

# END POVERTY

## A C T I O N   G U I D E

For Edmonton Religious and Spiritual Communities



# INTRODUCTION

This guide is an invitation to join the movement to end poverty in Edmonton. It is for you and your faith community, because you are uniquely situated to effect change.

The movement is underway! This guide is a call for members of all religious and spiritual communities in Edmonton to find their place in this movement. Your participation is essential.

Throughout this guide, you will find stories gathered from across Edmonton's Interfaith Community, though there are many more yet to be told. There is a focus on the provision of affordable housing, which has been the mandate of the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative (CRIHI) and is a key factor towards ending homelessness and poverty. The stories also touch on other aspects of the movement to end poverty and each includes a Call to Action: steps that you and your community can take to become involved.

This guide is presented in support of and supported by EndPovertyEdmonton and in collaboration with the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative. Its production has been made possible by the Anglican Foundation of Canada.



The Tent City homeless camp near city hall prompts the development of a leadership task force from all social sectors, including the faith sector.

Faith leaders begin meetings, recognizing the potential role of religious and spiritual communities in achieving the goal.

2007

2009

2010

2011

City Council approves an ambitious plan created by this task force: A Place to Call Home: Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

The Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative is launched. Leaders from 24 religious and spiritual communities commit "to eliminate homelessness in our community."

25 faith leaders renew their public commitment to end homelessness. The City launches the Mayor's Task Force for Poverty Elimination.

City Council approves the EndPovertyEdmonton Implementation Road Map in May and funding for the Action Plan in December.

2012/  
2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

The focus broadens to include all aspects and causes of poverty. The City of Edmonton convenes the Poverty Elimination Steering Committee.

The two-year Task Force engages the community, including religious and spiritual communities, in exploring and developing potential solutions to tackle root causes of poverty.

EndPovertyEdmonton is launched as a convening entity, rallying Edmontonians, steering the course toward the first ambitious goal: to lift 10,000 people out of poverty in five years.



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## MAKE IT PERSONAL

Every fall, during a festival called Sukkoth, Jewish communities build a temporary shelter called a “Sukkah.” This practice reflects a time when our ancestors were nomads, travelling in the desert and living in makeshift huts.

One year, during a dinner celebrating this festival, congregants of one Edmonton synagogue, Temple Beth Ora, had a timely opportunity to help a person who was homeless. He had made our Sukkah his temporary home.

Fortunately, we had just done a food/clothing/household goods drive and were able to pass along bedding and clothing. We were also able to offer him a warm meal inside the synagogue and packaged up food from our pot luck dinner for a few more meals. He had a cart and was able to take these household goods along with him.

This meeting was just as fortunate for us as for him. With a picture of what someone who is homeless looks like - a friendly and very human face – we gained a greater understanding of what it means to be without a home. We need more such opportunities to build connections and put human faces on homelessness.

### CALL TO ACTION

There are many ways to bring ourselves ‘face to face’ with poverty; to personalize an issue that might seem distant and far removed from our own day-to-day reality.

- Try an online simulation such as <http://www.makethemonth.ca/>. Or take a step further with a United Way Poverty Simulation <http://myunitedway.ca/poverty-simulation/>. These interactive exercises enable participants to experience the challenges a family living in poverty faces in daily life.
- Spend time at a front-line agency serving people living in poverty, or invite a guest speaker from such an agency to educate your group.
- Host a “How Privileged are You?” exercise. <http://www.cusccrpinitiative.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2PL-B-Walk-of-Privilege.doc>
- 211 is a 24-hour information and referral line connecting people in need to social, health and government services. At request, they will provide copies of the “Tough Times” handbook. You can also access resources on your cell phone!. Find it at <http://www.linkyeg.ca/>.

## FEED THE HUNGRY

Seva Food Truck is a charity initiative founded by the Sikh community to tackle the issues of food insecurity and poverty. We aim to provide services to individuals and communities without judgment, stigma or discrimination, through dignity and respect. Our basic tenet is to apply the teachings of Seva and Langar to the real world. Too often are these beautiful, global concepts confined to the basements of our Sikh temple (Gurdwaras). We believe in humanity, community and the well-being of all. We must let our actions speak.

