

## Introduction to the **SOLVING POVERTY** Information Kit

June 2007

Since the January 2007 release of ***Solving Poverty: Four cornerstones of a national strategy for Canada***, the National Council of Welfare (NCW) has received positive feedback that we want to build on with this kit.

Many individuals and organizations have cited our work, including in media articles. Since the print version became available in March, we have received orders for multiple copies of the report to disseminate among community networks and at conferences. Our reports are often used as a basis for discussion and research in classrooms. We have been invited to talk about our work to political parties, officials in different levels of government, parliamentary committees and a variety of other organizations. We have also had numerous requests for additional information to aid in promoting awareness and understanding of government anti-poverty strategies and the need for a national strategy in Canada. Many people are interested in looking at other examples and generating ideas that will work in the Canadian context.

The kit has been developed to respond to this feedback.

This kit is designed to accompany the National Council of Welfare's ***Solving Poverty: Four cornerstones of a national strategy for Canada***. It contains:



Four fact sheets, one for each of the four cornerstones, which provide:

- additional explanation of the cornerstone;
- illustrative examples from governments in Canada and around the world and commentary, including from international organizations;
- an overview of responses to the NCW Questionnaire on poverty and insecurity, with excerpts that reflect the main themes we heard;
- references for further resource material.



A series of questions related to each cornerstone and a facilitation guide that can be used in group discussion to stimulate dialogue and an exchange of ideas, experiences and perspectives.



An overview of Canada's commitments to solving poverty.



An overview of poverty-related trends, primarily using statistics from the NCW's ***Poverty Profile*** and ***Welfare Incomes***.

We know that individuals and organizations may use the kit in different ways depending on their mandates. We are certainly interested in how the kit is used and what ideas are generated if it is used to stimulate dialogue. If you want to let us know about your conclusions by letter or e-mail, we would welcome your feedback and we will keep track of themes that emerge. We hope you understand that we may not be able to respond to everyone.

The material in this kit comes from several sources. We hope the examples will stimulate ideas about what could work in Canada, but

they do not reflect the NCW's evaluation or endorsement of any particular anti-poverty strategy, plan, policy or program. Political will always matters and every context is different.

The Canadian context has its particular challenges. The work that starts with the cornerstones will need to be built upon and evolve as we go forward. The success of any anti-poverty strategy will ultimately be judged on its ability to deliver genuine, lasting improvement in the day-to-day lives of the women, men and children who otherwise will continue to be impoverished.

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