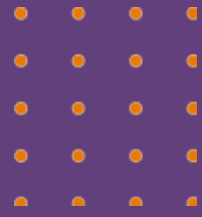




Saskatoon Poverty
Reduction Partnership



Working Together to End Poverty in All Its Forms

15 years of Collective Action

The 2026 Partnership Report

*"Building the future of poverty reduction through
collaboration, evidence, and collective action."*

September 2026 | EndPovertyYXE.ca | @EndPovertyYXE

PURPOSE



This document is both a reflection and a roadmap. It celebrates 15 years of collaboration, innovation, and collective leadership while capturing the lessons that continue to shape the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership's work. By documenting our journey, sharing evidence, and introducing an updated framework for action, **this report lays the foundation for the next chapter of poverty reduction—one rooted in the belief that poverty can be eliminated**—informed by data, guided by lived and living experience, and focused on creating the conditions where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

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ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP



BUILDING COMMUNITY WHERE POVERTY IS RARE, BRIEF, AND DOES NOT RECUR

Poverty is not inevitable. It is the result of systems, policies, and decisions—and it can be changed through collaboration, evidence, and collective action.

Since 2012...

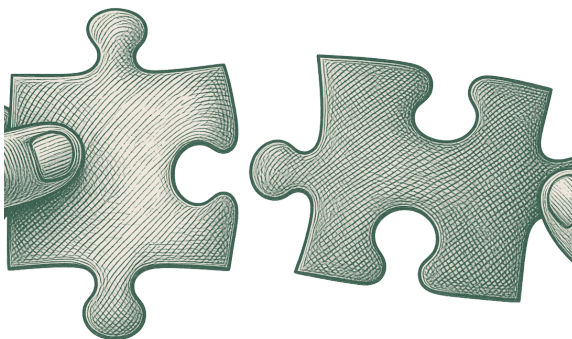
The Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership (SPRP) has brought together governments, Indigenous organizations, community agencies, businesses, researchers, and people with lived and living expertise to address poverty from every angle.

Rather than delivering programs, SPRP works to strengthen the systems that influence housing, income, food security, education, transportation, health, justice, and belonging.

SPRP was created around a simple but ambitious idea:

NO SINGLE ORGANIZATION CAN ELIMINATE POVERTY ALONE.

Since its inception, the SPRP has evolved into a collaborative action that brings together diverse sectors to align priorities, share evidence, influence policy, and mobilize collective action. Rather than replacing the work of individual organizations, SPRP creates the conditions for collaboration so communities can achieve greater impact together.



Poverty is created by systems, and systems can be changed. The Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership exists to bring people, knowledge, and leadership together to create that change.

THE MISSION



To bring people, systems, and ideas together to mobilize the 12 Bold Ideas to eliminate poverty through collaboration, policy innovation, evidence-informed action, and collective leadership—creating a future where poverty is rare, brief, and does not recur.

SPRP is not a service delivery organization. It is a community backbone that convenes diverse partners, strengthens relationships, mobilizes evidence, and catalyzes systems change. Through shared leadership and collective action, the Partnership creates the conditions for communities, governments, Indigenous organizations, businesses, researchers, and people with lived and living expertise to work together toward lasting poverty reduction.

How We Work

The work of the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership is guided by four interconnected functions—the 4 Cs—which provide the foundation for every initiative, action team, research project, and policy effort. While individual activities often span multiple functions, together they describe how SPRP turns collaboration into community impact.



Convene

We bring people together across sectors to build relationships, develop a shared understanding of complex issues, and create space for meaningful dialogue and collective problem-solving.



Catalyze

We identify opportunities, generate momentum, and support innovative ideas that accelerate community action and systems change. We recognize that meaningful change often follows the energy and leadership of community partners.



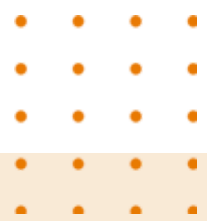
Coordinate

We organize knowledge, relationships, and resources to strengthen alignment across organizations, reduce duplication, and support collective action toward shared goals.



Collaborate

We foster inclusive partnerships that value diverse perspectives, lived and living expertise, Indigenous knowledge, and shared responsibility. Collaboration creates the environment where complex problems can be addressed collectively and where community assets are mobilized into action.



A CONSTELLATION GOVERNANCE MODEL GUIDED BY COLLECTIVE IMPACT

The SPRP is governed through a constellation governance model and guided by the principles of collective impact. Together, these approaches provide both the structure for how the Partnership operates and the framework for how partners work together to achieve systems change.

Constellation Governance

Our decision-making and accountability model

Constellation governance is a collaborative leadership model that distributes responsibility across partner organizations rather than concentrating authority within a single organization. Action teams—or constellations—are empowered to lead work in areas where they have expertise, capacity, and community relationships, while remaining accountable to a shared vision and common outcomes.

This approach enables SPRP to:

- Share leadership across sectors
- Respond quickly to emerging community priorities
- Encourage innovation and partner ownership
- Build collective accountability rather than organizational silos
- Strengthen long-term relationships and trust

The SPRP supports this work by convening partners, coordinating initiatives, facilitating communication, supporting research and shared measurement, and maintaining alignment with the Partnership's overall vision.

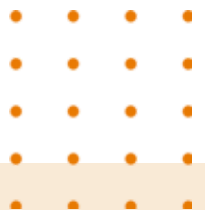
Collective Impact

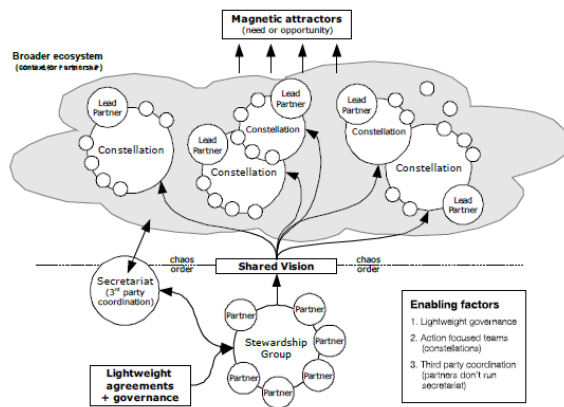
Our framework for collaborative action

While constellation governance defines how decisions are made, collective impact provides the framework for how organizations work together to achieve meaningful and lasting change.

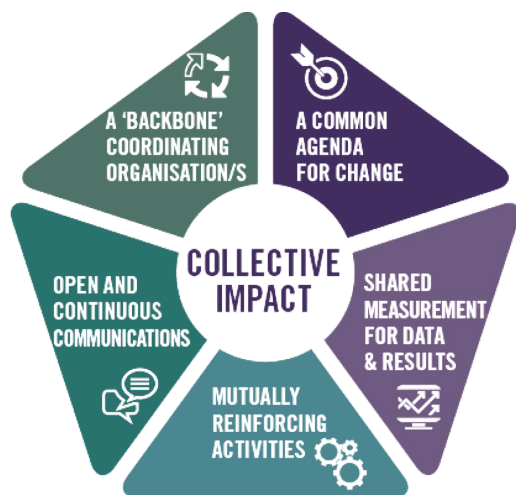
SPRP's work is guided by the five conditions of collective impact:

- A Common Agenda – Partners are united by a shared vision of eliminating poverty.
- Shared Measurement – Common indicators and evidence help measure progress and inform decisions.
- Mutually Reinforcing Activities – Organizations contribute through complementary roles aligned with shared priorities.
- Continuous Communication – Ongoing dialogue builds trust, strengthens relationships, and supports coordinated action.
- Backbone Support – Dedicated financial coordination helps connect partners, mobilize knowledge, and sustain momentum. The SPRP is grateful to the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre for its continued backbone support.





**LEADERSHIP IS DISTRIBUTED.
SUCCESS IS SHARED.
IMPACT IS COLLECTIVE.**



SPRP uses these terms to operationalize the governance model:

Stewardship Group - **Leadership team**

Secretariat - **Management team**

Constellation - **Action team**

The overall **shared vision** is set by the Leadership team. Membership is open to anyone interested in the vision.

