



Reducing Poverty: Moving Forward with Alberta's Social Policy Framework



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Presentation Outline

Background and Context

Alberta's Social Policy Framework

Implementing the Framework

Alberta's Poverty Reduction Strategy

What Does Poverty in Alberta Look Like?

Together We Raise Tomorrow Joint Engagement

Strategic Considerations and Next Steps

Questions and Comments

Priority Areas and Mandate

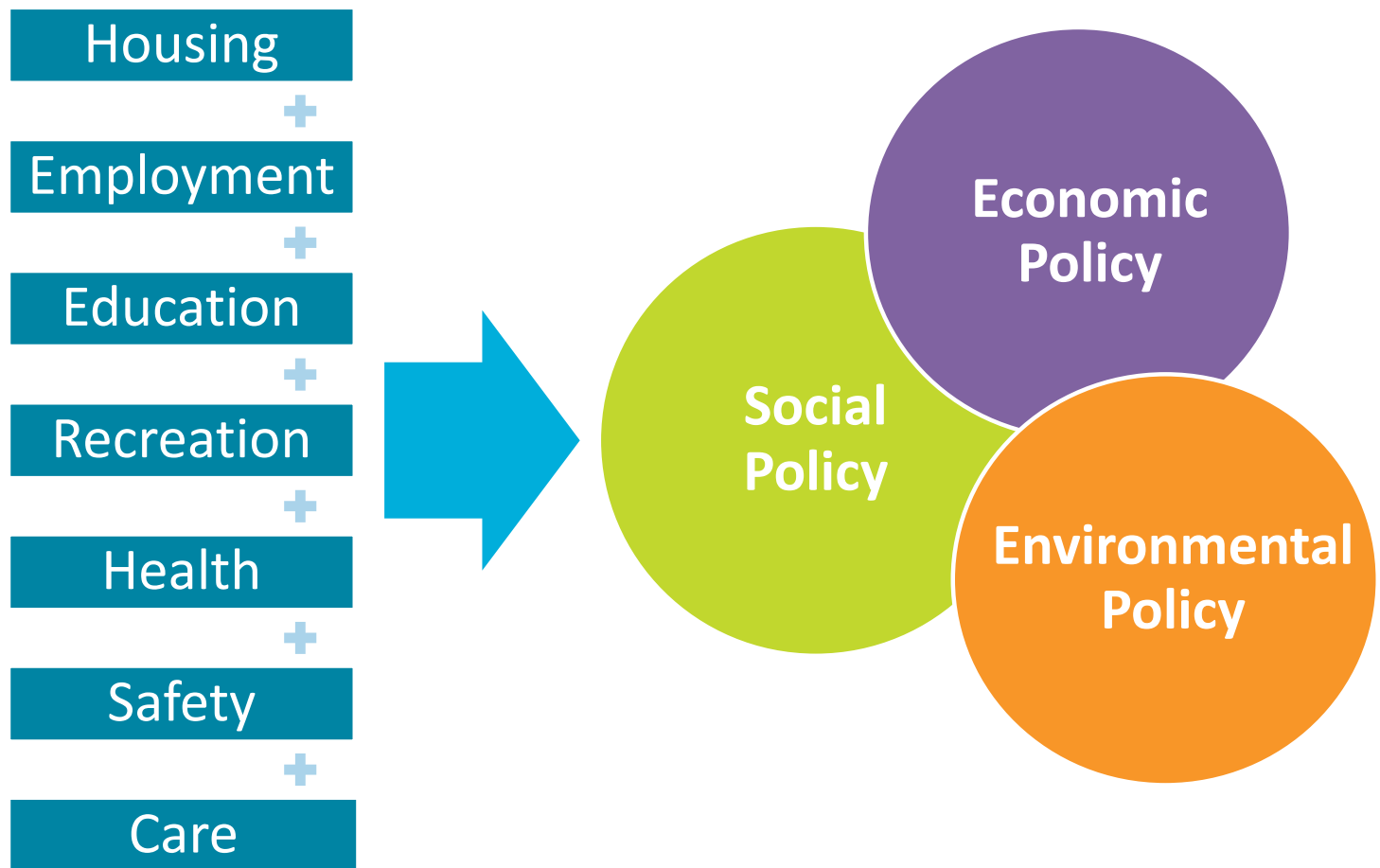
Priority Areas for Government:

