



# Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition

a coalition of concerned citizens and organizations dedicated to addressing social inclusion and prosperity for all.

## Essential Voices Impact Checklist

**This checklist will help you ask and answer how your project, action, or policy contributes to the inclusion and validating of all voices.**

### Section One: Identify how people get involved

Does your project, action, or policy contribute to the inclusion and validation of all people involved by inviting and addressing the following opportunities?

<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Identify all participation options that are available e.g. committee member, focus group, survey / written input, public speaking, or leadership?
<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Are there options which require a smaller time commitment? I.e. are there options which allow for one time participation and other options for ongoing participation?
<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Have you identified how all participants will feel their contribution is equally valued, regardless of their income?
<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	✓ Are people with experience living on limited low income given equal opportunity to take leadership?
<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	✓ Who, if anyone, are “poor” participants expected to represent?

Comments:

### Section Two: Identify support(s) that value people’s time and reduce barriers to inclusion and participation.

Does your project/action/policy contribute to the inclusion and validation of all people involved by inviting and addressing the following opportunities?

<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Is there a budget for transportation (bus, mileage, and parking) and child care?
<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Are there wages or honoraria for participation?
<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Will healthy food be provided, either snacks or a meal?
<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Are all of these items advertised to all potential participants?

Comments:

**Section Three: Acknowledge labelling and maintain dignity and safety of all participants**

Does your project, action, or policy contribute to the inclusion and validation of all people involved by inviting and addressing the following opportunities?

<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Are participants asked to identify their income level or experience, either privately to receive compensation or publicly through story telling or media work? If so, is this necessary?
<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Are participants asked to use the word “poor”, or any similar word, to describe themselves? Is there a discussion about how and why people are identified as “poor”?
<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Are participation options provided that allow people to avoid being labelled, such as opportunities with no income barriers?

Comments:

**Section Four: Identify how participants make a difference**

Does your project, action, or policy contribute to the inclusion and validation of all people involved by inviting and addressing the following opportunities?

<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Is the initiative open to a change in direction based on the input of all participants?
<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	What decision-making power, and responsibilities, if any, do participants living on limited low income have?

Comments:

**Section Five: Identify ratio of those with limited low income and others:**

Does your project, action, or policy contribute to the inclusion and validation of all people involved by inviting and addressing the following opportunities?

<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Are there enough people with experience living on low income participating to make their participation comfortable and for a broad range of voices to be heard?
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Comments:

**Section Six: Identify relationships**

Does your project, action, or policy contribute to the inclusion and validation of all people involved by inviting and addressing the following opportunities?

<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Do paid and unpaid participants have opportunities to develop relationships with each other?
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Comments:



## **Saskatoon Anti Poverty Coalition GUIDEPOSTS**

"General membership is ideally targeted at 1/2 members representing organisations and 1/2 members from the community at large."

"Of the 2 co-chairs, one should be a community person with the lived experience of poverty."

"SAPC is a place of support - a safe place to come and go."

"Grassroots community members find voice at The Coalition and their stories are influential."

"The Coalition is a place to intentionally mentor leaders and encourage individual leadership qualities to emerge."

"The coalition will be diligent in identifying barriers to full participation in its activities."

"The coalition processes are not perfect and we know we can never get it wrong and can never get it right!"

### **These statements remind us of the best way to be inclusive at meetings:**

**"Everyone has wisdom."**

**"We need everyone's wisdom for the wisest results."**

**"There are no wrong answers."**

**"Everyone will hear others and be heard."**

**&**

**"We can never get it wrong and we can never get it done!"**