Staffing contract and financials are overseen by the Management team with **2 Co-Chairs representing systems and community.**

Membership is open to any partner who is providing resources. Resources are financial and in-kind (human, capital, intellectual).

All teams within the SPRP structure use a collective impact framework to mobilize the work.

Backbone - The Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre hosts the financials and contributes resources, and expertise on Leadership, Management and various Action teams.

Common Agenda - End poverty in all its forms

Shared measurement - Dashboard and data sharing are part of the Action teams deliverables.

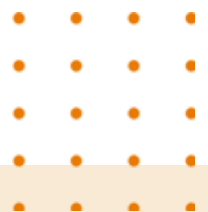
Mutually reinforcing activities - Using the Action team priorities across the 12 Bold Ideas - we work collectively to find a balance between partner mandate and collaborative community work.

Communications - Using a variety of tools to ensure the partners are aware of all aspects of the work.

TOGETHER, THESE APPROACHES CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE

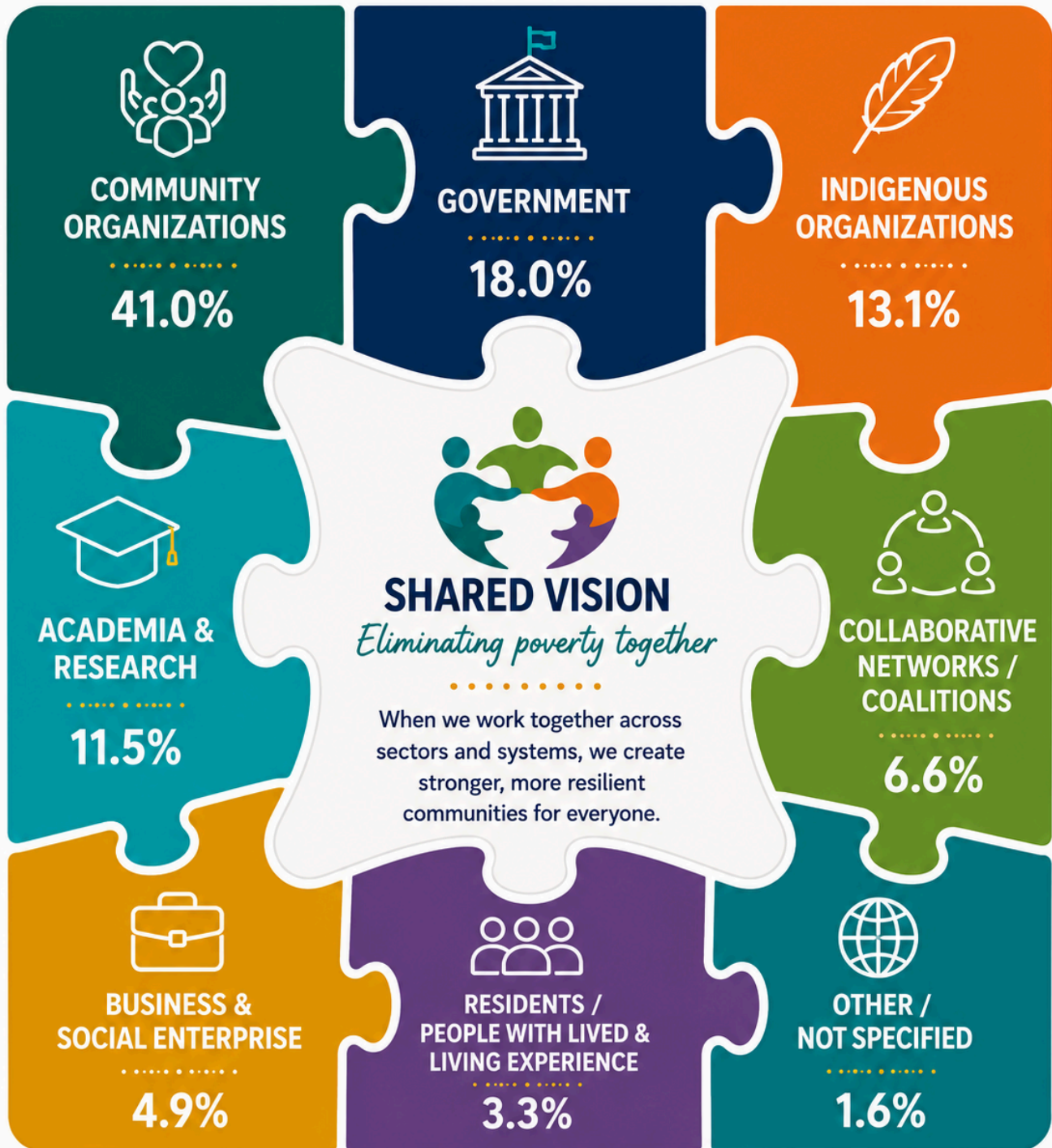
Constellation governance provides the leadership structure that empowers partners to act, while collective impact provides the collaborative methodology that aligns those actions toward shared outcomes.

Together, they enable SPRP to move beyond coordination toward collective leadership, shared accountability, evidence-informed decision-making, and lasting systems change.



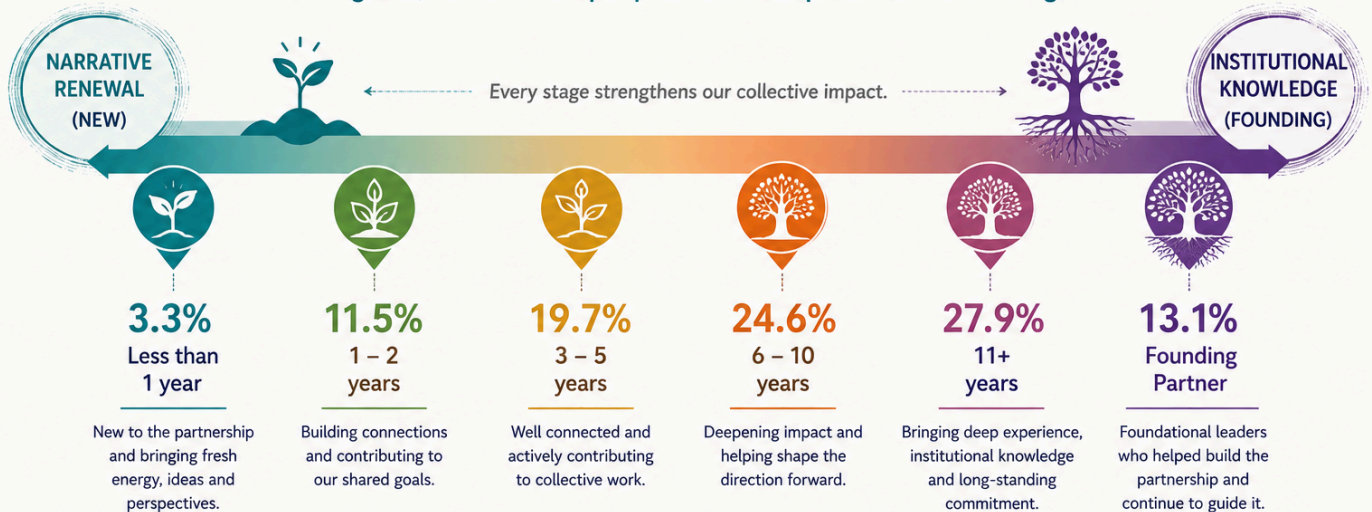
THE PARTNERS

Diverse. Connected. Collaborative.

