

Guest Speaker: Viveca Ellis, Single Mothers' Alliance and BC Poverty Reduction Coalition

Viveca first shared the history of the Single Mothers' Alliance. It was founded by five women going through family breakdown, who found that despite being in different circumstances that they were dealing with isolation, lack of community and financial hardship. So they founded Single Mothers Alliance with three goals:

- build community
- leadership training
- advocate for women's and children's rights.

The entire first year of the Alliance was just listening. The four issues that they heard most strongly from single mothers were:

- Housing
- Childcare
- Welfare inadequacy with too many clawbacks
- Lack of access to legal aid.

Currently they are working with West Coast LEAF on a charter challenge relating to the massive cuts in legal aid for family law.

Viveca also talked about the new project that she is coordinating for the BCPRC. We're launching a leadership opportunity for people who have experienced poverty. The program will provide public speaking, media, and advocacy training. More details to come.

Feedback from Presentation

After Viveca's presentation, there was a request for community organizing training for Poverty Free Action Team members and if different coalition members could teach different ways of doing things. Omar will look into it although this may be a longer term goal

Talking Poverty Podcast

Suzanne and Elle recorded a great panel discussion with Terrie Hendrickson, a coordinator with the BC Health Coalition, Dr Amy Lubik, an environmental health knowledge translator with the BC Centre for Disease Control and a volunteer with the Public Health Association of BC, and Dr Charissa Patricelli, a family doctor who's practice involves working with marginalized women and children and a member of First Call BC: the youth and child advocacy coalition. We told the guest speakers that we'd let them listen to it before we released it, so it might take a while before it gets uploaded. Right now, the podcast subcommittee is making their edits. If you'd like to hear the current draft and give your input, email Omar at info@bcpovertyreduction.ca.

Mythbusters Cartoons

Omar will be meeting Debra on Wednesday afternoon to pick up the comics.

Promoting these materials

Nichole is going to invite her co-workers who work for the United Way of the Lower Mainland's marketing and communications department to our September meeting.

Outreach

With the provincial election taking so much time, Omar started really late on coordinating summer outreach. If you're interested in doing outreach of any events in this spreadsheet, please add your name: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pHUpkZY_ihxclJeC1kD18tKnnsP18ivQkwctUfndP8/ (Thank you Saguna for helping to research this sheet) If there's enough people interested, Omar will try to get us a spot there. So far probably the only place with enough interest is the UBC learning exchange drop-in programming.

If we end up doing outreach this summer, Omar will meet with people who feel like they need an orientation. It was also suggested that he provide all volunteers with a summary of the most recent happenings in government that volunteers might get asked about since things are shifting so quickly.

September meeting

In addition, to hopefully having special guests in September, we are also hoping to have a brainstorming session about what to do with the year ahead.