

What's a "community facilitator"?

A facilitator is a person who helps two or more members of his or her community have a conversation about poverty. The facilitator then ensures that what people say in this conversation can be shared with others.

A facilitator is also a **community catalyst** - a person who wants to help make positive change in the community and is willing to take the first steps to help make that change happen. A community catalyst believes the community can take steps to reduce poverty, and is willing to help get the process started.

The first step is community dialogue - having an open and honest talk about poverty in our communities.

Workshops for community facilitators will be held in Iqaluit (February 12, 2011), and in Kugluktuk (February 24, 2011) and Rankin Inlet (March 1, 2011).

For more information about the workshops and the role of the community facilitator contact the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat (867-975-7817) or the Community Operations office of ED&T in your region.

Community Dialogue

Community Dialogue is the first stage of the public engagement processes we're using to prepare Nunavut's poverty reduction action plan for Nunavut.

Everyone will have an opportunity to get involved over the next two months - to have her or his say about what poverty means in the community, and what can be done about it.

Our views about poverty will be discussed at regional roundtables - the second stage of public engagement - in May 2011, where together we'll propose the changes we need to deal with poverty and improve the quality of life for all Nunavummiut.

The third and final stage of public engagement for poverty reduction will take place in Iqaluit at a poverty summit, to be held in November 2011. At that time we'll decide on the changes we need to make poverty reduction a reality.

Who's the "we" who will be deciding on these changes? Every one of us who is needed to reduce poverty. Not just government and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., but each community, business, non-profit organization and citizen. Poverty is a complex problem, and it will take all of us to deal with it.

It all starts with a conversation - community dialogue. Please get involved.

Pilot Community Dialogue Workshop Takes Place in Iqaluit

What's the best way to support a discussion in our communities on a complex problem like poverty?

To find out, the Roundtable held a pilot community dialogue workshop on poverty on Sunday afternoon, January 30, 2011, led by Anna Ziegler of the Nunavut Literacy Council.

Twenty-two people participated - Roundtable members, government, Arctic College students and staff, friends and volunteers - in a four-hour session to learn about how community dialogue works.

Anna led the group through a series of exercises designed to help everyone think creatively about the challenge that poverty presents in our community, and what we can do about it. Working in small groups, we began by discussing the many good things about our city, and then sharing our visions about how we imagine a healthy community - our ideal community - would be. Next we discussed the challenges we face to achieving that ideal community, and the actions and solutions that we can take to get there.

At the conclusion of the workshop we discussed whether this method of community dialogue was working. Was it allowing for an open discussion? Did it lead us to the discovery of solutions to the challenges poverty presents in our community? Were these solutions actions we ourselves could take, as residents of this city?

Everyone agreed the answer to each of these questions is "Yes!".

So the workshop has had two major outcomes. First, it's helped us refine an approach to community dialogue we now know will work, because we've tried it ourselves. This workshop method will be included in the information provided in the facilitator's toolkit. (Tip: Taking a long break halfway through the workshop for snacks and frozen char really helps keep the energy level up!)

Secondly, the workshop has produced lots of ideas about what we can do about poverty in Iqaluit. Everyone's keen to get started on the solutions, and following a meeting with the city's Niksiit Committee Tuesday evening, the community dialogue on poverty in Iqaluit will be extended to include the public and the many special interests groups working on this complex issue in our community.

About the Roundtable

What is the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction?

The Roundtable is the place where all the different Nunavut organizations meet who want to play a role in poverty reduction in our territory. That includes many partner organizations like the Nunavut Literacy Council and the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre, and municipal governments, businesses, labour unions and ordinary citizens.

The Roundtable is co-chaired by the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. It meets on the last Thursday of each month at the NTI board room at the Igluvuk building in Iqaluit.