

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POVERTY REDUCTION LEADING TO CANADA'S FIRST POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

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OMSSA Convention Presentation  
John Stapleton & Bee Lee Soh  
Members  
May 29, 2018

# Order of Presentation

1. Canada's income security system:
  - Programs and Proportionality
2. Who is living in poverty? A closer look
3. The Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee
4. A matrix of considerations
5. A lived experience perspective

# PROGRAMS AND PROPORTIONALITY

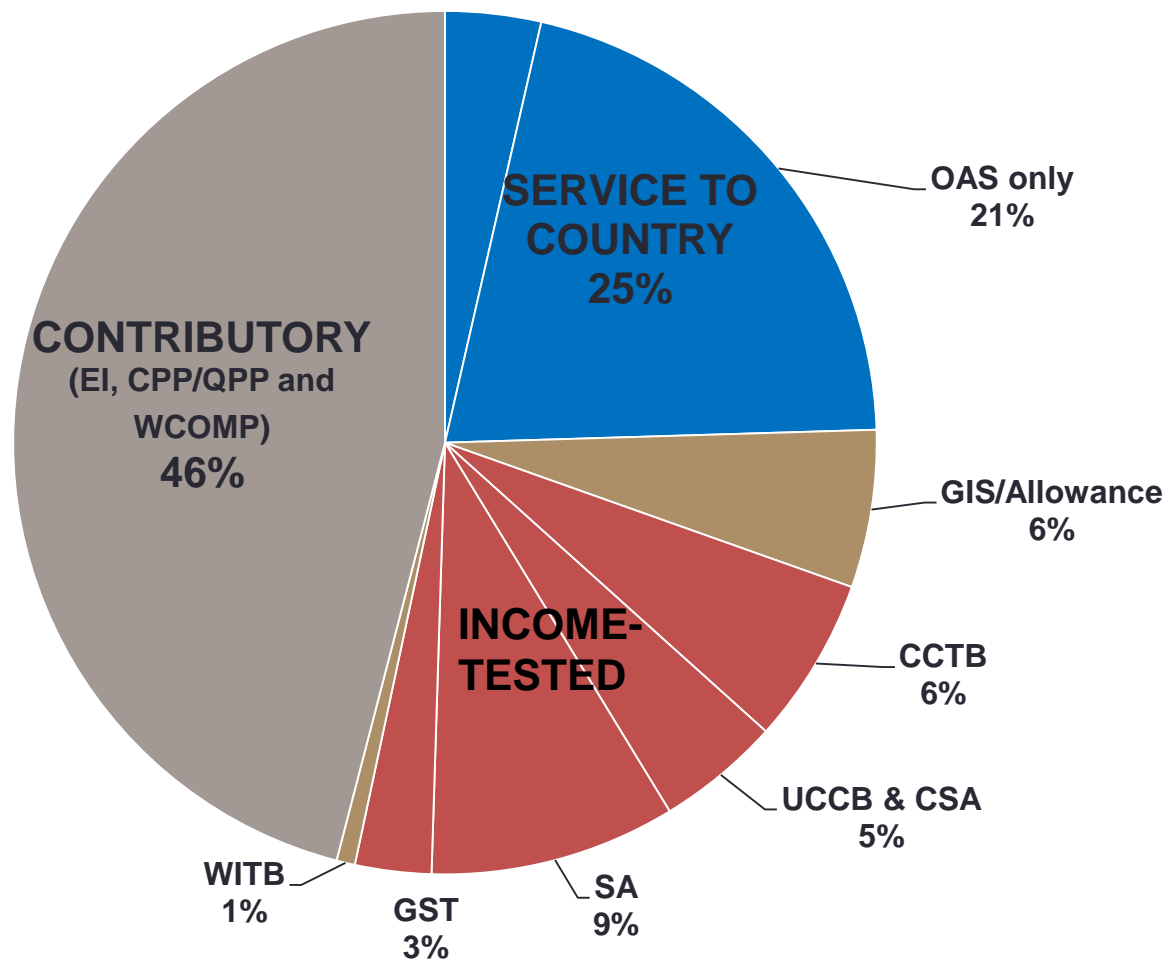
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## **1. Canada's Income Security System**