- Investing in Families and Communities
- Securing Alberta's Economic Future
- Advancing World-Leading Resource Stewardship

Mandate to the Minister of Human Services:

Work with other ministries to develop a social policy framework to guide the alignment and redesign of social policy and programs to achieve better outcomes for Albertans

What is Social Policy?



Purpose of the Framework



Clarify

- Outcomes
- Roles and Responsibilities



Coordinate

- Activities
 - Policy Consistency and Alignment
- 



Influence

- Provide overall direction to planning and decision-making

Why now?

Time for Review

Alberta has not had a refreshed social policy framework for decades

Complexity

As our population has grown in size and complexity, so has our system of supports

A Growing Gap

Rising income disparity diminishes social cohesion and can be a barrier to equality of opportunity

Changing Expectations

Rapid changes in technology have created an expectation that services be portable, user-driven, and simple

Sustainability Challenges

There is upward pressures on the cost, diversity, and types of services required by Albertans

Engagement Approach

**Network
Mobilization**

**Community
Conversations**

Online Platform

Staff Engagement

Engagement Approach and Results

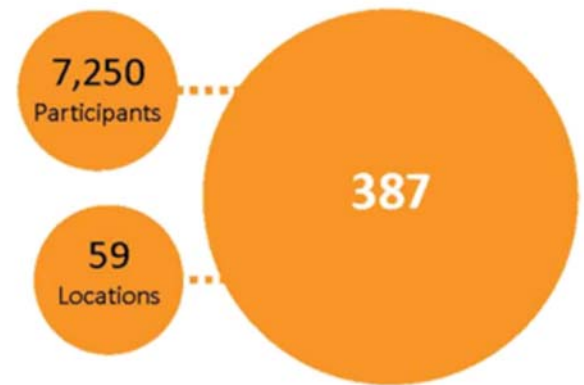
Volume of Participation Activity



Number of People Reached



Total Community Discussions



Success Factors

Leadership believes process is as important as product

We ask for help

We build on existing networks and relationships

Everyone is committed to listening

We recognize that transparency builds trust

Framework Components

Overarching Goals

Vision for the Future

Desired Outcomes

Key Principles

Roles and Responsibilities

Transformational Initiatives

Using the Framework

Alignment

- Overarching framework with which to align and coordinate your priorities
- Goals and outcomes clearly articulate one set of Government priorities for social policy

Engagement

- Outlines roles for engagement with community: catalyst, capacity builder, convener
- Focus on collaboration, partnership, and linkages
- New expectations

Delivery

- Focuses on outcomes – link actions with measurable and tangible results
- Sets principles to guide actions
- Policy shifts to work towards in design and delivery

Poverty Reduction

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Strategy to
eliminate child
poverty in five
years

Strategy to
reduce overall
poverty in 10
years

Implementation
plan with short-,
medium-, and
long-term
actions

Comprehensive
evaluation and
monitoring
strategy

Definition and Measures

Poverty is the exclusion or lack of resources, resiliency, capabilities, and choices necessary for the enjoyment of an adequate standard of life.

