

# Improving Social and Economic Well-Being in Newfoundland and Labrador NLCAHR October 20, 2022





## General Mandate Letter Statement

As we work to build a strong economy, we must also work to create a prosperous society. We envision a province with healthy, active residents who not only have access to the means to treat illness but also to achieve wellness. We envision a province with vibrant, engaged communities in which nobody is left behind. We must ensure that in our quest to build economic wealth we also build social and cultural wealth.



## Well-Being in Other Jurisdictions

- New Zealand – Well-being budget
- Scotland – Well-Being economy
- Iceland – Future based on well-being
- Wales – Well-being legislation



# Well-Being in Canada

- Decision to better incorporate quality of life measurements into government decision-making and budgeting.
- Quality of Life Framework

## Objectives

- Quality of Life
- Equality
- Sustainability

## Domains:

- Prosperity
- Health
- Environment
- Society
- Good Governance

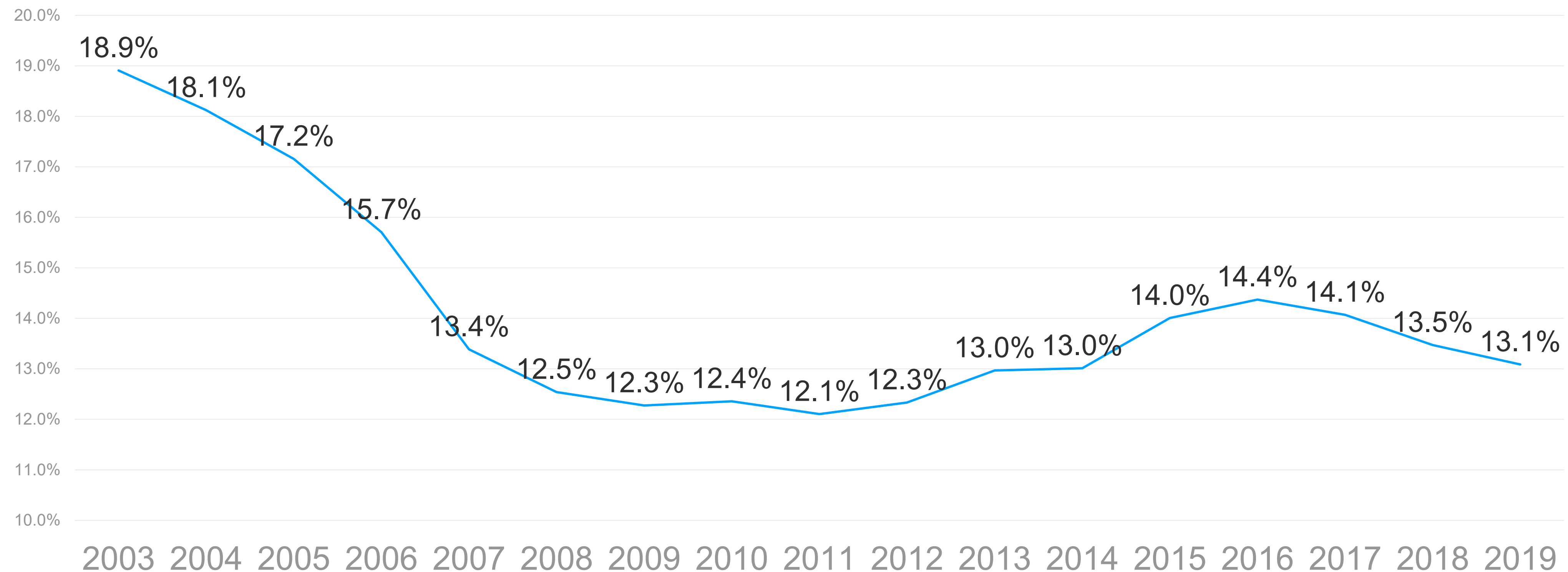
# Market Basket Measure (MBM)

- A household is in low income (poverty) if its disposable income falls below the estimated cost of purchasing a specific basket of goods and services that individuals and families require to meet their basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living.



