1. Welcome
Participants were welcomed by meeting Chair Ed Bentley – there were 51 people present for today’s meeting.

2. Introductions
Each person present at each table introduced themselves and shared brief information about the agency with which they are involved and/or their interest/involvement in the Roundtable.

3. Review/Approval of Agenda
The agenda was approved as circulated.

4. Review/Approval of minutes of June 1, 2016 meeting
The meeting notes were accepted as circulated.

5. Introduction of the Director, Community Engagement Coordinator and Intern
Steering Committee member Cathy McCallum re-introduced Christine Durant as Poverty Roundtable Director. Christine then introduced Juliet deWal, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Amanda McComb, Loyalist College Intern.

6. Recognition of the Partnership Developer
Ruth Ingersoll, Steering Committee member and Executive Director of the Community Development Council (CDC) presented thanks and a bouquet of flowers to JoAnne Lewis, Partnership Developer for the Poverty Roundtable in recognition of her significant contributions to the development of the Roundtable.

7. Education Forum Announcement
Christine presented a brief outline for the November 8th Education Forum, titled SHIFT, including a
short video clip of guest speaker Pat Capponi. Member of the Order of Canada 2015, Pat is a Canadian author and an advocate for mental health and poverty issues in Canada. She is the founder of Voices From the Street, a policy-making advisory council made up of homeless members. The Forum will be held at the Maranatha Church at 100 College Street West from 10am-2pm.

8. **Call to Action—DAC Position Statement**

Christine spoke with regard to the Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC) funding transfer. The Poverty Roundtable HPE has expressed strong support for maintaining the DAC role as provincial funding is transferred from the Ministry of Education to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs). The DAC is an important contributor to poverty reduction work in Hastings Prince Edward, and we are concerned about the possibility of changes to the role. Our recommendation for maintaining the DAC position has been forwarded to Hastings County and Prince Edward County. The Call to Action is attached.

9. **Priority Area Updates**

**Housing**

Gina Cockburn provided a verbal report from the Housing First working group. See attached for the full report for the minutes. A Poverty Facts Sheet was distributed; it is attached as well as is posted on our website.

**Food Security**

Nikki Gembliuk presented a verbal report, focussed on engaging members and engaging students in “do the math” exercises. The Food Security Working Group will reconvene on October 13th.

**Employment and Income Security**

Bob Cottrell Steering Committee member, provided a verbal report at the meeting and the attached full report for the minutes.

10. **PRT Evolving Structure/Accountability Framework**

Brandi Hodge, Steering Committee member, presented a draft Governance Model. The structure of the Poverty Roundtable (PRT) is intended to enable communication, collaboration and the building or strengthening of community relationships and partnerships from all sectors. The Steering Committee will include representation from all working groups and will function in a role similar to a board of directors. Roles, responsibilities and accountability will be clearly defined.

11. **Presentation — Creating Community**

Christine shared a presentation regarding Creating Community for Poverty Reduction, focussing on the goal of deepening understanding of poverty by engaging people from all walks of life to change the way people think and respond to poverty. Outlined in the presentation was the PRT three-year campaign Join the Conversation → Join the Movement → Join the Change. The powerpoint presentation is attached.

12. **Activity — Engaging Influencers**

Ruth and Christine facilitated an activity geared toward identifying the top 100 influencers and organizations in our community who could help us realize the change we want to see—that being a community moving forward for action on poverty reduction. Groups were divided up in to geographical regions and then brainstormed partner lists.

13. **Table Discussion Wrap Up**

Ed invited the group to answer two questions as they wrapped up conversation:
What have we done to reduce poverty?
Has something you heard today altered your approach to or deepened your convictions regarding poverty and poverty reduction?

14. **Infomercials**

*Community Gardens: Fresh For All* is an initiative supported by various organizations to help contribute much-needed fresh vegetables and fruits to food banks and meal programs within Hastings and Prince Edward counties. More info is available via freshforall.ca

*Community Learning Alternatives (CLA)* provides upgrading and essentials skills training for adult learners with employment and education goals and is an Ontario Employment Support Sponsor. They currently have help available at all locations (Belleville, Deseronto, Madoc, Marmora and Trenton) for those who wish to apply for the Hydro Rebate

*Fix Hydro & Put Food in the Budget Postcard Campaign* Postcards addressed to Premier Kathleen Wynne are available. Sign and return to the PRT office to have them sent out in the mail.