Income-Based Poverty Measures

Quality of Life-Based Poverty Measure

Low-Income Measure

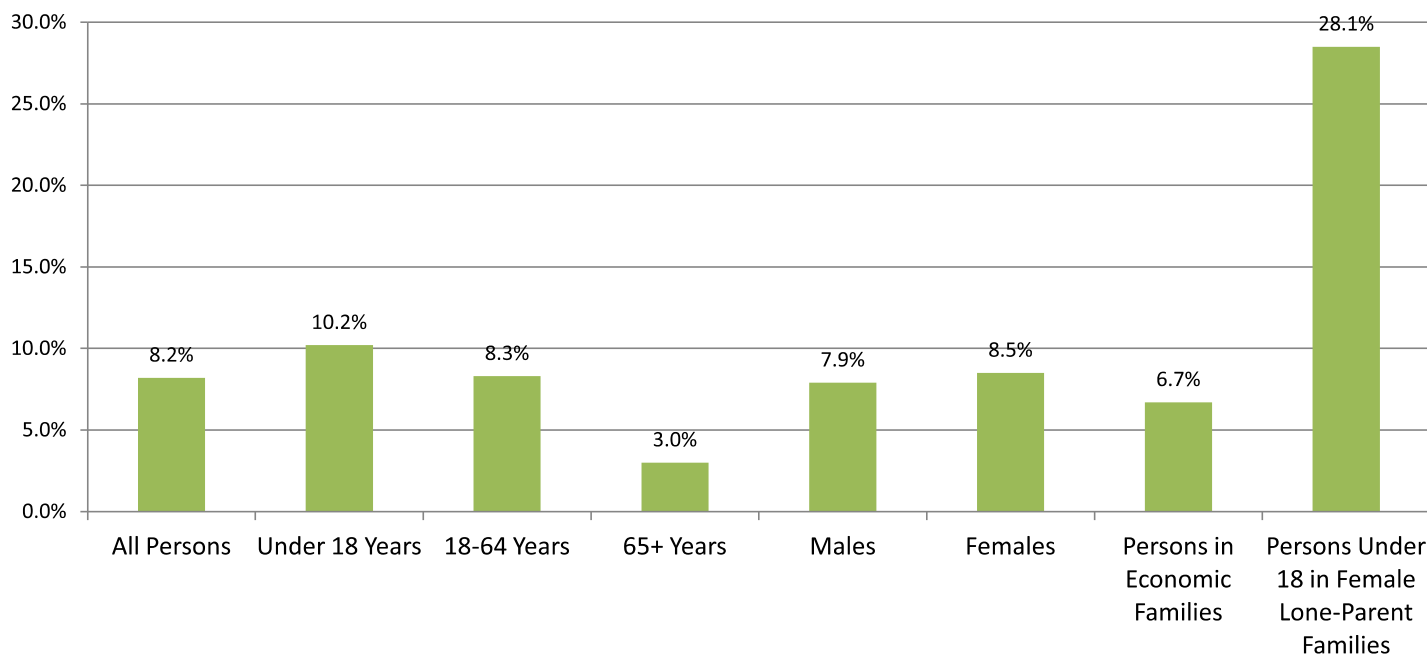
Market Basket Measure

Low-Income Cut Off

Deprivation Index

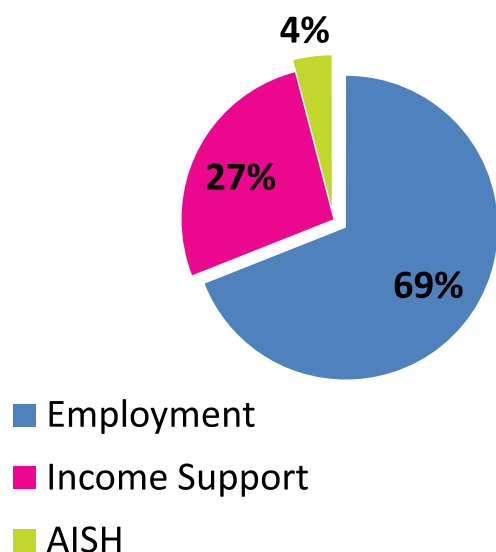
Profile of Poverty in Alberta

Percentages of Persons in Low Income-Alberta (2011, LIM)



Profile of Low-Income Families with Children

Income Source of Low-Income Families w/ Children (2011, LIM)



In 2011, 84,000 children (10.2 per cent) lived in low income.

The percentage of younger children living in poverty (10.5 per cent) is slightly higher than the overall child poverty rate .

59.2 per cent of all children living in low income are residing in a home where a family member is working full-time, year round.