**Seva** (say-va) means selfless service.

**Langar** (Lung-er) means “free kitchen;” food served to all, regardless of caste, race or religion; a gesture of equality.



### CALL TO ACTION

Our goal is to end poverty, not merely manage it. We must work toward a situation in which all Edmontonians have access to all the healthy food they need all the time. Support efforts like the Seva Food Truck.

- Support Edmonton's Food Bank: donate nutritious foods or money; find out whether your building could be a distribution point; volunteer to help with the loading and unloading of food boxes.
- Become better educated about issues around food security.
- Become better educated about food security issues by visiting the Edmonton Food Council website: [www.edmontonfoodcouncil.org](http://www.edmontonfoodcouncil.org)

## SUPPORT NEWCOMERS

St. Patrick's Anglican Church feels that God is calling us to serve as a centre to support newcomers to Canada. Out of this vision, we entered into a relationship with the Welcome Centre for Immigrants (WCI) and the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN) to offer free English and computer literacy classes for senior newcomers. Our first participants were from India, Pakistan and Africa. They identified language development and becoming more culturally aware as learning priorities. Working alongside EMCN, our parish hired an instructor and community connector who organized presentations and fieldtrips designed to help the group realize its goals. We covered topics such as Canadian history, aboriginal history, the Olympics, camping, recycling and waste management. They prepared for a visit to the doctor and visited Fort Edmonton Park. The seniors enrolled in the computer literacy class also learned to set-up an email account, save and download files, and navigate

the internet using search engines. As the course progressed, there was much laughter and community-building, as language and cultural barriers were broken down. Before this program, many of the seniors in our group felt isolated in their new surroundings. The greatest benefit to them has been reduced apprehension about going out into the community. For church members at St. Patrick's it is a great joy to see our prayers for the unemployed and newcomers to Canada being put into action.



### CALL TO ACTION

- Connect with agencies that support immigrants (see the Resources appendix). What aspect of their work fits the skills, talents and goals of your faith community? There are many opportunities to help.
- Consider sponsoring a refugee; or supporting a group already involved in the sponsorship process.

## BUILD BRIDGES

Moving 'Toward True Reconciliation' is the first goal of the EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map. It calls for a concerted effort in raising awareness of the culture and the often untold history of Indigenous people. Working toward that end, the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton and Edmonton's Inner City Pastoral Ministry have each employed an *oskâpêwis*. In the Cree language, *oskâpêwis* means 'helper' and, in each of these agencies, the *oskâpêwis* helps by bringing an Indigenous voice to the work of the church. Their efforts include facilitating opportunities for the non-Indigenous community to connect and learn.

One of such opportunity is the Blanket Exercise. This is an experiential learning activity that facilitates True Reconciliation by providing a new and very personal perspective on the shared history of Indigenous people and settlers.



Some Anglican churches have also developed a liturgy called Standing Stones. In a number of Christian denominations, liturgy puts together words and actions that provide order and inspiration through a worship service. Standing Stones liturgy includes elements of Indigenous belief and practice, such as the offering of a smudge (praying with smoke) and a story from Indigenous tradition. It incorporates the Indigenous symbol of the wheel, prayers are made in four directions and confession is made in a circle.

### CALL TO ACTION

Unfortunately, many people in Canada experience racism; those who have migrated here, as well as many Indigenous people who make up the First Nations of Canada. Aboriginal people in Edmonton experience poverty at about twice the rate of non-Aboriginals.

- Invite speakers, hold workshops and encourage discussion about sensitive issues such as racism and cultural sensitivity.
- Make space to celebrate elements of other traditions and allow people from marginalized groups to share insight and leadership in your community.
- Sign up for a regular bulletin from the City of Edmonton Indigenous Relations Office. [https://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/initiatives\\_innovation/indigenous-relations.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/initiatives_innovation/indigenous-relations.aspx)
- Participate in aboriginal events and cultural experiences such as sharing circles and pow-wows. Find information at the Canadian Native Friendship Centre.
- Host a Blanket Exercise; a teaching tool developed by KAIROS (a faith-based social justice organization), to help participants experience Canadian history from an Indigenous perspective.