# Canada's Income Security System

- Now pays out \$170 billion (\$153 billion in 2013)
- 8.5% of GDP (\$2.0 trillion economy)
- \$45 billion extra (conservatively needed to take all Canadians out of poverty.
- $\$170 + \$45 = \$215$  billion
- Up to 11.5% of GDP
- 2.5 to 3.0 percentage points additional

# Canada: Estimated Income Security Program Spending by Program Philosophy 2015-16 (\$168 B)



Sources:  
CANSIM table 380-0080

# Canada's Income Security System

## Canada's Income Security System - Proportionality

Target Group	Percent of Population	Share of Income Security System	Difference
Aged	16.5%	52%	+35.5%
Children	19.3%	9%	-10.3%
Working age adults	64.2%	38%	-26.2%

# A CLOSER LOOK AT WHO LIVES IN POVERTY

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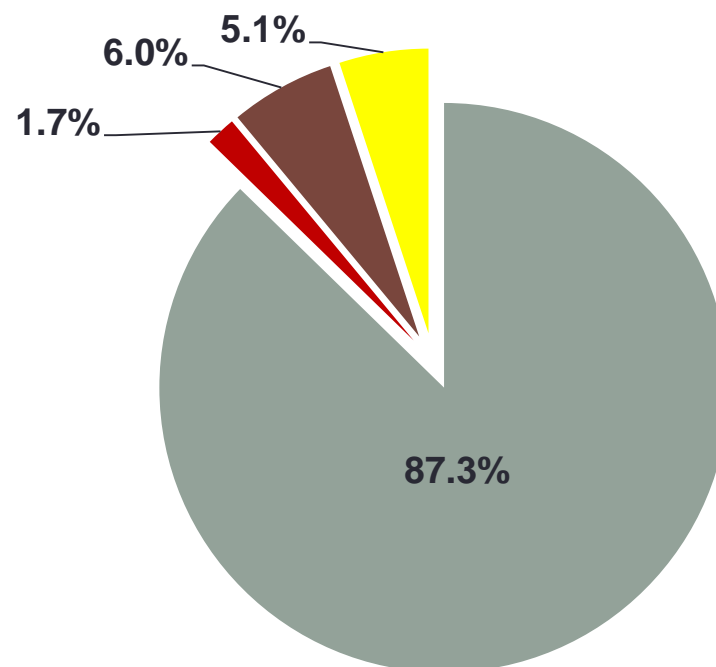
## 2. Who is living in poverty?

# Who is living in poverty?

- 12.7% to 13.7% of Canadians
- 1.7% to 2%+ of all Canadians are seniors living in poverty (about 10% of all seniors – 13.3% of poor)
- 5.1% of all Canadians are recipients of social assistance – about 40% of the poor
- 6.0 % to 6.7% of Canadians are non-elderly, working age, mostly working poor – 47% (+/-) of poor

