
MARTIN SPIGELMAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATES
Selected Examples of Project Work

Sharing Experiences, Lessons Learned from International Experiences with HIV/AIDS

Undertaken as part of the Health Canada evaluation of the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS, this project is examining efforts underway in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Thailand and Canada in order to draw best practice lessons for application in Canada. (Health Canada, 2001)

Evaluation of the NWT Health Services Recruitment and Retention Strategy

In 1998/99, the Government of the NWT initiated a broad and comprehensive strategy to recruit and retain physicians, nurses and social workers. The evaluation methodology includes surveys of professionals, focus group meetings, a “best practices” literature review and working with an Advisory Committee consisting of both community and government representatives. (Department of Health and Social Services, GNWT, 2001)

Evaluation of the Saskatchewan/Canada Employability Assistance Programs

This evaluation is analyzing the operations and employment-related impact of two programs funded under the Canada/Saskatchewan Employability Assistance for Disabled Persons Agreement, i.e. the Long-Term Employment Initiative delivered by the Department of Social Services and the Employability Assistance Program for Disabled Persons Program delivered by the Department of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training. (HRDC and Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training, 2001)

Partnership Toolkit

This project is constructing a practical, user-friendly toolkit to help governmental and community-based, not-for-profit agencies build and sustain partnerships. It involves preparing the tools and facilitating six demonstration and development workshops in various communities throughout British Columbia. (Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers, MOSAIC, Nisha Children and Family Services Society, 2001)

Funding Adequacy for the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS

Using a variety of measures – including comparisons with other countries, the concept of allocative efficiency and cost/benefit considerations – this project is analyzing the adequacy of the federal government’s investment in the Canadian Strategy for HIV/AIDS. (Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS, 2000)

“Securing Our Children’s Future”

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society is currently in a period of profound change. This project is assisting the organization develop a strategic three-year plan and to secure funding for its proposed activities. (BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, 2000)

“Reaching for Our Vision”

This project helped the Fort Nelson First Nation to design an integrated, community-driven process to identify needs and opportunities related to social assistance reform, health transfer, economic and employment development, restorative justice, infrastructure and child welfare. (Fort Nelson First Nation, 2000)

Volunteerism

This project will identify the extent, nature and value of volunteerism in the immigrant settlement and integration sector. Its outcome will be a policy framework for the BC Ministry of Multiculturalism and Immigration that will help (i) government to develop strategies to support volunteerism and (ii) community agencies to manage this resource more effectively. (Ministry of Multiculturalism and Immigration, 2000)

Building Community Understanding

Employing a community development approach, this project constructed a detailed profile and needs assessment for the Korean and Filipino communities in the Lower Mainland region of BC. Its outcome is a policy and service framework for the City of Vancouver, Canadian Heritage and

various community agencies. The framework will support the two communities' efforts to settle and integrate in the region. (City of Vancouver, Canadian Heritage and MOSAIC, 2000)

Harmonizing Income Support and Public Housing

The project's goal was to harmonize the policies and operations of the Income Support and Public Housing programs in the NWT. It offered practical recommendations relating to the rents charged public housing tenants, income exemption policies, the problem of unreported income, co-location and case management. (NWT Housing Corporation and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, 1998-2000)

Building and Sustaining Effective Partnerships

This included two projects. One involved organizing and facilitating training workshops to strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations to work in partnership with each other. This "Collaboration Roundtable" report can be found at www.nisha.org and www.mosaic.bc.com. The second evaluated the partnership delivering the *Building Blocks* program for at-risk families and developed a comprehensive Partnership Agreement for the service agencies. (The Collaboration Roundtable, MOSAIC, Nisha Family and Children's Services, the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, the BC Ministry for Children and Families, the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board, 1999-2000)

***Looking Ahead*: Enhancing the Labour Market Integration of Immigrants**

Looking Ahead analysed, on a community by community basis, the labour force barriers confronting immigrants in the Lower Mainland region of BC and identified practical and effective options for removing these barriers. Employing a community development model, the project engaged a wide variety of stakeholders to develop a concrete action plan and accountability framework. Its Working Papers, Community Profiles, Options Report and Action Plan can be found at www.lookingahead.bc.ca. (Human Resources Development Canada and the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, 1999)

EI Impact Analysis and Transitional Planning

This project assisted three large employment-service agencies in BC (i) to analyze the impact of policy changes in the Employment Insurance program and (ii) to develop a transitional plan for ensuring that clients and communities are not adversely affected by these changes. (SUCCESS, ISS, MOSAIC, 1999)