## ENCOURAGE EMPLOYABILITY

When the Community Engagement Coordinator at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral appealed for volunteers to advance the excellent service of PALS (Project Adult Literacy Society), I saw a wonderful opportunity to offer my 35 years of teaching with Edmonton Public Schools.

After an encouraging interview, I was asked to tutor in mathematics literacy and was matched with my student, a new Canadian from South Sudan. Because of strife in his homeland, he was denied the chance to attend school. His aim is to enrol in a college program. First he must pass a proficiency test in mathematics.

My student and I established an excellent rapport. We meet weekly at the Cathedral. He is self-motivated, learns quickly and teaching him is indeed rewarding.

God has given each of us special gifts or skills and presents us with opportunities to use them for the betterment of others. I wish I had known about PALS before now. But even at 73 years of age, it is not too late to revive my teaching skills.



### CALL TO ACTION

- Research the work of agencies like PALS to see how you might use your skills to help people obtain employment, or better-paying jobs.
- Transportation can be a barrier to employment. Support Edmonton Transit's "Donate-a-Ride" program <http://www.donatearide.ab.ca/> which provides free transit tickets to social agencies.
- Support local aboriginal businesses. Visit the website of Edmonton's Aboriginal Business & Professional Association at <http://aksisyeg.ca/>
- If you have jobs to offer, lead by example in hiring newcomers and Indigenous people.

## INVEST IN FAMILIES



Inspired by the ethics and values of our faith and the Canadian values of generosity, compassion and the uplifting of all people, the Ismaili Council in Edmonton supports ending poverty by setting an ambitious target to eliminate poverty within our own community in three years. Volunteers from within the Ismaili community, who possess a wide range of skill sets and experiences, help families in need develop their own goals and plans with the assistance of a family mentor and a "circles of support" team of volunteers. Interventions are guided by family aspirations focusing on five areas of family capital that include: physical, financial, human, social and natural (faith) to build assets and resilience.

### CALL TO ACTION

Investing in families is critical to ending poverty. Research shows that children living in a family with two married adults have the lowest risk of poverty and that the break-down of relationships contributes to the cycle of poverty.

- As the Ismaili community has done, identify those within your own group who have skills and talents to contribute. Coordinate your efforts.
- Consider how your faith community can support married couples and help to prevent marital breakdown. What type of activities or programs could you offer to support family relationships?
- Donate to "Basically Babies," an agency that supports families in need by providing a layette packed with clothes and provisions for the first year of a baby's life.
- E4C Early Head Start is an early childhood parent support program run by E4C (Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation). It is for low income families with children between birth and 3 ½ years old.
- Donate to the Pregnancy Pathways Initiative, which focuses on the housing, health and social needs of pregnant, homeless women in Edmonton.
- Sponsor services for an Indigenous family through agencies like the Red Road Healing Society or The Edmonton Native Healing Centre.



## COLLABORATE WITH THE INTERFAITH COMMUNITY

Every year the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative (CRIHI) partners with Habitat for Humanity to run the Interfaith Works Project. The goal is to provide volunteers from as many faith groups as possible to work on housing projects in the Edmonton area. Volunteers do not require experience and can work at a time that suits their own schedule. The project runs over 6 to 8 weeks with a kick-off party at the start and a wrap-up at the end. That is where the interfaith community is most visible. You might hear a prayer from the Qur'an or an aboriginal blessing. You might chat with a Sikh or Buddhist friend, while enjoying lunch prepared by a local synagogue, with dessert whipped up by the Baptists. You will hear from everyone involved about a shared theme: setting aside differences - taking up the cause to end homelessness in Edmonton.