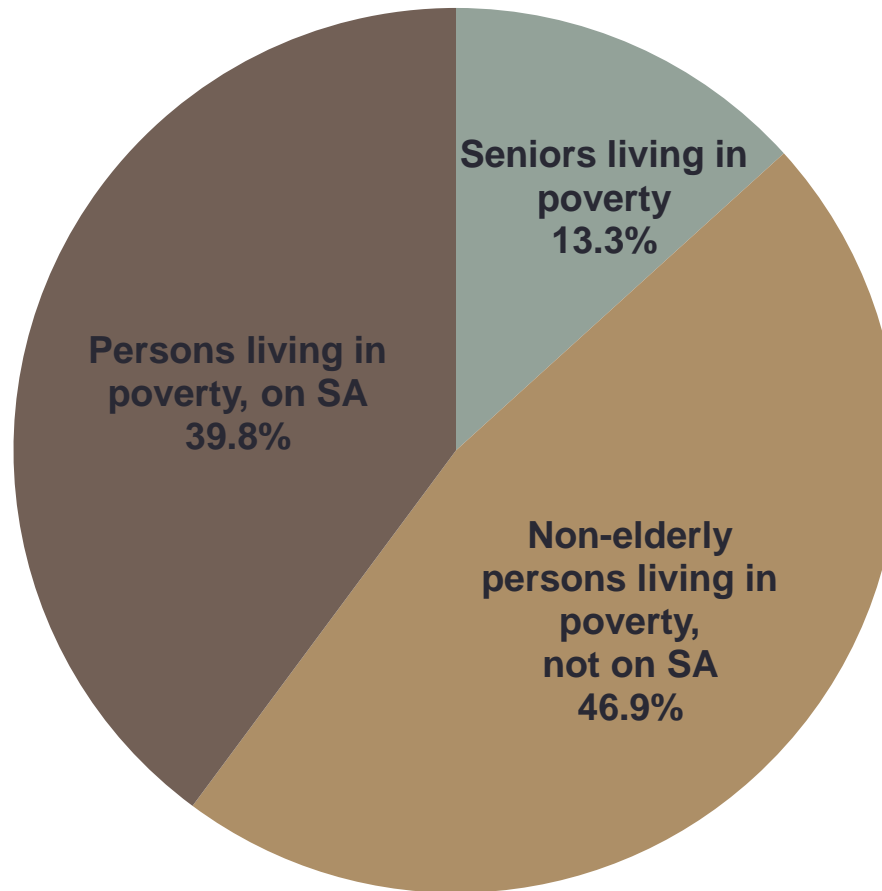


**CANADA'S POPULATION: PERSONS LIVING IN POVERTY  
PERCENTAGE WHO ARE NON-ELDERLY, SENIORS AND ON  
SA  
2014  
(Based on after-tax LIM)**

