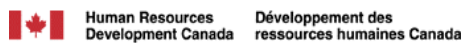


**Peterborough  
County and City**

**Municipal Social Plan**

**Phase I**

**January 2002**



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(Appendices available under separate cover.)

# Municipal Social Plan Steering Committee & Funders

## **Steering Committee Members**

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## **Funders**

City of Peterborough  
County of Peterborough  
Human Resources Development Canada  
United Way of Peterborough and District

\* Stepped down during the course of the project.

# Introduction

## Purpose of a Municipal Social Plan

Over the last decade, at both a national and provincial level, there has been a radical re-thinking and re-shaping of the roles and responsibilities of all levels of government, of the private and voluntary sectors, and of families and individuals, in light of concerns about present and future resources. The resulting changes have had a profound impact on the ways in which our governments and our communities address social issues.

One of the key changes affecting local municipalities is the cuts to funding by senior levels of government, coupled with the downloading of responsibilities for a number of social programs (including the administration of social assistance, social housing, child care, and land ambulance) to the municipal level. These changes pose significant challenges to our communities, as local organizations cope with reduced program and funding levels, and as the municipalities adapt to their new roles. It is clear that we need creative solutions to balance resource limitations with unmet and increasing social needs in our communities.

The Municipal Social Plan process grows out of the recognition that we must address social issues in holistic and integrated ways, and that we must marry vision and pragmatism as we strive to realize a better quality of life for all our residents. The process acknowledges that our communities do not have limitless resources, but also recognizes the high, long-term costs we all face if social issues are not addressed in a timely and effective manner. The development of a Social Plan provides an opportunity to create an ongoing framework for social planning policies, programs and initiatives and allows for the integration of social goals with other municipal goals for the benefit of all. A Social Plan provides strategic direction for the Municipal Councils, and a focus for the activities of community organizations wishing to fill in gaps in services. It facilitates a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of municipalities and community organizations, and allows for greater coordination of action. The Plan is inclusive and broad-based, and affirms that every individual, household and community has resources, strengths and abilities.

A Social Plan is not a single, finite document, but rather is an ongoing, evolving process, which ensures that residents have fair access to the resources and services essential to meeting their needs and improving their quality of life. The process provides residents with greater opportunities for participation and consultation about decisions affecting their lives. The planning process provides a mechanism for the ongoing assessment of needs and priorities, the identification of new or continuing gaps, and the celebration of community successes. It encourages the pooling of energies and resources through partnerships and collaboration, thus facilitating practical

problem-solving. It also allows communities to take a proactive approach, stressing prevention and early intervention wherever possible.

Peterborough County and City have a history of successful partnerships among community organizations and between those organizations and local municipalities. Local governments working in tandem with all sectors of the community are well placed to assess and understand the complexity of local needs, and to identify opportunities and innovative solutions to address existing and emerging social issues. Our community will benefit if all sectors, including governments, business, labour, education, faith, health and social agencies, act together in a socially responsible manner that promotes the well-being of all residents.

### **Social Plan Process: Phase I**

In 2000, the Social Policy Initiatives Committee, an advisory committee to the Mayor and Warden, recommended the development of a municipal social plan to provide a framework for addressing social issues in the County and City. The City and County, the United Way of Peterborough and District, and Human Resources Development Canada provided funding for the project. The Municipal Social Plan Steering Committee, including representation from both City and County, was formed to oversee the process. The Peterborough Social Planning Council supervised the consultation and research components of the project.

The project began with a review of the development processes and the format and content of social plans from other communities. Based on this review, the Steering Committee determined that Peterborough City and County's social plan should embody the following aspects:

- Is inspirational and invites action
- Creates an environment leading to a caring, healthy, safe community
- Includes all people in our community
- Promotes collaboration and community ownership
- Is based on collaborative and community development processes
- Is usable by the city, county and township offices, community organizations, businesses and individuals
- Builds on GPA 2020, Vision 2010, and other community planning exercises
- Presents a long term (5-10 year) vision and short term (1-2 year) recommendations
- Has a mechanism for review and renewal

The Steering Committee created an initial list of topics based on issues that had been discussed by the Social Policy Initiatives Committee, an overview of local social research and consultations, and topics that were included in other social plans. The Committee chose to focus on social issues, with the understanding that the needs of

various demographic groups (e.g. youth, older adults, persons with disabilities) would be considered in each topic area. From this initial list, the Committee developed a **Community Survey of Social Priorities for Peterborough County and City**. Two hundred and forty-six residents responded. The original intention of the survey was to have residents rank the twelve topic areas in order of priority, to assist the committee in choosing 8 to 10 topics to include in the plan. However, many residents disagreed with the process of selecting one priority over another, pointing out that the broad range of social topics are interdependent, and that all must be addressed together to improve our overall quality of life. As a result, the Committee elected to include twelve topic areas representing a broad range of social issues. The Committee determined that the first edition of the plan would address some topic areas in greater depth than others, with the understanding that all topic areas would receive further attention during the next phase of the project. Due to time constraints, one topic area, Access to Lifelong Learning, is not represented in this edition of the Plan.

Following the Survey, the Steering Committee hosted a series of ten **Town Hall Meetings** in the townships and the city. These meetings encouraged participants to identify the strengths and resources available in their communities, as well as the major concerns and gaps in services in each topic area. The results of these meetings (Appendix A) were used in the development of the current action plans.

These results were also used in developing **Background Papers** for the following topic areas: Access to Arts, Culture, Heritage and Recreation in the County; Economic/Income Security; Food Security; and Human Rights and Community Involvement (available as Appendices B - E of the Plan). These papers provided a brief outline of community capacity and the challenges faced by our communities in the selected topic areas. They were used as a basis for discussion at **Round Tables** hosted by the Steering Committee in October and November, during which community members assisted in drafting goals and action strategies. Round Tables were also held on Access to Health and Environment. The Steering Committee linked with existing planning and research initiatives in the areas of Accessibility, Child Care and Child Development, Housing and Safe Communities to develop the action strategies for those sections of the Plan.

Based on the review of other Social Plans, and input from municipal officials and staff, the Steering Committee also developed recommendations for the ongoing facilitation of the Social Plan. As the process of the Social Plan is developed, two levels of review will be required: at the micro level, to track the effect of the action strategies, and at the macro level, to chart changes in community well-being in the twelve topic areas of the plan. This latter level of review will allow the community to track quality of life over time, and to identify new priorities based on an awareness of community capacity and emerging issues and gaps in services. To facilitate this review, the Steering Committee engaged students and faculty of the Applied Social Research course at Trent University to initiate the development of tools to assist with the renewal of the Social Plan over time (available as Appendix F). The Applied Social Research Team developed model tracking systems for Ambulance Services and Food Security, identifying a series of

potential indicators and approaches to assessing the impact of social plan strategies. In future these models can be adapted for other social plan topic areas.

Already, our communities have made a significant investment in the social plan process. In total, 246 people completed the Community Survey; close to 150 attended the Town Hall Meetings; and 110 attended the Round Tables. When the work of the Steering Committee and other volunteers is also taken into consideration, the community contribution to the Social Plan well exceeds 2000 hours in less than one year.

## Social Plan Implementation Recommendations

The presentation of this first edition of the Municipal Social Plan marks the completion of Phase I of the Social Plan process. The Steering Committee recommends the timely launch of a second, transitional phase, during which municipalities and other sectors of our communities will become familiar with the plan and begin to collaborate and give leadership on implementing action strategies.

### **Phase II: Partnership Building**

Phase II has a 12 month timeline. The Steering Committee, with some changes in membership and a revised Terms of Reference, will oversee the process of attracting the commitment and participation of local businesses, governments, organizations and residents to the social plan. A Community Facilitator will work throughout the City and County to promote and further develop the plan.

During Phase II, the Community Facilitator will undertake the following tasks where appropriate:

- Meet with municipal officials and staff in the city, county and townships to identify how the plan may link with and amplify their current planning processes

- Convene sectoral working groups to assist with the development of partnerships and to ensure that further action strategies build on current capacity to address identified need

- Meet with individual communities to adapt and develop action strategies to address their unique needs and resources

- Work with appropriate community agencies and hold focus groups with specific demographic groups (e.g. youth, older adults, First Nations and Métis) to develop a more detailed assessment of the needs and priorities of these groups

- Liaise with Hiawatha and Curve Lake First Nations

- Provide support to communities as requested on significant community issues, projects and processes to build community capacity and leadership

- Liaise with appropriate provincial and federal ministries regarding local objectives, and for updates on programs and funding that could support community objectives.

During this Phase, the Steering Committee and Community Facilitator will consult with the municipalities and community groups to develop a process for the ongoing review and renewal of the plan. Key issues will include timelines for updating topic areas, and the structure of the advisory body which will replace the Steering Committee.

### **Phase III: Ongoing Review and Renewal**

The ongoing review and renewal of the Plan requires the assessment of changing social needs; creation and revision of action plans; formation of partnerships; and implementation and evaluation of action strategies. In addition to the steps outlined in Phase II, Phase III will include the following actions:

Gather accurate, meaningful information about key indicators and determinants of wellness and quality of life.

Liaise with community organizations, agencies and networks to maintain understanding of ongoing and emerging social issues and current community capacity to address social issues.

Initiate community processes to translate quality of life indicators into community-based action strategies that promote positive community change.

Develop a strategy to recognize community heroes, share community stories and celebrate achievements with wider community.