### CALL TO ACTION

- Organize a group to help build homes for the working poor through the Interfaith Works Project.
- Sign up to receive *The Neighbourly*, the newsletter of the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative.
- Sign up your faith community to prepare and serve a meal with the Sunday Lunch Program at the Bissell Centre. The year-round roster includes any faith group who wants to help.
- Attend an event at the Edmonton Interfaith Centre.

## SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING



St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish on 118 Avenue is taking a proactive approach to a new housing development in that area. When Edmonton Inner City Housing Society (now known as Right at Home Housing Society) announced a new project just a few blocks from the church, the parish priest spoke with his parishioners about how the parish might get involved. With the help of the Parish Outreach Team of Catholic Social Services, the parish priest convened parish meetings and invited the executive director of Right at Home to speak with parishioners after a Sunday worship service. This led to a creative discussion about how the parish could help provide a community welcome for the new residents and develop an ongoing, mutually supportive relationship. The parish members see this as a first step towards a wider commitment.

### CALL TO ACTION

The principle of 'housing first' holds that the first thing a homeless person needs – is a home! The issues contributing to homelessness – physical or mental health, addictions, unemployment and more – will always be easier to deal with if a person is safely housed, rather than on the street.

- Contact the Housing First Support Program of Homeward Trust Edmonton, which first finds housing for a person in need, before stabilizing their living conditions and transitioning them to a reduced level of support, with the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency.
- Befriend those who have come off the streets, but have no network of safe contacts or friends. The Welcome Home Program matches volunteers with individuals and families who provide companionship. Contact Catholic Social Services at (780) 378-2544.
- Help change the "Not in My Back Yard" attitude to "Yes In My Back Yard!" Host a discussion about affordable housing projects that might impact your community, even before they are proposed. Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative will facilitate these discussions for free.

## CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Westmount Presbyterian Church was facing difficult issues. Our building was heading toward big repairs and we would not have the resources to meet its needs. We figured we were three years from funds running out, and we were open to trying something new. We asked continually, ‘Where is God leading us now?’

We looked at a number of possibilities, but nothing seemed to come together. Along the way, the church embraced an opportunity to support a government sponsored refugee family. We learned about that process and we learned the challenge of finding housing for a large family.

Then one of our elders attended a meeting of the “Right at Home Housing Society.” The CEO came out to look at our property and saw great possibilities. He told us the greatest housing need in Edmonton was for large families, which fit with our experience.

We met with Right at Home and the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers over the course of two years, eventually forming an agreement to build 16 units of stacked town houses to accommodate larger families. The plans include a community building in which the church will have designated rooms for worship and programs. Westmount will lease the land. Right at Home will be the construction and managing force of the complex.

It has been a long, slow process, but we have felt the hand of God in it from the beginning. At no point did we force a process. We simply responded to either a need or an opportunity. And the final result is a win-win situation for everyone.



### CALL TO ACTION

There are agencies ready to fund and build affordable housing in Edmonton, but there is not enough land available. Faith communities sometimes have access to land that they are not using or could be developed.

- Consider ways your building might house groups dealing with poverty and related issues. Offer meeting space for addictions and mental health recovery groups.

- Become a support hub where multiple service providers co-locate.
- Develop Your Property. If your faith community has surplus land that could be used for affordable housing, contact the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative or the Right at Home Housing Society.

## ACTIVATE THE NEXT GENERATION

On April 10, The Jewish Federation of Edmonton hosted its second annual Good Deeds Day.

Volunteers sifted through donations of non-perishable food items at Edmonton’s Food Bank, preparing these goods for distribution. Several more volunteers used their skills helping to clean and fix the cottages at the Kids Kottage Foundation.

This year, Talmud Torah School also joined in on the activities. Dozens of parents, children, and staff joined together for a neighborhood clean-up. Furthermore, the grade 4 students collected gently worn shoes and socks to give to homeless shelters and shelters for families fleeing violence, and the grade 6 students collected books for underprivileged children.

While meaningfully engaging in repairing our world (Tikkun Olam) and instilling the values of charity (tzedakah), our fantastic group of volunteers exhibited the values of klal Israel, not only taking care of our Jewish community, but our broader community as well.

