



Poverty and Politics: How to get the issue on the electoral agenda

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9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary

We see poverty every day in the form of lineups at the foodbanks, homeless shelters bursting to the seams, single parents unable to sign their kids up for sports teams and overcrowding in public housing. What is poverty and how is it defined? What we can do about it? And how can we galvanize politicians into leading efforts to reduce it?

In this workshop, James Hughes, Executive Lead at the Montreal-based McConnell Foundation and former Deputy Minister of Social Development in New Brunswick, will engage workshop participants in a wide-ranging discussion on the topic of poverty. He will explore the various facets, dimensions and definitions of poverty, discuss the last decade of poverty reduction initiatives across Canada, including the most recent announcement of the first ever federal poverty reduction plan, and citing numerous examples, ask how poverty issues get taken up and acted upon within the political process. A case study on New Brunswick's anti-poverty efforts will be highlighted in the workshop. Participants will also get the experience of living in poverty by playing the "Poverty Game".

If you're interested in the issues of poverty, the social determinants of health, public policy development or politics, you're sure to enjoy this workshop.

Required Readings*

Eremenko, Janet. 2017. "Submission to Employment and Service Development Canada Re. Summary of responses to inform the development of a Canadian poverty reduction strategy." *Vibrant Communities Calgary- Enough for All*, Submission to the Federal Government, March 2 2017, Calgary CNIB. http://vibrantcalgary.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/CdnPovertyReductionStrategyConsult_Final.pdf

Lenihan, Don. 2012. *Rescuing Policy: The Case for Public Engagement*. Ottawa: Public Policy Forum. "Chapter 5: The Political Objections to Public Engagement" pp. 100-115
http://www.politicipublice.ro/uploads/rescuing_policy_ebook.pdf

Fortin, Pierre. 2016. "Now is the right time for a national childcare policy". *Vancouver Sun*, December 16. <https://vancouversun.com/opinion/pierre-fortin-now-is-the-right-time-for-a-national-childcare-policy>

