesshub.ca/Yukon

Main Findings

When a lot of people are unemployed, it means that government does not collect as many taxes. Also, people who are poor usually have more health problems than other people. People who are poor also have to go to hospital more often.

This all means it is expensive for government when a lot of people are poor. It is cheaper for government and taxpayers when not as many people are poor.

A lot of governments in Canada, like the government of Nunavut, are trying to reduce poverty with Poverty Reduction Strategies. This means the government explains how it is going to reduce poverty. The Yukon Government has talked about having a Poverty Reduction Strategy for many years. But the Yukon Government does not have one yet.

Food is more expensive in Yukon than in the rest of Canada. People on social assistance in Yukon have a more difficult time buying food than people on social assistance in the rest of Canada. People who do not eat the right kind of foods can get diabetes and cancer.

There is not enough social housing in Yukon. Even when a woman is trying to leave a violent husband, she can wait for more than one year for social housing. While she waits for social housing, her children can be taken away from her by the government.

Some people who sleep at the emergency shelter in Whitehorse get to sleep in a bed. But some of them have to sleep on hard chairs. Sometimes women have to sleep close to men, in the same room.

In some parts of Canada, when people sleep at an emergency shelter for long periods time, the government tries to help them find permanent housing. This does not happen very often in Whitehorse.

In some ways, the Yukon Government is giving more money to poor people than in the past. People who get social assistance in Yukon get a little bit more money today than they did in the mid-1990s.

In the province of Quebec, the government spends a lot of money on daycare. This means that a lot of parents in Quebec are able to go and work outside of the home. When more parents work, they pay more taxes, and this is good for the government.

In Yukon, First Nations governments have very good daycare programs. But the Yukon Government does not spend money on daycare the way the Quebec government does.

Some child care in Yukon is very good. But some child care in Yukon is not very good.

High school students in Yukon do not graduate from high school as much as high school students in most parts of Canada. High school students in Yukon who are First Nation do not graduate as often as other students in Yukon.

Between 2001 and 2008, high-income people in Yukon got richer. By 2008, there were more than four times as many people in Yukon making more than \$250,000 per year than in 2001.

Premier Darrell Pasloski and the rest of the Yukon Government should try to reduce poverty.

The Yukon Government should help homeless people get real housing.

The Premier of Yukon should stand up to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and tell him to help poor people in Yukon.

This is a plain language summary of a policy report.
The policy report can be found on the Internet here:
www.homelesshub.ca/Yukon



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