14. **Next Meeting**

November 23rd, 2-4pm
Location TBA.
Poverty Roundtable invites you to join the conversation!

shift
An Educational Forum

- Pat Capponi
  - Member of the Order of Canada 2015, Pat is a Canadian author and an advocate for mental health issues and poverty issues in Canada.
  - Founder of Voices From the Street, a policy making advisory council made up of homeless members

November 8, 2016 • 10am-2pm
Maranatha Auditorium 100 College St. West Belleville
Stay tuned for further details!
CALL TO ACTION

September, 2016

Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC) funding transfer

The Poverty Roundtable HPE has expressed strong support for maintaining the DAC role as provincial funding is transferred from the Ministry of Education to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs). The DAC is an important contributor to poverty reduction work in Hastings Prince Edward, and we are concerned about the possibility of changes to the role. Our recommendation for maintaining the DAC position has been forwarded to Hastings County and Prince Edward County.

DACs are community-based research analysts responsible for data gathering, analysis, and reporting to support research, evaluation and planning efforts in Ontario’s early years sector.

In our community, the DAC is an important resource to committees, networks, organizations and agencies working with families and children, and contributes to significant planning, targeting of vulnerable populations and evaluation of interventions. Integrating the DAC position within the county structure will enhance collaborative work for the development and delivery of programs that are responsive to the needs of our community.

The DAC supports our community to:

- Implement evidence based responses to community issues
- Ensure sound planning decisions
- Prepare strong grant applications to secure needed funds for services and supports to vulnerable populations
- provide effective programs for children and families
- Evaluate interventions

The DAC plays a crucial role in informing our community action to respond to vulnerable children and families and to move forward on poverty reduction.

We ask that the DAC position, as it transfers to the county, remain with its full current scope, full time and funded to support the ongoing community work, social planning, social services, and evidence based approaches.

Investment in the DAC is an investment in vulnerable populations of children, youth and families across our counties.

The Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC) position is central to community collective action on poverty and will be moved in 2017 from the Ministry of Education to CMSMs. We ask that all qualifications and responsibilities remain with the DAC position.

The Poverty Roundtable encourages you, your organization, and networks to bring attention to the importance and contribution of the Data Analysis Coordinator to effective community based planning and work.

Poverty Roundtable HPE  prt@povertyroundtablehpe.ca  613 779 7477  65 Station Street, Belleville, ON
Call to Action

The Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC) plays a crucial role in engaging and informing our communities

- to respond effectively to vulnerable children and families
- to move forward on poverty reduction

We ask that the DAC position, as it transfers to the county, remain with its full current scope, full time and funded to support the ongoing community work, social planning, social services, and evidence based approaches.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Creating Community for Poverty Reduction

3 Year Project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation
**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

Do you have lived-experience with issues of poverty?

Imagine 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 join a conversation in your neighbourhood message us or call:

Poverty Roundtable 
Meeting Place Executive

Phone: 613.779.7477

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**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

**Goal:** To deepen understanding of poverty by engaging people from all walks of life to change the way people think and respond to poverty.

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**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

**Evidence Based**

- Tamarack & Vibrant Communities
- Poverty Reduction Strategies & Participatory Planning
- How social change happens
JOIN THE CONVERSATION
Creating community for poverty reduction

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
Engaging people with lived experience

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
Expanding the conversation

Our community involves everyone. Businesses, community organizations, associations, schools, young people, families, individuals, seniors.

All of this will continue to grow conversations— the dialogue gets bigger.
JOIN THE CONVERSATION
Engaging Municipalities & Counties

Municipalities across Canada are already doing it... It’s a movement for poverty reduction. It affects community members – it affects communities.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
How do we involve everyone in the conversation?

In multiple ways. In face-to-face conversation, online, at community events, creating opportunities to come together. We will all be learning about the complexities of poverty.

Who will engage the broader community?

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
Task groups create community for poverty reduction

Task Groups:
- Communications
- Engagement
- Governance
Join the Conversation

Working through working groups

- Food Security Working Group
- Housing Working Group
- Employment and Income Security Working Groups

NEW working groups will emerge from Creating Community

Join the Conversation

Creating community for poverty reduction

Join the Conversation

How can you help?

