



AAN POVERTY REDUCTION

Date/Time:

October 18, 2022 / 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Allyson Dann, Margot Brunner

In Attendance:

Allyson Dann (Calgary Fetal Alcohol Network)
 Brad Robertson (Community Advocate)
 Colleen Huston (Disability Action Hall)
 Darryl Janzen (Cerebral Palsy Alberta)
 Dawn Chrystian (Viking/Beaver FCSS)
 Julia Gonsalves (Calgary Homeless Foundation)
 Kathy Chan (Workers' Resource Centre)
 Keri McEachern (Self Advocacy Federation)
 Lori McBride
 Margot Brunner (Voice of Albertans with Disabilities)
 Margaret Yu (Momentum)

Melinda Noyes (Autism Edmonton)
 Melissa Vande Schoot (Independent Living Resource Centre of Calgary)
 Mezaun Lakha-Evin (Alberta Ability Network)
 Olgita Vumilia (Momentum)
 Patti Desjardine (University of Calgary)
 Ryan Popplestone (Office of the Advocate)
 Sam Mason (Voice of Albertans with Disabilities)
 Shane Rempel (Southern Alberta Brain Injury Society)
 Tasha M (Independent Living Resource Centre Of Calgary)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
Welcome and Introductions

Spotlight Series:

Momentum:

- Momentum is a nonprofit organization that works with individuals, businesses, and systems to build a more inclusive local economy and reduce poverty.
- Over 189,000 Calgarians are living below the poverty line, and more are on the cusp of it.
- They offer a 2-day Financial Literacy training and a 4-half-day Financial Coaching training. These programs started in 2007 and have been utilized by 200+ agencies. Additionally, they provide free RESP training.
- Aspire Calgary, an initiative of Momentum, strives to implement financial empowerment in Calgary and influence policy changes.
- They have the following programs for all Calgarians: Money Management, Money Matters, On-Demand Money Management, and Financial Coaching, and the following programs are income tested: Momentum Savings Challenge, Fair Gains & Savings Circles, Youth Fair Gains (16-24), and Owen Hart Homeowners.

- Offer one-to-ones with participants where they can choose online or in-person attendance.
- RDSP information is in their banking workshop and during Financial Literacy month they have more information on how to open an RDSP.
- If anyone has any questions or concerns please contact Margaret Yu at MargaretY@Momentum.org or 403-204-2697.

Topics of Discussion:

Social Media Campaigns: The Day to Eradicate Poverty

- Shared messages for the Day to Eradicate Poverty on social media and distributed resources our agency representatives are offering for those experiencing poverty.
- There were some agencies such as Public Interests Alberta where we were expecting them to be involved in the conversation of poverty by rallying or creating a social media campaign. However, we did not see their involvement.
- VAD hosted a community conversation where they had conversations regarding people living in poverty and their experiences. Shared some of AAN's survey results and the Self-Advocacy Federation's food security measures.
- VAD can provide some quotes for our story-telling piece if needed.
- Lots of individuals in the events held for the Day to Eradicate Poverty expressed concern for their health as they do not have extra funds for pharmaceuticals or dental.
- Some seniors with disabilities also expressed their hardship about going from AISH to senior benefits as it is a decreased amount. Many find it hard to survive on a day-to-day basis and are experiencing isolation.
- Senior's Blue Cross pays for 70% of pharmaceuticals where 30% comes out of a senior's pocket. This is unlike AISH as they do have a program where more is covered, rendering seniors concerned for their health.
- Many people asked for a rally as they feel like the government is not listening to their concerns.

Honorariums for people with lived experience

- Potentially starting to give people with lived experience (who are living in poverty and are a part of our Network) honorariums and honoring their time through compensation.
- Useful to use a social return on investment (SROI) framework as it influences how much people value their engagement. There are many academic research papers discussing this framework and how to use it as a business model.
- There was a study done on how there was a reduction in the percentage of people living in poverty when people were collecting CERB, as some individuals who were previously getting \$1300, were now getting \$2000.
- If we were to offer \$300 as an honorarium to people with lived experience, they would use them towards necessities such as medication, food, and clothing.



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Agency Updates:

Momentum

- Disability Tax Credit and RESP webinar on November 24th. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/disability-tax-creditrdsp-webinar-tickets-424314625467>

Disability Action Hall

- Surplus Stew Film Premier and Surplus Statement <https://www.actionhall.ca/2022/10/132-billion-surplus-stew-statement-for.html>
- Letter of endorsement to address food insecurity/security from Dignity For All <https://www.actionhall.ca/2022/10/proud-to-support-food-security.html>
- SROI Research from Basic Income Alberta <https://basicincomealberta.ca/>

Action Items:

- Potentially bring in Evelyn Forget (or other economists) for a webinar about universal income. If we decide to go forward with this, we will need to apply for grants that can support our work.
- Close our cost-of-living survey, distribute the E-Gift Cards, and start working on our research/position paper.
- Schedule a meeting with the Chairs, Mezaun and Meri, and decide our next steps.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: November 15th, 2022

Time: 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Location: Zoom