## **Map of Peterborough County-City**

## Peterborough County-City: An Overview

Peterborough County-City is made up of eight municipalities, two First Nation Communities (Hiawatha and Curve Lake), and the City of Peterborough. The County-City spans an area of 3 950.10 square kilometres and consists of both rural and urban areas with 56 percent of the population living in the City of Peterborough. When compared to Ontario as a whole, Peterborough County-City has a much higher population density with 31.20 persons per square kilometre as compared to 11.73 persons per square kilometre.<sup>1</sup>

In the County, 58 percent of the households are permanent, 36 percent are seasonal (cottagers), and 6 percent are farm households. The three townships with the highest proportion of cottagers are North Kawartha (72 percent), Galway-Cavendish and Harvey (66 percent), and Havelock-Belmont-Methuen (52 percent).<sup>2</sup>

### Distribution of Household Types, 1999

Municipality	Permanent	Farm	Cottages	Total
Asphodel-Norwood	1 314	219	134	1 667
North Kawartha	982	60	2 632	3 674
Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan	2 572	354	19	2 945
Douro-Dummer	2 080	360	845	3 285
Galway-Cavendish and Harvey	1 815	71	3 603	5 489
Havelock-Belmont-Methuen	1 780	167	2 137	4 084
Otonabee-South Monaghan	1 951	415	487	2 853
Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield	6 037	287	1 399	7 723
<b>County Total (Excluding City)</b>	<b>18 531</b>	<b>1 933</b>	<b>11 256</b>	<b>31 720</b>
<b>City of Peterborough</b>	<b>30 265</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>30 284</b>
<b>Regional Total</b>				<b>62 004</b>

Between 1991 and 1996 the population of Peterborough increased 2.9 percent. Population growth in Peterborough County was 4.4 percent compared to 1.7 percent in Peterborough City. With the exception of Lakefield and Havelock, all municipalities in

<sup>1</sup> Early Years Interim Action Plan, September 2001.

<sup>2</sup> This section and the following chart are taken from GPA EDC, *Peterborough Community Profile*, 2001.

Peterborough County experienced population growth between 1991 and 1996, with the largest growth occurring in Harvey Township (15.5 percent).

### Population Distribution by Age Groups, 1996<sup>3</sup>

Age	County-City	City	County
0 - 6	10 343	6 051	4 292
7 - 9	5 427	2 989	2 438
10 - 14	8 605	4 460	4 145
15 - 19	7 990	4 340	3 650
20 - 24	7 480	4 875	2 605
25 - 34	15 395	9 525	5 870
35 - 44	18 965	10 390	8 575
45 - 54	15 825	8 090	7 735
55 - 64	11 995	5 835	6 160
65+	21 435	12 965	8 470
<b>TOTAL<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>123 450</b>	<b>69 535</b>	<b>53 915</b>

Consistent with trends since the early eighties, the percentage of young adults between ages 20 and 34 declined from 6.6 percent of the population in 1991 to 6.1 percent in 1996. Similarly, the percentage of adults aged 25 to 35 years dropped from 15 percent of the population in 1991 to 12.5 percent in 1996. The largest change in this period was the 26.5 percent increase in 45 to 54 year olds, which represents the ‘front end’ of the Boomer generation.

In terms of households, the total number of families in Peterborough increased 3.7 percent between 1991 and 1996 to 35 160. The number of lone parent families increased 47.1 percent. Since 1981, about 84 percent of all lone parent families were headed by a female parent. There was a higher percentage of male headed lone parent families in Peterborough County (20.6 percent) than in the City (13.3 percent).

The number of households with children has slowly but steadily declined. In 1996, 58.3 percent of households had children compared to 63.1 percent in 1981. The number of children per household has also declined: 11.3 percent of family households had three or more children in 1996 compared to 15.1 percent in 1981.<sup>5</sup>

In 1996 seniors formed 17.4 percent of the local population, compared to the provincial average of 12.4 percent.<sup>6</sup> The majority of seniors in Peterborough were living with a member of their immediate family (67.3 percent). More seniors lived alone in the City

<sup>3</sup> PSPC, Peterborough Profile 1999.

<sup>4</sup> Totals do not add due to rounding. Source: PSPC, Peterborough Profile 1999.

<sup>5</sup> Peterborough Profile 1999.

<sup>6</sup> Peterborough Profile, 1999.

(31.9 percent) than the County (16.4 percent).<sup>7</sup> The number of seniors in the City and County is expected to increase as the Baby Boom ages and more retirees are attracted to the area.

## **Diversity**

In 1996 the most common ethnic origin reported by Peterborough residents was British (23 percent of single responses), followed by Dutch, German and French. A total of 2.9 percent of County residents and 1.65 percent of City residents reported Aboriginal status. Approximately 890 people reside at Curve Lake First Nation and 275 at Hiawatha First Nation.<sup>8</sup> Within Peterborough, the highest proportion of visible minorities were Afro-Canadian, South Asian, Chinese, and Southeast Asian. Overall, visible minorities represent 1.87 percent of Peterborough's population, as compared to 30.04 percent for Ontario as a whole.<sup>9</sup>

English remains the most widely reported mother tongue and home language throughout Peterborough County-City. In 1996, 1885 people reported speaking a language other than English. The most common languages spoken at home (other than English) were Polish, French, German, Korean, Chinese, Italian, Cambodian, and Ojibway.<sup>10</sup>

Although the total immigrant population of Peterborough is predominantly from the United Kingdom, the United States, and Europe, there has been an increase in the number of recent immigrants from China (7.8 percent in 1996), India (7.8 percent), Philippines (7.2 percent), and South Korea (3.6 percent).<sup>11</sup>

## **Persons with Disabilities**

The only available local data on disability is supplied by Human Resources Development Canada. It combines 1991 information on Peterborough and Haliburton and indicates that 11 percent of those surveyed B 15 355 individuals B identified themselves as having long-term or permanent disabilities. Over 40 percent of those individuals were 65 or older. While there are no recent statistics on the number of persons with disabilities in the City and County, across Canada approximately 15 to 17 per cent of the population have one or more disabilities. This percentage is expected to increase significantly in the future, as the Baby Boom ages and the number of older adults rises. Incidence of disability increases markedly with age. Numbers escalate

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<sup>7</sup> Peterborough Profile 1999.

<sup>8</sup> Early Years Interim Action Plan, September 2001.

<sup>9</sup> Peterborough Profile 1999.

<sup>10</sup> Early Years Interim Action Plan, September 2001.

<sup>11</sup> Peterborough Profile 1999.

from late middle-age, with 17 percent of people aged 55 to 59 affected by disability. Thirty percent of people over 65 have mobility impairments.<sup>12</sup>

It is estimated that 1 in 6 adults will experience a mental illness. Two percent of the adult population (aged 15-64) and up to 5 percent of individuals 65 and over will experience a serious mental illness (SMI) in a given year.<sup>13</sup> The combined adult population of the City-County in 1996 was 77,650; of this population, 16 percent (12,424) will experience a mental illness, and 2 percent (1553) will experience a serious mental illness.

## **Education**

In the City, 12.5 percent of the population held a university degree in 1996, and 20.4 percent held a college diploma or certificate. In the County, 7.9 percent had a degree, while 22 percent had a college diploma or certificate. The percentage of the population with less than a grade nine education had decreased to 8.3 percent in 1996. The largest percentage of the Peterborough population (26.4 percent) reported their highest level of schooling as grades 9-13, with no diploma. This includes students who are still enrolled in school.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Peterborough Profile 1999.

<sup>13</sup> Durham Haliburton Kawartha & Pine Ridge District Health Council (1996). *Needs Assessment for Adult Mental Health Services*.

<sup>14</sup> Early Years Interim Action Plan, September 2001.

## Vision

We envision a safe, healthy and caring community. We value the strengths and abilities of all our residents, and believe that we all grow richer when every person is able to participate fully in our community. Acting together, we build on the strengths and resources of our people, organizations and governments, to create a community where all residents can meet their needs and enjoy a good quality of life.

In our vision of a caring community, all people have equal access to:

- housing, food and clothing
- freedom from violence
- education and life-long learning; training and employment,
- arts, culture and recreation
- health and community services
- democratic participation in decision-making processes
- a sense of belonging to the community
- connection to the natural world
- social justice

In creating our caring community, we balance social, economic and environmental well-being, now and for the future.

# Access to Arts, Culture, Heritage and Recreation

## Overview

Both the County and City are known for their vibrant arts and culture communities, rich Native and Early Canadian heritage, and diverse recreational opportunities. Residents and visitors enjoy our waterways, parks, open spaces and trails; performing and visual arts and celebrations of culture; and range of facilities and venues for sports, arts, recreational and leisure opportunities.

The Arts, Culture, Heritage and Recreation sectors make important contributions to the economic health of our communities and to the overall quality of life of our citizens. Local employment in these sectors and the tourism that results from them boost our economy. Participation by community members in arts, culture and heritage activities provides opportunities for creative and intellectual development. Recreational opportunities promote active living and healthy lifestyles for all residents, regardless of ability. By providing opportunities for relaxation and for social interaction, these sectors provide a number of social and family benefits, and play an important role in building communities and neighbourhoods.

## Current Status

### City

In 2001 the City of Peterborough completed a comprehensive planning process for Arts, Culture, Heritage and Recreation, resulting in *Vision 2010*. The report included detailed recommendations to help coordinate planning and delivery of programs and services; establish sub-committees focusing on youth and older adults; support volunteers; develop Neighbourhood Associations; redevelop neighbourhood parks and playgrounds; maintain and develop facilities; ensure affordable and accessible programs and services; and increase support to the arts and heritage sectors. The plan encourages partnerships between municipal departments, including the Community Services Department (Recreation Division and Heritage and Culture Division), Planning and Development Services, and Public Works, and community organizations with an interest in the arts, culture, heritage and recreation sectors.

The City has a number of highly rated facilities and venues, as identified in *Vision 2010*:

- Riverview Park and Zoo
- Recreation trails
- Del Crary Park

- Jackson Park
- East City Bowl/Riverside Park
- Trent University grounds and facilities
- Evinrude Centre
- Showplace Peterborough
- Centennial Museum and Archives
- Public libraries

### County

Because of the system of government within the County of Peterborough, services within this topic area are not all provided by the same delivery agent.

### *Arts and Culture*

There is currently no active involvement by the County municipal government. That said, a number of theatre groups, literary festivals, and other organizations and events have been established in the County. Our area boasts more than 140 loosely linked arts, culture and heritage organizations, some of which have national prominence.

### *Heritage*

The County operates a living history museum at Lang Pioneer Village. This serves as the County museum. A five-year master plan was developed in 1999. Lang is funded through user fees, tax revenue and an operating grant from the Provincial Government. There are also a number of community groups that have taken an active role (e.g. historical societies, Fairview Heritage Centre) in remembering our past. These groups are quite active, but generally not affiliated with the municipality.

### *Recreation*

With the exception of its involvement in Burnham Park, the County does not provide recreation services. These are provided at the local level and are governed by Councils and/or boards of volunteers. Each of the townships is responsible for recreation programming within their own boundaries. The level of programming and organization varies among townships. Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan and Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield have completed recreation plans, and Otonabee-South Monaghan has created a new committee to research activities, service clubs and recreation programs to study community capacity and current needs. North Kawartha intends to complete a demographic study to assist with the planning of programs and services. Other townships address needs as they arise, through Recreation Committees or Parks and Recreation Departments.