### CALL TO ACTION

Young people want to make a difference. Help them get involved.

- Organize experiences for youth that give them first-hand exposure to poverty. The Mustard Seed offers the Social Issues Walk (3 hours) and DemoCrew (4-5 days) for teens. These experiences challenge and expand students’ worldviews and prepare them to engage with the call for social justice in their own communities.
- Identify specific projects for youth, which they can see through from start to end. If you have a “rite of passage” for adolescents (e.g. confirmation, bar/bat mitzvah), encourage them to do projects related to poverty.
- As a parent or teacher, take your children to Edmonton City Hall School, a week of interactive learning about how the city works and how to use its services.

## CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Summer barbeques are a great opportunity for food and fellowship, and for collaborating with others. Christ Church Anglican, Inner City Pastoral Ministry and St. Theresa's – Society of Vincent de Paul worked together to host a community festival in Oliver, inviting the inner city and city centre communities to a sumptuous feast of burgers and hot dogs. St. Theresa's – Society of Vincent de Paul served the lunch with their well-practiced team of volunteers. Entertainment included Blue Grass Gospel, Indigenous singers and dancers from the ICPM Community of Emmanuel, a colouring book table and children's fun. The event ended with a round dance. The barbeque was a great ecumenical, intercultural and community event attended by more than 200 people from Edmonton's downtown core.



### CALL TO ACTION

Connecting with your neighbourhood creates opportunities to find out who you can work with as well as who needs help.

- Host a meal open to community residents of all different income levels. Whether in a high, middle class or low-income neighbourhood, residents may not be aware of the poverty on their doorsteps.
- Set up an information booth at your community's annual pancake breakfast or other community event.
- Form a partnership with your neighbourhood school.
- Join your local Community League or Home Owners Association.
- See where it leads. In recent years, local faith groups have been organizing into regional ecumenical/interfaith networks in different parts of Edmonton to address shared social concerns. Community social workers employed by the City of Edmonton have often supported these groups, providing information and helping to focus their efforts.

## ENGAGE WITH YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS

### A story of faith in action:

Yesterday, I witnessed the heartwarming act of sadaqa (charity that is voluntary, not obligatory) practiced by a young Muslim woman in a Tim Hortons' parking lot. A car in the drive-thru line-up stopped. The driver had noticed a shopping cart filled with plastic bags containing bottles and the meagre possessions of a street person had been left unattended next to a dumpster. A young woman wearing hijab stepped out and placed a five dollar bill in the cart. With a happy smile she drove on with her companion to place her order.

To the young woman: thank you for practicing your faith so well. Your compassion has deeply moved me.



### CALL TO ACTION

All religious and spiritual communities uphold teachings about helping the poor and the marginalized.

- Recognize the human dignity; the 'spark of the Divine;' the 'image of God' in every person you meet.
- Speak to the leaders in your faith community about highlighting your tradition's teaching on social justice in your worship times.
- Ask your faith leaders about holding a group discussion on the social justice teachings of your faith. Offer to help organize it.
- Initiate a group project related to poverty that would be appropriate in relation with a special holiday or festival connected to your tradition.
- Create a cycle or calendar of prayer for social justice. See an example at <http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish-life/prayer-resources/>.
- However your tradition engages in prayer, corporately, individually, with or without words, pray for the poor and for an end to poverty.

# CONCLUSION

Thank you for picking up this book. Thank you for the steps you and your faith community will take to join the movement to end poverty in Edmonton. Please take a look through the final pages, which include resources to help you on your way. They are not exhaustive. There is so much more that could be said; so many stories to be told and ideas yet to be discovered. Some of them might be yours!

