

The Road to a Poverty-free BC: Poverty flags from around the province
Trish Garner, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition

This creative project is a way to add to your conversations about poverty in the classroom and have your students contribute to an artistic, visual representation of stories, feelings, and hopes about poverty in BC. You can build on your own discussions or use this activity in collaboration with the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition's [Justice Not Charity](#) lesson plan or other activities featured on their [At School web page](#).

Once your students have an awareness of poverty issues and solutions, ask them to think of a particular image or phrase that expresses their experience of poverty, their response to poverty, or their hopes for a poverty-free BC. Provide fabric markers and small cotton fabric squares (approximately 25 by 25cm) for students to draw or write on, and hang them on a rope to display them in your school.

If completed before February 20, 2016, and mailed to the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, they will be featured in an art exhibit on display at the Vancouver Public Library from February 29–March 14. Poverty flags received before March 14 can still be added to the display.

The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition embarked on a road trip around the province last year and collected poverty flags made by workshop participants in local communities throughout BC. The exhibit will be a display of these poverty flags highlighting the local stories and images of poverty in BC, and connecting them together through the poverty line that they all hang on. This is an opportunity to connect your students to poverty reduction and local communities around BC in a creative way.

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