Comparison of Municipally-led Poverty Reduction Strategies: Ways to Improve Equity Within the City

City and 2006 Census Population	Municipally-led Poverty Reduction Strategy	Percentage of Low Income before Tax 2005 (LICO)*	Homeless to Housing Initiatives	Moving Towards a Living Wage	Investment in Building Affordable Housing	Aboriginal or Immigrant Poverty Initiatives	Transit Initiatives (low income passes)	Promote Recreation Subsidy or Free Access
Winnipeg 694,668	No (with WPRC; no city strategy)	20.1	No (NPI, HPI)	No ($10.87, 2006)	Yes (WHHI – multi-level government involvement)	Yes (Aboriginal Youth Strategy - $1M in 2009) No - Immigration	No	Not advertised
Hamilton 692,911	Yes: Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction	18.1	Yes (Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness)	Yes ($12.38/hr)	Yes (HAHPI)	Yes (Immigrant and Refugees Issues Committee) No – Aboriginal	Yes (Affordable Transit Pass Pilot Project)	Not advertised
Toronto 2,480,000	In progress: "Poverty Reduction Workbook"	24.5	Yes (Housing 1st)	No	Yes (Affordable Housing Office)	Yes (Immigrant Employment Council) No - Aboriginal	No	Yes (Welcome Policy)
Calgary 1,079,310	In progress	14.2	Yes (Committee to End Homelessness)	Yes ($13.25/hr w/o benefits)	Yes	No	Yes (Low-Income Monthly Transit Pass)	No
Victoria 330,088	In progress	22.7	Yes (Community Action Plan on Homelessness)	No	Yes (Victoria Steering Committee)	No	Yes (BC Buss Pass Program)	Yes (L.I.F.E. Program)
Saskatoon 233,923	No	17.7	Yes (Saskatoon Community Plan for Homeless and Housing)	No	Yes (Community Plan on Homelessness and Housing)	No	Yes (Bus Passes)	Yes (Leisure Passes)
Montreal 3,635,571	No	31.2	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
St. John's 181,113	No	20.2	No (but a Committee on Homelessness exists)	No	Yes ('non-profit housing')	No	No	Yes (R.E.A.L. Program)
Edmonton 1,034,945	No	17.7	Yes (Housing and Support Services Continuum)	No	Yes (Edmonton's Cornerstones Plan; FHRAP)	Yes (Office of Aboriginal Relations) No - Immigration	Yes (Transit System Fare Policy)	Yes (Community Services)

- * Income status of all persons in private households (counts) (Stats Canada 2006 Community Profiles)

City of Winnipeg Budget EPC Hearing March 11, 2009
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg Presentation

Actions to create a more equitable City of Winnipeg

Equity and Diversity Lens:
-Designate an existing committee to oversee equity policy and ensure the use of an equity and diversity lens civic decisions, policy, particularly budget.
-Develop a comprehensive action plan in areas of civic responsibility.

Recreation:
-Promote and expand the fee waiver program
-Ensure fee increases do not start to push facility users to private centres

Transit:
-Low-income bus pass. This could simply be an extension of the student and seniors fare.

Aboriginal Youth Strategy:
-Extend funding for Aboriginal Youth Strategy for another year and replicate the programs for Immigrant and Refugee Youth

Living Wage Policy:
-Ensure employees contracted by the city are paid a wage above the poverty line 2/3 of the average industrial wage.

Planning and Inspection of Housing:
-Double the HIZ budget to $2 million so 5 new HIZ can be created while maintaining the 5 existing ones that are starting to make a difference.
-Develop a mixed inclusive housing policy to ensure the zoning and planning for affordable rental housing and infill multi-unit housing to improve density.
-Develop a targeted rental housing inspection program in partnership with community agencies.

There are other areas that would be part of a comprehensive action plan. This is a start.