Creating Options: An Evaluation

This project evaluated the operations and impact of the Creative Employment Options program delivered in four Canadian cities by the Neil Squire Foundation for people with significant physical disabilities. (Neil Squire Foundation, 1999)

One Stop Youth Employment Service Centres

This project analysed the feasibility of establishing one-stop youth service centres in various communities across British Columbia and considered the different models that could be applied. (BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Employment, 1998)

Unfulfilled Expectations: Addressing Poverty among Immigrants and Refugees

This project analysed the incidence, depth and dynamics of poverty among recent immigrants and refugees living in British Columbia as well as the causes and impact of this poverty. The methodology included case studies, focus group meetings and a qualitative survey of low-income families. The report identified options both for alleviating the impact of poverty in the short term and for reducing poverty through the long term. Citizenship and Immigration Canada has requested permission to post this report on its web site. (Working Group on Poverty and the BC Ministry Responsible for Multiculturalism and Immigration, 1998)

Building Communities: Effective Programming in Aboriginal Communities

This project was part of the HRDC "Lessons Learned" series. It focused on social and community development strategies used by First Nations as part of a comprehensive, long-term approach to strengthening individuals, families and communities. HRDC has placed this report on its Evaluation and Data Development web site (<http://www11.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/edd/ABO.lhtml>). (Human Resources Development Canada, 1998)

Aboriginal Strategic Initiatives

This project included two components. The first, entitled "*Making Welfare Work,*" analysed the social assistance programs available to First Nations people in Canada and recommended an approach for making them more appropriate to individual and community needs. The second component was a model and tool kit for integrated and community-based program planning. (Assembly of First Nations, 1997-98)

Harmonizing Social Housing and Income Support

This project placed housing issues into a broad income security context. It analysed the impact of the new social housing Rent Scale and developed both options and a planning strategy for harmonizing the policies and practices of the GNWT Housing Corporation and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. (NWT Housing Corporation, 1997)

Evaluation of the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative

This project evaluated the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative, a three-year, \$72 million program designed to enhance access to child care for First Nations and Inuit parents. The methodology included working co-operatively with 26 First Nations and Inuit Advisory Committees, a survey of parents, site visits, focus group meetings and key informant interviews. (HRDC, Aboriginal Relations Office, 1997)

Evaluations of Tobacco-Use Reduction Programs

The project evaluated the tobacco-reduction strategies implemented by both the Ahousaht Holistic Society and the Saanich Indian School Board. The two evaluations identified "lessons" which could be applied to future community development initiatives. (Ahousaht Holistic Society, 1997, and Saanich Indian School Board, 1997)

Evaluation of the Ayas Men Men ("Peace to Our Children") Family and Child Services Program

The Ayas Men Men Program provides statutory and community-based services to Squamish Nation families and children. The evaluation analysed the program relative, first, to its goals and objectives and, second, to the traditions, values and self-government goals of the Squamish Nation. (Squamish Nation, 1997)

Analysing the Employment Training Needs of Recent Immigrants to BC

This project identified policy and program options for enhancing the ability of recent immigrants to enter the paid labour force. Involving both quantitative and qualitative research methods, the project included a full analysis of (i) the education training needs of recent immigrants; (ii) the adequacy and appropriateness of the services and supports currently available; and (iii) best practices in terms of employment training program models. (Ministry of Multiculturalism and Immigration, 1996-97)

An Accountability Framework in the Social Services

Invited as an expert presenter for the 1996 Social Services Senior Management Forum, the project included presenting a major paper on enhancing accountability, participating in the different working groups, providing the final-day overview and preparing a report for Deputy Ministers. (Alberta Family and Social Services, 1996)

National Symposium on Crime Prevention

Invited as a presenter to a conference bringing together experts from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom to promote the economic analysis of alternate approaches to crime prevention. (National Crime Prevention Council, 1996)

Impact of Federal Program Changes on First Nations

This project analysed the impact of changes to federal funding programs – for example the Canada Assistance Plan and EPF – on First Nations people and governments in Saskatchewan. (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, 1996)

Evaluation of the Provincial Strategy for Co-ordinating Disability Issues

The (BC) Provincial Strategy for Co-ordinating Disability Issues was designed to enable people with disabilities to participate directly in the policy development and decision-making processes of government. The evaluation methodology included working co-operatively with the Strategy's five stakeholder groups, surveys, key informant interviews and focus group meetings. (BC Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, 1996)

Crime Prevention through Social Development

The National Crime Prevention Council works to increase individual and community safety by focusing upon the social and economic factors associated with crime. This project examined the cost-benefit of various social development programs and included presentations to the Council and its Youth Committee, preparation of "fact sheets" for public distribution, and preparation of an evaluation framework for government and community crime prevention initiatives. (National Crime Prevention Council, Canada, 1995-96)

