

What you told us at the last Vital Conversation

Your Winnipeg in 2030: Making Poverty History

Making poverty history in Manitoba was the topic of discussion at the last Vital Conversation. Held Nov. 29 at the University of Winnipeg's Power Corporation Atrium, the event included a presentation about the groundbreaking poverty-reduction work being done in Edmonton.

Andrea Burkhart, Executive Director of End Poverty Edmonton, shared her insights about the deliberate call to end poverty in Edmonton and the strategies being used to tackle one of the World's oldest and toughest social challenges. End Poverty Edmonton identified six 'game-changers' that would have the most realizable impact and they include eliminate racism; livable incomes; affordable housing; accessible and affordable transit; affordable and quality child care, and; access to mental health services.

Kirsten Bernas and Al Wiebe, both members of the Make Poverty History Manitoba Steering Committee, joined the conversation. Ms. Bernas shared her knowledge of the local community's collaborative efforts. Mr. Wiebe discussed his lived experience of being homeless and living in poverty. Rounding out the panel was Jackie Anderson, Family Group Conferencing Coordinator with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata. Ms. Anderson's stories of her own personal lived experiences and her work experiences highlighted a social system that is colonial and oppressive in nature to the Indigenous people of Winnipeg.

Attendees talked at their tables about the similarities between Winnipeg and Edmonton and discussed which of the Edmonton efforts could be applied locally. Attendees were also invited to participate in the conversation through Slido, an online interactive tool. This allowed people to share thoughts and priorities and ask questions.

What we learned:

According to attendees, these are the top three priorities when it comes to anti-poverty efforts in our city:

- Affordable Housing
- Income and Employment
- Reconciliation

Highlights of the Vital Conversation

We asked attendees to share their parting thoughts with us. Here is a sample of what participants shared about the conversation:

Page 1 of 2



"Systems perpetuate poverty' thank you for that important reminder!"

"I was pleased to hear from panelists who have experienced poverty and happy to hear Edmonton is so proactive."

"There is a need for a collaborative approach. A champion who can get buy in from many sectors and grassroots groups."

"I never thought about access to transit being so important— you can have access to all the resources in the world but if you don't have any way to get there that's a problem!"

"Poverty has a face."

"I'm very surprised to hear gifts to a person on social assistance are deducted from them. Very mean-spirited policy that virtually forces people to be dishonest."

The takeaways from this Vital Conversation are not new or a surprise: poverty is systemic; it is complex and interconnected; and efforts to combat poverty must be collaborative.