As information is continuously being updated, we conclude with a few ideas on how to stay in the conversation:

- “Count Yourself In” and join the EndPovertyEdmonton movement. [www.endpovertyedmonton.ca](http://www.endpovertyedmonton.ca)
- Use your social media influence for good. Follow and share posts from EndPovertyEdmonton’s Twitter (@EndPovertyYEG) and Facebook accounts.
- Engage in the political discussion. Show up at city council meetings when you can. Tell your elected representatives that you support EndPovertyEdmonton and the use of public funds to achieve its goals.
- Check the Edmonton Social Planning Council website for timely analysis reports on government social policy.
- Watch for the development of a website devoted to gathering more stories and ideas from faith-based, religious and spiritual communities.
- Find out how your own and other faith communities communicate. Is there a newsletter or a website? Pool your knowledge. Learn what is already being done to fight poverty and join in.

## Resources: Agencies

- Bissell Centre: [www.bissellcentre.org/get-involved](http://www.bissellcentre.org/get-involved)
- Boyle Street Community Services: [www.boylestreet.org/ways-to-give/volunteer](http://www.boylestreet.org/ways-to-give/volunteer)
- Canadian Native Friendship Centre. [www.cnfc.ca](http://www.cnfc.ca)
- Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative: [www.interfaithhousing.ca](http://www.interfaithhousing.ca)



- Centre for Race and Culture [www.cfrac.com](http://www.cfrac.com)
- Dignity for All: The Campaign for a Poverty-Free Canada: [www.dignityforall.ca](http://www.dignityforall.ca)
- E4C (Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation): [www.e4calberta.org](http://www.e4calberta.org) or (780)424-7543
- Edmonton’s Food Bank: [www.edmontonsfoodbank.com](http://www.edmontonsfoodbank.com)
- Edmonton Interfaith Centre: [www.edminterfaithcentre.ca](http://www.edminterfaithcentre.ca)
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers: [www.mcn.ab.ca](http://www.mcn.ab.ca)
- Edmonton Native Healing Centre: [www.edmontonnativehealingcentre.com](http://www.edmontonnativehealingcentre.com)
- Edmonton Social Planning Council [www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca)
- Edmonton Transit’s Donate-a-Ride program: [www.donatearide.ab.ca](http://www.donatearide.ab.ca)
- Employ-Abilities: [www.employabilities.ab.ca](http://www.employabilities.ab.ca)
- EndPovertyEdmonton: [www.endpovertyedmonton.ca](http://www.endpovertyedmonton.ca)
- Find Edmonton: [www.findedmonton.com](http://www.findedmonton.com)
- Good Will Industries of Alberta: [www.goodwill.ab.ca](http://www.goodwill.ab.ca)
- Habitat for Humanity: [www.hfh.org/volunteer](http://www.hfh.org/volunteer)
- Homeless Connect Events: [www.homelessconnectyeg.com](http://www.homelessconnectyeg.com)
- Homeward Trust Edmonton: [www.homewardtrust.ca](http://www.homewardtrust.ca)
- Hope Mission: [www.hopemission.com/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-in-edmonton](http://www.hopemission.com/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-in-edmonton)
- ICPM (Inner City Pastoral Ministry): [info@icpmedmonton.ca](mailto:info@icpmedmonton.ca)
- Jasper Place Wellness Center: (780)481-4001
- John Humphey Centre for Peace and Human Rights [www.jhcentre.org](http://www.jhcentre.org)
- Marian Centre: [MCEedmonton@shaw.ca](mailto:MCEedmonton@shaw.ca) or (780)424-3544
- Mosaic Centre on Fort Road: (780) 722-3247
- Mustard Seed: [www.theseed.ca/take-action](http://www.theseed.ca/take-action)
- Neighbour Centre: [www.theneighbourcentre.ca](http://www.theneighbourcentre.ca)
- Operation Friendship (Connect with Seniors): 780-408-2958 or [www.ofss.org/how-you-can-help/](http://www.ofss.org/how-you-can-help/)
- Project Adult Literacy Society: [www.palsedmonton.ca](http://www.palsedmonton.ca)
- Red Road Healing Society in support of Indigenous families: [www.theredroad.ca](http://www.theredroad.ca)
- ReStores: [www.hfh.org/restore/home](http://www.hfh.org/restore/home)
- St. Vincent de Paul Society: [www.ssvpedmonton.ca](http://www.ssvpedmonton.ca)
- United Way Capital Region [www.myunitedway.ca](http://www.myunitedway.ca)
- Welcome Home Program through Catholic Social Services: (780)378-2544
- Welcome Centre for Immigrants: [www.wciedmonton.ca](http://www.wciedmonton.ca)
- Youth Empowerment & Support Services: [www.yess.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://www.yess.org/get-involved/volunteer)

