



Thrive Together

A Poverty Reduction Strategy on the North Shore

Thrive Together on the North Shore

The **District of West Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver, the City of North Vancouver, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation** are leading an initiative that will help them understand what you need to thrive together on the North Shore.

These findings will help create the **North Shore's first Poverty Reduction Strategy**, which will address how to break the cycle of poverty, build a better community for everyone, and enhance inclusivity for all people looking to call the North Shore their home.

This work will be shaped by four guiding principles:

OPPORTUNITY



SOCIAL INCLUSION



AFFORDABILITY



RECONCILIATION

What do you need to thrive on the North Shore?

AFFORDABILITY



Poverty means someone does not have enough money to pay for necessities.

As costs go up, people must make tough choices between buying healthy foods, medications, and paying for their housing.

This can be challenging for those who experience additional barriers, such as low-income households, newcomers, single parents, people with disabilities, and racialized communities.

Why does improving affordability matter? It can...

- Reduce stress and positively impact physical and mental wellness.
- Improve the overall quality of life.
- Create more stability and security for individuals and families.



QUESTIONS

1

What costs of living are hard to pay?

2

What do financial setbacks look like?

3

What are stressful situations people face?

4

What can help people who are experiencing affordability challenges?

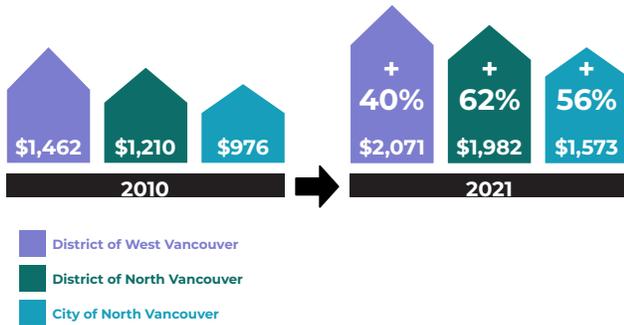


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NORTH SHORE AVERAGE RENT PRICES

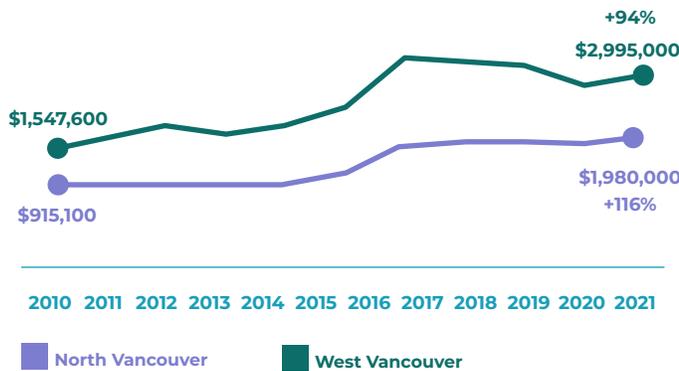
Rents are rising on the North Shore.



Source: CMHC, Rental Market Report

NORTH SHORE DETACHED HOME SALE PRICES

The cost of purchasing a home is out of reach for many North Shore residents.



Source: Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver



In 2020,

**AVERAGE MONTHLY
CHILDCARE COSTS**
on the North Shore ranged from
\$683 TO \$1,407.

Source: 2020 Survey of Child Care Costs (North Shore Community Resources and North Shore Child Care Resource and Referral Program)

In 2020,

121 INDIVIDUALS
were identified as experiencing
homelessness on the North Shore,
an increase of
21% FROM 2017.

Source: North Shore Homelessness Point-in-Time Count

(212 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness as part of the Extended Count pilot project)

MONTHLY DISABILITY ASSISTANCE RATE

People with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty in BC.

COUPLE WITH ONE CHILD



COUPLE



SINGLE PARENT WITH ONE CHILD



INDIVIDUAL



Source: TogetherBC Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2016 Census, October 2021 Benefit Rates

What do you need to thrive on the North Shore?

OPPORTUNITY



Breaking the cycle of poverty

means that people experiencing poverty are able to access opportunities including good paying jobs, education, and skills-building.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that some groups are more vulnerable to financial crisis than others. This can include youth, single parents, women-led households, seniors, newcomers including recent immigrants and refugees, and Indigenous people living off reserve.

