

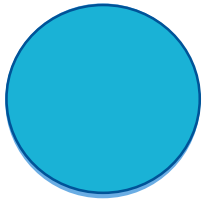


Community Wellness Analysis & Poverty in the Central Okanagan

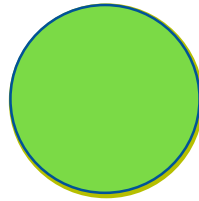
February 24, 2020



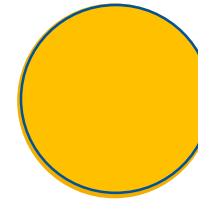
Purpose



Present the recently published **Central Okanagan Wellness Analysis**



Provide background on Central Okanagan Poverty Reduction Committee work towards the development of a regional poverty reduction strategy



Request endorsement of the collaborative regional partnership and application for UBCM funding to support the development of a regional strategy to address poverty

TogetherBC – BC's Poverty Reduction Strategy



Released in March 2019, Together BC is based on four **principles** that prioritize action areas that form the **core** of the strategy.

Focus is on lifting people up and out of poverty and creating an environment that allows people to learn, work, support their family and create the future they want for themselves and their kids.

Strategy targets are to **reduce** the overall **poverty** rate in **British Columbia** by at least 25%, and the child **poverty** rate by at least 50%, by 2024.

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Grant - Poverty Reduction Planning & Action program is to support local governments in reducing poverty at the local level and to support the Province's poverty reduction strategy. The Province has provided \$5 million over three years and the program is administered by UBCM.



Central Okanagan Community Wellness Analysis

Regional Focus on Understanding Poverty

Since 2017, regional community partners have been building capacity to develop a regional poverty reduction and community wellness strategy

January 2020 marks the completion of Phase 1:
Central Okanagan Community
Wellness Analysis

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January 2020

Central Okanagan Poverty Reduction Committee (COPRC)

Working together as a Region

2017-18

- COPRC formed with goal to develop regional strategy
- Regional focus provided opportunities to effectively and efficiently reduce poverty while reflecting how people live, work and move throughout the region
- Key Achievements/Actions
 - ⑩ Gathered insights from families with lived experiences of poverty
 - ⑩ Community education session on systems planning
 - ⑩ Developed work plan to guide the development of a regional poverty reduction strategy

2019-20

- With the United Way as the lead applicant, COPRC received grant funding to develop a poverty analysis for the Central Okanagan
- The Wellness Analysis (completed in early 2020) provides baseline data, insights and context around poverty in the region, while reflecting the uniqueness of each local community

Phase 1: Regional Approach Benefits

- Efficiencies in resources, engagement processes, planning & advocacy
- Alignment with existing and future strategies (regional and municipal)
 - Journey Home Strategy
 - Regional Child Care Action Plan
 - Regional Housing Needs Assessment
- Regionally address policies and structures impacting wellness for all
- Build capacity within and across the region for collaborative action
- Community-identified need: a regional approach to complex social issues

Communities In Focus



Analysis is first phase in the development of a Wellness Strategy

Central Okanagan Community Wellness Analysis Overview

Provides a snapshot in time and highlights the common threads around wellness and poverty in the Central Okanagan while recognizing there are unique differences between the communities.

Analysis aligns with TogetherBC's four Guiding Principles. Organizing the data in the Central Okanagan around these four principles offers a starting point to imagining a community rooted in wellness.

Supplements available data by illustrating system level challenges experienced by people who are accessing, or providing, services. Engagements were conducted to gather qualitative perspectives related to wellness experiences across the region.

Central Okanagan Community Wellness Analysis Objectives

Community Wellness Analysis builds an evidence base as a foundation to the development of a regional Wellness Strategy.