## **Challenges**

Both the City and the County face the challenge of being responsive and adapting to demographic changes, cultural diversity and groups with special needs in light of funding realities. As the population ages and the number of households with children at home decreases, the types of programs, services and facilities required may change. Increases in the number of lone parent families and persons with disabilities will bring affordability and accessibility issues to the fore. Planning for these sectors must take into account these broader trends while also reflecting variations in populations and needs between townships and between neighbourhoods within the City.

The Vision 2010 report identified a number of challenges within the City, including:

- Lack of a system-wide, formal commitment of major public and non-profit providers and grass root groups to meet regularly and work co-operatively and collaboratively together
- Shortage of Community and Regional level parkland suitable for development of additional ball diamonds, soccer fields and major multi-purpose community facilities
- Neighbourhood park system shortcomings, include poor sites, minimal or no development, almost no linkages, parks and school yards in need of re-development, park-deficient neighbourhood areas
- Facility deficiencies including aquatic facilities, facilities for children and youth, especially indoor, improvement/expansion of library facilities

Challenges within the County identified at the Town Hall Meetings include:

- Issues around the reliance on volunteers to provide programming: resources for training and support of volunteers; difficulties in recruiting and retaining volunteers
- Lack of a complete and comprehensive picture of current gaps in service, barriers to participation or key issues; not enough known about populations at risk
- Transportation
- Affordability of programs and services

## Access to Arts, Culture, Heritage and Recreation Action Plan

Goal	
To promote and enhance the arts, culture, heritage and recreation sectors of our communities.	
Objective	Action
1. Expand opportunities to access arts, culture, heritage and recreation activities with a focus on developing barrier-free programs and services.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement the following related plans: <i>Vision 2010: A Strategy for Recreation, Parks and Culture, Peterborough and Area, 2000-2010; Township of Smith-Ennismore Recreation, Parks, and Library Services Plan.</i></li> <li>2. In addition, where appropriate:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Complete needs assessments (where necessary) to facilitate proper identification of programs and services, by areas in topic and by township.</li> <li>b. Establish local central information sources for existing programs and models for providing barrier-free programs and services.</li> <li>c. Adopt recreational projects as necessary to enhance availability of diverse recreational opportunities including walking, hiking and cycling trails.</li> <li>d. Encourage the use of community libraries and schools for a broad range of arts and cultural opportunities.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
2. Expand and develop arts, culture, heritage and recreation activities and programs which focus on children and youth and older adults.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop volunteer training programs and opportunities which focus on working with youth and older adults.</li> <li>2. Adopt a program to work with youth to develop strategies to increase youth participation in recreation programs, particularly youth from low income families.</li> <li>3. Develop affordable and accessible recreational programs where necessary to meet the social and recreational needs with a focus on both youth and older adults.</li> </ol>

<p>3. Actively support skill and leadership development for program and service providers in the arts, culture, heritage and recreation sectors</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and market leadership training and skill development programs including the identification of need and opportunities for mentoring in this sector.</li> <li>2. Develop a common catalogue of skills and resources available in each township.</li> </ol>
<p>4. Encourage and support networking among boards and committees and improved communication among program and service providers.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and strengthen central information contact points in each community (e.g. libraries, websites, community portals, post offices) to increase public awareness of existing programs; information to be disseminated throughout each community.</li> </ol>
<p>5. Support the preservation of the area's cultural heritage, and promote the appreciation of local history.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish an advisory board to bring together historical societies to create and maintain an index of materials available through historical associations.</li> <li>2. Develop policies where none exist to protect natural and built heritage structures or areas in the community.</li> </ol>
<p>6. Increase public awareness of the social and economic benefits of the arts, culture, heritage and recreation sectors.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop marketing programs which profile the availability, diversity and advantages for the community in promoting the local arts, culture, heritage and recreation sectors.</li> </ol>

### Potential Partners

Association of Managers of Volunteer Services  
 Cottagers Associations  
 4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre  
 Historical Societies  
 Minor Sports Associations and Clubs  
 Performing Arts Lakefield  
 Peterborough Arts Umbrella  
 Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives  
 Public Libraries  
 Service Clubs  
 Volunteer Bureau, Community Counselling & Resource Centre  
 YMCA

# Access to Health

## Overview

The last decade has been a time of increasing concern about our health care system, with a greater awareness of health care costs, debates about universal versus two tier health care, and a growing perception that health care is deteriorating. Decisions about funding and system reform are made at the federal and provincial level, but the effects of these decisions are felt acutely at the local level, by those working and overworked in the sector, by community agencies and family members struggling to fill in gaps in services, and by local residents who cannot find a doctor or who face longer waiting periods for medical services.

At the same time, the on-going reforms to the health care system allow for a greater emphasis on health promotion, illness prevention and community-based services.<sup>15</sup> The World Health Organization defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity.”<sup>16</sup> This concept of health incorporates social and personal resources as well as physical capacities,<sup>17</sup> and emphasizes the importance of attending to the physical, social and economic environments which significantly influence individuals’ health status. In recognizing the health effects of conditions in the home, school, workplace and broader environment, it becomes clear that responsibility for promoting health rests with the larger community, and not strictly with health care providers.

## Current Capacity

The Health sector is a significant source of employment in the Greater Peterborough Area, employing approximately 6 percent of the total labour force (3,776 of 63,000 total). The Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) employs nearly half of these health care workers, making it the second largest employer in the City and County.

Durham Haliburton Kawartha & Pine Ridge District Health Council plans for and coordinates health services for our local communities. To achieve this, Council undertakes studies and projects, which identify service gaps and assess community needs. The Council has focused on hospital restructuring, long term care and mental health. Other

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<sup>15</sup> Durham Haliburton Kawartha & Pine Ridge District Health Council “About Us” [www.dhc-dhkpr.org](http://www.dhc-dhkpr.org)

<sup>16</sup> World Health Organization, [http://www.who.int/m/topicgroups/who\\_organization/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/m/topicgroups/who_organization/en/index.html)

<sup>17</sup> World Health Organization, *Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion*, 1986.  
<http://www.who.int/hpr/archive/docs/ottawa.html#top>

priorities include health promotion, midwifery, women's health, diabetes, Aboriginal health, substance abuse, tobacco, and AIDS.

Currently, Peterborough Regional Health Centre has 360 beds located at two sites: Hospital Drive (formerly Civic Hospital) and Rogers Street (formerly St. Joseph's Health Centre). Construction begins on a consolidated facility at the Hospital Drive location in spring 2002; this new hospital, with approximately 500 beds, is expected to open in late 2005. As a regional facility, PRHC serves four counties including Peterborough. PRHC also includes a Women's Health Care Centre located in the city centre which provides information, support, counselling and treatment for women.

The Peterborough County City Health Unit provides a number of Health Protection and Promotion programs and services focusing on areas such as Family Health; Healthy Babies, Healthy Children; Food Safety; Control of Infectious Diseases; Injury Prevention; Reproductive Health; Dental Health; School Health; and Workplace Health. The Health Unit plays an important role in community development through its work with children and families, workplaces, and people living on low incomes. It also provides key information to local communities through reports such as the Peterborough Community Health Status Report, which provides information describing the health status of the residents of Peterborough County and City compared to Ontario, and The First Nine Years: A Profile on Child Health in Peterborough, which includes a series of recommendations to improve children's health and health services in a number of areas including physical and psychosocial environments.

Peterborough Community Access Centre coordinates and provides in-home health and support services, as well as placement services for long term care.

Peterborough Regional Health Centre Mental Health Services, including the Adult Outpatient Program, Inpatient Program, Schizophrenia Clinic, Psychiatric Assessment Services for the Elderly (PASE), and the Child and Family Clinic, provide assessment and treatment for people with serious mental health problems and their families to decrease suffering and improve quality of life.

The Canadian Mental Health Association – Peterborough Branch provides flexible 24-hour support to assist individuals who live with a serious mental illness to develop the skills and community support necessary to maintain a level of independence. CMHA supports a range of programs, including mental health promotion, a range of support groups, the Consumer/Survivor Network of Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough and Victoria, the Peer Training Resource Centre, a Trustee program, and the Warming Room. CMHA also provides supportive housing.

## **Challenges**

The physician shortage is one of the greatest challenges faced in our locality. As of January 2002, approximately 12,000 residents of Peterborough City and County did not have a family doctor.<sup>18</sup> The shortage of family physicians increases the demands on the hospital Emergency Department. The Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation has initiated a Physician/Skills Recruitment Program to attract doctors to the area. The Peterborough County-City Health Unit has funded a Nurse Practitioner in Havelock-Belmont-Methuen as a pilot project, but continued funding is not assured.

The County and City also face serious challenges in the provision of adequate levels of mental health services. CMHA's waiting list for supports increased in 2001, with an average waiting time of 30 months. CMHA faces a number of challenges in attempting to provide both quality case management and crisis intervention services.

Accessibility to health care services continues to be an issue for County residents, given the lack of transportation options outside the City. Some healthcare offices are inaccessible to persons with disabilities.

Peterborough County and City currently has a higher proportion of older adults than the provincial average; the number of older adults will increase significantly as the baby boom generation ages, placing additional demands on health care resources. The growing number of older adults will also increase the need for home care supports to assist people to live independently. Inadequate levels of funding for home care compromise the ability of local residents to "age in place".

Income is a significant determinant of health, placing low income residents at greater risk of poor health outcomes. Persons receiving financial assistance through Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) may receive health related benefits such as dental services for adults, dentures, vision care for adults, prosthetics, hearing aids through Discretionary Benefits. However, these benefits are discretionary rather than mandatory, and they are not available to persons living on low incomes who do not receive social assistance.