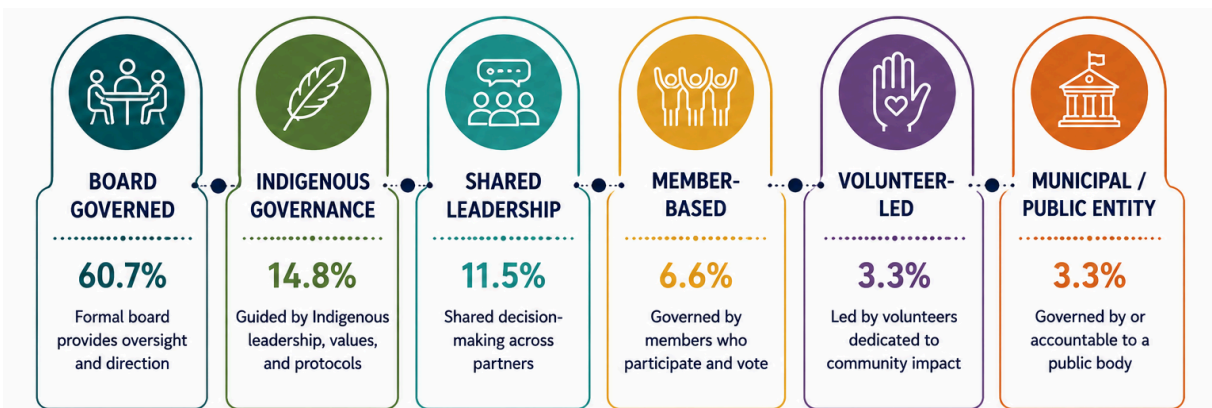


Sector representation based on the 2026 partnership survey results. Survey responses represented 75% of the community partners connected to the SPRP.

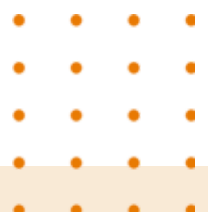
Our partners bring a range of experience and history to this work.
Together, we blend fresh perspective with deep institutional knowledge.

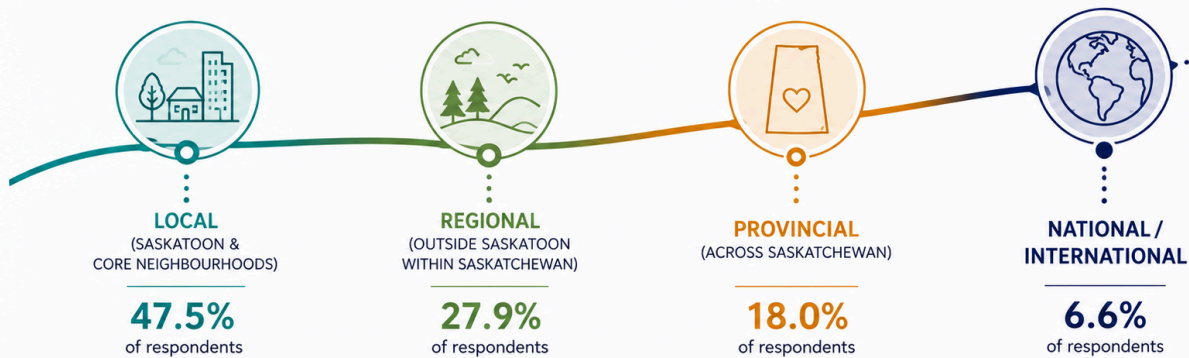


One of SPRP's greatest strengths is the balance between renewal and experience. New partners bring fresh perspectives, emerging ideas, diverse expertise, and the energy to challenge assumptions and explore new opportunities. At the same time, long-standing and founding members contribute invaluable institutional knowledge, historical context, trusted relationships, and a deep understanding of what has been learned throughout the Partnership's journey. Together, these perspectives create a stronger, more resilient collaboration—one that honours the past without being constrained by it and embraces innovation without losing sight of its shared purpose. By weaving together renewed energy with institutional knowledge, SPRP continues to evolve while remaining grounded in the relationships, values, and collective vision that have guided its work from the beginning.



Collective impact depends on bringing together people and organizations with **different perspectives, experiences, and strengths around a shared goal**. Diversity within the partnership—whether through organizational type, geography, governance models, lived and living expertise, or years of involvement—creates a richer understanding of complex issues and leads to more innovative, equitable, nimble and sustainable solutions.





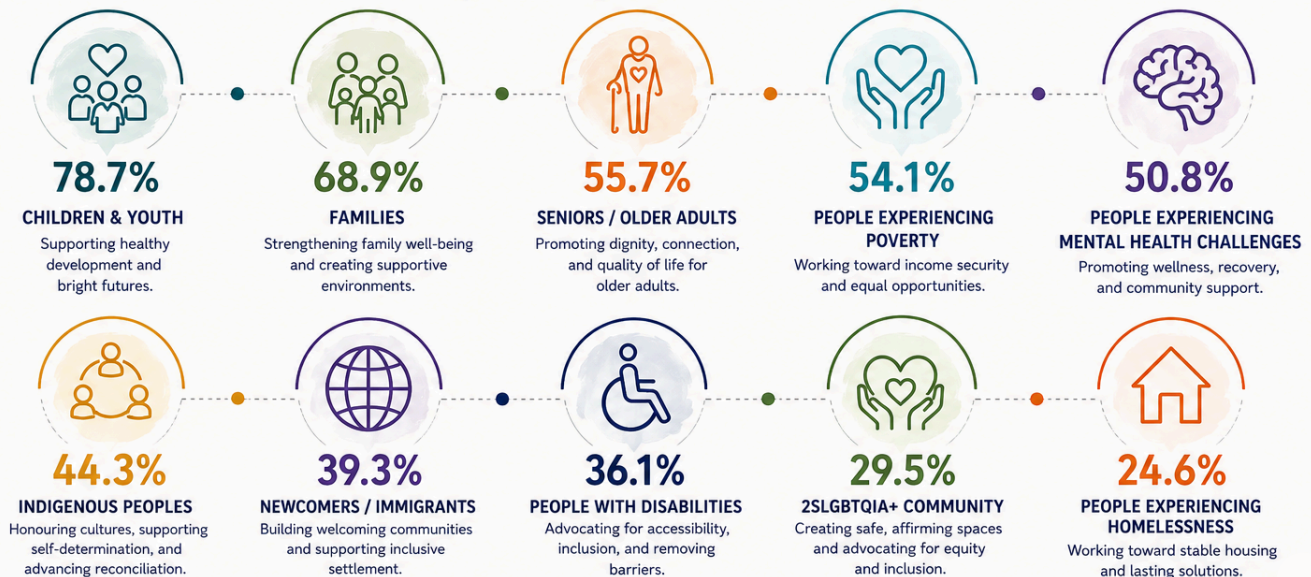
Geographic representation and jurisdictional diversity strengthen SPRP's ability to understand and influence the systems that shape poverty.

Partners working at the neighbourhood, municipal, regional, provincial, national, and international levels bring different perspectives, responsibilities, and opportunities for action. This diversity helps ensure that local experiences inform broader policy conversations, while provincial and national initiatives remain grounded in community realities.

By connecting knowledge and action across jurisdictions, SPRP is better positioned to identify emerging issues, align efforts, reduce duplication, and advocate for coordinated solutions that create lasting systems change. **Poverty does not exist within a single neighbourhood or level of government, and neither can the solutions.**

Our partners work alongside and in service of diverse populations.

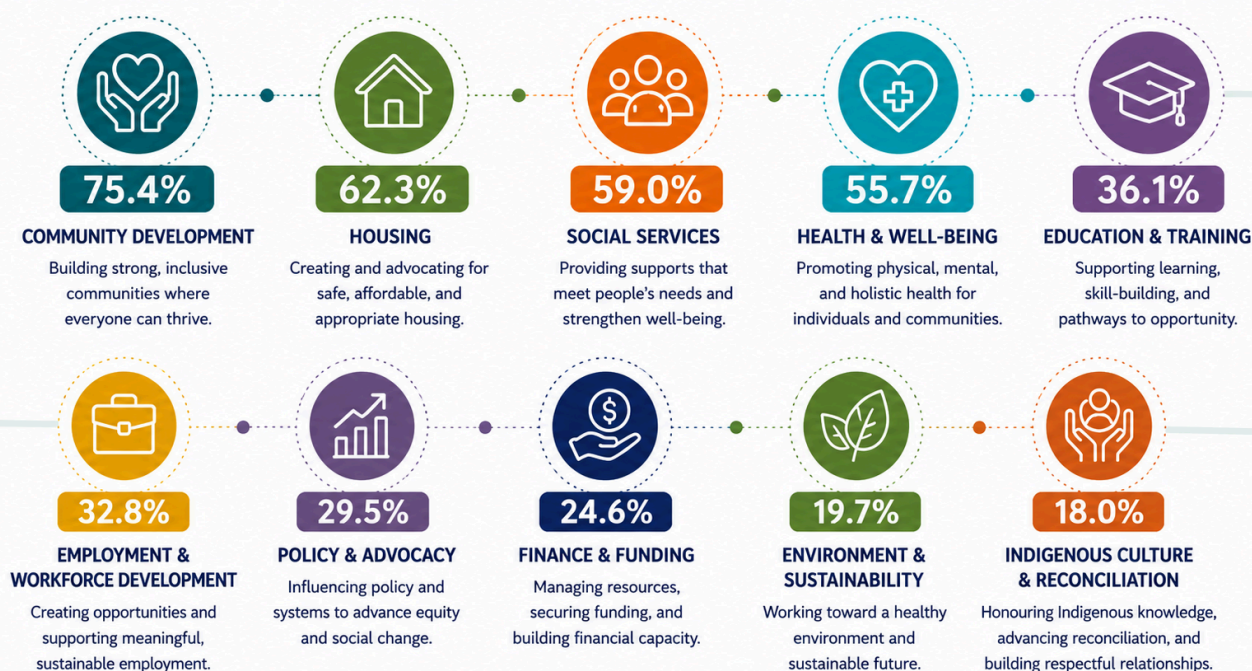
Every community matters. Every voice counts.



