

Community Truth Hearings On Poverty and Equity: How They Work and Lessons Learned



Strong Core, Healthier Lives.

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Presenter Disclosure

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What is a Community Truth Hearing?



- Truth and Reconciliation to address violation or neglect of human rights or indignity
- Deeper understanding of injustice perpetrated
- Systemic approach to reconciliation
- Validation of lived experience
- Corrective strategies for restoration

Our Platform



3 pillars in battle against poverty and for equity

- Poverty is the greatest health risk we face; inequity is our greatest moral dilemma
- Poverty is a political choice
- Poverty is an unacceptable human condition

Our Approach



- Supported by social determinants of health
- Framed by notion that Equity, Economic Justice and a Multidimensional Perspective of Poverty are keys to making significant impact on decisions and actions that keep people in poverty and on the margins

What Do We Hope To Achieve



- Conduct hearings across the community and across Ontario
- Produce documentation
- Influence policy decision-makers, i.e. Expert Panel
- Additional support to other anti-poverty initiatives

Principles



- Valuing what is being said without judgement of who is saying it
- Acknowledging that a grievous wrong has taken place, without requiring qualification
- Accepting how much or how little a person may be willing to say or share
- Providing a safe environment where people may speak their truth
- Respecting that people to speak for as long as they need to say what they have to say

Community Truth Hearings - Planning



- Identify and set date and time for event
- Reach out to appropriate people with lived experiences
- Reach out to Panelist
- Raise awareness of issue of poverty and equity and the proposed session
- Identify suitable location for event
- Identify mode of recording and documenting event
- Consent/ waivers
- Identify overall goal of Hearings

Community Truth Hearings - Preparation



- Timetable
- Environment
- Assign recorders and documenters
- Agenda preparation

Community Truth Hearings - Hosting a Session



- Review Agenda
- Waiver/ consent forms
- Introduction and overview
- Session guidelines
- Testimonies
- Session wrap and next steps



Community Truth Hearing on Equity and Poverty Progress Report



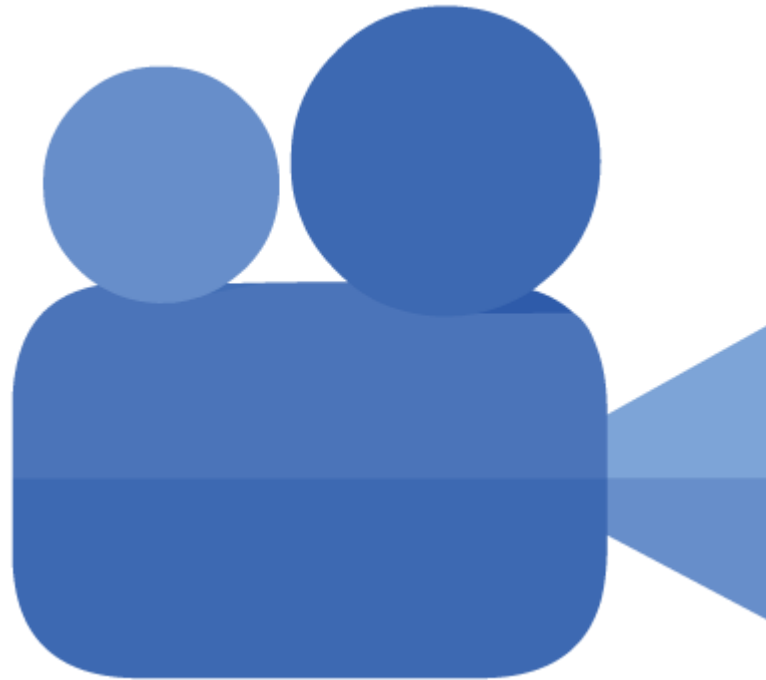
- 5 Community Truth Hearings on Equity and Poverty
- 2 Webinars to raise the awareness and challenge other to organize community Truth Hearings in their communities.
- 2 sessions of individual interviews
- 1 International Virtual Round Table
- Preliminary Report
- NO Community Stands ALONE Campaign to eradicate poverty: Postcards, letter writing, raising awareness, activities to mitigate poverty

International Context - Poverty and Equity



- Global Issue
- Interconnection of Poverty and Equity
- Poverty Facts
- Tool to reach the people
- Global voices forward

Community Truth Hearings on Poverty and Equity Video



Wicked Questions



Poverty is the result of political decisions. Decisions that affect every aspect of a person's life – how they will live, where they live and sometimes, if they will live. These decisions are made every day. They are made about people but without people.

The Community Truth Hearings on Poverty and Equity can play an important part in the reconciliation process. If we believe that we have collective responsibility then we should be the ones leading the change.

Q1: Where do you see yourself?

Q2: What are you going to do about it?

Next Steps



- Community Truth Hearings on Poverty and Equity across the globe
- Summary of Evidence (papers, videos, audio recordings)
- Develop Common Community platform focused on strategies for change
- 2018 Conference:
Amazwi Abantu – Voices of the People
A Conference about Resilience:
The courage to lead, the courage to change
October 4 to 6, 2018

Questions