Why does increasing opportunities matter?

- Improves access to education and training.
- Builds financial security for individuals and families.
- Leads to a healthier local economy.



QUESTIONS

1

What opportunities and support could lift people out of poverty?

2

What resources are being funded? What are the sources of that funding?

3

What resources are being invested into poverty reduction?

4

What would help folks make ends meet?



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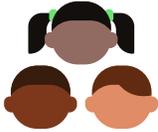
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BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

This means that people living in poverty, including their children, have access to opportunity. BC has one of the highest child poverty rates in the country.

BC Child Poverty Rates

Visible Minority



23%

Not a Visible Minority



16%

Source: TogetherBC Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2016 Census

Exiting poverty is not only about employment – **40% OF BRITISH COLUMBIANS** experiencing poverty are working.

Source: TogetherBC Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2016 Census

Children in BC who live in single parent families are more than three times as likely to live in poverty than children in two parent families.

Source: TogetherBC Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2016 Census

2021 LIVING WAGE

Living wage in Metro Vancouver
\$20.53



Minimum wage
\$15.20

The living wage is the hourly rate required for two working adults to meet the basic needs of a family of four.

AVERAGE INCOME BASED ON IMMIGRATION STATUS (BC)

Many people, such as immigrants, are denied opportunities because of social, financial, physical, and structural barriers.



Immigrant

\$40,866



Non-Immigrant

\$48,767

Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile (2016)



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What do you need to thrive on the North Shore?

RECONCILIATION



The North Shore communities are on the traditional, unceded, and ancestral territories of the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Indigenous peoples disproportionately experience:

- intergenerational trauma,
- inequitable access to opportunity,
- impacts on health, wellness, and wealth; and,
- experiences of racism and discrimination.

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission identifies **94 Calls to Action**, urging all levels of government, including municipalities, to address the harm of residential schools and work towards reconciliation.

Reconciliation is important because it:

- Acknowledges past injustices and the ongoing inequalities that Indigenous people face.
- Establishes basic human rights for Indigenous people.
- Provides an opportunity to work as an ally with Indigenous people to create meaningful outcomes.



QUESTIONS

1

How can reconciliation and poverty reduction be supported on the North Shore?

2

What learning do we need to explore?

3

How can Indigenous voices and perspectives be included in the development of this strategy?

4

What programs and resources are available to Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to take action?



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AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME (BC)

Indigenous people are twice as likely to live in poverty as other people in BC.



Indigenous People

\$33,864



Private Households

\$45,616

Source: TogetherBC Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2016 Census

In 2019, British Columbia adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) which sets out to recognize the basic human rights of Indigenous people along with their rights to self-determination.

- The declaration includes articles affirming the right of Indigenous people to create their own education systems, receive restitution for stolen lands, and participate in all decision-making that affects their interests.

1.5%

of people on the North Shore identify as Indigenous, yet

28%

of people experiencing homelessness identify as Indigenous.

Source: 2020 Homeless Count, 2016 Census



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What do you need to thrive on the North Shore?

SOCIAL INCLUSION



Discrimination and stigma toward people experiencing poverty makes it challenging to access opportunities, services, and housing.

Removing barriers to services and promoting inclusion is integral to poverty reduction.

Social inclusion means that everyone is able to play an active role in their community, including political, economic, and social life – regardless of their ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, or origin.

Why is social inclusion important? It can...

- Improve people's physical and mental health.
- Enable people to be active participants in their community.
- Create a sense of belonging.
- Strengthen community connection and resilience.



QUESTIONS

1

How does discrimination and stigma create barriers to accessing help?

2

What actions can be taken to create a welcoming and inclusive North Shore?

3

How are people included on the North Shore? How are people excluded on the North Shore?



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DISCRIMINATION AND STIGMA

Discrimination and stigma make it difficult for people to access programs and services.



32% of immigrants surveyed experienced challenges in finding information about programs, services, and support beyond immigrant focused programs and services on the North Shore.

Source: North Shore Immigrant Survey (2014 – 2015)

79%

of North Shore residents aged 12 and up reported a

somewhat

STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING

to their local
community.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey (2015-2016)



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