Help us connect with people who have stories to tell:
- Key people in the field
- Life stories from people with experience of poverty
- Focus groups (closed and open)

Join working groups:
- Housing, Food,
- Employment & Income Security

Join task groups:
- Communications,
- Engagement,
- Governance
1. FOLLOW THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET COMMITMENTS

a. The Federal Liberals committed to a National Housing Strategy in their election campaign in 2015. The previous federal government has refused to consider a national housing strategy, despite the decade long requests of housing advocates. In advance of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers meeting in British Columbia in late June the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) and the Right to Housing Coalition developed a proposal detailing what a national housing strategy consultation should look like. The Community Advocacy & Legal Centre endorsed this proposal and sent requests to federal ministries, the Prime Minister’s office and our local Members of Parliament. All of the recipients of the CALC correspondence responded.

MP Neil Ellis’ office invited local housing advocates to meet with him. As a result the PRT Housing constellation and the Prince Edward County Affordable Housing Working Group met with Matt Richardson, of Mr. Ellis’ office.

Both groups were able to update Mr. Richardson on local resources, trends and problems. Mr. Richardson has committed to forwarding information about programs and developments to the two groups as soon as it is available.

b. There is a national consultation being undertaken in the course of developing this National Housing Strategy. You can provide input at: https://www.letstalkhousing.ca/

The PRT Housing Constellation will be making a submission to this strategy. We will be asking members to be “signatories” to the PRT submission, and also encourage individuals and agencies to make their own submissions.

c. There will be additional Investment in Affordable Housing funds rolling out from the Federal government – through the Ontario government and then to our local housing authorities for distribution over the 4 year Federal budget proposal.
d. In 2014 and 2015 the AHAN housing group produced a “Poverty Factoid” in an effort to capture a snapshot of local facts that were directly related to affordable housing issues. We have improved the look of the document this year, and continue to experiment with the content and format. We hope that members find the fact sheet useful when discussing affordable housing/poverty issues in the community. Please inform the committee if you have ideas for improvement. Better yet, join the committee and share your ideas!
Poverty Facts 2016

Aging Population

80% increase in Seniors accessing Affordable Housing options through the Hastings Housing Resource Centre (HHRC).¹

380 seniors worked with HHRC. Of these, 99 were homeless.¹

65% of those in Canadian Mental Health Association’s transitional homes were 50 or older in 2015.⁴

By 2017, number is expected to reach 70%.

Housing

805 Seniors (50+) are currently on the Social Housing Wait List.²

451 single, non-seniors are waiting for geared-to-income housing in Hastings County.²

$865/month is the average cost for a 1 bedroom apartment in Belleville.¹

$805/month is the average cost for a 1 bedroom apartment in Quinte West.

86 chronically homeless individuals were supported by Intensive Case Managers in Belleville.³

272 tenants facing eviction were helped by the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre at 39 sittings of the Landlord and Tenant Board.³

Income

Based on the 2010 after tax median, income in Hastings ($49,583) was well below the provincial level ($58,717).⁵

$702* is the maximum monthly amount that a single person can receive on Ontario Works.² (as of October 2016)
Poverty Facts 2016

Emergency After Hours

906 calls were answered by the Red Cross After Hours emergency homeless response line. 366 required immediate response. 10

382 nights of hotel accommodations were provided to the homeless. 10

27 individuals were referred to a shelter. 10

Food

7,570 Food hampers were distributed by Gleaners Food Bank. 6

62% of people getting help from Gleaners Food Bank were renters and 20% of people live in geared-to-income housing. 9

$1,785 more is now spent on feeding a family of 4 for a year, than 5 years ago. 7

A family of 4 (2 parents, 2 children) on Ontario Works (OW), after paying the rent, will have -$2 left at the end of the month if they purchase nutritious food. 7

10,270 meals were provided in 4 months at the Warm Room in Belleville. This is an average of 57 meals/night. 8

8,385 meals were provided by meal programs at Bridge Street United Church. 9

We are back with more on our local Living Wage and building greater economic security for Canadians

LIVING WAGE

In June the EIS Work Group shared with the Poverty Roundtable (PRT) information about hourly wages for the three different households we have been using in our calculations. We are still in the process of confirming those calculations with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The standard model for communities who are part of the Living Wage movement is the household of four, for which we have calculated an initial local hourly wage of $16.70.

