Antipoverty Month Resources

Week 1: Poverty at the School Level

Issues
- attendance
- accessibility
- food and nutrition
- youth aging out of care.

Addressing the issues

- **Step 1: Awareness**
  - The BCTF has two workshops to build awareness among staff members: “Poverty as a Classroom Issue” and “Help End Child Poverty in BC’s Classrooms, Schools and Local Communities,” both of which can be booked for free.
  - Other actions that can be taken include bringing areas of concern to the staff committee, building a school action plan, and enacting policy changes at the school level.

- **Step 2: Education**
  - Fly Away Home lesson plan
  - The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition has many great lesson ideas including:
    - End Poverty Days activities
    - Poverty Income Budget lesson plan.

- **Step 3: Action**
  - This BCTF infographic outlines some of the barriers to attendance that children living in poverty face, as well as ways to support students and encourage attendance.
  - If you would like to let the BC government know that your school does not have adequate funding to meet the needs of your students, you can contact the Ministry of Education or your local MLA (click on the MLA’s name for contact information).
  - Canada is the only G8 country without a national school food program.
    - You could advocate for a national, or at least provincial, school food program, again by contacting the BC Ministry of Education, the BC Minister of Health, or your local MLA.
    - Creating a community garden on school grounds is a great way to link a healthy food source with teachable moments in nutrition and stewardship of the land, along with the aesthetic benefits.
  - Support youth aging out of care:
    - Join #FosteringChangeBC in their campaign for a comprehensive action plan.
    - If in Metro Vancouver, inform youth aging out of care of The Friendly Landlord Network which helps connect youth from care to safe, affordable rental housing.