Poverty is interconnected with every social determinant of health, making cross-sector collaboration essential. Each partner brings expertise in different parts of the system—from housing and healthcare to education, employment, food security, and community belonging. Together, these diverse perspectives help SPRP identify opportunities that no single organization or sector could see alone, leading to more coordinated, equitable, and lasting solutions.

SPRP partners represents a depth of knowledge and expertise in one or more of the social determinants of health. **Because poverty is influenced by interconnected systems rather than a single issue, meaningful change requires subject matter experts from housing, income, education, health, Indigenous leadership, business, research, community organizations, government, and people with lived and living experience.**

Together, these diverse perspectives create a richer understanding of the challenges, reveal opportunities that could be overlooked, and strengthen SPRP's collective ability to design solutions that address both immediate needs and the policy-level, root causes of poverty.



"INVESTING IN RELATIONSHIPS IS NOT SEPARATE FROM SYSTEMS CHANGE—IT IS ONE OF ITS ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCKS."

The work of SPRP depends on more than shared goals—it **depends on trust.**

Trust allows diverse partners to contribute their expertise, navigate differences, share leadership, and remain committed to a common vision through both successes and challenges. **It is one of the most valuable assets a collaborative partnership can build, providing the foundation for innovation, resilience, and lasting community change.**

The pandemic demonstrated that trust is one of the most valuable assets a community can build. When systems were under unprecedented pressure, coordinated action was possible because relationships had been established before the crisis occurred. Trust enabled organizations to share information openly, make decisions quickly, challenge conventional ways of working, and respond collectively to emerging needs.

The experience reinforced that trust is not built during an emergency—it is built through ongoing collaboration, transparency, shared leadership, and a commitment to working together long before a crisis begins.



IMPACT TIMELINE

Over the past 15 years, the SPRP has moved from understanding the root causes of poverty to mobilizing action and building for the future and systems change.

Through collaboration, evidence, and community leadership, we have developed shared tools, reports, and resources that focus on policy change and strengthening systems.





The COVID-19 pandemic reinforced that equitable policy implementation requires coordinated community action. Through the Saskatoon Interagency Response (SIRC), SPRP and partners

adopted a collective impact approach supported by an Incident Command structure to rapidly coordinate services, share information, and address emerging barriers. The primary objective was to ensure that public health policies designed to protect communities did not unintentionally increase hardship for people experiencing poverty, housing instability, or food insecurity. The experience demonstrated that trust, collaboration, and shared leadership are essential infrastructure for responding to complex community challenges.

	2023	Vibrant Communities and Economies Report	We expanded our focus to community wealth building and inclusive economies—recognizing that thriving communities need both wellbeing and opportunity.
	2024	End Poverty Election Materials	We developed non-partisan resources to inform voters and support candidates advancing policies that reduce poverty and build community wellbeing.
	2025	Community Perspectives on Income Assistance	Grounded in lived and living expertise, this work amplified voices and identified ways to improve dignity, access, and financial security through policy change.
	2026	Strengthening our commitment to Inclusive Practice	Release of the restructured Guide for Including Lived and Living Experience.
	2027	Community Poverty Insights Framework	We are advancing a shared city-wide approach to data and knowledge that centers community insights, lived and living experience, and equity to guide smarter decisions and stronger outcomes. Includes a revised version of the 12 Bold Ideas.

This is not a fulsome list of all SPRP work - for additional information refer to the resources section on the website: EndPovertyYYE.ca

In 2025, SPRP invested in the development of a new website to strengthen communication, transparency, and knowledge sharing across the partnership. While still a work in progress, the website is being designed as more than an organizational platform—it will become a community resource that brings together data, policy resources, research, tools, events, and opportunities for collaboration in one accessible location. As the platform continues to evolve, it will improve access to information, increase public engagement, and support SPRP's commitment to collective action, shared learning, and evidence-informed decision-making.



ENDPOVERTYYXE.CA



YEAR AT A GLANCE

A snapshot of a typical year



> 3-5

LEADERSHIP MEETINGS OR ACTIVITIES

Bringing leaders together to guide, align and advance our collective work.



> 12

MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

Regular coordination, planning and accountability across the partnership.



> 3-5

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

Listening to community voice to shape priorities and actions.



> 12

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

Providing meaningful learning experiences and building future leaders.



> 6

EXTERNAL PARTNER COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Actively contributing our expertise and strengthening sector collaboration.



> 1-2

CONFERENCES

Sharing learning, building connections and bringing ideas home.



> 5-7

POLICY ADVOCACY EVENTS

Advocating for policies and systems change to reduce poverty and inequity.



> 3-5

PUBLISHED REPORTS

Producing evidence and insights to inform action and influence change.



> 10+

COHOSTED EVENTS

Partnering across sectors to host events that inform, engage and inspire.



> 6

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Generating knowledge to drive solutions and measure impact.



> 4

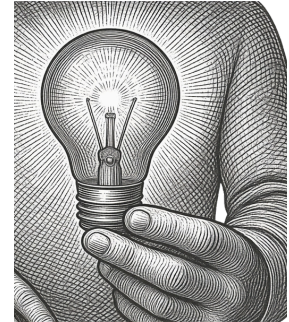
NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Working with organizations across Canada to learn, influence and drive change together.

INVESTMENT

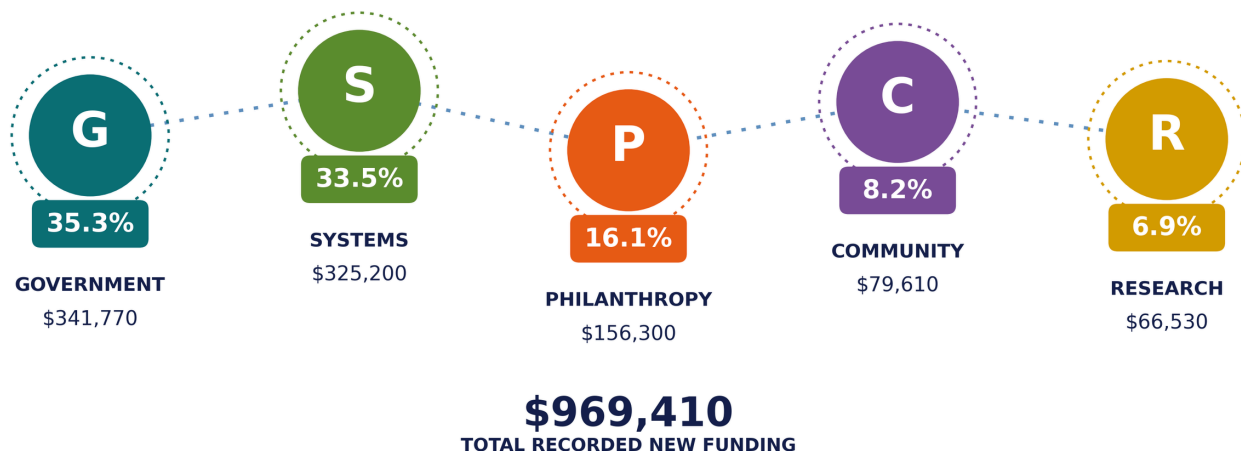


Collective impact is about more than working together—it is about strategically aligning and pooling resources to achieve outcomes that no single organization could accomplish alone. Rather than duplicating efforts or competing for limited resources, partners contribute their unique expertise, relationships, funding, influence, and capacity toward a shared vision. This collective investment creates efficiencies, reduces fragmentation, strengthens innovation, and amplifies community impact. Every dollar invested in SPRP's backbone supports not only the Partnership itself, but also the coordination, collaboration, and shared action that enable hundreds of organizations and community leaders to work as one system toward eliminating poverty.



