



Ministry of
Social Development
and Poverty Reduction

TogetherBC: B.C.'s Poverty Reduction Strategy Virtual Engagement Session – Invitation to Indigenous People

We are pleased to invite you to an Indigenous engagement session on **Tuesday, August 22** from **1:00pm-4:00pm** to share your views and experience on poverty and well-being in your community.

This virtual session follows a series of regional in-person engagements hosted throughout B.C. from May to July, 2023, and is intended to capture the feedback of those that weren't able to attend an in-person session.

This session is hosted by Mahihkan Management on behalf of B.C.'s Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Your insights will help inform an update to TogetherBC: B.C.'s Poverty Reduction Strategy and a review of B.C.'s income and disability assistance program legislation.

About the Ministry

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction focuses on providing British Columbians in need with a system of supports to help them achieve their social and economic potential.

TogetherBC: B.C.'s Poverty Reduction Strategy

TogetherBC, B.C.'s Poverty Reduction Strategy, was released in March 2019. Mandated through the Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, the strategy guides the Province in their poverty reduction targets and activities.

The Province recognizes that the main cause of poverty for Indigenous people is the lasting and ongoing, harmful effect of colonial practices and policies. For that reason, reconciliation is a core principle of TogetherBC, B.C.'s poverty reduction strategy. [Learn more and read the strategy.](#)

As part of the renewal of TogetherBC, the Ministry is reviewing B.C.'s income and disability assistance program legislation, which provides income and disability assistance to people off-reserve in B.C.

What Are We Doing?

The Ministry is undertaking targeted and public engagement to inform an updated poverty reduction strategy for release in 2024. The engagement will also inform a review of the B.C. Employment and Assistance program legislation, which provides income and disability assistance to people off-reserve. This includes engagement and co-development with Indigenous partners, which aligns with the Declaration Act, and the Declaration Act Action Plan commitment to incorporate Indigenous knowledge, Indigenous experiences of poverty and well-being, and Indigenous-identified actions and progress measures into the strategy.

The experience of poverty amongst Indigenous people is multifaceted, and Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction staff is taking a distinctions-based approach, engaging with First Nations, Modern Treaty Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Urban Indigenous Peoples. While Métis Nation BC is leading separate engagement activities, we warmly welcome individuals identifying as Métis to participate in this engagement session as well.

Invitation to Indigenous People

We invite members of First Nations, Modern Treaty Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Urban Indigenous communities who are local to the Williams Lake or surrounding area to attend this session and share your views and experience on poverty and well-being in your community. This engagement is one of the larger series of engagements and co-development mentioned above.

Session Dates and Locations

Mahihkan Management is hosting and facilitating this engagement session on behalf of B.C.'s Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. You are invited to a virtual engagement at the following date and time:

Locations	Date	Times
Virtual Via Zoom	Tuesday, August 22	1:00pm-4:00pm

How to Attend

REGISTER NOW

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-engagement-on-togetherbc-bcs-poverty-reduction-strategy-tickets-689599018227?aff=oddtcreator>

Those that are interested in attending can register via the link provided above.

If you are interested in being involved but can't attend at this day and time, please reach out to events3@mahihkan.ca for alternative opportunities.

Who Should Attend?

Indigenous people who have views and/or experience on poverty and wellness in their community, or experience with B.C.'s income and disability assistance program.

Participant funding of \$30.00 will be offered to those in attendance.

Questions

If you have any questions or would like to connect about the upcoming engagement session please contact Mahihkan Management at events3@mahihkan.ca.

Thank you,

Mahihkan Management
on behalf of B.C.'s Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