Background Paper on Employability Enhancement Programming

This meta-evaluation reviewed the Canadian and international literature on the need for and the impact and effectiveness of employment and training programs for social assistance recipients. (BC Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, 1995-96)

Investing in People Program Evaluation

This project evaluated the two-year Investing in People program providing education, skills development and work experience to social assistance recipients in 15 communities in the NWT. This project's methodology included training community-based research assistants and

incorporating participatory research methods. HRDC has posted this report on its web site (<http://www11.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/edd/NWTIP.shtml>) (NWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment and Human Resources Development Canada, 1995)

Management of Training Allowances

This project developed a policy and management framework to guide the Ministry's delivery of those allowances provided to people in employment and training programs. It also proposed a benefit system which was to be administratively efficient, cost effective, flexible, equitable and adequate. (BC Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, 1995)

Health Transfer Planning, Carrier Sekani Family Services

This project – part of the MSB Health Transfer Initiative – assisted 10 First Nations to assess their health needs and priorities, and to design a community-based health delivery system. The project employed a community development approach. (Carrier Sekani Family Services, Prince George, 1993-1996)

Ensuring Success

This project helped to design an *Ensuring Success* program that would address the employer attitudes that constitute one important barrier confronting people with disabilities as they enter the paid labour force. (Neil Squire Foundation, Vancouver, 1995)

Addressing the Employment Barriers Confronting People with Disabilities

This project analysed the different income security programs to identify the employment barriers confronting people with disabilities. It also developed a pilot project proposal involving four components: individualized funding, integration of community services, enhanced access to services, and evaluation. (Ministry of Social Services and Employment Action, BC, 1995)

Review of the Health Benefits provided to Income Assistance Recipients

This project analysed the wide range of policy issues related to the extended health benefits provided to social assistance recipients by the Ministry of Social Services, and recommended practical options for change. Its objectives were (i) to improve program effectiveness from the perspective of clients, medical prescribers, suppliers and MSS staff, and (ii) to ensure service appropriateness given both equity considerations and practices in other jurisdictions. (Health Services Division, Ministry of Social Services, BC, 1994-95)

Voices: People with Disabilities and Social Security Reform

This video project gave a voice to people with disabilities who would otherwise not have the opportunity to share their experiences, ideas and expectations concerning social security reform with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources Development. (Neil Squire Foundation with funding from Human Resources Development Canada, 1994)

An Income Support Model for Post-Secondary Education and Training

The objective of this project was to transform the BC student loans program into a broader income support program assisting the full range of people – including the working poor – who are participating in employment-directed education and training. The project analysed the inequities, barriers and disincentives currently embedded within income security programs. (Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, BC, 1994)

BC Income Security Review Project

This project assisted the province analyse a number of key income security issues and to develop a provincial response to federal initiatives. It included: developing a statement of vision, principles and goals for income security reform; preparing an environmental scan; developing a negotiating strategy; analysing barriers, needs and priorities; and analysing the net disposable income available to different family types after considering earned income, the various forms of income support available, income tax, and the supplementary supports available for child care and health care. (Ministry of Social Services, BC, 1993-1994)

Creative Employment Options

The Creative Employment Options program provides employment-related training to people with severe physical disabilities living in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario and New Brunswick. The project reviewed the program and developed a multi-year development, management and funding plan. (The Neil Squire Foundation, Vancouver, 1993-1994)

Review of the Saskatchewan Student Loans Program

This project analysed a wide range of student aid policy issues and recommended practical options for change. The review analysed adequacy, debt load and default issues and the implications of proposed changes to the Canada Student Loans Program. (Education, Employment and Training, Saskatchewan, 1993)

Literature Review on Employment and Training Programs

This literature review analysed the many program evaluations assessing the effectiveness of the federal and provincial employment and training programs enabling social assistance recipients to become independent of welfare. It analysed the literature from the perspective of different methodological, policy and program issues and identified directions for improving program and research efforts. Subsequent to the project's completion, Martin Spigelman was invited to present his findings to Management Committees in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. (Health and Welfare Canada, Canada, 1993)

New Brunswick Works, Evaluation Framework

NB WORKS was a Canada/New Brunswick demonstration project assisting social assistance recipients to obtain employment through job skills training. This project developed a comprehensive evaluation framework for the program. (Canada/New Brunswick Management Committee, 1993)