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<sup>18</sup> Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation (December 2001) "Report to the Community." 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

## Access to Health Action Plan

<b>Goal</b>	
To develop a coordinated effort and model which will effectively support community-based health care services in a pro-active and efficient manner.	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Develop a local integrated system of community health care services.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify a sponsoring or coordinating role by one community-based partner in order to provide direction and leadership in forming a “steering committee” model for delivery to rationalize and integrate services already provided.</li> <li>2. Develop statements of agreement which outline a holistic approach to the delivery of community-based health care to include accessibility, alternatives, and mental health needs.</li> </ol>
2. To increase support for the concepts of health prevention and promotion.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maximize investment in children’s services.</li> <li>2. Develop community-based ways and means to provide health promotion and prevention information to all sectors with a focus on lower income households.</li> <li>3. Explore and examine the feasibility of establishing comprehensive drug and dental plans through the auspices of the Peterborough County City Health Unit.</li> <li>4. Increase promotion of services available to assist lower income residents, including the Trillium Drug Plan.</li> </ol>
3. Establish community standards for adequate and consistent care and response.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop benchmarks for levels of care and response throughout the County.</li> <li>2. Develop programs which address barriers to accessing health care including additional costs, transportation, the needs of low income and homeless residents; and barriers related to age, educational and income levels.</li> </ol>

## Potential Partners

Canadian Mental Health Association – Peterborough Branch  
Community Counselling and Resource Centre  
County of Peterborough Emergency Medical Services  
Durham Haliburton Kawartha & Pine Ridge District Health Council  
Peterborough Community Access Centre  
Peterborough County-City Health Unit  
Peterborough Fire Department  
Peterborough Regional Health Centre  
Schizophrenia Society of Ontario

# Accessibility

## Overview

Accessibility addresses two concerns: accessibility for persons with disabilities, and transportation issues

### Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

Although awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities is growing, and both the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code ban discrimination based on physical or mental disability in various areas of life, persons with disabilities continue to face a range of barriers which effectively exclude them from full participation in our community based on their individual abilities. Residents with disabilities may face physical, communication, attitudinal, and systemic barriers, which impede participation in many aspects of community life, including employment, access to information, education and training, housing, public transit, health care, social services, and the use of goods, services and facilities that the public usually enjoys.

These barriers are not merely a matter of inconvenience, but rather have profound and far-reaching effects on the well-being of a significant and growing percentage of our residents. Persons with disabilities are prevented from fully participating in the local economy. They are more likely to be unemployed or underemployed, and are far more likely than average to live in poverty. In 1998, 30.8 per cent of persons with disabilities in Canada lived below the poverty line. The Kawartha Lakes Northumberland Haliburton Training Board (KLNHTB) has identified the wage gap for persons with disabilities as a key concern for our local area. Persons with disabilities are also prevented from fully participating in our local economy as consumers. These barriers affect not only those with disabilities, but also their families and friends. The cumulative effect of these barriers results in isolation and a sense of exclusion from the community.

The Council For Persons With Disabilities was formally established in January 1989, and was incorporated in September 2000. It acts in an advisory capacity to the city regarding issues for persons with disabilities, including the City of Peterborough Access Guidelines and retrofit of municipal buildings, and also provides information to the public through workshops, the publication of resource materials, and the organization of National Access Awareness Week events. Recent initiatives include:

- Published Special Needs Recreation Directory, created in 1995 and updated in 1999

- Organized community events and preparing briefs in support of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA)
- Published Peterborough and Kawarthas Travel Guide in 2000
- Third edition of Peterborough Access Guidelines to be released early in 2002

The City has committed \$50,000 per year to improve access to municipal buildings and facilities; these funds are allocated based on recommendations from sub-committees of the Council for Persons with Disabilities. The City has also passed a resolution and reaffirmation of support to CFPWD for the establishment of an effective Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

### Transportation

Transportation is a key issue in an area as geographically large as Peterborough County. The level of public transportation within city and county has eroded over time. The lack of transportation alternatives affects some residents more than others, particularly older adults, youth and children, persons with disabilities, individuals and families living on low incomes. Transportation is a particular issue for County residents, given that the city serves as a service hub requiring county residents to travel from their homes to access many programs, facilities and events. A number of community agencies have attempted to develop initiatives to fill the gaps, including the Project Wheels initiative of Community Counselling and Resource Centre. Community Care provides some transportation for older adults and adults with disabilities through its volunteer driver program and the Caremobile. The City is currently undertaking a major transportation review. The Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield has included the development of public transportation as an objective in its Economic Strategy.

## Accessibility Action Plan

<b>Goal</b>	
To ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully and meaningfully participate in all aspects of life in our communities.	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Prepare and implement policy and action frameworks to develop an integrated approach to minimising barriers facing people with disabilities living, working and visiting our area	1. Develop and distribute voluntary guidelines for restaurants, retail businesses, and other buildings accessed by the public to improve access for people with disabilities (including physical, mental and sensory).
2. Implement public education strategy to raise awareness of the issue of accessibility in our communities.	1. Provide information about programs and funding available to service providers and facility owners to make services, facilities and homes barrier-free. 2. Support Access Awareness activities; publication and updating of accessibility guidelines for municipalities, community agencies, and individuals.
3. Increase participation of people with disabilities in community processes.	1. Develop and distribute guidelines to ensure that public information is available in formats accessible for various disabilities 2. Adopt guidelines for public consultations to ensure that citizens with disabilities may participate, including holding consultations in accessible locations.

<p>4. To ensure the safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible movement of people and goods in City and County.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and implement the recommendations that arise out of the City Transportation Plan Review.</li> <li>2. Initiate a project to address the lack of public transportation in the county.</li> <li>3. Lobby provincial and federal government for funding for increased service within local area and to other destinations (e.g. VIA, improved bus service).</li> <li>4. Develop, expand and support community initiatives (e.g. volunteer drivers) to provide transportation for residents in city and county without access to transportation (seniors, children, youth, low income residents).</li> </ol>
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<p><b>Potential Partners</b></p>
<p>Council For Persons With Disabilities  Consumer/Survivor Network of Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough and Victoria  Five Counties Children’s Centre  Peterborough and District Association for Community Living</p>

# Child Care and Child Development

## Overview

Child Care and Child Development includes services that foster child development for children aged 0-12, support parents and caregivers, and enable parents/caregivers to participate in the labour force, seek employment or continue with their education.

### *Child Care*

The City of Peterborough on behalf of the City and County manages four child care funding programs: fee subsidy, wage subsidy, family resource centre and special needs resource funding. The City also directly operates two child care centres and four school-age programs. Program expenditures are cost-shared, on an 80:20 basis by the Province and the municipality. Administrative costs are shared on a 50:50 basis. Currently, total licensed capacity, centre and home-based, is 1,441. Twenty-four percent of the spaces are in the County and 66 percent are in the City. Eighty-four percent of licensed care is delivered in centres and sixteen percent in homes. The number of children served or spaces available in the informal sector (unlicensed homes) is unknown, but the Peterborough Family Resource Centre serves 215 home care providers. There is currently no overall ongoing planning capacity for child care.

The Consultations for Municipal Child Care Service Plan (PSPC, November 2000) revealed the following challenges:

- Transportation
- Need for increased capacity to serve infants and school age children
- Need for more home-based providers in the County
- Services for children with special needs
- Increased supports for quality care including improved compensation and professional development
- Recreation alternatives for school age children
- Increased capacity to support parents and caregivers
- Improved connections with the education system

## *Children's Services*

A range of services exists to meet the health, development, recreational and other needs of children. Speech and language, child protection, mental health, behavioural, social and other programs are included in this category. Most are funded, largely, by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and/or Ministry of Health. Many of these services have seen major increases in waiting lists over the past several years. For many years, the Peterborough Children's Services Group performed a coordination and planning function for the sector but the withdrawal of provincial funding led to its disbandment in 1996.

The lack of a coordinated planning network for children's services has since been a source of frustration for agencies providing services to children. Over fifty participants at the Children's Services Planning Forum in November, 2001 engaged in discussions to determine whether agencies supported the development of a children's planning group, and to describe the type of planning body best suited for this area. The group was unanimous in its support for the establishment of a children's planning network with a mandate to coordinate services for children and youth.

As part of the provincial government's Early Years Initiative focusing on children aged 0-6, the Peterborough County-City Early Years Initiative has developed an Interim Action Plan, and will develop an Inventory of Children's Services and a Three-Year Action Plan early in 2002. This planning process is intended to "lay the foundation upon which to build a comprehensive, seamless system of programs and services for families in our communities" (*Interim Action Plan*, 1-1). The *Interim Action Plan* identifies the following priorities for the Peterborough area:

- Supports for Parents, Families and Caregivers
- Supports for Children's Early Development and Learning (Age 0-6)
- Supports during Preconception, Prenatal, Pregnancy, Birth and Infancy

The *Interim Action Plan* identified a number of issues to be considered in enhancing early child development and parenting opportunities in Peterborough County-City:

- **Basic needs:** factors such as housing insecurity, homelessness and food insecurity adversely affect child development. Families living near or below the low income cut-offs may have difficulty providing for basic needs, such as adequate food and shelter, for their children, let alone attempt to provide further development opportunities. Children are profoundly affected by their families' economic, food and housing insecurity. Barriers to accessing programmes and services, including user costs.
- **The population:** the 0-6 group is estimated to increase by almost 10 percent by 2016; the three highest concentrations for this age group are the City of

Peterborough, Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield and Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan; an increasing number of children live in lone parent families

- **Transportation:** some County residents are able to access only those few programs that provide transportation
- **Access to Health Care:** many families with children do not have a family doctor; there are waiting lists for children's rehabilitative therapies (e.g. speech, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and mental health services/counselling).
- **Child care:** parents and caregivers require more flexible options such as short-term part-time spaces, respite spaces and evening and weekend availability
- **Supports to parents:** existing supports for parents focus primarily on high risk or specialized groups; there is an identified need for supports for the general parenting population as well as supports for the transition to parenting, particularly for teen parents.
- **Strengthened links to the education system**
- **Availability/Accessibility of Services:** concerns relate to issues of availability in the county, cost, days and hours of operation, limited access to most programs, ability to accommodate diverse cultural, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, and the need to address literacy and numeracy issues.
- **Public education/awareness:** need to develop a coordinated approach to the promotion of early child development and parenting programs and services

A comprehensive inventory will be completed as part of the Three-Year Action Plan; this inventory will identify specific gaps in services in the County-City. The initiative will also include extensive public consultation.

