

Peterborough's Poverty Reduction Plan: Aspiring to a Poverty Free Community

Poverty remains a growing concern in Peterborough City and County where over **16%** of the population and nearly **20%** of children live in poverty. Aware of the wide spectrum of poverty issues, the **Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network (PPRN)** launched on April 13, 2016 "**Our Plan for Poverty Reduction**", a comprehensive document that lays down the community's goals and strategies for combating poverty.

The PPRN's strategic directions include:

- ✓ Enable community members meet their immediate needs through collaborative action
- ✓ Build capacity in the community through education, information, and skills development
- ✓ Create new partnerships and opportunities for collaboration on poverty reduction initiatives
- ✓ Work towards systemic change to reduce the impacts of poverty and income inequality.

The PPRN members commit to reduce poverty in the community by focusing their efforts on areas where both an immediate difference as well as long term, systemic change, can be brought. The following chart illustrates the plan's strategic focus areas.



The plan defines action items under each area of focus. The following table offers a snapshot of only some of the proposed actions. To review the complete list of actions under each area of focus access the full plan [here](#).

Strategic Focus Area	Proposed Actions	Reference to Strategic Goals
<i>Income Security</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocate for increases to Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) income support rates. ○ Work towards a living minimum wage; make Peterborough a living wage community. ○ Work towards a Basic Income Guarantee 	Empower & Address Needs Empower & Address Needs Create Change
<i>Peterborough Food Action Network</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the number of community gardens available in the City and County. ○ Ensure the fresh food is available at emergency food programs including food banks and community meals. 	Empower & Address Needs Collaborate
<i>Basic Needs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secure more funding for the Dental Treatment Access Fund. ○ Create better transit and transportation systems between the City and County. 	Empower & Address Needs Collaborate
<i>Employment & Training</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide more access to free and non-intimidating skills development opportunities. ○ Create an Employment Bank, where people with specific skills can be linked up with employers. ○ Work to support the Living Wage campaign and Basic Income Guarantee. 	Build Capacity Collaborate Create Change
<i>Housing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support AHAC in education all sectors about the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. ○ Support key initiatives of the Peterborough 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. 	Build Capacity Create Change
<i>Community Hubs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Act as a resource and catalyst for community hubs and neighbourhood groups. ○ Foster inclusive, diverse hubs and neighbourhoods. 	Empower & Address Needs Create Change

PPRN is a network of community groups, agencies, and individuals concerned about the impacts of poverty in our community. The network partners strive to break the cycle of poverty by working collaboratively to empower people and create policy change.

PPRN partners include the City of Peterborough, Peterborough County, Local School Boards, Housing Resource Centre, Local Churches and Faith Groups, Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, Employment Planning and Counselling, United Way of Peterborough and District, Peterborough Social Planning Council and many other organisations. Partners are engaged in various ways through PPRN's structure, including the Steering and Planning Committee, as well as the aforementioned working groups.

Sources:

<https://ptbopovertyreduction.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/pprn-poverty-reduction-plan-final.pdf>

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