Provides overall context to various interrelated systems, including housing, income, employment, food security, transportation, and access to education

Defines affordability and other terms common within the community wellness and poverty reduction sphere

Provides as much comprehensive data as possible regarding the state of poverty in the Central Okanagan including trends and characteristics of wellness unique to each community

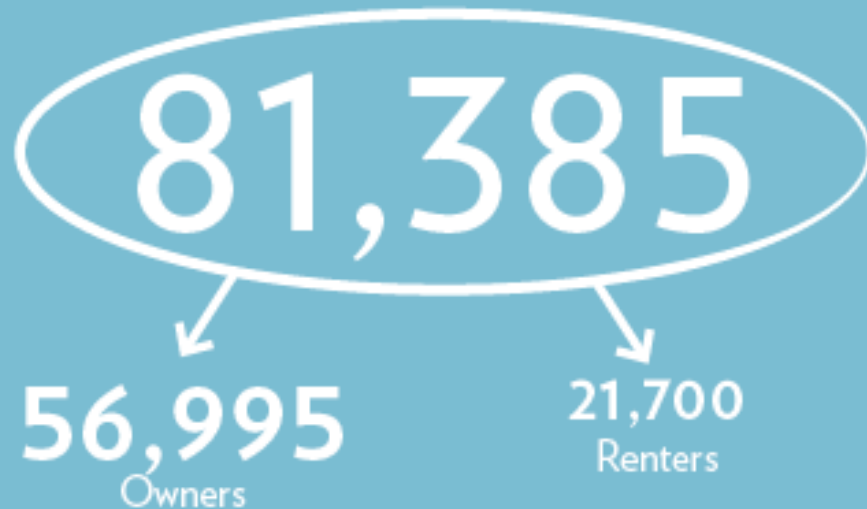
Teases out factors contributing to poverty (root causes)

Prioritizes areas for evidence-based action

Affordability

Establishing financial security starts with addressing affordability. Key indicators of affordability in the region include the cost of living, housing affordability and measures of core housing need, and overall income.

