

**Regional Intersectoral Committee Strategies
Aligned with the Saskatchewan Child and Family Agenda
November 2015**

 NORTHEAST REGIONAL INTERSECTORAL COMMITTEE	
Child and Family Agenda Goal	<i>Families are strong Communities are supportive</i>
Focus/Priority 	<p>Partners to End Poverty Strategy</p> <p>We believe that poverty is not inevitable and everyone is better off if we address poverty. Strategic, coordinated effort is required. Our vision is: Poverty Free Communities in Northeast Saskatchewan. Our mission is: To create conditions to enable all people in northeast Saskatchewan to actively participate in economic and social life and enjoy a livelihood that will sustain well-being.</p> <p>Strategy Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase awareness of poverty and approaches to end poverty 2. Work with communities to address issues in the identified priority areas of: housing, transportation, literacy and inclusion 3. Enhance existing partnerships 4. Facilitate the development of new partnerships 5. Monitor progress toward the goals of poverty reduction and partnership creation
Activities/ Inputs	<p>To facilitate the Partners to End Poverty from February 2015 – December 2017 we contracted services of a coordinator with support from Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 presentations were delivered to: interagency committees, Primary Health Care Provider Teams, Nipawin and Melfort District Planning Committees, RIC • 10 meetings with coordinating committees were held • 4 Poverty Buster activities were coordinated: 1. <i>Income Tax Help</i>, 2. Food Security- <i>Box Garden/Edible Landscape</i>, 3. Literacy – <i>Operation Fill-a-Backpack</i>, 4. <i>Chew on This!</i> – Advocacy for National Poverty Reduction Strategy • Support for partner-led initiatives was provided: 1. <i>Share the Warmth</i> – Sask Energy/ North East Outreach and Support Services/ Melfort Mustangs – Blanket collection/distribution, 2. PLEA presentation on <i>Landlord/Tenant Rights and Responsibilities</i> – Cumberland College • 6 news releases were distributed to news outlets regarding the Partners to End Poverty activities and over 20 items posted on Facebook
Deliverables/ Results (relating to our Partners to End Poverty strategy goals)	<p>Awareness: Approximately 12 articles with pictures have been published in the Northeast Sun, Parkland Review. Saskatoon CTV News aired our coordinator’s interview by regarding Operation- Fill-a-Backpack in August. The National Poverty Strategy <i>Chew on This!</i> information was distributed to 200+ people throughout the region. Photos of <i>Chew on This!</i> – NE SK campaign published on the national website. Our coordinator provided 4 interviews for the local radio station.</p> <p>Addressing Priority Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing: We implemented a <i>Fire Safety Project in Nipawin</i> modeled after the Regina Fire Services project with KidsFirst, Other ongoing housing initiatives in the region include for Nipawin: <i>Homelessness Strategy</i> funding, <i>Habitat for Humanity</i>, <i>Northern Spruce Housing</i> development. Melfort housing activities

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	<p>include: <i>Habitat for Humanity</i> – The first home has been completed and the community is beginning a second. North East Outreach and Support Services is in the process of construction of a <i>Women’s Shelter</i> (provincial and federal funding) and is fundraising for the development of a <i>Second Stage Housing</i> unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transportation: We completed a review and survey of transportation access to the Tisdale Health Plex. Transportation is an ongoing issue in rural Saskatchewan. ○ Literacy – Operation Fill a Back Pack: 85 back packs of school supplies were distributed to families/ children in Melfort, Tisdale and Nipawin. This is a value of \$8500 in donations from individuals and churches. In order to develop a systems approach, <i>Partners to End Poverty</i> requested that the North East School Division review the school supply lists and make adjustments to alleviate financial pressure on the families in August/ September. NESD is currently reviewing the school supply policies. ○ Inclusion: We continue to work with various partners to include First Nations and Metis perspectives. The RIC will host a regional forum on April 14, 2016 in response to Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations and to improve relationships between aboriginal and non – aboriginal communities. <p>Partnerships: Over 57 partnerships contributed to various projects, 43 partnerships are new to addressing poverty in our region. Partners are recognized by a framed certificate.</p> <p>Monitoring Progress: Our coordinator has provided ongoing updates to the community, reports to interagency and written updates to the RIC. We have been successful in building awareness of poverty and increasing community capacity to address poverty. Our Poverty Busters have had a tangible impact on the community. For example <i>Income Tax Help</i> was provided to 500 individuals. This is a total saving of \$31,000 for those 500 who would normally pay \$60 for form preparation. Because the form has been submitted low income individuals will receive transfer payments, such as the SK PST/GST credit of \$980.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coordinator will present a report to the RIC January 7, 2016 regarding the impact of <i>Partners to End Poverty 2015</i> strategy. The CIF has granted \$25,000 in funding which will be used to support a coordination of activities in 2016.
<p>RICs/SIMS Collective Action</p>	<p><u>Recommendations for a Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy</u> established the target of reducing poverty by 50 percent by 2020. Provincial policy and programs need to be developed, resourced, implemented and monitored to achieve this goal. Consistent strategic resources for community based interventions/programs that are flexible to meet the needs of rural constituents are necessary. It is vital that adequate financial supports or a living wage income is achieved, in order that all may afford adequate housing, food security, child care, educational opportunities and transportation to participate fully in our community. The Northeast RIC recognizes that First Nations and Metis people experience higher rates of poverty. In response, we are organizing activities to increase our understanding of our shared history. We aim to enhance relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities.</p>

Respectfully submitted to the Senior Inter- Ministry Steering Committee by:

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