A DIVERSE FUNDING ECOSYSTEM

SPRP recorded new funding by source category | 2019–2025



Our approach prioritizes collaboration over competition. Rather than competing for the same funding opportunities, partners work together to align resources, leverage investments, and secure funding that advances our shared goals.

Core Collective Investments

- City of Saskatoon
- Saskatchewan Health Authority
- Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre
- United Way
- Saskatoon Community Foundation
- QUINT
- Station 20 West
- Other operational partners

Strategic Project Investments

- Affinity Credit Union
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Tamarack Institute
- Kathryn Donnelly Foundation
- Government of Canada: Investment Readiness Program
- University of Saskatchewan / College of Medicine
- Community University Institute for Social Research (CUISR)

INCLUSION



“NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US”

“Nothing About Us Without Us” is a principle rooted in social justice movements, particularly disability rights, and has since become a guiding value across many areas of policy and community work. At its core, it means that decisions, policies, and initiatives that affect a community must not be made without the active involvement of people from that community. It is both a call for inclusion and a safeguard against top-down approaches that often overlook or misunderstand lived realities. **By centering the voices of those directly impacted, this principle ensures that solutions are relevant, respectful, and effective, while also redistributing power to those who have historically been excluded from decision-making tables.**

DEFINING LIVED, LIVING & LEARNED EXPERIENCE

Lived Experience

Refers to the knowledge, perspective, and insights gained from having already gone through those experiences. It is often recognized in research, policy, and advocacy as valuable expertise distinct from secondhand or professional knowledge. For example: “They bring lived experience of homelessness and of previous experiences of poverty to the advisory committee.”

Living Experience

Refers to the ongoing, day-to-day act of experiencing something as it is happening. For example: “She is currently living below the poverty line; they are living on income assistance; he is living rough or is underhoused right now.” It emphasizes being in the middle of it.

Learned Experience

Learned experience refers to knowledge, skills, and understanding gained through formal education, training, professional practice, or structured study. It is shaped by curricula, credentials, evidence-based frameworks, and institutional norms, and is often recognized and validated through degrees, certifications, titles, or years of professional practice.

for more information including a “Readiness Check-list” download the SPRP From Experience to Expertise: Centering Lived & Living Experience in Inclusive and Equitable Community Practice Guide.

PRIORITIZING INCLUSION REQUIRES INVESTMENT

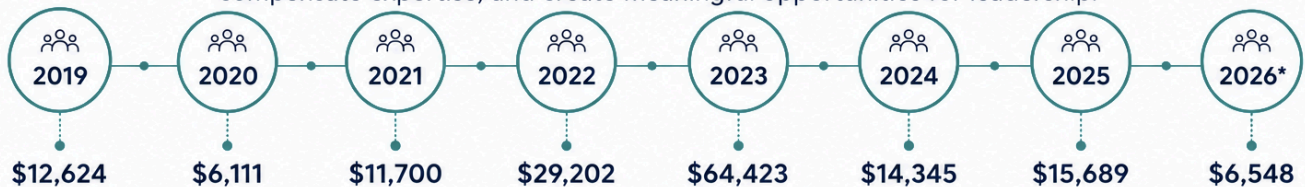
Meaningful engagement with people who have lived and living experience of poverty does not happen by invitation alone—it **requires organizations to intentionally invest in removing barriers to participation and recognizing experience as expertise.** Fair compensation, accessibility supports, childcare, transportation, meals, honoraria, cultural protocols, and leadership development are not optional extras; they are essential components of equitable participation.

By investing in inclusion, SPRP ensures that the people most impacted by poverty have the opportunity, resources, and authority to shape decisions that influence policies, programs, and systems. This investment strengthens the quality of decision-making, builds trust and shared ownership, and results in more effective, equitable, and sustainable solutions to poverty.

INVESTING IN EXPERIENCE AS EXPERTISE

— NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US —

People with lived and living experience are partners in leadership, policy, research, and systems change. These investments remove barriers, compensate expertise, and create meaningful opportunities for leadership.



TOTAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

≥ **\$160,641** ≤

Supporting lived and living expertise through compensation, accessibility, leadership, co-design and governance.

THIS REPRESENTS

16.56%

OF SPRP'S TOTAL INVESTMENT
IN COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
(2019–2026)



FAIR COMPENSATION

Recognizing experience as expertise.



ACCESSIBILITY

Removing barriers to ensure full participation.



CHILDCARE & SUPPORTS

Ensuring caregivers and families can participate.



SHARED LEADERSHIP

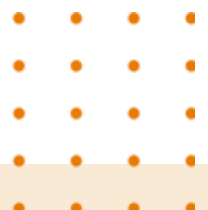
Building power and leadership with community.



SYSTEMS CHANGE

Creating better policies, partnerships and outcomes.

**2026 reflects the current budget and will change as expenditures are finalized.*



OUR ACTIONS FOR INCLUSION

EXPERIENCE IS EXPERTISE

We take intentional actions to remove barriers, recognize expertise, and create meaningful opportunities for leadership and impact.



From Experience to Expertise:

Centering Lived & Living Experience in Inclusive and Equitable Community Practice



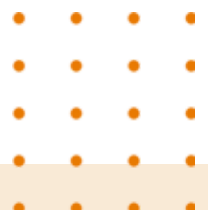
Effective public policy and resulting community development are rooted in more than research, data, and professional knowledge—they are strengthened when informed by the real-life experiences of the people most directly impacted.

In 2026, the SPRP Lived Experience Advocates worked to update the policy and practices for inclusion.

Download the most recent document on the website EndPovertyYXE.ca

2026

sprp Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership



THE 12 BOLD IDEAS



Before the 12 Bold ideas, SPRP was a core partner in the “Poverty Costs!” Campaign.

This Economic Argument to address systems change provided the foundation for the 12 Bold Ideas - highlighting the interconnectedness of sectors and the impacts of inefficient public policy.

The 2019 12 Bold Ideas to Eliminate Poverty document established SPRP's **original roadmap for collective action**. Built through extensive community engagement and grounded in evidence, lived experience, and human rights principles, it identified twelve interconnected priorities to address the root causes of poverty. **The framework challenged governments, organizations, and community partners to think beyond traditional approaches and work collectively to create lasting policy and systems change that would make poverty rare, brief, and ultimately preventable.**