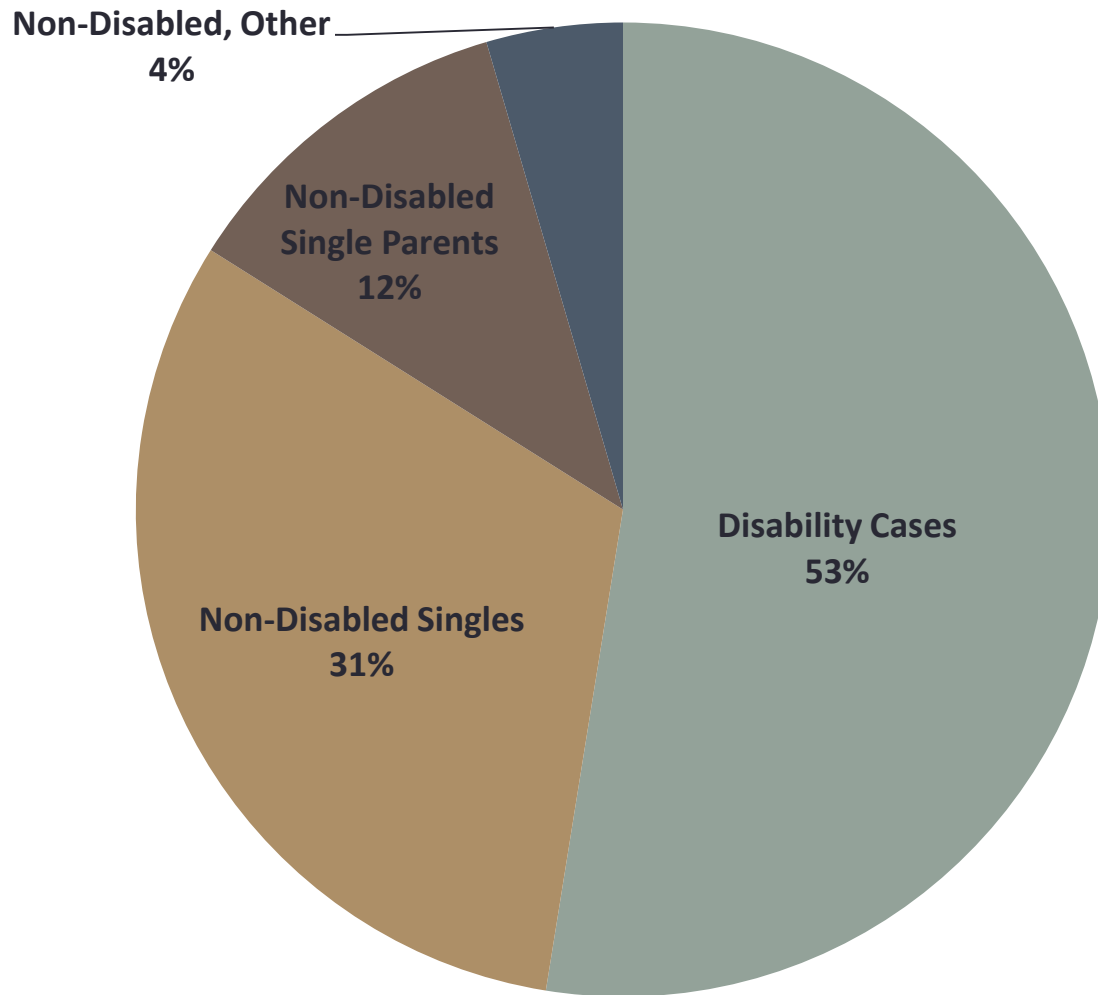


- Not living in poverty
- Seniors living in poverty
- Non-elderly persons living in poverty, not on SA
- Persons living in poverty, on SA

**SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS AND SENIORS AS A  
PERCENTAGE  
OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY IN CANADA, 2014  
(Based on after-tax LIM)**



## SA CASES BY CHARACTERISTICS CANADA, MARCH 2015



# POVERTY REDUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Federal Minister Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos

# Overview of the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Poverty

Input for John Stapleton and Bee Lee Soh  
Social Policy Directorate - May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018



## The Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy – A Historic Initiative Still Under Development

- The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, is mandated to develop a Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy that will set targets to reduce poverty, measure and report publicly on progress, and align with and support existing provincial/territorial and municipal strategies.
- The Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy is in development and will be released in 2018.



# ENGAGEMENT



# Engaging with Canadians

- **Consultation began in February 2017.** The ideas and stories shared are helping to inform the development of the Strategy.
- To reflect a diversity of needs and approaches, the Government of Canada:
  - **consulted with Canadians across the country** on poverty reduction through many in-person events, and an online platform for the general public and stakeholders to share views, analysis, policy ideas and survey responses;
  - **established a Ministerial Advisory Committee on Poverty** through an open call for nominations to select leaders, practitioners, experts and persons with lived experience of poverty; and
  - **created the Tackling Poverty Together project** – an in-depth case study in six communities across Canada.
  - **Ran the #ReducePoverty youth contest** in which young Canadians could submit their innovative ideas on how to reduce poverty and improve the well-being of Canadian with low incomes.





## Engaging with Canadians (cont'd)

- Engagement culminated with the **National Poverty Conference**, held in Ottawa in September 2017. During the event, key stakeholders participated in further roundtable discussions, and the final findings of the Tackling Poverty Project were presented. Winners of the #ReducePoverty contest were also announced.
- A “***What we heard about poverty so far***” report was released on February 20th, 2018 by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). It summarizes the diverse viewpoints heard during the consultations.



## Three major themes emerged from engagement

... (as reported in the *What We Heard About Poverty So Far Report*)