## Child Care and Child Development Action Plan

Goal	
To create an environment that promotes the healthy development of children and youth in our communities, so they achieve their full potential as adults.	
Objective	Action
1. Encourage a range of family support programs designed to promote family well-being that are accessible, affordable and innovative and that build on family capacity and community networks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and build on community work completed by the Early Years Initiative.</li> <li>2. Implement new programs required by the Early Years Centre (e.g. early literacy).</li> <li>3. Establish a Children's Planning Network.</li> </ol>
2. Promote the development of quality, accessible and affordable child care and early childhood education.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop affordable after school care and recreation alternatives for school age children.</li> <li>2. Evaluate and address key gaps in service, including increased capacity to serve infants and school age children; address need for child care during "non-standard" hours.</li> <li>3. Support employer initiatives to create family-friendly work places and to develop additional child care options.</li> <li>4. Address need for ongoing professional development for Early Childhood Educators and provide supports for working with children with behavioural challenges.</li> </ol>

## Potential Partners

City & County of Peterborough Social Services Department Children's Services Division  
Child Care Agencies  
Five Counties Children's Centre  
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board  
Kinark Child and Family Services  
Peterborough County City Health Unit  
Peterborough and District Association for Community Living  
Peterborough Family Resource Centre  
Peterborough Regional Health Centre  
Peterborough Social Planning Council  
Peterborough Victoria Northumberland & Clarington Catholic School Board

# Community Involvement

## Overview

Community involvement is a broad concept which examines the extent to which residents participate in the life of their community. This participation can mean taking part in political processes, giving time to a community organization, or even helping neighbours and friends. Community involvement also means the extent to which residents *feel as though they belong and have a role to play* in municipal processes and community activities.

**Volunteering** is an important part of community involvement, as it demonstrates and fosters a connection to public affairs and the life of the community. Volunteering can take many forms, from helping neighbours and visiting the elderly, to participating in faith-based activities or advocacy work, to fund-raising for charities. Many people also contribute to their communities through membership in associations, service clubs and labour unions.

**Civic participation** is the other cornerstone of community involvement, and it includes not only voting in elections but also participating in public consultations and advisory boards. Increasing public participation in government agencies and boards is an excellent way to build active citizenship, and at the same time to increase the level of democratic control over public institutions.

In order for a community to remain vibrant and healthy, it is important for residents to feel as though they belong to their communities, and to have a sense that the community is concerned about their well-being. This sense of belonging is fostered when individuals have real opportunities to participate in public processes. A stronger sense of belonging within the community is a natural outcome of initiatives to increase civic participation and voluntarism.

## **Volunteering**

There are a number of initiatives in the Peterborough area which are designed to promote and support volunteering:

- **United Way of Peterborough and District** provides Leadership Development Training for volunteer boards of directors. The United Way has also identified “support to voluntarism” as one of its five priorities for resource allocation.
- **Community Counselling and Resource Centre** operates a volunteer bureau, through which volunteers are matched to volunteer opportunities through a data-bank of positions. The CCRC also publishes the *Peterborough Community*

*Services Handbook*, and is a project partner in fourinfo.com, an online community information database.

- **Association of Managers of Volunteer Services** provides networking opportunities and professional development.

A number of service clubs also support volunteer work through recognition programs.

Participants at the Municipal Social Plan Town Hall meetings emphasized the high degree of volunteer commitment within the County and City, but noted concerns about the declining number of volunteers, the aging volunteer force, and the lack of resources for coordination. These concerns echo those of local agencies, which report increasing difficulties with volunteer recruitment, retention, burn-out and coordination. The volunteer referral program has experienced a decline in the number of referrals. This corresponds with anecdotal evidence that suggests many groups are finding it increasingly difficult to attract and maintain the volunteers they need.<sup>19</sup> Service clubs face similar challenges in recruiting and retaining members. More research is needed to find out why there have been changes in voluntarism rates, in order that strategies can be developed to counter this trend.

### **Civic participation**

Almost 49 percent of eligible voters in the City of Peterborough decided to vote in the 1997 federal election. In the County, the participation rate was 32 percent.<sup>20</sup> Both these rates are significantly lower than the national average. Information would suggest that voting levels at the municipal level are lower or similar. While part of the low voter turn-out in the County can be explained by the proportion of seasonal residents (cottagers) in the area, low rates in both the city and the county deserve notice. Research shows that marginalized groups, such as poor people, visible minorities, and youth, have lower voter participation rates than average. Part of the work of community involvement initiatives is to identify which segments of society feel excluded from the political process and find ways to include them.

In terms of public participation in civic processes, municipalities have long since established the practice of consulting the public through forums and citizen advisory boards. Some municipal officials are concerned, however, with developing more inclusive and meaningful processes for engaging residents. The Municipal Social Plan is one example of the municipalities' attempt to work more collaboratively with the community. New strategies will be required to attract the general public to consultation processes, and one particular challenge will be to overcome barriers which prevent disadvantaged groups (e.g., low-income or disabled persons) from participating.

Measuring volunteering levels and civic participation rates indicates how many people feel able to participate in their communities, but it does not tell us much about the

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<sup>19</sup> PSPC, *Peterborough Quality of Life 2000*.

<sup>20</sup> PSPC, *Peterborough Quality of Life 2000*.

people who do not – and especially *why* they do not. A significant challenge will be to examine the root causes of declining levels of participation. Social exclusion causes marginalized groups (e.g., low-income persons, disabled persons, people of colour, and youth) to fail to identify with public institutions, and this disillusionment causes voter apathy and a lack of interest in community activities. Municipalities and local organizations will need to examine strategies to address the root causes of social exclusion and disengagement.

Participants at the Town Hall meetings identified a number of additional issues that communities must consider as they work to create and strengthen a sense of belonging among residents. First, residents, especially those who are marginalized or isolated, require improved access to information about agencies, services and events. In rural areas, traditional networks for disseminating information may no longer be effective as demographics change. Rural communities also face the challenge of keeping young people involved in the community, as increasing numbers work outside their communities or move away completely. Local communities face the challenge of integrating permanent and seasonal community members, who may not have the same vision for the community. And finally, as residents work towards greater social inclusion, they must take into account the distinct communities that exist within the townships, and within the city itself.

## Community Involvement Action Plan

<b>Goal</b>	
To increase the level of involvement in community activities and public decision-making processes by all segments of our communities.	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Increase the rate of volunteering among all segments of our communities, and provide support to community organizations offering volunteer opportunities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify a sponsoring or coordinating role by one community-based partner in order to provide coordination and leadership in forming a regional volunteer co-ordination organization. Such an organization to address the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop a framework for a “Volunteer Bill of Rights” (cf. Vision 2010), starting with research on existing models.</li> <li>b. Support information exchanges between organizations on how to recruit and retain volunteers. Conduct research on factors contributing to diminishing voluntarism rates – include factors such as awareness levels, transportation, child-care responsibilities, and ‘time crunch.’</li> <li>c. Make linkages with disadvantaged groups, e.g. new Canadians and low-income people.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
2. Improve public participation in municipal decision-making processes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a community forum to address strategies which will increase voter turnout in municipal, provincial and federal elections.</li> <li>2. Develop consultation guidelines to increase participation in civic processes with a focus on outreach to Aboriginal groups, seniors, people with disabilities, low-income persons and the multi-cultural community.</li> <li>3. Develop and distribute to residents information about the role and functions of the municipalities, City and County Councils, and their advisory bodies.</li> </ol>

## Potential Partners

Association of Managers of Volunteer Services  
Community Care Peterborough  
Council for Persons with Disabilities  
Faith Community  
Service Clubs  
United Way of Peterborough and District; Community Care Peterborough  
Women's Institute  
Volunteer Bureau and fourinfo.com, Community Counselling and Resource Centre

# Economic/Income Security

## Overview

Economic/Income Security focuses on policies, programs and social issues in the areas of income security programs, and employment, including market wages, supports to finding and maintaining adequate and suitable employment, and workplace quality.

GPA 2020: A Vision for Our Future (1997) affirmed our communities' commitment to sustainable, responsible economic growth that balances economic development with social and environmental well-being. Such development provides a range of employment opportunities in the long term, enabling residents to contribute to our local economy, and earn sufficient income to ensure quality of life.

Local studies focusing on hunger and on homelessness and housing insecurity have pointed to the link between these issues and inadequate market and transfer incomes. By working to improve employment opportunities and access to income security programs, we may offset the cost of dealing with the social and economic effects of poverty and income disparity in our communities.

## Income Trends

According to Revenue Canada data, the average individual income in the City-County in 1998, based on all tax returns, was \$26,900. Average income in the City was \$27,133, compared to \$26,407 in the County.<sup>21</sup> Of those individuals who filed tax returns, 50 percent reported income of \$20,000 or less; 13 percent reported income over \$50,000.

Across Canada, a growing income gap between rich and poor developed throughout the 1990s. Market incomes show evidence of this growing gap: by 1998 households in the top income quintile earned \$27 for every \$1 earned by households in the lowest quintile (compared to \$18 for every \$1 in 1989). The gap in after-tax incomes increased from 7.2 to 1 in 1994 to 8.5 to 1 in 1998, suggesting that our system of transfers and taxes is less able to counteract the polarization in market incomes (CCSD 2000). Between 1994 and 1997 the after-tax income of the poorest 10 percent of Canadian families decreased by 12 percent (Yalnizyan, 2000, iii).

The increasing polarization in incomes results from a number of factors, including the 21.6 per cent cut in provincial social assistance rates in 1995, tighter eligibility for and reduced Employment Insurance, changes in the labour market, and a stagnant

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<sup>21</sup> Revenue Canada Locality Code Statistics, 1998

minimum wage. A growing body of research suggests that economies with greater disparity between rich and poor are unable to sustain long term economic growth.

According to the 1996 Census, 13.1 per cent of all families and 41.2 per cent of unattached individuals in Peterborough City and County had incomes below the Low Income Cut Off in 1995. Nationally, rates of low income tend to be higher than average for young families (oldest adult under 25); lone-parent families led by mothers; Aboriginal people; visible minorities; and people with disabilities. Poverty rates for older adults in Canada have declined over time, but 45 per cent of unattached older adults were poor in 1997, with women being disproportionately affected: 49.1 per cent of older women compared to 33.3 per cent of older men were living in poverty. Many older adults live on incomes just above the low income cut-offs, *not poor* but *near poor*. (CCSD 2000).

In addition to the rate of low income, the average depth of low income (gap between a household's income and the low income cut off) is an important indicator of the economic status of low income residents. The national average poverty gap in 1998 was \$8,219 for families and \$6,154 for individuals (CCSD 2000). Currently, the gap for a single adult receiving Ontario Works is \$9251, or \$4331 for a single adult receiving ODSP.