Our Model: Three Households

Single male, age 32, working full time (37.5 hr wk)
Family of 2: lone female parent, age 30, working full time with a 3 yr old son
Family of 4: parents both age 37, working full time with a 14 year old son and 10 year old daughter
**Process for Calculating:** This information was last shared with the Round Table in May 2013 and some changes have been made in what we use as a baseline for our calculations. We believe it is perhaps a good time to review with members of the PRT the various elements of our Living Wage calculations:

1. **Basic Needs**
   Food (HPEPH Nutritious Food Basket); Rent & Utilities (HHRC, CMHC & NHS); Clothing and Footwear (Survey for Household Spending) in the 2nd quintile
2. **Childcare** (local costs and subsidies)
3. **Transportation**
   Vehicle for all households (SHS); Transit for teenage and 1 parent in family of 4 (Belleville)
4. **Social Inclusion**
   Monthly family outing (restaurant and local attraction); 2 week vacation/yr; Internet, satellite or cable & phone; Recreation: sports activities, movie/month; Children’s school fees & fundraising
5. **Other items**
   Personal care; continuing education for adults; tenant’s insurance; household operation, furnishing and equipment (SHS); reading entertainment supplies (SHS); Bank fees (SHS); other not specified elsewhere (Hamilton); contingency (2 weeks of household budget)

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**PRECARIOUS EMPLOYMENT**

The Ontario government launched the Changing Workplaces Review in early 2015. On July 27 2016 the Special Advisors released their Interim Report with this introduction:

"...decency at work is a fundamental and principled commitment that Ontario should accept as a basis for enacting all its laws governing the workplace.”
“The report acknowledges the many ways in which work is changing in the 21st century. It also paves the way for legislated improvements that would lift the standards for every worker in the modern workplace, whether unionized or not.” (Canadian Labour Congress)

More Reading:

**EXPANSION OF CPP**

Labour groups are hailing the recent deal with Canada’s finance ministers to expand the Canada Pension Plan as a long overdue step in helping workers plan for a more secure future.

Be sure to follow the links below to find out what this will mean for Canadian workers.


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**BASIC INCOME**

Updates

1. The Ontario Government has appointed Hugh Segal as special advisor on the design and implementation of a Basic Income Pilot in Ontario.

http://leadersandlegacies.com/2016/06/24/ontario-appoints-basic-income-
The Basic Income Canada Network (BICN) has recently made its submission to the House of Commons Finance Committee pre-budget consultations, urging creation of a basic income that would be universally available to Canadians in times of need. BICN urges the federal government in the 2017 Budget to:

1) Take immediate steps in the direction of a basic income for working-age adults using federal refundable tax credits and other means compatible with the model of benefits for seniors and children;

2) Undertake a thorough review and exploration of ways, in the context of fair and effective taxation as well as poverty reduction strategies, to fully realize a basic income for everyone;

3) Cooperate with and support basic income initiatives of other orders of government, including by fostering public dialogue, consultation, analysis and policy development as this is in the interest of all Canadians.

While basic income has been generating a lot of support from across the political spectrum, it has lead to an equally important discussion about whether a universal basic income would achieve the important goals most poverty activists would hope for. This topic is explored in a recent Maytree policy brief.

Discussion Topic:

Would a universal basic income reduce poverty?

"The question is whether we would be better off replacing most or all of these different programs with a new universal basic income, or if it would be better to reform and add to the existing system so that they work together to meet minimum income standards."
Problem: Too many people cannot maintain a decent standard of living
Problem: The social safety net is tangled and filled with holes.
Problem: The risk of weak labour markets

https://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2016/07/19/basic-income-how-about-basic-services.html
Poverty Roundtable Hastings Prince Edward

The structure of the Poverty Roundtable (PRT) is intended to enable communication, collaboration, and the building or strengthening of community relationships and partnerships from all sectors. The Steering Committee will include representation from all working groups and will function in a role similar to a board of directors. Roles, responsibilities, and accountability will be clearly defined.

*STEERING COMMITTEE
- includes representation from Work Groups
- MOU with Project Lead Agency
- Reports to PRT membership

WG = Working Group