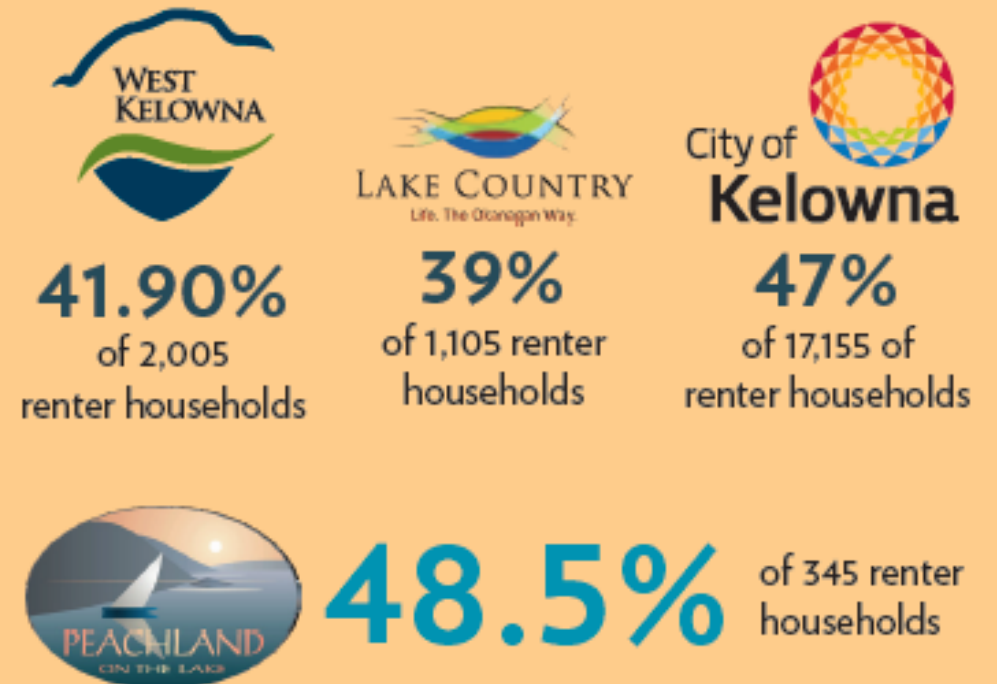
Total Households in Central Okanagan



Proportion of households in core housing need



Core Housing Need of Renters by Community

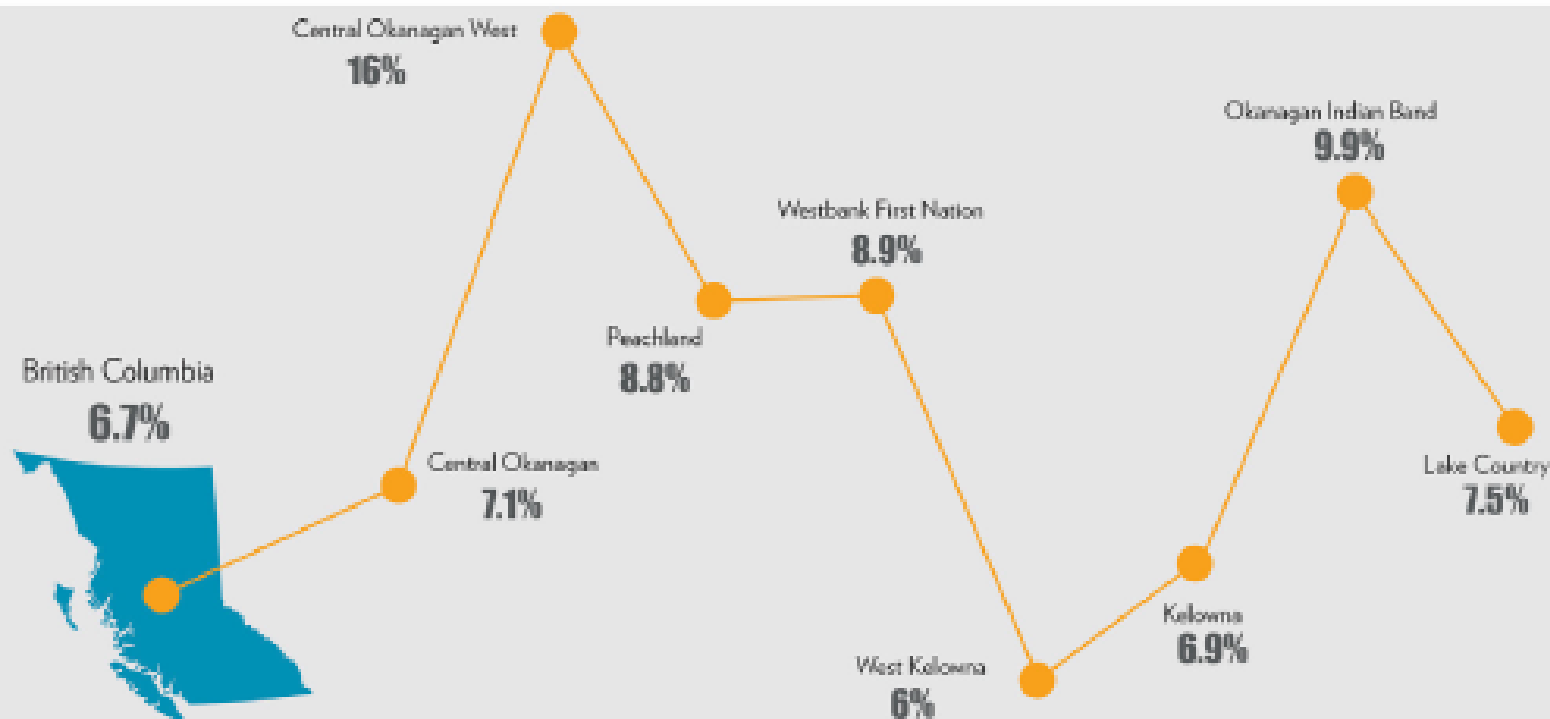


**Okanagan Indian Band and Westbank First Nation do not have available data

Availability and access to safe, secure, affordable housing most important indicators here. Housing is affordable when a household spends no more than 30% of their income toward housing.