### Employment

The major employers in the area include educational institutions, industrial manufacturers, the service industry, government departments, health services, and the retail sector.

### **Peterborough Labour Force by Occupation<sup>22</sup>**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>No. of Workers</b>	<b>Percent of Workforce</b>
Sales and Service	17 901	30 percent
Business, Finance & Administration	10 253	17 percent
Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators	8 682	15 percent
Management	4 992	8 percent
Processing, Manufacturing & Utilities	4 376	7 percent
Health	3 776	6 percent
Education	3 088	5 percent
Natural & Applied Sciences	2 400	4 percent
Social Sciences, Government Services & Religion	1 876	3 percent
Primary Industries	1 608	3 percent

<sup>22</sup> GPA EDC, *Peterborough Community Profile*, 2001.

The changing labour market in Canada has contributed significantly to the growing polarization of wages. Over the last decade, the percentage of workers with secure employment and sufficient income has decreased while the number of workers employed in part-time, contract, and temporary jobs has increased considerably. In 1998, over 52 per cent of Canadian workers earned less than \$15 per hour. In addition, 45 per cent of adult employees between the ages of 25-59 were employed in part-time, contract or temporary jobs.

The unemployment rate for Economic Region 520, which includes the County of Peterborough, was 6.3 per cent in November 2001. There were 3,552 Regular Employment Insurance Claims in the Peterborough/Haliburton area, which represents an increase of 653 claims over the previous month and an increase of 939 claims over November 2000. Research completed by the Ryerson Social Reporting Network suggests that the reported unemployment rate underrepresents the actual extent of exclusion from the labour force, with up to 20 per cent of the Canadian labour force unemployed, underemployed, or discouraged.

Barriers to employment include lack of relevant work experience or work-related skills; educational level and literacy skills; child care; and transportation. According to Ontario Works, 47 per cent of current clients lack any relevant work experience or lack work-related skills; an estimated 30-40 per cent have literacy needs, and 36 per cent are sole support parents.

A number of local programs and agencies provide supports to finding and maintaining employment, including:

- Ontario Works Employment Services
- ODSP Employment Supports
- Lovesick Lake Native Women Association
- Peer Training Resource Centre (CMHA)
- Peterborough Association for Community Living (PDA CL)
- Peterborough Communication Support Services
- Community Opportunity and Innovation Network (COIN)

### Income Security Programs

Income Security programs, administered federally, provincially, and municipally, provide financial assistance to residents who are not participating in the labour force (because of age, or structural or personal barriers), or who are unable to earn sufficient market income. The City and County of Peterborough Social Services Department provides income support and employment services through the Ontario Works Program to City and County residents requiring financial assistance. The provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services, which delivers Ontario Disability Support Program benefits directly, now bills the Municipalities for 20 per cent of the gross cost incurred

and 50 per cent of its Administration cost for administering ODSP. The City and County of Peterborough Social Services Department administers Discretionary Benefits for both Ontario Works and ODSP clients.

The federal Employment Insurance (EI) program and provincial social assistance programs changed significantly in the 1990s, generally resulting in reduced benefit amounts and restricted eligibility. Ontario=s social assistance programs were restructured in 1995, as the provincial government began the process of downloading responsibility for a number of social services programs including Ontario Works to the municipal level. The previous system of General Welfare Assistance and Family Benefits Assistance became Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

Social assistance rates were cut by 21.6 per cent in 1995, and have not risen since. Currently, the maximum benefit for an individual receiving Ontario Works is \$520 per month (includes \$325 shelter allowance and \$195 basic allowance). Benefits for families are set according to household size and composition. For example, a lone parent with one child receives \$957 per month, and a couple with two children receives \$1178.<sup>23</sup>

Ontario Works caseloads in the City and County declined over the period from January 1998 to December 2000, with a drop of 43 per cent in City caseloads. The average monthly caseload<sup>24</sup> for 1999 was 3834, decreasing to 3217 in 2000. Caseloads for the first half of 2001 fluctuated, but continue to show an overall decrease. Although the OW system attempts to track the reasons for termination of benefits, it is difficult to maintain accurate statistics on the actual reasons people leave the caseload. To date, no research has been completed to track outcomes for those households which have left the caseload.

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<sup>23</sup> These amounts may vary slightly depending on the age of the dependent children.

<sup>24</sup> A Caseload@ refers to the number of cases that are on assistance in any given month; each case is a benefit unit that may include more than one adult participant.

## Economic/Income Security Action Plan

<b>Goal</b>	
To enhance the economic security of all residents through the enhancement of employment opportunities and access to income security programs.	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Enhance employment opportunities for all population groups.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop local economic development strategies as appropriate which address the migration of youth and young families out of the community; necessary supports for farm owners; supports for seasonal workers; and the general effects on community development.</li> <li>2. Develop community programs to address systemic barriers for citizens of our communities to participate in the labour force (e.g. child care, accessibility for persons with disabilities, transportation).</li> <li>3. Adopt advocacy programs which support the development of employment opportunities which work towards closing the income gaps in the community.</li> <li>4. Establish a sophisticated, reliable system for up-to-date tracking and analysis of changing local labour market; make information readily available to the community.</li> <li>5. Develop a monitoring program to evaluate conditions of work, including general employment conditions specifically related to employment placements (e.g. Ontario Works placements).</li> <li>6. Develop programs for the ongoing support of self-employed workers.</li> </ol>
2. Improve access to Income Security programs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a comprehensive publication listing benefits available through income security and emergency relief programs to assist people in need and the agencies serving them.</li> <li>2. Conduct evaluation of Ontario Works program, including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) costs of Ontario Works</li> <li>c) audit of discretionary benefits</li> <li>d) cost to families and community when person's benefits are terminated</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Municipal commitment to provide service versus cut costs in Social Services</li> <li>4. Social services must understand and work with rural networks.</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Advocate with provincial and federal governments to address economic and income security issues.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocate for reinstatement of federal and provincial program levels (partner with municipal organizations such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario).</li> <li>2. Develop information programs at the municipal level to be distributed regularly to update community members regarding policy changes (e.g. liens on property through Ontario Works).</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Address issues of economic and income security, and develop of an action plan on poverty.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify a sponsoring or coordinating role by one community-based partner in order to provide direction and leadership in forming a partnership model for delivery to rationalize and integrate services already provided. Focus areas to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Coordinate efforts among agencies and other organizations involved in addressing the needs of individuals and communities affected by poverty.</li> <li>b. Increase public awareness of the link between economic/income security and housing and food security.</li> <li>c. Develop an official statement and public awareness campaign affirming the worth and dignity of all citizens, regardless of economic status.</li> <li>d. Research and adopt models for economic security from other areas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Review provincial and local National Child Benefit policies and investigate models that allow Ontario Works clients to recover deducted Supplement amounts.</li> </ol>

## Potential Partners

City and County of Peterborough Social Services Department  
Community Opportunity and Innovation Network (COIN)  
Five Counties Low Income Families Together (LIFT)  
Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation  
Housing Resource Centre, Community Counselling and Resource Centre  
Kawartha Lakes Northumberland Haliburton Training Board  
Lovesick Lake Native Women Association  
Ontario Disability Support Program, ODSP Employment Supports  
Older Women's Network  
Peer Training Resource Centre, Canadian Mental Health Association  
Peterborough Association for Community Living  
Peterborough Coalition Against Poverty Peterborough and District Labour Council  
Peterborough Communication Support Services  
Peterborough Community Legal Centre  
Peterborough Social Planning Council  
Peterborough and District Labour Council

# Environment

## Overview

The Environment is an important aspect of and is fundamentally linked to Peterborough City and County. It is an integral part of our identity. A safe and healthy environment is vital to the health and well-being of residents, and also contributes to our economic health, providing a basis for tourism. It is important that the municipalities, organizations and individuals come together in a partnership to protect and enhance the environment.

The County and City have achieved a number of successes in waste reduction and diversion, wetlands preservation, energy efficiency, natural heritage protection and land and resource stewardship. Within our region, we have a range of environmental and natural resources management agencies, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions, including the Ministry of Natural Resources, Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, and Peterborough Green Up, that collaborate on processes such as the Watershed 2000 report and process.

Over the last years, there has been a heightened concern around water quality, particularly in light of the disaster in Walkerton; and around air quality, with rising smog levels; and around agricultural practices and nutrient management. The following list functions as a statement of values, a list of issues which should be continually evaluated to determine areas that require maintenance or remediation.

- ❑ Use of chemical pesticides
- ❑ Protecting natural areas
- ❑ Water quality and quantity
- ❑ Protecting natural wildlife and flora
- ❑ Transportation alternatives
- ❑ Local initiatives to reduce effects of global warming
- ❑ Energy management
- ❑ Waste management – household, industrial, agricultural
- ❑ Air quality
- ❑ Noise pollution
- ❑ Environment Planning – watershed planning
- ❑ Development Planning (municipal planning)
- ❑ Minimizing impact of tourism on natural areas, flora and fauna
- ❑ Light pollution (bright lights contaminating night sky)
- ❑ Urbanization of cottage country
- ❑ Increasing pressure for use of natural spaces (especially for recreation)
- ❑ Protecting ground water and soil

- Access to natural areas for public

Ideally, Municipalities and community organizations must consider the environmental impact of any actions undertaken through the social plan.

