



Briefing Note, MVAEC Policy Conference 2018:

Reversing the Psychology of Poverty

Issue & Background

The Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC) consists of twenty-five urban Aboriginal organizations spread out across six self-defined non-profit areas of service delivery; (1) Arts, Language, and Culture, (2) Children, Youth, and Families, (3) Education, Training, and Employment, (4) Health & Wellness, (5) Housing & Homelessness, and (6) Justice.

To strengthen the policy and practice performance of the urban Aboriginal non-profit sector, MVAEC has sought to implement the MVAEC Indigenous Collective Impact (ICI) Framework. The problem has been about how to strategize advocacy, policy, program, and service delivery issues with twenty-five organizations spread out across the six sectors, in addition to partnerships with other government and non-government organizations.

Current Status

MVAEC is still in a readiness phase of determining the benefits of designing an Indigenous Collective Impact. There are five conditions that need to be met in order for collective impact to work; (1) Common Agenda; (2) Shared Measurements; (3) Mutually Reinforcing Activities; (4) Continuous Communication; and (5) Backbone Support.

At the 2018 MVAEC policy conference, the focus was on reversing the psychology of poverty. In order to make ICI and the MVAEC – Psychology of Poverty (PoP) frameworks more pragmatic, MVAEC has analyzed community feedback from the conference to inform the design of shared measurements. The purpose behind shared measurements is to provide the executive community with a process of measuring how everyone will work together. We know our two goals are (1) Housing & Homelessness, and (2) Education, Training, and Employment. What are the common targets we want to aim for? How will we measure progress along the way?

In all six areas of service delivery discussed at the conference, the common theme was culture. More specifically, the underlying concepts of cultural literacy and competency. The urban Indigenous community has witnessed the growth of cultural literacy workshops, and feels like the executive community would benefit from moving beyond literacy (theory) into practice and evaluation.

Discussion/Analysis

After analyzing the community feedback for the relationship between policy design and the uptake of services, three connecting factors emerged. First, how design and function inform connection. Second, MVAEC may want to consider cultural literacy and competency as a shared measurement. MVAEC can consider how the degree of cultural literacy and competency an individual possesses influences the governance of an organization, and the delivery of services. Third, is understanding how individual and organizational possession of cultural literacy (the knowledge of Indigenous values) and cultural



competency (the integration of understanding into practice) enhances the quality of life of the service user. Providing further opportunity to move into evaluation at the personal, family, tribe/community, executive community, and sector.

MVAEC Policy Conference Community Feedback Diagram:

