

## **Creating Community:** Informing our Poverty Reduction Strategy

This project of the Hastings & Prince Edward Poverty Roundtable, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, will help us take action on poverty in our communities!

### **What will we do?**

- 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

### **When will we get started?**

The project will run from February 2016 to January 2019

### **Who are we?**

Formed in 2013, the Poverty Roundtable is a collaborative of more than 140 individuals, businesses and organizations committed to seeing what we can do, or do differently to respond to poverty in our communities. The Community Development Council of Quinte is the lead agency for this project, and *Creating Community* will share office space at their Station Street, Belleville location.

### **How do we work?**

The PRT realizes that poverty is complex, and that all voices are needed at the table if we hope to achieve change. We want to combine our understanding of local needs with leading research and best practices to create new and different responses to poverty.

### **Want to get involved?**

Poverty affects us all. We can all take part in finding ways to meet the unique challenges we face in such a large region with diverse needs and issues.

Please join us – we welcome your involvement!

For more information, contact:  
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## Poverty Roundtable of Hastings and Prince Edward Counties (PRT) Creating Community: Backgrounder

### Why do we need “Creating Community”?

Many people do not know that HPE has some of the highest poverty rates in Ontario. The PRT believes we can and should be doing better. Low income rates in 2010, were 14.8% with the provincial rate at 13.9%. Most concerning is that 25.8% of children (>1in4) live in poverty; 5 communities reported poverty above 20%; and recent 2014 data shows our food insecurity rate increasing to 11.4% (the provincial average is 8.3%). In education, a predictor of future poverty, local four-year graduation rates were 64% vs 76% provincially. Facing these distressing statistics, the PRT is working to create coordinated multi-sector action to reduce poverty.

### How was “Creating Community” Developed?

This project was developed based on local input that included surveys, research and a simplified strategic planning process used to refine priorities and inform our work. It includes a community engagement plan that fosters greater involvement of those with lived experience of poverty, opportunities to collaborate with government and business leaders, and the development of a strategic plan and communications strategy. *Creating Community* will bring together diverse community partners to create a new framework for collaboration that will prepare us for action.

### Metrics and Outcomes

We have committed to engage with 1400 people and create 30 program updates as part of *Creating Community*. The project consists of 41 objectives spread over three years—each of which is supported by research and best practices (a literature review is available).

### Who is the Poverty Roundtable HPE?

The Poverty Roundtable of HPE was founded in 2013, and has made tremendous progress in its development in 2015. The PRT catchment area includes approximately 7000 kms<sup>2</sup> and nearly 160,000 people. Members of the PRT include representation from social services, business, government, health, mental health, education, justice, housing, labour, faith, food security, and community members/volunteers. The Poverty Roundtable is an open membership collaborative, which encourages broad multi-sector involvement. The Community Development Council of Quinte, a member of the roundtable, is the lead agency for the *Creating Community* initiative.

### What are the pillars and priorities of the PRT?

The PRT is focused on community education, community empowerment, information exchange and creating partnerships, and policy advocacy. While there are many areas which need attention, the PRT has identified housing and homelessness, income security and employment, food security and transportation as the current priority areas.

### What is the vision of the PRT?

A community where everyone experiences a standard of living which is sufficient for their physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being without compromise of dignity or self-respect.

To learn more about *Creating Community* contact us at  
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