Jurisdictional Review

Across Canada, provinces are working to address poverty and have set ambitious targets:

Ontario

- Introduced in 2008
- Reduce child poverty by 25% (103,000 children) in 5 years.

New Brunswick

- Introduced in 2009
- Reduce income poverty by 25% and deep income poverty by 50%.

Quebec

- Introduced in 2002
- Reduce poverty in the province by half over 10 years

Together We Raise Tomorrow



Engagement Highlights

17,225 People Reached

688 Surveys Completed

302 Community Conversations

85 Communities

6,423 Community Conversation Participants

What We Heard: Common Themes

Supports for Children and Families

- Childcare
- School Fees
- Access to Recreation

Income Supplementation

- Tax System-Based Supports
- Financial Benefits Changes

Financial Empowerment

- Asset Building
- Financial Literacy

Community Initiatives

- Clear Roles and Responsibilities
- Support for Local Poverty Reduction Efforts

Appropriate Housing

- Affordable Housing Stock
- Rent Supplements

Employment, Training, and Skills Development

- Training and Employment Opportunities
- Living Wage

Strategic Considerations

Outcomes and Measurement

- Use broad Social Policy Framework Outcomes
- Pull down to Poverty-specific measures
- Definition of poverty

Strategy as Way of Being

- Poverty reduction is not simply a singular event
- Reshapes how we think and work
- Connects to broader pieces

Scope

- Broad versus targeted

Poverty Reduction Connections



Options Evaluation

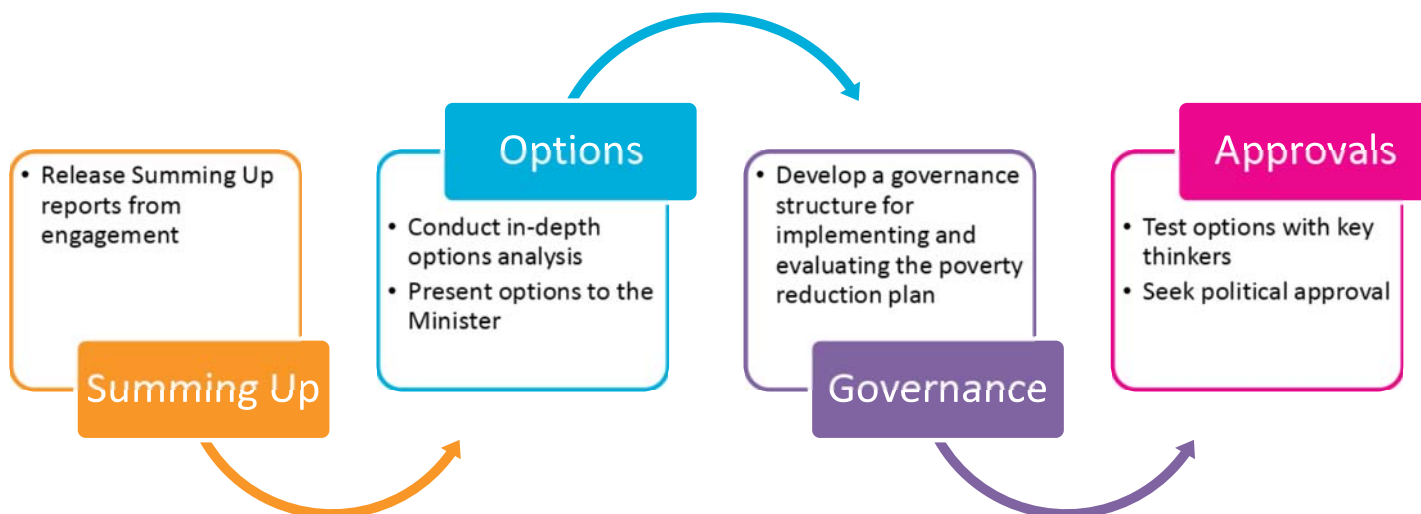
Rationale

Effectiveness and reach

Consequences of program changes

Fiscal realities

Next Steps





Thank You

Questions?
Comments?

socialpolicy.alberta.ca
povertyreduction.alberta.ca

