



February, 2011



This month ...

COMMUNITY REVIEW PROCESS:

DRAFT FRAMEWORK

Late January we held a workshop with our committees to develop a draft framework. This draft framework is the 'skeleton' or the foundation of our house. It is not the strategy, it is a plan to help us create the strategy. It is based on the Housing Adequacy, Dimensions of Social Inclusion and Social Exclusion, and the draft What We Heard: Bridges and Barriers reports.

This is where our community groups and organizations, who have been involved since the beginning (or at least the April 2010 workshop and symposium) come in. We are seeking their feedback on the draft framework.

The community review process is anticipated to begin mid-February until March 4th. It is extremely important to the creation of the strategy that we engage and involve our community members.

FORUM UPDATES—

We are reviewing the use of a live chat forum, and will determine whether or not it is something that should be continued. It appears to gather many 'readers' but not so many 'commentators' which does impact whether or not it is useful.

Please keep in mind if you have any events or news articles, you are more than welcome to pass them along to the Office and we will post them in our News and Events updates.

REPORTS

WHAT WE HEARD— It's at the printers and will be released in February! This is the 'stories' behind the data that we gathered during the symposium in April 2010.

MEETING AND EVENTS REMINDERS —

The Interdepartmental Steering Committee meeting: Location and date TBD.

Community Advisory Committee: Next meeting date & location TBD.

GENERAL UPDATES—

Welcoming a new employee!

We have Alison Perrin joining the Office of Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction. She will be stepping into Sarah Lindstein's position, and handling communications, newsletters and anything else that may pop up during the process.

Alison comes to us with a background in Environmental Education and Communications. She is an avid outdoors enthusiast and cyclist, and will bring a fresh, positive approach to these last few months leading up to the development of the strategy.

We welcome Alison and hope she meets many of you soon.



What is Social Inclusion?

A socially inclusive society is defined as one where all people feel valued, their differences are respected, and their basic needs are met so they can live in dignity.

What is Social Exclusion?

Social exclusion is the process of being shut out from the social, economic, political and cultural systems which contribute to the integration of a person into the community.

Poverty is one of the most obvious factors, but social exclusion also refers to inadequate education, housing, health, social participation, employment and access to services.

Why a Social Inclusion Strategy?

A strategy developed around increasing social inclusion responds not only to its most obvious identifier (i.e. poverty) but also systemic barriers found in policies, programs and services across departments.

Upcoming

What We Heard Report: Release February, exact date TBD.

Framework workshop: Completed January 31st with CAC and Interdepartmental Steering Committee members.

Interdepartmental Steering Committee Meeting: Exact date TBD.

Community Review Process: Roll out month of February, exact details to be provided.