

Niagara Poverty Reduction Network

Terms of Reference

PREAMBLE

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network is intended to increase prosperity among residents of the Niagara region. The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network provides leadership in informing and changing attitudes about poverty, sharing ideas, resources and information services to leverage, collaborate and maximize the opportunities for community engagement.

VISION

All Niagara residents live above the poverty line.

MISSION

Private, Voluntary and Public sectors working together to improve the quality of life in Niagara

VALUES

Collaborative, Inclusive, Innovative, Integrity, Accountable

GOALS

- Dispel myths about living in poverty
- Improve collaboration and actions in poverty reduction efforts by all stakeholders
- Engage and include all individuals in the community

MEMBERSHIP

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network will be broadly representative of the communities of Niagara, non-profits, government, education, community leaders, the private sector, neighbourhood representatives, including people with lived experience.

Convener: Main objective is to develop and enhance community partnerships with business, funders, and service providers as a means to build capacity to respond to strategic imperatives linked to the Region's prosperity initiative. Including but not limited to exploring alternative solutions, sharing regional best practices: Social engagement, employment, health, and education sectors to better integrate health and prosperity responses helping to ensure that responses reflect need as expressed by those living in poverty. The Niagara Community Foundation has been contracted to fulfill the convener role by Niagara Region Community Services Department.

Secretariat: Main objective is to provide infrastructure support to the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network by: coordinating meetings of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network, supporting the steering committee with agendas, minutes, resource materials etc. Business Education Council of Niagara has been contracted to fulfill the secretariat role by Niagara Region Community Services Department

Network Quorum: To proceed with a Niagara Poverty Reduction Network meeting, eleven (11) members must be present. Of the eleven members, one must be a Chair or Vice-Chair.

Working Tables: As required, the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network will establish ad hoc groups with a clearly defined purposed and timeline to carry out specific tasks or projects. The working tables may bring recommendations forward to the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network.

Chair / Vice-Chair: Chair and Vice-Chair will be among the members of the network. These positions may be held by the incumbent for a two year term subject to, the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network confirming their appointments annually.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network meets at least 6 times per year.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually in September.

DECISION-MAKING, CONFLICT OF INTEREST, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION –NETWORK & WORKING TABLES

Decision Making: Decisions will be achieved by consensus of the members present at the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network meeting.

Conflict of Interest: A conflict of interest is any situation in which a member of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network, either for himself/herself or some other person(s), attempts to promote a private or personal interest that results or appears to result in the following:

- Interference with the objective exercise of his/her duties as a member of the Network;
- A gain or advantage by virtue of his/her position on the Network; and/or
- Some advantage for an organization with which the member is directly involved as a director, member, partner, shareholder, staff member, or has a financial interest.

Dispute Resolution: In the event that a dispute arises the members will attempt to negotiate the matter including involvement from other network members or a skilled facilitator/mediator as appropriate.