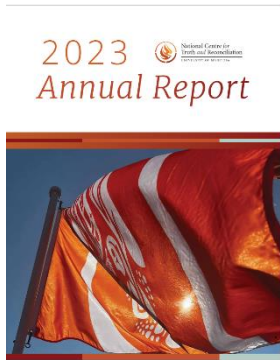


Joined via Zoom Meeting

10am-11:00 am

- **Land Acknowledgement** – Giiwe Shko Naaniibwida (Standing Strong Together)



Reconciliation begins with a commitment to truth-telling. However, the burden of truth telling should not be placed solely on the shoulders of survivors. Reconciliation requires institutions, governments and individuals to live up to their own responsibilities and complete/fulfill the TRC's 94 Calls to Action.

The most recent Annual Report from the National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation reports that the voices of Residential School deniers are getting louder. The truth is that 699 Indian Day Schools were established and operated by the Canadian Government since the 1920's, with an estimation of over 200,000 Indigenous children attending. Seven of these schools were located in Bruce County – 4 in Nawash – Sydney Bay, Little Port Elgin, St. Mary's Junior and St. Mary's Senior School; and 3 in Saugeen – French Bay, Saugeen Village and Scotch Settlement.

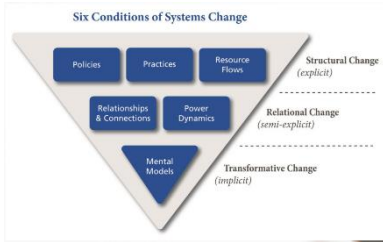
There is a counter response to this. We need to find more opportunities for truth telling. Please read the full report here: [2024-NCTR-2023REPORT-LAYOUTS-FIN-WEB.pdf](#)

1. United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – Jill Umbach, Poverty Task Force

This year's theme was addressing social maltreatment. People living in poverty experience stigma and discrimination and get blamed for their situation because of a variety of factors, like their address, skin colour, accent, etc. As a result, institutional maltreatment can be embedded in systems and cultures of organizations. Being aware of this and taking steps to change it is very important.

- 17% of the population in Canada live in poverty, up from 2023 and higher than the rates in 2019, pre-pandemic.
- 1 in 7 families with children live with low incomes
- Many are living in deep poverty – on average, 40% below the poverty threshold

Poverty is a violation of the universal right to an adequate standard of living.



Collective actions across multiple organizations/communities to address complex issues are tied to system change. That is why we look at the Six Conditions of Systems Change. (Source: Tamarack Institute)

Grey Bruce Public Health released its latest **Food Affordability and Food Insecurity Report**. [Food Affordability and Food Insecurity](#) Food Insecurity right now focuses on a food-based response that is very stigmatizing. As is having to go to a social service organization to tell them you can't afford to feed your family or raise your hand at school to request school nutrition. This is not a dignified process, if you feel ashamed. We need to stop the system from creating the stigma. This is a strong message to our politicians.

We can't keep up with the need from a social services/charity perspective. A change in policy and income solutions are needed.

- OSHaRE put out 20,000 meals in September 2024; they provided 20,000 in 2020. This rate is unsustainable.
- 125-130 families are attending the Family Assist Market bi-weekly.
- Almost 1 in 5 Grey Bruce households struggle to purchase the food they need and are food insecure (18.3% averaged over 3 years)
- The report determined the cost of groceries for a family of four in Grey-Bruce in 2024 was \$289 per week or \$1,250 per month, representing a 1% increase from 2023. A single adult, meanwhile, must spend about \$434 a month on food to meet Canada's Food Guide recommendations, which is also a 1% increase from 2023.
- A full time worker (40 hour week) earning minimum wage, which in Ontario is now \$17.20 per hour, earns a gross monthly income of \$2,752.
- Female-led single parent and lower income households are vulnerable to food insecurity. In 2022, 41.2% of households with children led by female lone parents were food-insecure.

How are we putting into place conditions with grounded expertise to share their knowledge and for that knowledge to be recognized and valued? Who is actively working on addressing stigma?