## Resources: Electronic

- *Advocacy Toolkit (Citizens for Public Justice)*: [www.cpj.ca/cpbs-advocacy-toolkit](http://www.cpj.ca/cpbs-advocacy-toolkit)
- Alberta Human Rights: learn more at [www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca](http://www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca)
- *Church for the Poor*, compiled by Church Action on Poverty in the United Kingdom. Canadian faith groups have similar experiences to those highlighted in this report. [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)
- *Creating Pathways out of Poverty: A Results-Based Approach Toward a Bold New Vision* (United Way Alberta Capital Region)
- EndHungerUK: See [www.endhungeruk.org](http://www.endhungeruk.org) for an example of a social media campaign designed to encourage conversation and participation.
- *Here at Home*, a National Film Board web documentary series on Housing First
- *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada* (2015). [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca)
- Indigenous issues, further information: [www.ncsa.libguides.com](http://www.ncsa.libguides.com)
- *No Change: After 25 Years of Promises, it's Time to Eliminate Child Poverty* (Edmonton Social Planning Council, November 2014)
- *The Path Forward: Opportunities to End Child Poverty in Alberta* (Alberta College of Social Workers, Public Interest Alberta, and the Edmonton Social Planning Council, April 2016)

- *A Profile of Poverty in Edmonton* (Edmonton Social Planning Council, February 2017)
- *Ten: A Guide for Cities Reducing Poverty* One of many excellent resources at Vibrant Communities Canada. Search their resource library at [www.vibrantcanada.ca](http://www.vibrantcanada.ca)
- *Together We Raise Tomorrow: Alberta's Poverty Reduction Strategy* (Government of Alberta)
- Treaty No. 6 on the government website for Indigenous and Northern Affairs. Go to [aadnc-aandc.gc.ca](http://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca) and search "Treaty 6".

## Resources: Films

- *Inequality for All*, Jacob Kornbluth, 2013. [www.inequalityforall.com](http://www.inequalityforall.com). In this eye-opening film, former US Treasury Secretary Robert Reich seeks to discover what makes up a good society and what role the widening income gap plays in the deterioration of economic health.
- *Poor No More*, Bert Deveaux, 2010. [www.poornomore.ca](http://www.poornomore.ca). Host Mary Walsh offers an engaging look at Canadians stuck in low-paying jobs, and then takes us on a journey to Ireland and Sweden to see how those countries have tackled poverty while strengthening their economies.
- *Trick or Treaty*, Alanis Obomsawin, 2014. [www.nfb.ca/film/trick\\_or\\_treaty/](http://www.nfb.ca/film/trick_or_treaty/) A National Film Board documentary in which Indigenous leaders seeking dialogue with the Canadian government trace the history of their ancestors since the signing of Treaty 9.

## Resources: Books

- Bouma-Prediger, Steven, and Brian J. Walsh. *Beyond Homelessness: Christian Faith in a Culture of Displacement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008. (Reflections on homelessness drawing on theology and the social sciences.)
- Boyle, Fr. Gregory. *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. Homeboy Industries provides former LA gang members with jobs and hope, as well as support services including therapy, GED classes and tattoo removal.

- Burt, Alan R. *Blessings of the Burden: Reflections and Lessons in Helping the Homeless*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2013. The author's reflections on his personal experiences, with a description of successful initiatives in Cape Cod, MA.
- Dudley, Carl S. *Community Ministry: New Challenges, Proven Steps to Faith-based Initiatives*. Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 2002. (Guide for congregations initiating community ministries.)
- Gunderson, Gary. *Deeply Woven Roots: Improving the Quality of Life in Your Community*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997. (Identifies specific strengths of religious congregations for community development.)
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