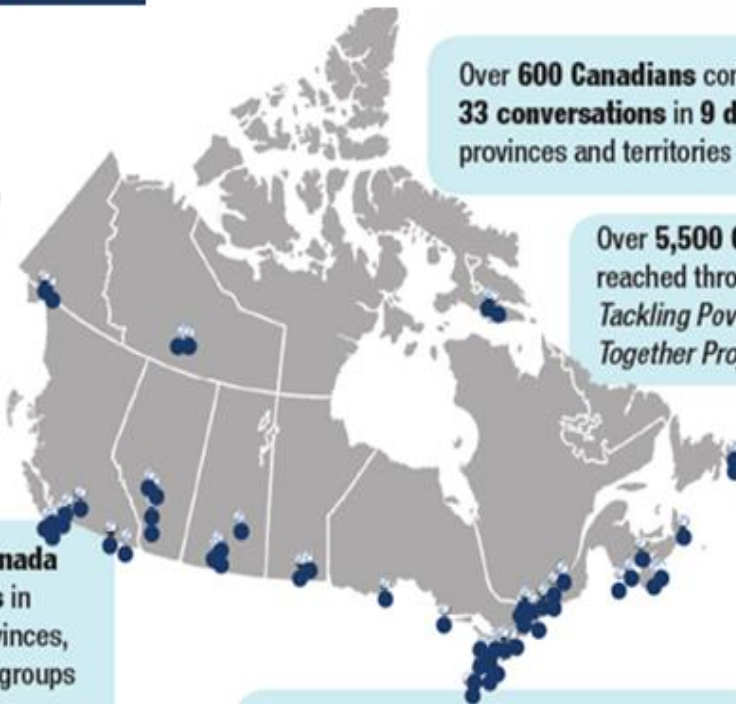
- 1. BASIC NEEDS** - Inability to access basic needs, such as food, housing, or healthcare
  - 2. INCLUSION & OPPORTUNITY** - Challenges with moving up the income ladder and feeling socially included
  - 3. RESILIENCE & INCOME SECURITY** - Risks of slipping into poverty and challenges in facing difficult life events
- And the experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis People were also a key concern of participants during engagement



# POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

## ENGAGING WITH CANADIANS

### IN-PERSON



Over **600 Canadians** consulted through **33 conversations** in **9 different** provinces and territories

Over **5,500 Canadians** reached through the *Tackling Poverty Together Project*

**13 Government of Canada officials-led sessions** in collaboration with provinces, territories, Indigenous groups or organizations  
**29 meetings** with multiple levels of government, including Canadian municipalities

**12 roundtables** with stakeholders  
**4 public town hall events**  
**4 roundtables** with Indigenous Leadership

National Poverty Conference (September 27-28, 2018)

Release of What We Heard Report (February 20, 2018)

### ONLINE



**1,127**  
EMAIL  
SUBMISSIONS



**584**  
COMPLETED  
SURVEYS



**199**  
STORIES &  
COMMENTS

Youth Contest  
**#ReducePoverty**  
in Canada

 **X 64** YOUTH SUBMISSIONS

# THE MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POVERTY



## The Ministerial Advisory Committee on Poverty

- To support the development of the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Government of Canada created a Ministerial Advisory Committee on Poverty.
- A public call for nominations was held from February 13, 2017 to March 27, 2017 inviting select leaders, practitioners, experts and persons with lived experience of poverty to apply to become a member.
- The Committee will operate for a period of one year (from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018).



# Scope of the Committee's Work

- **A forum to facilitate in-depth discussion** on issues related to poverty reduction.
- It supports the Minister by:
  - being **a sounding board to test and discuss ideas** on poverty reduction generated via the public engagement process;
  - **recommending priority areas of action** for the Strategy;
  - **identifying innovative approaches** to poverty reduction; and
  - **offering advice on how to align the objectives** of the Strategy with other government priorities.



# The Advisory Committee on Poverty

## Membership

- Chosen from over 400 nominations from across Canada and internationally, the Advisory Committee members have **varied backgrounds** including academia, service delivery, business and international expertise on poverty, as well as individuals with a personal experience with poverty.
- The 17 Advisory Committee members are also representative of Canada's diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity, regions and official languages.



# Members

1. **Bee Lee Soh** (Scarborough North, Ontario)
2. **Brenda Murphy** (Grand Bay- Westfield, New Brunswick)
3. **Brock Carlton** (Ottawa, Ontario)
4. **Catherine Ludgate** (Vancouver, British Columbia)
5. **Carole Richer** (Dolbeau-Mistassini, Québec)
6. **Carlos Beals** (Dartmouth, Nova Scotia)
7. **Céline Bellot** (Montréal, Québec)
8. **Derek Cook** (Calgary, Alberta)
9. **Éric Lapointe** (Québec, Québec)
10. **Indivar Dutta-Gupta** (Washington, DC)
11. **John Stapleton** (Scarborough, Ontario)
12. **Joseph J. Amos** (Inuvik, Northwest Territories)
13. **Lanna Many Grey Horses** (Vancouver, British Columbia)
14. **Louise Simbandumwe** (Winnipeg, Manitoba)
15. **Munir Sheikh** (Ottawa, Ontario)
16. **Nahid Aboumansour** (Montréal, Québec)
17. **Richard Reeves** (Washington, DC)