- **Community Voices:** a peer group with a strong voice that ran for 7 years. It was an exercise of creating space in the system to value their voices which meant giving up power and control. The Poverty Task Force has a Community Voices Framework in with Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team for funding consideration. How can we translate individual needs to community responses? Some of our Community Voices' members are still part of the RentSafe Tenant Advisory Group and the TD Inclusive Services Project. There is work to revitalize Community Voices. RentSafe Tenant Advisory videos found here: [Publications/Videos/Events | RentSafe](#)
- **CMHA Someone's Someone Campaign** – 32% of Ontarians believe someone who dies from an overdose is dealing with the consequences of their own actions. The campaign is trying to educate people on the realities of addiction, humanize people who use drugs, and advocate. <https://greybruce.cmha.ca/cmha-grey-bruce-launches-someones-someone-a-provincial-campaign-to-humanize-substance-use-and-drive-change/>
- **We All Belong:** Safe n' Sound carried out an education campaign with Rogers TV last year. They worked with vulnerable people to design questions and answers. Asked about where was home for people using statement's like "I am from, I went to school ..." to speak to people being from the area and not from away. [We All Belong: Stories of Lived Experiences | Rogers tv - YouTube](#)

- **Grey Bruce Homelessness Response Team** will be releasing a new newsletter that has stories of people moving from homelessness to housed. Many people who work for social service organizations live on low income and it is important to share their experience of living with low income while also providing support to others. There remains the stigma of those living in poverty in Grey and Bruce have come from outside of the two counties. We also need to make sure we respect people's privacy.
- **Feed Ontario** is collecting postcards with stories from food bank participants to share with the Ontario government in their **Ontarians Can't Stay Afloat campaign**. [Ontarians Can't Stay Afloat - Feed Ontario](#)
- **Canada Food Banks** is requiring all their member and associate food banks to meet Standards of Excellence by March 2025. Within those standards are required policies around equity, diversity and inclusion. Also, policies around feedback from all stakeholders including visitors/clients of the food bank and a number of other related policies.
- **Salvation Army London** is closing their food bank (there are lots of other addressing immediate food needs). The Salvation Army is opting to address food insecurity in ways that make a longer-term impact. See news article <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/salvation-army-ends-traditional-food-bank-aims-to-empower-through-new-programs-1.7350517>
- **Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO)** has a petition to double the rates for ODSP which anyone can sign. <https://rnao.ca/policy/action-alerts/double-odsp-rates-to-lift-people-out-of-poverty>
- **Peer Advisory Committee/Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy:** CMHA has funding for them to continue. There are so many complex factors – domestic violence, child abuse, opioid/alcohol related violence/addictions, cost of living and the increased availability of alcohol = contributing to mental health experiences, stigma and accessing services.

How are we reducing social and institutional judgement?

- **BG Child and Family Services** – Working on how to address the history of Children's Aid. Need to change the perception of their organization internally and externally. Chelsea Donohue, Supervisor of EDI, is doing internal policy reviews, providing trainings on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for all people connected with BGCFS, and connecting families with outside events and opportunities. They will be drafting a new strategic plan and building the foundation with staff first. A lot of education on oppression (learning and unlearning) to counter the history of child welfare and its impact on marginalized communities. [NEOFACS Draft Consultation Plan](#)
- **Owen Sound Police** – Community Outreach Police Officer Jason Cranney has embroidered equity, diversity and inclusion on his uniform to spark conversation.

2. Partner Updates

- **CMHA Empathetic Strain:** Addressing Compassion Fatigue, Nov 5 (see attached poster).
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences:** a workshop and action plan is being hosted by the Grey Bruce Children's Alliance at Grey Bruce Public Health, Nov 27th (poster to come out soon with details)

Next meeting: 22 November 2024, 10-11am. Please note our December 20th meeting is canceled.

In attendance:

Caitlin Currie, Grey County Housing
Caroline Araujo Abbotts, United Way of Bruce Grey
Chelsea Donohue, Bruce Grey Child & Family Services
Debbie Caswell, Grey Bruce Community Legal Clinic
Elaine Bumstead, Meaford Food Bank and Outreach
Erin Toner, SOAHAC
Geoff Van Geem, SEGCHC
Jan Chamberlain, Council on Aging
Jason Wepler, GBPH
Jill Umbach, Poverty Task Force
Julie Lipsett, Bruce Grey Child and Family Services
Laura Needham, GBPH
Lindsay Johnston, GB Ontario Health Team
Lisa Alguire, GBPH
Nadia Danyluk, Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library
Ray Lux, Bruce County Paramedic Service
Rebecca Russell, CMHA-GB
Robin Cork, UWBG
Sarah Steeves, GB Ontario Health Team
Selwyn "Buck" Hicks, Hanover Community Partner
Tina Metcalfe, Bruce County