# TRAILBLAZER ADVENTURER INNOVATOR DEFENDER CHALLENGER

## Get Your Benefits! Diagnose and Treat Poverty

**Noralou P Roos** 

#### SUPPORTED BY THE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION

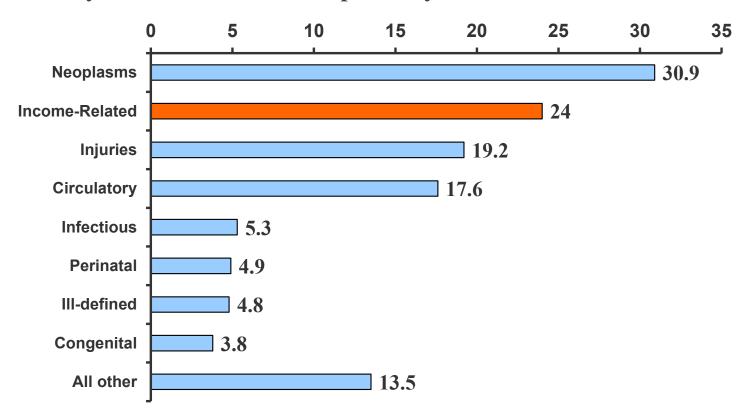


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#### **Making The Link: Poverty and Health**

Poverty accounts for 24% of person years of life lost in Canada



Wilkins, R, et al. Trends in mortality by neighbourhood income in urban Canada from 1971 to 1996. *Statistics Canada* 2002:13; 10 (supp). Adapted from Dennis Raphael.







#### **OBJECTIVES OF OUR WORK**

- 1. Put forth an evidence- based argument for intervening in poverty.
- Understand practical ways for addressing poverty.
- Discuss and connect with & across ministries, educators, community agencies, clinics, doctors in training









#### FILING TAXES – THE KEY TO BENEFITS

#### Single parent

Two Children ages 2 & 4, living in private rental market Employed part time

Annual employment income \$ 15,000.00

**PLUS** Benefits based on tax filing:

GST Refundable Credit: \$ 842.00 (\$210.50 paid quarterly)

Canada Child Benefits: \$ 12,800.00 (\$1066.66 paid monthly)

Working Income Tax Benefit: \$ 1,844.00 (with refund /part paid quarterly)

MB Rent Assist Benefits: \$ 5,586.00 (\$465.50 paid monthly)

Manitoba Child Benefit: \$ 840.00 (\$35.00 paid monthly)

Mb Personal Tax Credit: \$ 266.00 (refund upon tax filing)

TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME \$ 37,178.00







### Accessing Benefits Issues: Seniors and 55 Plus

- Canada Pension Plan Retirement
- Old Age Security
- Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Spousal Allowance/Allowance for the Survivor
- 55 Plus
- Rent Assist
- Seniors Information Line
- Manitoba Seniors' Guides







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#### Filing Taxes - Issues

- Need year-round CVITP tax filing clinics
- Finding, training and coordinating volunteers is challenging
- Need statistics on who (low income) is filing taxes and who is not by age and location and who is using/not using CVITP clinics
- How communicate the importance of tax filing and accessing benefits
- Helping groups/organizations share ideas, challenges, successes of their efforts to increase tax filing