# Three Working Groups

- In order to develop their advice, Committee members agreed to organize themselves into working groups based on the three areas mentioned in the report: “*Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy - What we heard about poverty so far*” : (1) meeting basic needs; (2) inclusion and opportunity; and (3) resilience and income security.
- On May 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the members came together to consolidate their ideas and advice and to present it to the Minister.
- The Committee’s advice to Minister Duclos is considered policy advice, which the Department treats as confidential and can not be discussed outside the Committee.



Policy matrix for poverty reduction: Advisory Committee				
Three Pillars	Question 1: Whole of Government?	Question 2: Dashboards	Question 3: Targets	Question 4: Public Accountability
<p><b>1. Meeting Basic Needs</b> Many Canadians struggle with having enough to provide for their basic needs. Some people have to sacrifice some things because of the high cost of basic living.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All levels of government</li> <li>- Social assistance</li> <li>- Working poor</li> <li>- Programs for the aged</li> <li>- Others falling between cracks</li> <li>- \$\$\$/services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poverty measures for basic needs</li> <li>- MBMs</li> <li>- LIMs</li> <li>- Deprivation indices</li> <li>- Hybrids such as a 'LIMified' MBM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start date?</li> <li>- 25 in 5</li> <li>- Half in ten</li> <li>- Eliminate by 20-40</li> <li>- Fixed or moving standards</li> <li>- Update standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reporting to Canadians</li> <li>- Yearly updates</li> <li>- Existing or new Secretariats or agencies of government</li> <li>- Existing or new Officer of parliament</li> <li>- Library of parliament role.</li> <li>- Conferences</li> <li>- Civil society think tank on dashboards and targets exposing innovations and best practices</li> <li>- SSHRC role</li> <li>- Academics</li> <li>- Practitioners</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Inclusion and Opportunity</b> Some Canadians are finding it difficult to find opportunities for stable and well-paying work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All levels of government</li> <li>- Jobs, training and education strategies</li> <li>- Workplace</li> <li>- Volunteering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unemployment &amp; opportunity measures</li> <li>- Jobs, training and education dashboards</li> <li>- life course</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce exclusion &amp; increase opportunities based on dashboards by fixed %'s</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil society think tank on dashboards and targets exposing innovations and best practices</li> <li>- SSHRC role</li> <li>- Academics</li> <li>- Practitioners</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Resilience and Income Security</b> Despite hardships experienced by those living in poverty, they continue to show a great deal of resilience and courage as they face challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All levels of government</li> <li>- Identify all programs according to policies that promote resilience or create barriers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indices of well-being</li> <li>- Health outcomes</li> <li>- Other social indicators</li> <li>- Resiliency 'dashboards'</li> <li>- Socio-economic indicators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved well-being and health outcomes by fixed %</li> <li>- Resiliency &amp; socio-economic fixed improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil society think tank on dashboards and targets exposing innovations and best practices</li> <li>- SSHRC role</li> <li>- Academics</li> <li>- Practitioners</li> </ul>

# LIVED EXPERIENCE

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Bee Lee Soh - Member

# Bee Lee Soh – Lived Experience perspective

- Importance of perspective of low income people
- Selected Issues:
  - Auto-enrollment in tax benefits & other programs
  - Housing affordability and adequacy
  - Food security
  - Transportation
  - Information, communication & technology

# NEXT STEPS



# Next Steps & Release of the Poverty Reduction Strategy

- The Committee's advice to the Minister will complement the information from public engagement and will contribute to the development of the Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- The Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy is in development and will be released in 2018.
- Substantive details about the Strategy will be available at the time of the release.

