



# Poverty Roundtable

Hastings Prince Edward



## REPORT

### POVERTY ROUNDTABLE HASTINGS & PRINCE EDWARD BANCROFT GATHERING – SEPTEMBER 27, 2017



**Objectives: To strengthen our rural and urban connections and collaborations to end poverty and injustice**

In September the Poverty Roundtable HPE, hosted by North Hastings Community Trust, held a conversation circle to talk about poverty between the North and the South in our two counties and across our many communities. The following report captures the discussions that took place on *what poverty looks like here* and provides further areas for us to explore together, importantly to build on what's working, and our aspirations on what needs to happen to address the poverty we are living in. This conversation is one conversation of many, and we will continue to meet together and create action on ending poverty in our communities.

Participants came from Maynooth, Bancroft, Coe Hill, Madoc, Quinte West, Maynooth, Maple Leaf, Bird's Creek, Belleville, and Prince Edward County with a variety of backgrounds in social and health services, social justice, business, and as municipally elected officials and community members. 55 people attended and this is what they said:

[povertyroundtablehpe.ca](http://povertyroundtablehpe.ca)



## 1. What does poverty look like in your communities?

### Rural poverty is not visible

#### **It is inadequate housing and homelessness.**

- *Homelessness*
- *Long wait list for geared to income housing – Years long*
- *Couch surfing at friends and families*
- *Sub-Standard emergency living*
- *Incarceration – criminal activity just to have a bed and food*

#### **It is going without.**

- *Hunger- impacts everything*
- *Lack of transportation – very limited*
- *Lack of supports*
- *Lack of access to health care*
- *Unable to pay bills*
- *No choice but to go on public assistance*
- *Lack of education*

#### **It is displacement.**

- Lack of jobs, income and opportunity drives migration creating an aging community
- Seasonal – part-time precarious employment
- No options for youth. Youth leave community for better opportunities

#### **It is isolation, mental illness and substance abuse.**

- Resistance to ask for help - feel ashamed
- Low self-esteem resulting in depression and other mental health issues
- Social isolation
- Substance abuse
- Lack of community support



## 2. What strategies are working to address the impacts of poverty in your communities?

**In our communities what works is working together.**

### **Community initiatives**

- *Wood share programs*
- *Community gardens*
- *Library seed program*
- *Community meals*
- *Community Hub*

### **Participating in collective problem solving**

- *Town hall problem solving*
- *Sharing knowledge: Central data base accessible to all agencies/groups*

### **Access to resources that meet immediate needs**

- *Emergency funding ie; North Hastings Community Trust*
- *Good Food Box*
- *Providing thrift stores*

### **Transportation initiatives**

- *Ride share programs*
- *BCT expanding youth transportation*
- *North Hastings Ride Share Hub*

### **Community investment**

- *United Way*



### 3. How can we strengthen our collaboration and efforts to influence change that end poverty in your communities?

If we really understood what poverty really means (60% Poverty) we would see everything through the lens and no decision would be taken without the impact of poverty in mind.

#### ***Know each other and act together***

- *Can't be in denial once you see it up close*
- *Share stories*
- *Getting word out to help with what is already available*
- *Collaborate between areas*
- *Continue gathering*
- *Build tiny houses*
- *BCT – is seeking to understand and gear services to local needs*
- *Engage young people in their community*
- *Not just equal treatment but equality and justice*
- *Change food bank approach*
- *Improve Programs*
- *Stop disconnects – Hydro*

#### **Engage in participatory democracy, advocacy and civic education**

- *Host a public forum to gather data and ideas*
- *Use the poverty lens for decisions*
- *Rally before elections*

#### **Employment & Education**

- *Employers don't get it – provide training programs*
- *After school programs*
- *Social Enterprise – Business model with social entrepreneur*
- *Funded positions need to be in our communities – North is not funded enough - Need to address unique needs of the community*

65 Station Street, Belleville, ON, K8N 2S6



# Poverty Roundtable

Hastings Prince Edward

The Poverty Roundtable HPE is implementing *Creating Community for Poverty Reduction*, a project supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and in partnership with the Community Development Council of Quinte.

The aims of *Creating Community* is to:

Work with people who are living (or have lived) in poverty to ensure their voices and experience help shape the programs and services that matter to them.

Find business and government partners who want to try a new approach or find ways to reduce poverty.

Build awareness and capacity within our communities to better understand the challenges and impact of poverty.

Create the tools, the plan and the capacity for further action.



An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF QUINTE