## Environment Action Plan

<b>Goal</b>	
To develop partnerships and coordination which will provide the greater Peterborough area with long term sustainability of its natural resources.	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Local governments and organizations have a clear commitment to sustaining the environment.	1. Municipalities and agencies to adopt a statement that any initiatives developed through the Social Plan will take into account environmental values and principles.
2. Identify environmental priorities as a standard for local action.	1. Complete and maintain an index of environmental issues which require either remediation or maintenance actions to be taken. 2. Implement technical review of existing documents and data to screen for validity and complete gap analysis for data, policy and programs.
3. Identify responsibility for environmental issues.	1. Develop and distribute an inventory of agencies which have environmental responsibilities including a description of the scope of their responsibilities.
4. Identify a coordinated effort to address community-based environmental factors.	1. Establish a municipal/community environmental advisory committee with responsibilities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Advise municipal governments</li> <li>b. Designate one or more agencies to work with local residents and publicize successes. Prepare and promote an outline of the environmental responsibilities of local residents; identify and address barriers (including financial) to fulfilling these responsibilities.</li> <li>c. Develop a public education program that leads to community empowerment and includes a communications strategy</li> <li>d. Seek out new, creative funding sources</li> </ul>

## Potential Partners

Curve Lake First Nation  
Hiawatha First Nation  
Lakefield Research  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs  
Otonabee Region Conservation Authority  
Peterborough Field Naturalists  
Peterborough Green Up  
Peterborough County City Health Unit  
Sir Sandford Fleming College  
Trent University  
Trent-Severn Waterway  
Women's Institute

# Food Security

- X Collective Kitchens
- X Food for Kids Breakfast Programs
- X Food Box Programs (offered by the YWCA and Salvation Army)
- X Community Gardens
- X Grow-a-Row
- X Gleaning

At the same time, the number of Emergency Food Programs increased in both the city and county. The establishment of Kawartha Food Share in August 1998 centralized food collection and coordinated its distribution to 22 member agencies, using a fair share policy. In 2000, KFS helped to feed almost 48,000 people (an average of 4,000 per month) through its member agencies. These agencies include food banks in Millbrook, Lakefield, Norwood and Curve Lake. Other sources of emergency food include the Peterborough Food Bank, Havelock Food Bank and a newly established food bank in Apsley. Services clubs and churches provide an informal network of support in many areas of the County, and Social Services has initiated a food voucher program funded through the National Child Benefit Reinvestment Strategy.

The work of individuals and agencies in establishing and supporting food action and emergency food programs is to be commended. However, while a variety of agencies and service groups provide food programs, these measures do not have the capacity to end hunger. Food Banks were originally initiated as a short term solution, but are in danger of becoming accepted as a permanent part of the social landscape. As many providers recognize, food insecurity will continue to exist in our communities as long as a portion of our residents live on inadequate incomes, forced to make choices between paying for shelter or buying food for themselves and their households.

Food Security is also an issue for those older adults and persons with disabilities who need assistance in purchasing and preparing adequate meals. Within the City, Meals on Wheels provides both hot and frozen meals delivered by volunteers. Community Care provides the same service in the County. While the meals are reasonably priced, older adults and persons with disabilities living on lower, fixed incomes may experience affordability issues. The recent cuts in homecare have meant that clients may no longer receive help with meal preparation.

There is currently no formal umbrella organization for planning around food security. Agencies such as the Peterborough County City Health Unit and the YWCA attempt to plan together or coordinate their plans, and as mentioned Kawartha Food Share assists with coordination for its members.

## Food Security Action Plan

<b>Goal</b>	
To ensure that all people at all times have access to sufficient amounts of safe, nutritious, and personally acceptable foods in a manner that maintains human dignity.	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Work towards ensuring that community members have adequate income to afford to choose sufficient, healthy food.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopt a community statement that recognizes food as a human right, and commits to creating food security by working to address the root causes of food insecurity in our communities (including role of social policies, housing and labour markets), with the goal of ending the need for emergency food programs.</li> <li>2. Develop public education and advocacy strategies to highlight link between food insecurity, housing insecurity and income insecurity.</li> <li>3. Identify a sponsoring or coordinating role by one community-based partner within a coalition in order to provide direction and leadership to address income security issues.</li> </ol>
2. Work with food banks and other organizations to address issues around quality and sufficiency of food, access limitations, information and referral.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review, revise and distribute existing communication strategies for food programs in the County and City, including relief available through Social Services.</li> <li>2. Develop and promote a forum to specifically address issues around quality and sufficiency of food, access limitations, information and referral.</li> <li>3. Develop strategies to expand meal programs for older adults and adults with disabilities (e.g. Meals on Wheels) as population ages and number of persons with disabilities increases.</li> </ol>
3. Ensure that residents have access to a sustainable, safe, high quality food supply (e.g. organic foods etc.).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sponsor and organize a forum to identify and address economic issues for farmers, including income and access to resources to grow and distribute food locally.</li> </ol>

## Potential Partners

Coalition for Social Justice  
Community Shared Agriculture  
Council of Canadians  
Eat Smart Restaurants  
Farmgate Sales Association  
Five Counties Low Income Families Together (LIFT)  
Food for Kids Community Partners  
Food Issues Group  
Hearts Alive Peterborough  
Kawartha Food Share  
Kawartha World Issues Centre  
Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG)  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs  
Peterborough Coalition Against Poverty  
Peterborough County-City Health Unit  
Peterborough Downtown Market  
YWCA of Peterborough, Victoria, and Haliburton

# Housing

## Overview

Decent affordable housing is a fundamental right for all citizens in our community. The County and City require a range of choices for adequate, affordable, suitable housing in order to ensure a decent home for everyone. In addition to issues of supply, our communities need a range of responsive and accessible services that support people in finding and maintaining housing, and support those with special needs to live independently.

Peterborough has had a long commitment to addressing housing issues at both a municipal and a grassroots community level. In the 1980s and early 1990s the City conducted a number of surveys to determine housing needs and preferences, and a number of non-profit housing projects were initiated/founded by community agencies and volunteers. The Peterborough Housing Advisory Committee was active in advising the City and addressing housing issues.

The withdrawal of senior levels of government from the creation of new affordable housing, coupled with restrictions on income security programs and changes in the labour market, created a crisis situation that saw growing numbers of Canadians including local residents in a state of housing insecurity or outright homelessness. An increasing awareness of the magnitude and urgency of local housing needs led a coalition of agencies and housing providers to organize the Peterborough Homelessness Forum in the spring of 1999. Forum discussions confirmed that an increasing number of people were moving back and forth between being homeless and precariously housed, and that a lack of affordable housing and inadequate incomes were the two most important factors in the current crisis.

The Taskforce on Homelessness and Housing Insecurity was born out of the Forum, and it spearheaded a renewed community commitment to develop, implement and advocate for solutions to the housing crisis. Its work took on a heightened urgency with the release of the "Where's Home?" Report, which revealed that 28 percent of tenants in the City were paying over 50 percent of their gross income for shelter costs.<sup>26</sup> According to the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation, households should pay no more than 30 percent of their gross income for shelter costs (including rent, mortgage payments, property taxes, utilities). The average household income of tenants in 1995 was less than half that of owners, yet, on average, tenants paid almost as much for rent each month as owners paid for mortgages. In the summer of 1999, the Housing

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<sup>26</sup>The "Where's Home?" Report, published by the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association in 1999, was based on 1996 Census data.

Resource Centre re-opened, to provide housing support services to tenants and homeless persons.

The Homelessness Task Force released a series of Recommendations to City and County councils in November 1999. In March 2000, Peterborough Social Planning Council released "Crisis of Affordability: A Study of Homelessness and Housing Insecurity in Peterborough City and County." Based on a survey of 206 respondents in the City and County, this report provided detailed information on the nature and extent of homelessness and housing insecurity in our area.

In 2000, Peterborough City and County Councils formed a community-based group, the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC), to advise them on all matters related to affordable housing. AHAC includes representatives from both Councils, and its sub-committee structure ensures that its work continues to have its roots in the community. The five sub-committees focus on Services, Supply, Policy and Issues, Social Housing Transition, and Funding.

AHAC has supported or instigated a number of initiatives in the community, including the establishment of a winter-time Warming Room for homeless persons and an Emergency Assistance Fund to aid persons who are homeless or housing insecure. One of its most important achievements is the completion of the Community Plan for Homelessness and Housing Insecurity, focusing on prevention, outreach services, emergency, transitional and supportive housing in conjunction with the federal Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI). The Plan was endorsed by City and County Councils in November 2001, and results in a significant flow of federal funds into the local area. Among other goals, the Plan will facilitate coordination of outreach and the development of a minimal barrier shelter for Peterborough, for people who are considered hard to house, for various reasons such as mental health issues or substance abuse.

The Transition Sub-Committee is working with the Service Manager (the City of Peterborough, acting for the City and County) to assist with the transfer of the administration of social housing from the province to the municipality. The City as Service Manager is responsible for the administration of the portfolio and budgeting; the County contributes 49.4 per cent of the total funding for housing. The local Social Housing Portfolio includes the local housing corporation, 21 non-profit providers, one co-operative and the commercial Rent Supplement Program (administered by the Peterborough Housing Corporation), for a total of approximately 2200 units. The Peterborough Housing Authority became the Peterborough Housing Corporation in January 2001; non-profit and co-operative housing providers devolve on March 1, 2002.

AHAC's Supply Sub-Committee is currently working on a strategic plan for permanent affordable housing in the City and County. With over 1600 households on the waiting list for social housing, and average market rents outside the affordability range for households living on low incomes, our communities must work quickly to find innovative ways to make housing affordable for all our residents.

## Housing Action Plan

Goal	
To realize a community in which all residents have access to decent, affordable, suitable housing.	
Objective	Action
1. Support community initiatives working towards creating an affordable housing supply and ending homelessness.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide ongoing support for the work of the Affordable Housing Action Committee.</li> <li>2. Support the implementation of the <i>Community Plan to Address Homelessness in Peterborough City and County</i>.</li> <li>3. Support the development and implementation of strategies for increasing the supply of affordable housing, including the City of Peterborough Planning and Development Services' "Taking Charge: An Investment in Affordability" and AHAC Supply Sub-Committee's "Strategic Plan for the New Supply of Affordable Housing."</li> </ol>

Potential Partners
<p>Affordable Housing Action Committee            Buckhorn Rural Outreach            Canadian Mental Health Association – Peterborough Branch            Five Counties Low Income Families Together (LIFT)            Housing Resource Centre, Community Counselling and Resource Centre            Lakefield and District Affordable Housing Group            Non-profit and Co-operative Housing Providers Peterborough Affordable Housing Foundation            Peterborough Community Housing Development Corporation            Peterborough Community Legal Centre            Peterborough Housing Corporation</p>

# Human Rights

## Overview

Everyday, people in our community deal with matters which concern human rights – order and justice, the maintenance of individual dignity, regard for truth and fairness, and mutual respect. Human rights language provides us with a way to discuss freedom and responsibility, the allocation of goods and services, and the role of governments, communities, families and individuals in ensuring everyone’s well-being. Supporting human rights means promoting equality and understanding among members of our community, our country, and the world. A human rights framework does not tell us what kind of lives we should live, but it does define the minimum conditions that allow people to live full, healthy lives in pursuit of their own goals. At the local level, a human rights framework encourages mutual respect, equal treatment, freedom from discrimination and violence, and responsible participation in the life of the community.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (unanimously adopted in 1948 by the UN General Assembly) can serve as a guide for building awareness and respect for human rights at the local level. The Declaration includes (among other rights):

- the right of all persons to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions
- the right to social security and social insurance
- the right to education, including equal access to post-secondary education
- the right to work freely chosen, at a wage which provides a decent living for workers and their families
- the right to participate in public affairs, directly or through representatives
- the right to have equal access to public services
- the right to take part in cultural life
- the right for members of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, and to use their own language

The rights in the Declaration are to be enforced without discrimination as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

## **Current Status**

### **a) public awareness of human rights issues**

Although responsibility for enforcing human rights belongs primarily to senior levels of government, municipalities and local organizations play a role in building public awareness. Local residents are generally aware of the rights they hold under the Canadian Charter of Rights, but are not necessarily familiar with the international human rights agreements to which Canada is bound. Furthermore, there is a lack of clarity as to which level of government is responsible for various areas of jurisdiction.