Saskatchewan Income Security Review

This project assisted the Government of Saskatchewan to reform its income security system in a fundamental way. The project was based on an inclusive definition of what constitutes income support and income security, and on a recognition of the wide range of economic and social forces influencing these. The project identified the full range of federal and provincial income support programs; analysed their impact as well as the system's overlaps and gaps; developed a long-term vision of an income security system which is comprehensive, cohesive, equitable and affordable; and developed a transitional strategy for effectively stabilizing the income security of low-income people in the province. (Saskatchewan Finance and Saskatchewan Social Services, 1992)

Mainstream 1992

Mainstream 1992 was a co-operative effort involving the federal, provincial and territorial governments and a variety of consumer, service and advocacy organizations working with people with disabilities. The project developed a collective strategic framework for government efforts to provide employment supports to this population. (Mainstream, 1992)

The Constitution of Canada

This project prepared a policy framework for Saskatchewan's participation in negotiations to amend the Constitution of Canada. (Department of Justice, Saskatchewan, 1992)

Planning for the Needs of the Head Injured Population

This project assisted Saskatchewan Health and consumer groups plan for meeting the needs of people with head injuries. Its goal was to support the effective reintegration of head-injured people into community life by developing a strategic plan of short, intermediate and long-term actions for each of the stakeholders. (Department of Health, Saskatchewan, 1992)

Continuing Roles Planning Project

This project assisted Medical Services Branch (Saskatchewan region), Health and Welfare Canada, to adapt to the dramatically changed working environment resulting from the transfer of responsibility for health service delivery from the Government of Canada to First Nations and Tribal Councils. (Medical Services Branch, 1992)

Review of the Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Addiction Commission

This project reviewed the philosophy, policies and programs of the Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council with a view to addressing a number of specific issues relating to its direction, organization and administration. (Minister of Health, Saskatchewan, 1992)

Meeting the Income Support Needs of Persons Living with AIDS

This project involved, first, preparing a discussion paper on the income support needs of persons living with AIDS and, second, using that as the foundation for a series of workshops across Canada involving AIDS service organizations, other organizations of persons with disabilities and representatives of the major federal, provincial and municipal programs of income support. The workshops assisted participants develop community-based practice models. (National Welfare Grants, Health and Welfare Canada, 1992)

Health Transfer Planning, Prince Albert and Meadow Lake Tribal Councils, Saskatchewan

This project included serving as a resource to both the Tribal Councils and MSB during their Health Transfer negotiations, developing background papers and analysing policy issues. (Saskatchewan Region Medical Services Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, 1990-1992)

Indigenous Knowledge and Community-based Resource Management

This project documented and analysed those national and international experiences where indigenous knowledge has been integrated with scientific knowledge in the development of community conservation and sustainable development initiatives. The project included preparing a discussion paper and annotated bibliography on the issues as well as helping to

organize and report on a workshop bringing together international researchers and indigenous people involved in community-based sustainable development. (Canadian Commission for UNESCO/Man and the Biosphere [MAB] Secretariat, 1991)

NWT Income Support Reform Project

This research and program design project involved a number of government departments and Aboriginal organizations in the NWT. It designed an income support program for Aboriginal people involved in traditional, land-based activities. This program was developed within the framework of a community development model and was based on principles directed toward protecting and enhancing the integrity of the traditional northern culture. Another project component was original research into the length of time territorial residents required social assistance through a period of five years. (Government of the Northwest Territories and Aboriginal organizations, 1990-1991)

1990 AND EARLIER

- Research Paper on Socio-Economic Barriers Confronting Low-Income People in Canada (Economic Council of Canada, 1990)
 - Review of the Sask. Student Assistance Program (Saskatchewan Education, 1990)
 - International Symposium of Public Employment Services (Employment and Immigration Canada, 1990)
 - Study of the Income Support Needs of Persons Living with AIDS (National Welfare Grants Division, Health and Welfare Canada, 1990)
 - Workshop on Poverty and Income Security Trends in Canada (Alberta Family and Social Services, 1990)
 - Report on the National Employability Evaluation Conference (National Health and Welfare Canada, 1990)
 - Study of Hunger in Regina (City of Regina, 1989)
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- Review of the Saskatchewan Special Incentives Program (Saskatchewan Department of Education, 1989)
 - Review of Income Support Programs in the Northwest Territories (Government of the Northwest Territories, 1989)
 - Review of the Canada Assistance Plan (Health and Welfare Canada, 1989)
 - NWT Employment Opportunities Strategy (Government of the Northwest Territories, 1989)
 - Evaluation of a Canadian Jobs Strategy Re-entry project (Employment and Immigration Canada, 1988)
 - Review of the National Employability Enhancement Initiative (Health and Welfare Canada, 1988)
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