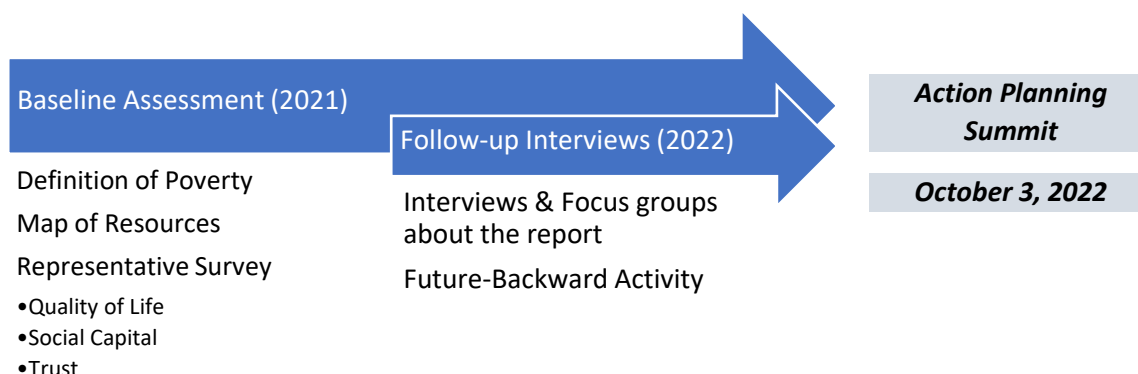


“Back to Normal... Really?” A Call to Action Planning

In March 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. While the phrase “everyone’s in the same boat” and a sense of national or even global solidarity were common in the early months of the pandemic, this eventually gave way to the recognition that the economic, psychological and social impacts of the pandemic were not being felt equally by all members of our society.

With this in mind, the Tamarack and Canadian Poverty Institutes set out to conduct a multi-staged research project into the effects of COVID-19 on those who were at risk of poverty prior to the pandemic or became at risk during it. We referred to these people as “newly vulnerable”.

Below is the outline of our research:



To get a baseline snapshot of people who are newly vulnerable and those struggling with poverty, we defined the notion of poverty, looked at available resources, and conducted a large survey measuring things like quality of life, social capital, trust, and so forth. This baseline looked at Revelstoke, Calgary, Saskatoon, London, Peel Region, Perth-Huron, and Cape Breton. The full report at short video presentations on our findings are here:

<https://www.povertyinstitute.ca/c19-newly-vulnerable> .

We conducted follow-up interviews where we asked people about the baseline report. We also did a future-backward activity where participants imagined the worst and best scenarios along with the kinds of changes that would lead to each scenario.

So what? We have a lot of data, and it is time to act.

We will present these findings at a virtual action summit on October 3 from 9am-12pm (PST).

There are three goals of this summit:

1. Provide a networking event for stakeholders
2. Deepen your understanding of COVID and vulnerability
3. Facilitate the use of that knowledge, plus your experience, to discuss action strategies

At this summit, we will present important findings that point to places where strategic change can make a difference. We will present the data that helps you understand what we learned about vulnerability to poverty and these presentations will be paired with strategic action planning sessions that can mobilize this knowledge.

We will discuss:

1. The kinds of system gaps we see;
2. Moving forward by including important factors linked to a holistic notion of poverty such as quality of life, social connectedness, trust in the system, and other linked topics;
3. Characteristics of people who are newly vulnerable and how, actually, the pandemic revealed that we are all newly vulnerable; and
4. From the follow-up interviews, strategic opportunities for the implementation of positive change – rethinking the notion of “capacity” in particular.

To register for the summit, point your browser to: www.ambrose.edu/covidmobilization . If you have questions, please free to send your queries to covidmobilization@ambrose.edu.