Municipal governments and community organizations have a major role to play in promoting certain 'local' rights, such as the right to participate in public affairs, to receive public services without discrimination, and to take part in the cultural life of one's chosen community.

Teaching and practising human rights in school environments is another important aspect of building public awareness. The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board has adopted a policy to achieve equity and to eliminate stereotyping, and there may be potential for the municipality, community organizations, and the school board to collaboratively develop a human rights curriculum for the classroom.

### **b) human rights principles in municipal planning**

The municipality currently operates within the Charter of Rights and the Ontario Human Rights Code. These frameworks require municipal planning to respect the rights of everyone in the community. Local residents have emphasized the importance of using a human rights perspective to develop the Municipal Social Plan, so it is expected that human rights will play an even greater role in future planning exercises.

### **c) equitable access to municipal programs and services**

A key component of working within a human rights framework is to recognize and remove obstacles facing disadvantaged groups. Some of these obstacles occur in areas, such as housing and the workplace, which are the responsibility of senior levels of government. However, municipal governments and voluntary organizations have a role to play in ensuring access to services and programs for disadvantaged groups.

### **d) the role of community organizations**

Community groups have a dual role to play in the area of human rights. Firstly, organizations have a key role to play in promoting respect for diversity and fostering a broader understanding among service providers and in the general population of the rights that belong to everyone. Secondly, organizations play a crucial role in providing many of the services that allow vulnerable populations to realize their human rights. Organizations currently working to support human rights in Peterborough include:

- **Community and Race Relations Committee**
- **Council for Persons with Disabilities**
- **Kawartha World Issues Centre**
- **Low Income Families Together (LIFT)**
- **New Canadians Centre**
- **Peterborough Community Legal Centre**
- **Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (serving Ontario)**
- **Peterborough Coalition Against Poverty**
- **YWCA of Peterborough, Haliburton & Victoria County**

#### **e) resolving individual complaints**

While it is obviously the task of senior levels of government to educate the public about the rights contained in the Charter, the Canadian Human Rights Act, and the Ontario Human Rights Code, the municipality and community organizations also play a role in reaching local residents to ensure they are informed and know where to turn with their concerns, especially regarding municipal services. Presently, local residents must contact the human rights office in Toronto if they have concerns to raise under federal or provincial human rights legislation. At the local level, the council in Lindsay has recently appointed a rural ombuds officer to address urban-rural issues.

#### **The Challenges**

- **Building public awareness:** While local residents support human rights in principle, there is a need for public education on specific human rights issues in the community, such as the right to housing and income security.
- **Incorporating human rights principles into municipal planning:** It will be a challenge to make human rights concrete at the implementation stage of the Municipal Social Plan, and in future municipal planning initiatives.
- **Ensuring equitable access to municipal programs and services:** The challenge in this area is to develop a process through which the municipality and community organizations can ensure that all facilities and services are available to all.
- **Identifying the role of community organizations:** Many organizations have a history of supporting human rights in the community through their work in education, advocacy and service provision. There are limits, however, to the capacity of organizations to carry out this responsibility, given resource constraints.
- **Resolving individual complaints:** Another challenge is to ensure that individuals have an avenue for addressing human rights concerns, whether they involve local, provincial or federal programs and services.

## Human Rights Action Plan

<b>Goal</b>	
To promote respect for human dignity within our communities, and to ensure that everyone's human rights are protected.	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Ensure that municipal planning processes and the delivery of services are guided by human rights principles.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopt a statement of principles based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with specific reference to prohibited forms of discrimination, to guide the municipalities and other organizations in their policy-making, provision of services and programs, and role as contractor or employer.</li> <li>2. Establish a committee mandated to review existing and future programs in light of human rights principles, or assign such a mandate to an existing committee. This committee should focus on addressing barriers which prevent public services from being accessed equitably by all.</li> <li>3. Use a human rights framework to monitor and evaluate the success of the entire MSP. Ensure accountability through the publication of progress reports by an independent advisory committee.</li> <li>4. Build and maintain knowledge of the changing nature of our community's diversity, and about human rights initiatives throughout the community.</li> </ol>
2. Provide advocacy, education, and resolution services for those individuals experiencing barriers to equitable access to programs and services.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a local, independent human rights ombuds office in the Greater Peterborough Area. The mandate to include:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. mediating complaints regarding municipal facilities and services</li> <li>b. conduct ongoing awareness and educational programs in the area of human rights;</li> <li>c. and generally be an advocate for those individuals in the community who believe their rights have been</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>infringed upon.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Create a mechanism for agencies and organizations to share tools for human rights education. Encourage initiatives intended to build support for diversity and anti-discrimination measures.</li> <li>3. Consult the community on existing barriers, including discrimination, affordability and accessibility barriers.</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Make accessible human rights consulting services to a wide range of organizations within the community.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop training programs for management and front-line staff on equity issues, including cross-cultural understanding, anti-racism, faith issues, self-determination for Aboriginal peoples, and equality rights for visible minorities, people with disabilities, youth and older persons, and sexual minorities.</li> </ol>

### Potential Partners

Community and Race Relations Committee  
 Consumer/Survivor Network of Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough and Victoria  
 Council for Persons with Disabilities  
 Curve Lake First Nation  
 Hiawatha First Nation  
 Kawartha Métis and Non-Status Indian Association  
 Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre  
 Kawartha World Issues Centre  
 New Canadians Centre  
 Ontario Provincial Police  
 Peterborough Community Legal Centre  
 Peterborough Coalition Against Poverty  
 Peterborough Lakefield Community Police  
 Peterborough Social Planning Council  
 Rainbow Services Organization  
 United Way of Peterborough & District  
 YWCA of Peterborough, Haliburton & Victoria County

# Safe Communities

## Overview

City and County residents who attended the Social Plan Town Hall meetings expressed a general sense of safety and security in their communities. Over the last decades, public awareness of the health effects and costs of violence has led to growing intolerance for all forms of violence and abuse, including bullying, domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, sexual harassment and sexual assault. The creation and maintenance of safe communities requires support for law enforcement and community programs which deal with the consequences of crime and assist victims. It also requires preventive initiatives which work to understand and change the beliefs and attitudes that create a climate allowing violence to occur.

A number of diverse community organizations, agencies and groups are working in various areas of violence and violence prevention within the City and County. Reports relating to Safe Communities and addressing issues of violence in Peterborough County and City include:

- Peterborough County Community Consultation on Violence Against Women: A Report Dedicated to the Women of Peterborough County Who Have Survived Violence and Abuse (1994)
- Peterborough Healthy Communities Network Forum: “A Safe Community:
- Stopping Violence - The Task at Hand: A Report from the Forum “Counting the Costs of Violence: Planning For Prevention and Healing” (1997)
- GPA 2020: A Vision For Our Future, “Building a Healthy Community” (1997)

The YWCA Week Without Violence is an annual initiative which brings together a partnership of about 40 local groups to promote awareness and skill-building to support violence prevention and non-violence. This initiative is in its seventh year.

The **Peaceful Communities Project** is one major initiative that is seeking to address issues of safety and violence prevention in Peterborough city and county. This initiative grew out of the “Counting the Costs of Violence Forum” sponsored by local health agencies in October 1997 during the YWCA Week Without Violence. The definition of violence for the Peaceful Communities Project is as follows: “Violence is the abuse of power to control and oppress others. It can impact on people physically, emotionally, spiritually, economically and psychologically.” Some major themes of the project include: expanding the understanding that violence can take many forms, beyond those

which are directly physical; there are strong links between various forms of violence; there is more awareness surrounding some forms of violence in comparison to others; and everyone is affected by violence and has a responsibility to work towards a just and non-violent community.

The project is divided into three phases: research; a community conference; and implementation and action strategies. An overview of local information, resources, and needs will be gained by researching attitudes and perceptions relating to various forms of violence, safety, and the effectiveness of current and proposed strategies for positive behaviour change. Ultimately, the project's motivation is to effect a change in attitudes about what violence is and to move towards a broader understanding that leads to progressive change and less tolerance for violence in our lives and community. The Peaceful Communities Project will ideally become a way in which those already working towards a violence free society can develop stronger networks and frameworks for addressing the issues and sharing resources.

## Safe Communities Action Plan

<b>Goal</b>	
To create safe, secure communities where residents live free from violence and abuse, and promote dignity and respect for every individual.	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Support community initiatives that identify the contributing factors to crime and abuse.	1. Provide support for the completion of the ongoing Peaceful Communities Project. 2. Create partnerships to support the Peaceful Communities Conference in Fall 2002. 3. Create a violence prevention database.
2. Increase safety and security by addressing conditions in the physical environment that may encourage crime.	1. Develop and distribute environmental design guidelines for open space, commercial buildings, neighbourhoods and streets that promote safety and security. 2. Conduct a safety audit of municipal buildings and facilities as necessary.

### Potential Partners

Community Counselling and Resource Centre  
 Community Policing Associations  
 Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board  
 Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre  
 Ontario Provincial Police  
 Peterborough County City Health Unit  
 Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service  
 Peterborough Regional Health Centre  
 Peterborough Social Planning Council  
 Peterborough Victoria Northumberland & Clarington Catholic School Board  
 Sir Sandford Fleming College  
 Trent University  
 YWCA of Peterborough, Victoria and Haliburton