Opportunity

Opportunity is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty. Indicators of opportunity include workforce participation, access to education and skills training, economic development measures, and fair wages and working conditions.



Average of 2,100 jobs in the region available monthly.
Highest availability in the sales and service occupations.

Central Okanagan

Tech Start-Up Hub that generates

**\$1.7
Billion**
annually in economic impact

Reconciliation

The Wellness Strategy can support an integrated, systems lens to wellness that reflects Indigenous world views and meaningfully embeds reconciliation.

Social Inclusion

Discrimination, isolation and lack of opportunity are considered the biggest barriers to people feeling included and supported in the Central Okanagan

“We don’t want your sympathy, just your empathy”

“We are brothers, sisters, sons and daughters”

“People in poverty are just like everybody else”

- Individuals with lived experience in poverty

8 Key Priority Areas Identified

Identified through the community engagement process, these key areas will help determine and inform action areas through the next phase – the Strategy Development

Upstream Focus

Community
Activation During
Strategy
Development

Regional Housing
and Homelessness

Isolation and
Inclusion

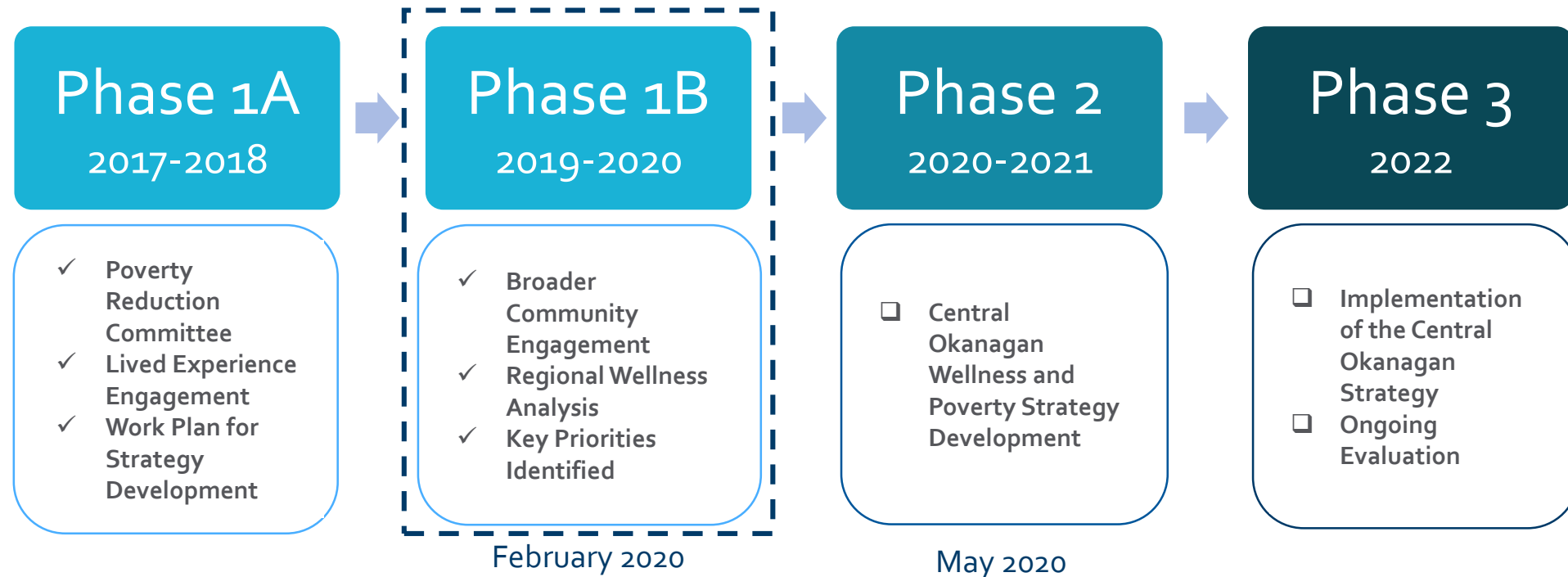
Transportation

Reconciliation

Youth Poverty and
Wellness

Child Development
and Care

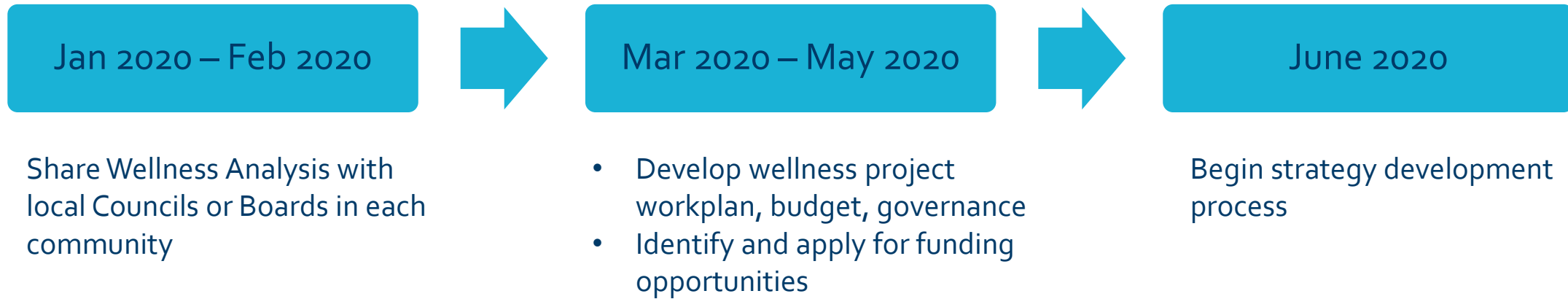
Overview Timeline: Central Okanagan Wellness and Poverty Strategy



Current stage

- 1) Developing a project work plan, budget and governance structure
- 2) Identifying funding opportunities for strategy development in May 2020

Phase 1: Next Steps