2019 ROADMAP

12 BOLD IDEAS

To Eliminate Poverty in Saskatoon



2021 COVID LESSONS

12 BOLD IDEAS

TO ELIMINATE POVERTY



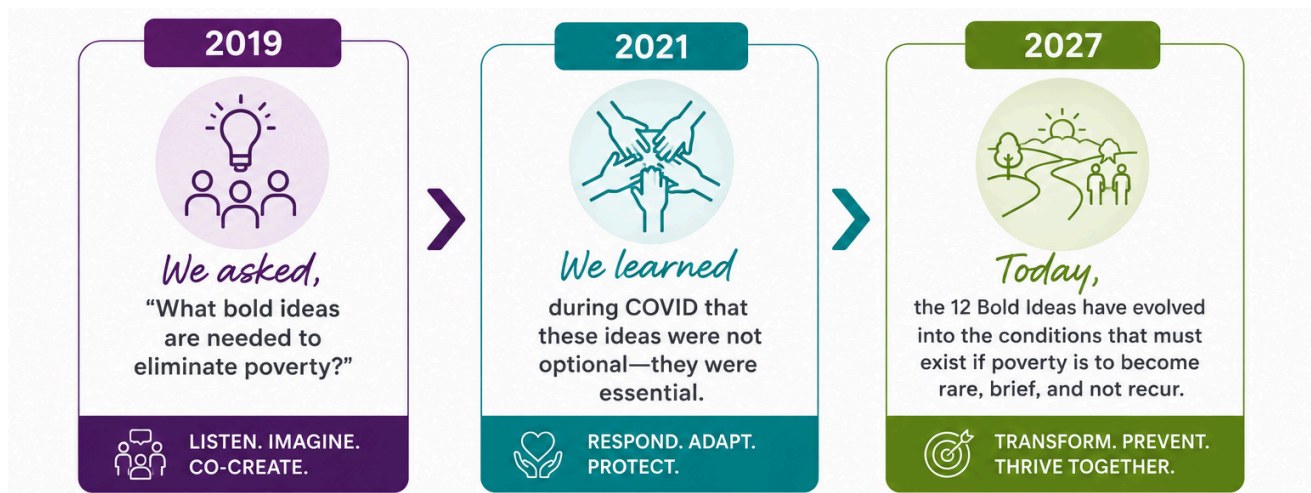
The 2021 12 Bold Ideas to Eliminate Poverty document was updated to capture the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic and reframe SPRP's priorities for systems change. **The pandemic exposed deep inequities across housing, income, health, food, transportation, education, justice, and other interconnected systems, while also demonstrating what is possible when governments, organizations, and communities work together.** The document reaffirmed SPRP's commitment to 12 interconnected areas of action and established a renewed roadmap for policy innovation, collective impact, and long-term poverty elimination.

EMERGING THEMES

THE NEXT VERSION OF THE 12 BOLD IDEAS



The evolution of the 12 Bold Ideas reflects SPRP's commitment to learning, adapting, and leading systems change. In 2019, we asked what bold ideas were needed to eliminate poverty. In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that these ideas were not simply aspirational—they were essential. Today, the framework has evolved again, recognizing that these Bold Ideas represent **the conditions that must exist for individuals, families, and communities to thrive**. This evolution is not a departure from our original vision; it is a continuation of our commitment to building the systems, policies, and partnerships that make poverty rare, brief, and non-recurring.

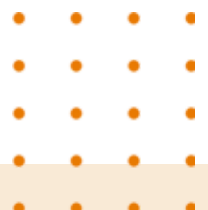


The 12 Bold Ideas have evolved alongside our understanding of what it takes to end poverty in all its forms. Understanding that they represent the community conditions required for people and communities to thrive, we are now focused on achieving these conditions across the entire continuum of community wellbeing.

As part of its commitment to continuous learning and accountability, SPRP will align data collection and reporting with a community action framework that weaves together:

Response–Stabilization–Prevention–Systems Change

Measuring activity and outcomes across this continuum provides a more complete picture of community impact, ensuring that immediate responses, stabilization efforts, prevention strategies, and systems change initiatives are all recognized as essential and interconnected contributions toward achieving the 12 Bold Ideas—the conditions needed to end poverty in all its forms.

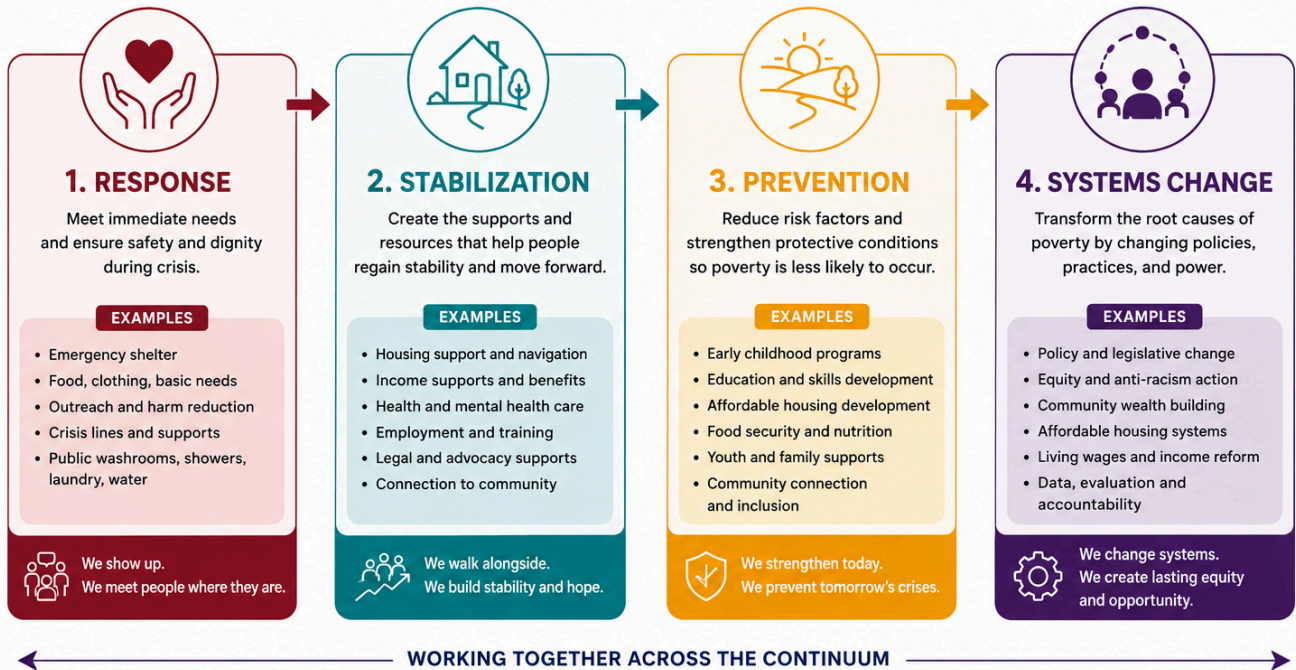


BROADENING THE SCOPE OF ACTION



THE 4 CATEGORIES OF COMMUNITY ACTION

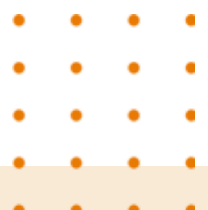
A continuum of action that creates the conditions needed to end poverty in all its forms.



Communities are dynamic, and the conditions that shape poverty will continue to change over time. SPRP recognizes that the priorities within the 12 Bold Ideas must evolve alongside emerging evidence, community needs, technological change, and shifting policy landscapes. **Rather than anchoring our work to a fixed set of programs or sectors, we are committed to a consistent framework for understanding community action.** By aligning planning, data collection, reporting, and evaluation with the **Response–Stabilization–Prevention–Systems Change continuum**, SPRP can adapt to new challenges while preserving a common language for measuring impact.



This flexibility ensures that our reporting remains relevant, comparable over time, and focused on how collective action creates the conditions needed to end poverty in all its forms.



2027 **12** BOLD IDEAS

1



INCOME & ASSETS

Everyone has access to adequate income, financial security, and opportunities to build assets and wealth.

2



COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Communities generate, circulate, and retain wealth through local ownership, social enterprise, social finance, procurement, employment, and investment.

3



HOUSING & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Everyone has access to safe, affordable, appropriate housing and the physical infrastructure that supports healthy, connected communities.

4



FOOD SECURITY & LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Everyone has reliable access to affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate food through resilient and sustainable local food systems.

5



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Everyone has equitable opportunities to achieve physical, mental, emotional, cultural, and spiritual wellbeing.

6



BELONGING & COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Everyone experiences dignity, inclusion, cultural identity, safety, and meaningful relationships that foster connection and participation.

7



EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

People of all ages have equitable access to learning, skills development, and opportunities for personal growth and participation.

8



EARLY YEARS & FAMILIES

Children, youth, and families have the supports they need to thrive from pregnancy through adulthood.

9



TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

People can move safely, affordably, and efficiently throughout their community to access opportunities and essential services.

10



DIGITAL INCLUSION & TECHNOLOGY

Everyone has equitable access to affordable connectivity, digital devices, digital skills, and technology to participate fully in modern society.

11



JUSTICE & COMMUNITY SAFETY

Communities are safe, equitable, and restorative, with systems that prevent harm, address root causes, and promote healing and accountability.