# NLMBM, 2003-2019

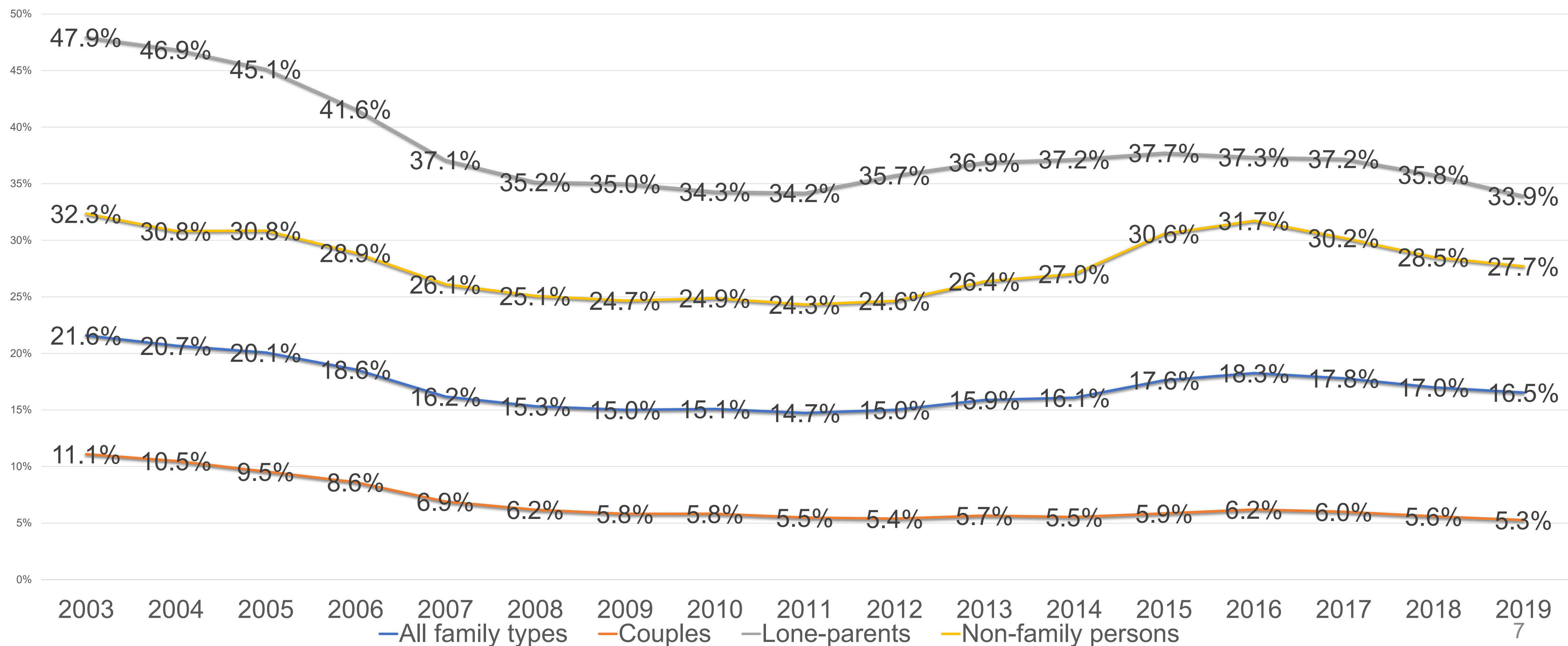
## Prevalence of Low Income



Source: Newfoundland and Labrador Market Basket Measure of Low Income. Statistics provided by Income Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, based on methodology developed by Dr. C Giles, Dr. D May and the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency.

# Family Type - NLMBM, 2003-2019

## Prevalence of Low Income



# The Facts – A Snapshot

## Poverty

13.1% in poverty  
14.3% children in poverty  
Cost: \$959M / annually  
IS Program: \$200M

## Housing and Homelessness

900+ in shelter system in 2021

## Objective Well-Being Indicators

## Food Insecurity

17.8%  
5<sup>th</sup> highest

## Life Satisfaction

59% rated high

## Health Outcomes

10<sup>th</sup> in life expectancy  
10<sup>th</sup> in cancer-related deaths  
10<sup>th</sup> in heavy alcohol use  
Highest per capita costs

## Unemployment

12.3% unemployed  
Highest in Canada

## Hopeful Outlook

61% rated high

## Sense of Meaning and Purpose

66% rated high.

## Child Maltreatment

3940 in PIP  
570 in Kinship Care  
910 in care  
(Dec 2021)

## Education

15.7% - no certificate  
10% absent 18 days+  
3<sup>rd</sup> lowest literacy rates

## Subjective Well-Being Indicators

## Sense of Belonging

55% reported strong or very strong

## Loneliness

12.8% rated always or often





## CSSD Mandate Letter – April 2021

- review existing actions related poverty, including housing and food insecurity, and lead development of a renewed strategy to reduce poverty in consultation with stakeholders, experts, and communities
- lead development of an action plan on prevention and early intervention ... to improve outcomes for all children and youth so they can develop to their full potential

# Well-Being Focus

A person is jumping in the air with their arms raised, silhouetted against a bright sunset. The sky is a mix of yellow and orange, and the ground is a dark orange. The text 'Social and Economic Well-Being Plan' is overlaid on the image.

## Social and Economic Well-Being Plan

- Poverty Reduction Components
- Prevention and Early Intervention Components
- Disability-related Commitments
- Seniors and Aging Commitments
- Housing and Homelessness Commitments
- Community Sector Components

# Components





# The Early Years

Healthy development in the early years (particularly birth to three) provides the building blocks for educational achievement, economic productivity, responsible citizenship, lifelong health, strong communities, and successful parenting of the next generation

## **Considerations:**

- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Parenting knowledge
- Public Health Nursing Programs
- Support for families at risk





# Education

People with higher education tend to be healthier than those with lower educational attainment. The level of education is highly linked with other SDH such as the level of income, employment security, and working conditions

## Considerations:

- Absenteeism
- High school diploma
- Post-Secondary access
- Literacy
- Early Screening and Intervention for LDs



# Housing

Safe, stable and affordable housing is fundamental to the social and economic well-being of individuals, families and our communities.





# Income and Income-Tested Benefits

Income is one of the most important social determinants of health. It shapes overall living conditions, affects psychological functioning, and influences health-related behaviours. It determines the quality of other social determinants of health such as food security, housing, and other basic requirements for health

## Considerations:

- Minimum Wage
- Income Support
- Basic Income
- Employment and Training Programs
- Income-Tested Benefits



# Food Security

Food insecurity negatively impacts physical, mental, and social health, and costs our healthcare system considerably.

## Levels

- marginal
- moderate
- severe

## Considerations:

- Food banks
- Community freezers
- Community gardens
- School food



# Community

Critical role of the community sector in well-being in NL.

Being part of a community can have a positive effect on mental health and emotional wellbeing. Community involvement provides a sense of belonging and social connectedness

## Considerations:

- Community sector funding
- Transportation
- Inclusion, accessibility and diversity



## Next Steps

### Consultations:

- Engage NL
- Community sector stakeholders
- Lived / Living Experience

### Draft Plan

### Community Summit