****Timeline accelerated due to Province of BC's \$5 million funding commitment following the release of *TogetherBC* (BC's poverty reduction strategy) to support municipalities in reducing poverty at the local level.**

Funding opportunities being pursued:

Union of BC Municipalities Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$150,000 for regional projects, deadline February 28, 2020 • RDCO Lead Applicant

Vancouver Foundation Develop Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$20,000 on rolling applications - Spring 2020

Phase 2: Strategy Development Work Plan Overview

Phase 2 2020-2021

Planning: Structure & Resources

- Share Regional Wellness Analysis
- Development work plan, budget
- Pursue funding opportunities

Strategy Development Preparation

- Finalize project budget, work plan
- Advisory groups
- Hire Project Manager
- RFP for consultant
- Communications plan

**pending UBCM grant*

Community Engagement and Consultations

- Community Consultations (Lived Experience & youth)
- Key stakeholder interviews
- Online survey
- Community-wide forums
- Preliminary implementation planning

Draft Strategy Development

- Debrief sessions (Lived Experience, youth, advisory groups)
- Draft strategy developed
- Draft strategy feedback sessions

Final Strategy Development

- Final strategy, including evaluation and implementation plan
- Final strategy feedback (advisory groups)
- Implementation planning sessions
- Presentation of strategy to key stakeholders

Implementation Next Steps

- As determined by Implementation Plan (could include sourcing funding opportunities, pilot programs)

Overall Project Timeline: January 2020 – October 2021



Questions?

For more information, visit kelowna.ca.