12



SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP, DATA & COLLECTIVE ACTION

Communities, governments, organizations, researchers, and residents work together using shared leadership, data, lived experience, and innovation to create lasting systems change.

A Bold Idea is an ambitious community condition that challenges us to rethink how systems, policies, and investments work together to eliminate poverty in all its forms.

Each Bold Idea represents a foundational condition that enables individuals, families, and communities to thrive.

Together, they provide a shared framework for collective action, policy innovation, and systems transformation.

In 2027, a stronger focus on community wealth building, belonging, digital inclusion, and shared systems leadership, while recognizing that lasting change requires coordinated action across response, stabilization, prevention, and systems transformation.

A FOCUS ON POLICY



“TOGETHER, WE INFLUENCE POLICIES”

Policy and practice are inseparable components of systems change.

Policy establishes the conditions under which people access housing, income, healthcare, education, justice, and other essential supports, while practice determines how those policies are experienced in people's daily lives.

Community practice often reveals where policies succeed, where they create unintended consequences, where they are failing, and where change is needed.

By creating intentional feedback loops between lived experience, frontline practice, data, and public policy, communities can move beyond responding to the symptoms of poverty and begin changing the conditions that create it. **Lasting systems change requires this continuous connection between policy and practice—where each informs, challenges, and strengthens the other to create more equitable outcomes.**

OUR POLICY APPROACH

A COLLABORATIVE, EVIDENCE-INFORMED PATH TO SYSTEMS CHANGE

1



IDENTIFY

Use community data and lived and living experience to understand emerging issues and priorities.

2



ANALYZE

Identify policy gaps, unintended consequences, and opportunities for change using evidence and equity analysis.

3



CONVENE

Bring together governments, community organizations, Indigenous leadership, researchers, businesses, and residents to co-create solutions.

4



INFLUENCE & REPORT

Develop recommendations and advocate for change. Build public awareness and report on progress to account for transparency and drive action.

5



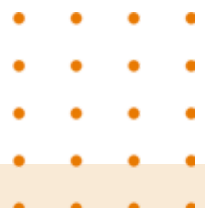
MEASURE

Track policy implementation and community impact with clear indicators to inform continuous improvement.



TOGETHER, WE INFLUENCE POLICIES THAT CREATE EQUITABLE, SUSTAINABLE, AND LASTING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES.

**PRACTICE INFORMS POLICY,
POLICY SHAPES PRACTICE, AND
CONTINUOUS LEARNING
CONNECTS THE TWO**



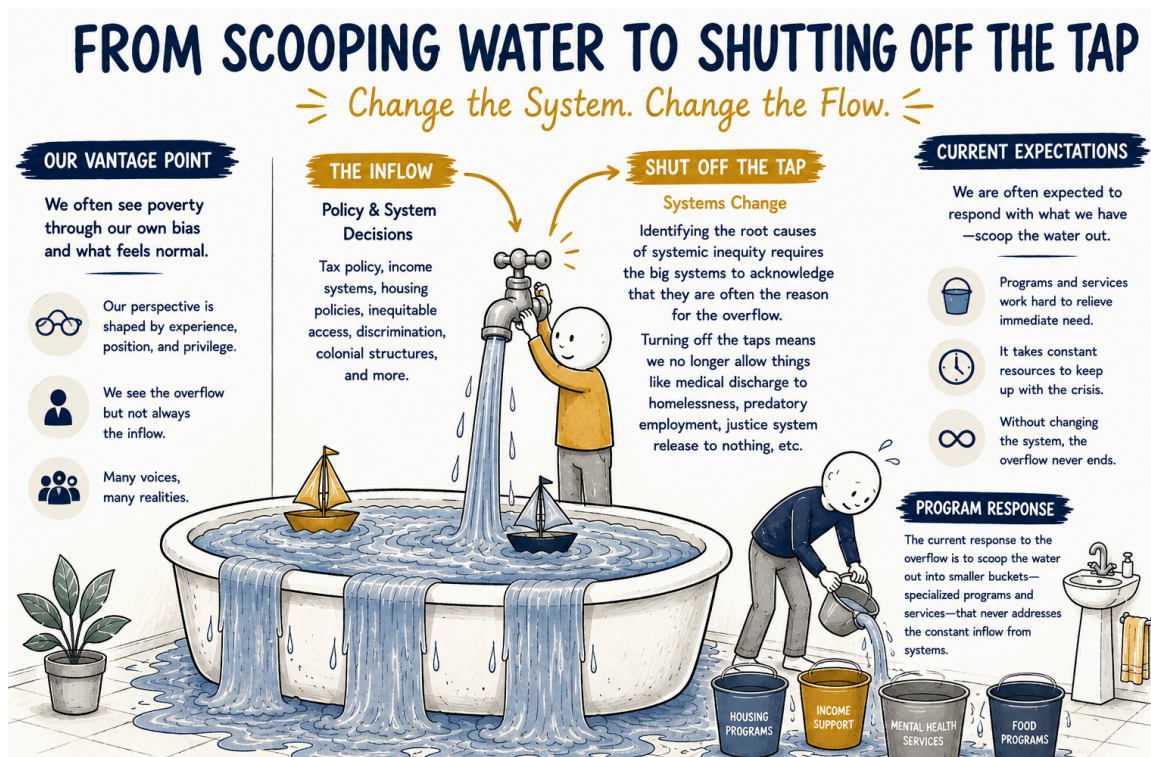
ROOT CAUSES

A CONVERSATION ABOUT POLICY

What we often describe as poverty, inequity, homelessness, food insecurity, or social disorder are not isolated problems—they are the visible outcomes of how our systems function.

Over time, policies, institutional practices, funding models, and system design interact to create the conditions in which people struggle to meet their basic needs.

When these underlying conditions remain unchanged, communities become increasingly occupied with responding to the consequences rather than preventing them.



THE CONDITIONS THAT CREATE POVERTY ARE NOT ACCIDENTAL

Public policy is often shaped within systems that have historically reflected colonial institutions, unequal power, and the experiences of those with the greatest influence.

Our understanding of social issues is shaped by our vantage point. Each of us interprets what we see through the lens of our own experiences, education, professional training, culture, and position within society. For generations, many of the policies and institutions that shape life in Canada have been developed within colonial systems and influenced by unequal distributions of power and privilege. This can lead us to focus on the visible consequences of poverty while overlooking the systemic decisions that contribute to those outcomes. **Expanding the perspectives that inform policy—including lived and living experience, Indigenous worldviews, frontline practice, research, and community leadership—helps us move beyond managing symptoms (scooping water) and toward addressing the conditions that create them (turning off the taps).**

THEORY OF CHANGE

1

VISION

Where are
we going?



POVERTY IS RARE, BRIEF AND DOES NOT RECUR.

A Saskatoon where everyone has what they need
to thrive with dignity, opportunity, and belonging.

We envision:

- Equitable opportunities
for all
- Strong, connected
communities
- Systems that are just,
inclusive, and sustainable
- A future where everyone
can thrive

2

12 BOLD IDEAS

What conditions
are we trying
to create?



THE CONDITIONS TO END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS

Twelve interconnected conditions that
communities must create together.



3

CONTINUUM OF ACTION

How do we
create those
conditions?



A CONTINUUM OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Working together across the full spectrum to create lasting change.



4

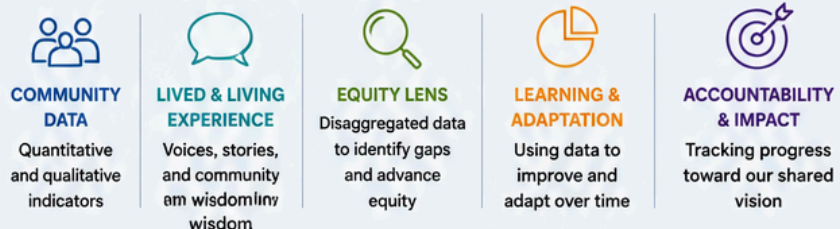
COMMUNITY POVERTY INSIGHTS FRAMEWORK

How do we know
we're making
progress?



MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

Shared data. Shared learning. Stronger impact.



