

## Chew on This!



On October 17, 2017 the Poverty Roundtable joined with Dignity for All on their Chew on This campaign. The campaign involved going out into the community to hold conversations with the public about food insecurity and the need for a national anti-poverty plan. Dignity for All provided us with campaign resources – stats, postcard for minister Duclos, pins, magnets; we were asked to fill the bag with an apple or similar snack. We organized across Hastings Prince Edward in Picton, Wellington, Belleville, and Quinte West. Collectively, we handed out 250 bags, spoke with many more, and reached thousands through social media as well as local media coverage.

A national campaign, Dignity for All reported over 80 events across every province and territory and over 20,000 postcards handed out.

The Quinte West group was organized by Connie Nye-Kaley from Quinte West Youth Centre. The Quinte West group set up downtown Trenton, and reported speaking to many in the community with good reception.

The Wellington group was organized by Sarah Sandham from Prince Edward Family Health Team. They had a group of 6 volunteers, set up in front of the library, and noted that many of the conversations were focused on local initiatives and Food Security development. The group received media coverage from the Wellington Times.

The Picton group was organized by Diane Milan from the County Foundation. Joined by volunteers from Picton United Church County Food Bank, and Alternatives for Women held interesting conversations with passers-by and were met with some who were glad to hear about available resources. Diane noted, as did some of the Belleville group, that people assumed we were looking for donations. The group received media coverage from CountyLive.ca and the Picton Gazette.

In Belleville we had 6 volunteers; Tami Downes (CanGrands, PRT), Mary Mask (Abigail's), Karen Scott (ED Committee), Ruth Ingersoll (CDC), Christine Durant (PRT), Tanya Dutton (PRT) along with support from Garnet Thompson. Throughout the event Luke Hendry from the Intelligencer followed our progress. We organized at Market Square went out into the community in pairs and stopped people on the street. Garnet Thompson joined Tami and Tanya for most of the hour. We held conversations with people who sometimes shared their own stories or experience with poverty. Many were not aware of the PRT or the work we are doing. We received media coverage through the Belleville Intelligencer and Quinte News.

<https://dignityforall.ca/chew-on-this/>

<http://www.quintenews.com/2017/10/poverty-roundtable-wants-chew/159703/>

<http://www.pictongazette.ca/2017/10/19/chew-on-this-campaign-encourages-people-to-think-about-impacts-of-poverty/>

<http://www.countylive.ca/chew-on-this-to-help-digest-awareness-of-poverty-related-issues/>

<http://www.intelligencer.ca/2017/10/17/pushing-feds-for-poverty-plan>