



Social and economic exclusion happens when people don't have – and can't get – the education, jobs, decent housing, health care, and other things they need to live comfortably, to participate in society and to feel that they are valued and respected members of their community.

NO TRESPASSING!

Social and economic exclusion can cause whole groups of people to feel that they don't belong and aren't welcome in their own communities.

- Single mothers and their children
- Youth
- Aboriginal people
- Racial and cultural minorities
- Gays and lesbians
- Fragile seniors
- Sick or disabled people
- Unemployed or homeless people
- People in rural or remote places



COSTS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EXCLUSION



Social and economic exclusion is both a cause and an effect of poverty, poor health, unemployment and crime.

All the impacts of social and economic exclusion are linked. Poverty leads to poor health. Poor health leads to unemployment. Unemployment leads back to more poverty and to increased crime and violence.

All of these create costs that we pay now and that our children will continue to pay.

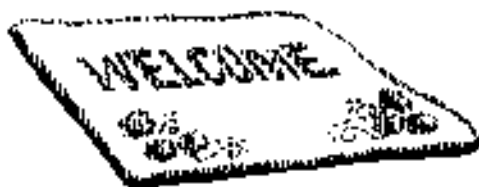
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION



If poverty, disability, unemployment, lack of education and/or lack of connection to the community result in exclusion, then inclusion must be a process that overcomes these barriers.

Inclusion welcomes individuals and groups that society has previously left out into the planning, decision-making and policy-development processes in their community.

Inclusion empowers them by offering the opportunities, resources and support they need to participate.



LADDER OF PARTICIPATION

The different levels of participation are like the rungs of a ladder.

Climbing the Ladder of Participation



Climbing this ladder of participation takes effort, energy, support and cooperation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development can help overcome barriers to participation.



Community development is the *process* that enables people and communities to develop the skills and organization they need to make their voices heard and to improve their lives and their community.

The best solutions usually come from the community itself.

WHAT IS POLICY?

Policies are rules – the steps, procedures, guidelines, directions, etc. – that set out what and how something is to be done.

An inclusive policy process requires that everyone affected by the policy be included as a full participant in its development.



WHO MAKES POLICY?



Public policy development is meant to be a collaborative process. It is the result of a cycle of interactions by:

- Elected representatives who set policy
- Bureaucrats and officials who interpret policy and develop regulations
- Managers who implement it
- Service providers who carry it out
- Citizens affected by the policy who give feed back and advocate for change

Widening the circle of participation will more clearly reflect the values and experience of the entire community in public policy development.

SOCIAL INVESTMENT



Social investment is the commitment of public funds to develop and support the institutions, relationships, attitudes and values that contribute to the economic and social well-being of people and communities.

Citizens rely primarily on government for social investment.

The government's role is to develop policies that balance social and economic development and to invest in the public services that everyone, including the private sector, depends upon.

SOCIAL INVESTMENT PAYS

Social investment gives prevention and health promotion the highest priority because they offer a high return on the dollar.

Early interventions are far more effective – and less expensive – than services that deal with the consequences of crime, abuse, delinquency, drug use, illiteracy, and other outcomes of social and economic exclusion.



MEASURING PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING



Commonly used measures of economic growth like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are poor indicators of social progress or well-being.

The Genuine Progress Index (GPI), developed in Nova Scotia, is a better measure of social progress and well-being.

The GPI provides a practical, policy-relevant measure of progress that is more comprehensive and accurate than measures based on the GDP.

The Genuine Progress Index is based on the understanding that what we measure is a sign of what we value.

TEN BUILDING BLOCKS FOR INCLUSIVE PUBLIC POLICY

1. Political Will
2. Leadership
3. Organizational Readiness
4. Collaboration
5. Relationship Building
6. Community Capacity Building
7. Respect for Community
8. Commitment to Healthy Public Policy
9. Investment in Communities and People
10. Measurement of Results and Progress