

Interfaith is in need of a reboot

With the Neighbour-to-Neighbour Project well underway through KHCR (Kelowna Homelessness Research Collaborative) at UBCO, how can we move forward together as faith communities to really make a difference in the community? We are at a crossroads.

- We need new ideas for ways to move forward in addressing homelessness within the Kelowna and area community
- We need a new co-chair with dedicated time to build connections and projects (I will be ending my role at co-chair at the end of this year)

The Interfaith Collective Newsletter has attempted to provide information, education, and links for faith communities. Without a clear focus as a Collective, Lynn and I are reviewing whether the Newsletter has a purpose.

Send your feedback to any of the Steering Circle. Names & emails on page 2.



20 Special care units in Kelowna provided by Interior Health



Interior Health and the City of Kelowna, along with the provincial Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, confirmed September 7 approval for delivery of housing and supports for people with complex care needs living in the Central Okanagan.

Multiple sites in the community will deliver complex care housing for up to 20 people. The housing and health-care supports will be provided by Interior Health professional staff and contracted service providers.

The new complex care spaces are expected to open this winter. The service model is consistent with Kelowna's Journey Home Strategy and has shown to be suitable and effective in supporting people with complex needs. Interior Health will now work with community partners and the City to confirm locations and service providers.

This model provides supportive housing with an emphasis on intensive 24/7 clinical health supports. The new model will serve community members with concurrent mental health and substance use disorders, acquired brain injuries, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and developmental disabilities that often lead to challenges accessing housing as well as frequent use of crisis and emergency services.

Learn more at kelowna.ca/complex-care



Register Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/metro-community-ending-poverty-together-workshop-tickets-381388171287>

October 17

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

How can you mark the day?

Metro Community Ending Poverty Together Workshop

The Ending Poverty Together Workshop invites you to explore the big questions about poverty and discuss tangible solutions.

Date and time

Sat, 29 October 2022, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM PDT

Location

Metro Hub 1265 Ellis St. Kelowna

Amber Webster-Kotak ED at Metro says, "I have taken a version of this training and it was really good for me to deepen my thinking around development."

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Newsletter staff is taking a break in November, hoping to receive positive readership feedback on the value of continuing the newsletter.

Vision: The Interfaith Collective envisions a diverse community where all have a home, safety and belong.

Mission: Guided by those with lived experience of homelessness, we will accomplish this vision by:

- Bringing information and education about the experience of homelessness to our own communities of faith,
- Advocating, supporting, and creating opportunities for people to be housed.

Face Homelessness public awareness campaign yields modest results

Surveys suggest the Face Homelessness public awareness campaign, which ran from April 1 to June 30, 2022, helped improve public perception of homelessness among Kelowna residents.

Two survey phases were completed for the campaign. One immediately before the campaign began and another once it ended. Three hundred people were surveyed in each phase through Leger's LEO mobile app. The survey posed the same questions in both phases to measure changes over the three months of the campaign.

Public perception moved toward the campaign goal of reducing stigma faced by people experiencing homelessness, though most of that movement was modest.

The statements below saw the greatest amount of change:

- Agreement with the statement *Helping people who experience homelessness is a priority for me* increased 11 points, from 33 to 44 percent.
- Agreement with the statement *Addressing homelessness is a worthy goal that can be accomplished through an increase in shelter space, and supportive and affordable housing* increased nine points, from 70 to 79 percent.

Agreement with the statement *It is possible to solve homelessness in Kelowna* increased 9 points, from 59 to 68 percent.

Public perception moved in the desired direction; however, it is difficult to say how much of that is due to the campaign.

Twenty-five percent of post-campaign survey respondents remembered seeing the campaign. This number was higher – 36 percent – for respondents between 18 and 44 years old – who appear to have driven changing opinions about homelessness.

We see the campaign concept was strong with 72 percent of those who saw it saying it prompted them to take action, such as reconsidering their views on homelessness. When respondents were shown the campaign, 89 percent said it was easy to understand and 85 percent said its message was important.

Learn more about the campaign at journeyhome.ca/stigma.

Thanks to Lindsay Thorimbert, Communications Advisor with the City of Kelowna for providing this update

Mark Oct. 17, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty



Chew on This!

Each year on this day, 17 October, Chew on This! events take place across Canada raising awareness about food insecurity in local communities and across the country. Each event looks a little different, but we all share the same message, building our collective impact.

You can visit our Chew on This! website to find an event near you, or [register to organize your own!](#) You'll also find information and [resources for organizers](#) to help you plan your event.