



# Poverty Roundtable

Hastings Prince Edward



Call to Action

# Local Government

The Poverty Roundtable Hastings Prince Edward has joined the Cities Reducing Poverty nation-wide network. Participating communities in the **Cities Reducing Poverty Network** across Canada have decreased poverty in their communities by over 10% through municipal actions alone. For our communities, the network means joining with other regions and municipalities to learn from each other, to plan, to take action, to share resources and our stories in our collective work for poverty reduction.

The Cities Reducing Poverty Network members have committed to take 1 million Canadians out of poverty.

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



## Municipal actions to reduce poverty

### Municipal Leadership

Participate in local Poverty Roundtables, support community action planning, engage and develop working groups on areas impacting our communities. (e.g. affordable housing, income security, food security)

- Adopt inclusion lenses when evaluating decisions and programs. Invite people with lived experience of poverty into advisory roles to review programs and developments

### By-Laws

- Use by-laws or fees to discourage businesses that prey on economically disadvantaged people
- Avoid by-laws or fines that criminalize aspects of poverty such as homelessness

### Tax Structures

Provide tax incentives that motivate landlords to support start-up businesses, especially where jobs provide training and skills for people facing barriers to employment

### Zoning

Allow secondary suites and other zoning incentives to increase affordable housing stock

### Living Wage

Adopt a Living Wage policy for the municipality and its contractors to prevent working poverty

### Community land use and neighbourhood planning

- Assess social infrastructure in all neighborhoods
- Ensure community input into planning by involving community organizations and people with lived experience of poverty

### Procurement Strategies

Incorporate social inclusion into procurement – give preferential weighting of contracts for social enterprises and businesses that commit to hiring and/or training local residents with employment disadvantages

### Transportation

- Create subsidized or free transit passes for people in low income that reduces barriers to employment and increases access to community resources
- Collaborate with other municipalities

### Support Policy Change

Advocate for provincial and federal policy on social assistance and disability benefits rate.

*The Poverty Roundtable HPE, through partnership with the Community Development Council of Quinte and support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation are implementing "Creating Community" to create local action on poverty reduction.*





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## Hastings Prince Edward

### What is the Poverty Roundtable Hastings & Prince Edward?

The Poverty Roundtable of HPE was formed in 2013 to look at whether there are things we could do, or do differently, to address the causes of poverty and to broaden our capacity to do so by working together. Members include representation from social services, business, government, health, mental health, education, justice, housing, labour, faith, food security, and community members/volunteers.

**Our vision is:** 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 and self-respect.

**Our mission is:** to eliminate the causes of poverty in Hastings and Prince Edward counties by building the capacity of our community to work together to plan for and implement strategic, long term solutions that result in fair and equitable opportunities for all.

**Definition of poverty:** People live in poverty when denied the income and resources that support individual choices regarding physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs and when these circumstances exclude them from fully participating in their communities.

### Further Resources

Cities Reducing Poverty Network. Tamarack. <http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/vibrantcommunities>

Community Social Planning Council. *Community Action Plan on Poverty: Local Government Toolkit for Poverty Reduction*. Victoria, BC

Carlton, B., Born, P. (2016). *10, A Guide for Cities Reducing Poverty*. Tamarack Institute.

City of Toronto. (2014) *Municipal Poverty Reduction Strategies Across Canada: A Summary Report of Emerging Principles and Practices*. Toronto.

Jennifer Kirkham (2014). *Hungry for Action: How Municipal Government Can Reduce Poverty Background Report*. Southwest Registered Dietitians in Public Health Workgroup

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