



2025 Advocacy Mission

Meeting with the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction,
the Honourable Sheila Malcolmson

- The Lower Mainland Local Government Association is one of the five areas associations of UBCM.
- We represent the Lower Mainland of British Columbia including Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley and Sea to Sky.
- We represent 30 local governments and 3 regional districts and almost 70% of the population of BC.

Topics Important to our Membership

FUNDING PROGRAMS FOR LOCAL POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVES

Current Situation: The cost of basic goods and services continues to increase for people living in poverty and other low-income British Columbians. The provincial government is encouraging local governments and community partners to support the updated targets set to reduce the overall poverty rate, child poverty rate and seniors' poverty rate without adequate resources.

REQUEST

That the province establishes an ongoing funding program in partnership with UBCM to support communities implementing local poverty reduction initiatives.

STRENGTHENING THE BC POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

REQUEST: Further to our request for the province to establish a poverty reduction funding program for local governments, we also request that the province include a poverty reduction strategy with the recommendations from the BC Human Rights Commissioner as evidence informed best practices, including, but not limited to:

- a timeline and actions for raising social assistance and disability assistance rates to at least 75% of the poverty line and a mechanism to consider inflation into the future.
- examining and eliminating barriers to income such as claw backs and restrictions.
- timelines and targets for reducing deep poverty.
- Indigenous-specific co-created poverty reduction strategies.
- food security and sovereignty strategies to support healthy people and local food economies and specific program to support seniors in staying in their homes, reducing the risk of homelessness and poverty, and prioritizing development of housing for unhoused seniors.

We also request that the province include a Basic Income Pilot program in the update of a property reduction strategy.

ENHANCING A COLLABORATIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO FOOD SECURITY AND WELL BEING

Current Situation: Food insecurity remains a critical issue in British Columbia, exacerbated by climate change, economic instability, and supply chain disruptions, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, Indigenous communities and socioeconomically disadvantaged regions. A resilient and inclusive food system requires sustained investment, cross-sector collaboration, and policies that integrate infrastructure development, technological innovation, cultural food systems, and community-driven approaches to ensure equitable access to nutritious food, economic resilience and regional food security.

REQUEST

That the province collaborates with local governments to develop and implement a comprehensive food security and well-being strategy that ensures sustainable investment in local food systems, strengthens regional and provincial food networks, promotes innovation in agriculture and food technology, and enhances access to culturally appropriate, affordable, and nutritious food for all communities.

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES WITH CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Current Situation: There is a disproportionate presence of correctional facilities that varies with each community across the province. As a result, local governments are faced with individuals who are leaving correctional facilities and who require a continuum of resources and support for integrating into local communities.

REQUEST

That the province provides expanded targeted transitional supports such as affordable housing options and holistic services including mental health and wellness, education and life skills for communities with individuals leaving correctional facilities.