THE NEXT CHAPTER

FROM SHARED VISION TO SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The frameworks presented throughout this report are not intended to define who is responsible for ending poverty—they are intended to help each of us understand the unique role we play in creating the conditions for communities to thrive.

Every organization, government, business, institution, funder, and resident has a sphere of influence.

Lasting systems change happens when each partner fully exercises their mandate, collaborates beyond conventional boundaries, and contributes their expertise toward a common goal. **Collective impact is not about doing the same work; it is about aligning different strengths in pursuit of a shared vision.**

Too often, conversations about complex social issues end with questions of jurisdiction.

While mandates matter, they should define where leadership begins —not where it ends.

The challenge is not simply to ask who is responsible, but to ask what actions are possible within our own authority, where partnerships can amplify impact, and what barriers can be removed together. By approaching poverty reduction through a lens of shared responsibility and collective leadership, we create opportunities for innovation, influence, and lasting systems change.

A CALL TO COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

As the challenges facing all communities continue to evolve, so too must our willingness to evolve with them. The future of poverty elimination will not be determined by jurisdiction alone, but by our collective ability to align vision, action, investment, and accountability.

**TOGETHER, WE CREATE THE
CONDITIONS THAT MAKE
POVERTY RARE, BRIEF, &
DOES NOT RECUR.**

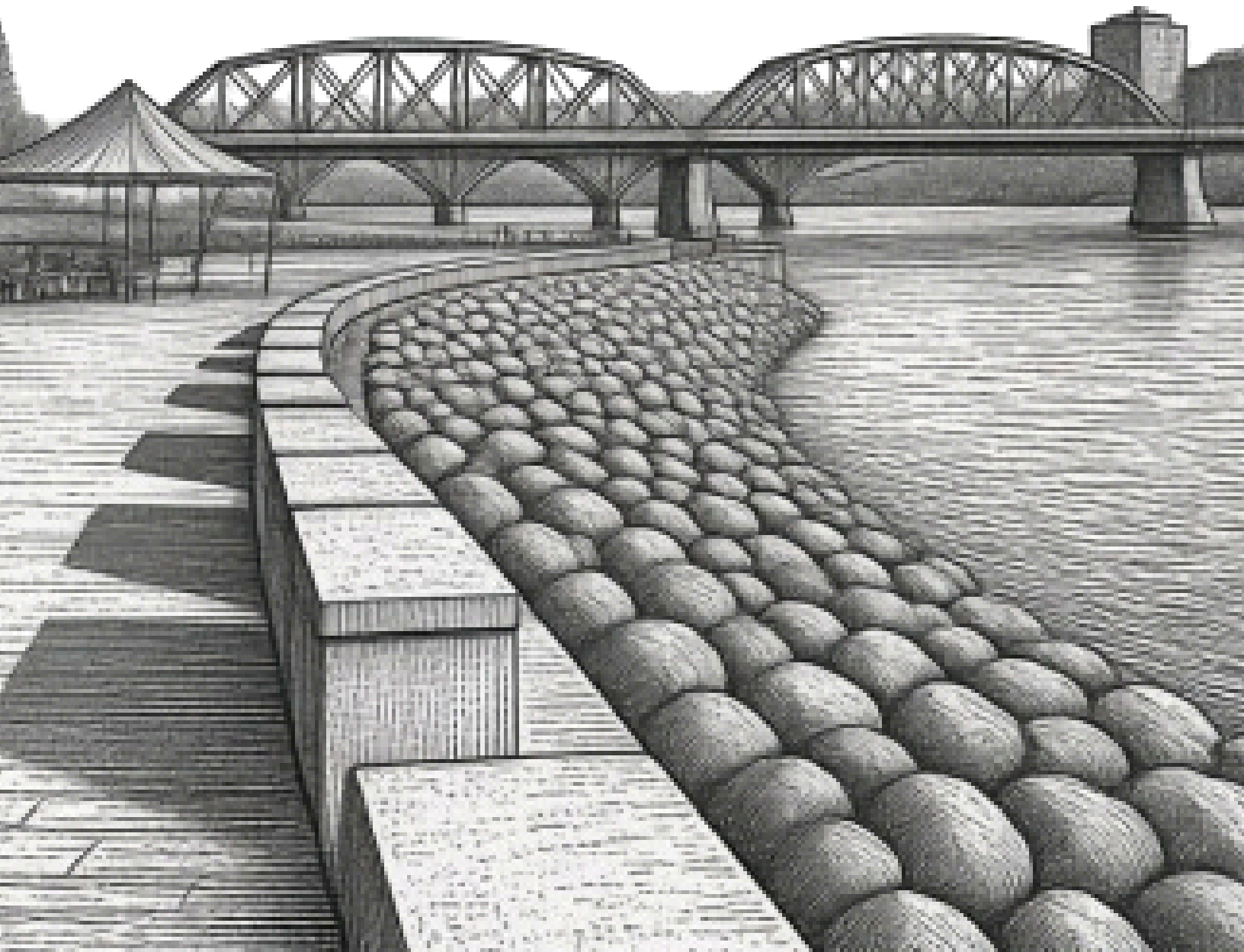


**PEOPLE DON'T LIVE THEIR LIVES IN SEPARATE
SYSTEMS. HOUSING, INCOME, HEALTH, FOOD,
FAMILY—IT'S ALL CONNECTED.**

**SASKATOON IS A CITY OF BRIDGES, BUT PEOPLE
ARE STILL EXPECTED TO NAVIGATE THE GAPS
BETWEEN OUR SYSTEMS ON THEIR OWN.**

**IF WE WANT DIFFERENT OUTCOMES, WE NEED TO
BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN THE WORK WE EACH
DO. THE OUTCOME BELONGS TO ALL OF US.**

*-- Community member with
lived experience of poverty*



RESOURCES

All materials produced by the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership (SPRP) can be found at **EndPovertyYXE.ca**

Data used to describe the **SPRP internal structures and partnership demographics** was collected in 2026 using a survey tool. 75% of the the partners on the Leadership mailing list answered the survey.

Financial Data was obtained from the SPRP financial records held by the backbone (Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre) from 2019 to 2026.

Other foundational materials and additional learning resources can be found at the following links:

Collective Impact

- <https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/collective-impact-toolkit>

Constellation Governance

- <https://socialinnovation.org/about/innovations-publications/constellation-model-of-governance/>

Theory of Change

- <https://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/2026-theory-of-change>
- <https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/library/webinar-theory-of-change-to-theory-of-influence>

Nothing About Us Without Us

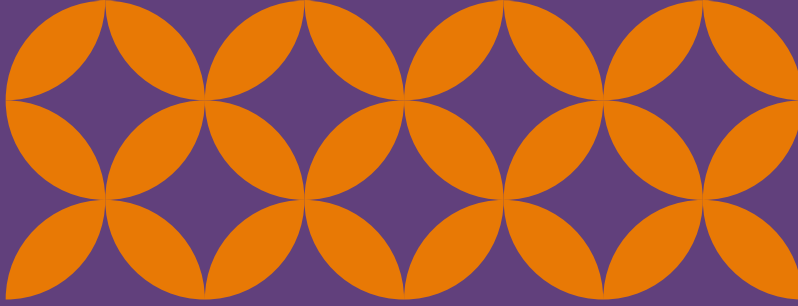
- <https://www.disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca/en/personal-story/nothing-about-us-without-us>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/accessible-canada-regulations-guidance/consultation/section2.html>

AI DISCLOSURE

This report reflects SPRP's commitment to embracing emerging technologies in thoughtful and responsible ways. Artificial intelligence (AI) was used to support research, writing, editing, visualization, and the exploration of complex systems concepts, enabling the team to test ideas, improve clarity, and accelerate content development.

Every output was critically reviewed, refined, and validated using community expertise, lived and living experience, research evidence, and professional judgment.

We believe AI is most valuable when it strengthens—not replaces—the relationships, collaboration, and human insight that are essential to meaningful systems change.



Saskatoon Poverty
Reduction Partnership

Be part of the change.

Connect with the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction
Partnership (SPRP):

Email: SPRPCoordinator@gmail.com

Social media: [@EndPovertyYXE](https://twitter.com/EndPovertyYXE)

Website: EndPovertyYXE.com

