



Terms of Reference

British Columbia Poverty Reduction Coalition Network

(Passed June 2009, updated Sept. 2012, June 2013, May 2015, January 2016, Nov. 2016, March 2019, August/Sep 2022)

Vision

A British Columbia where no one lives in poverty.

Purpose

To advocate for the eradication of poverty, homelessness, and systemic inequality in British Columbia. We have come together in solidarity as a coalition to impact public policy through an investment throughout a range of sectors to end poverty in B.C. We seek to improve the health and wellbeing of all British Columbians. The BC PRC formed to advocate for the creation of a provincial poverty reduction plan. While the government has produced a plan, it does not go far enough. Our ongoing purpose is to work with government leadership, community organizations and non-profit societies participating in campaigns across a range of policy domains to create comprehensive and legislated targets to eradicate poverty and homelessness. We seek to improve the health and wellbeing of all British Columbians, we approach this work from a human rights, equity-based and decolonization lens.

Mission

Working strategically and collaboratively, provide leadership and advocacy to secure effective public policy to reduce poverty and inequality in British Columbia.

Meetings of the Coalition: The Coalition to meet in-person or by Zoom (pandemic depending) at least six times a year, with Zoom and teleconferencing always available for those members outside the Lower Mainland.

Working Principles: At Coalition meetings, we will strive to treat one another with respect and to implement and reflect all aspects of the Basis of Unity in our on-going work as a Coalition with proactive policies, measures, and protocol. We understand that the resources and capacity of member organizations vary greatly. We also understand that, beyond the work of the Coalition, the member organizations employ a range of strategies -- some work closely with government, while others seek to push for policy change from outside government -- and we appreciate that our strength comes from this "inside/outside" diversity (the only exception being that the Coalition will only support actions and groups that are non-violent). We respect the various and different parameters, mandates, capacities, and resources of the member groups. The Coalition will remain non-partisan and constructive.

Selection of Coalition Members: Those who attend coalition meetings are representing their organizations. Alternates are welcome to attend all meetings of the Coalition, but each organization shall only have one vote at meetings. A consensus based decision-making model shall attempt to be used at coalition meetings, with votes taken when necessary.

Coalition diversity: We implement an outreach and engagement strategy as we continually strive to achieve and maintain diversity within Coalition membership. This includes diversity within our member organizations and at the Coalition table, and geographical diversity. We strongly encourage Coalition members to prioritize diversity and leadership among under-represented groups when selecting a Coalition member representative to bring their representative voice to our table. We will ensure that people with lived experience of poverty are welcome at the Coalition table and invite organizations to join the Coalition from communities where poverty is most acute. We will also seek to recruit business organizations and other allies from a variety of different organizational sectors, backgrounds, and perspectives.

Individual participation: With the agreement of Coalition members, when desirable, participation at coalition meetings can be opened to individuals

without an organizational affiliation/endorsement, but these participants will be non-voting members.

Human rights violations by Coalition members: The BC Poverty Reduction is based on a human rights foundation. If any member is discovered to be carrying out projects, lobbying or other activities that promote hate, discrimination, or human rights violations against any group of people, this must be brought to the attention and consideration of the Coordinating Committee for investigation and further action.