

**City of Port Colborne  
Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee**

**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2024  
**Time:** 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Committee Room 3-City Hall  
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, L3K 3C8

**Pages**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Adoption of the Agenda**
3. **Disclosures of Interest**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - 4.1 Minutes of Feb. 1, 2024 1
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
  - 5.1 Elect vice chair  
Elect new vice chair to replace Kaitlynn Kerridge, who resigned due to employment change
  - 5.2 Lodging bylaw update  
Continuation of lodging bylaw development; update from S. Luey
  - 5.3 MYAC mental health event  
Mayor's Youth Advisory Council mental health event for students; update from L. Kleinsmith
6. **New Business**
  - 6.1 Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy 4  
Presentation by Marc Todd, Niagara Region social assistance and employment opportunities manager

## **7. Community Updates, Roundtable Discussion**

### **7.1 Region subsidy for summer camps**

From Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner Community Services: Niagara Region offers child care fee subsidies for eligible low income families for licensed child care and camps. As many municipalities offer child care camps over March Break or the Summer, I am emailing you to explore the possibility of signing a fee subsidy contract with Niagara Region. This will allow eligible fee subsidy families to access camps offered by your municipality at a discounted rate or at no cost. Your costs for camp for an eligible child will be reimbursed by provincial investments into childcare through Niagara Region. To explore this opportunity further, the appropriate staff member of your team can contract Satinder Klair, Director Children's Services, 905-980-6000 ext, 3876

### **7.2 Other items from members**

## **8. Action Items**

## **9. Next Meeting**

9.1 Thursday, June 6 at 1pm

## **10. Adjournment**



## **Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee MINUTES**

**Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 – 1 to 3pm**

**Port Colborne City Hall third floor committee room**

### **Voting members present**

**Chair Lori Kleinsmith, Bridges Community Health Centre**

**Co-chair, Kaitlynn Kerridge, Region Public Health**

**Jeff Sinclair, Region Community Services**

**Kim Simons, Anchors Away**

**Joanna Mataya, Community Living**

**Phil Liczkai, NRP**

**Regrets: Christine Clark LaFleur, Port Cares, Vicki Doidge, Niagara Legal Clinic**

### **Non-voting members present**

**Taralea McLean, Bridges exec director**

**Judy Cassan, Bridges social worker**

**Mayor Bill Steele**

**Councillor Tim Hoyle**

**Fire Chief Scott Lawson**

**Bylaw manager Sherry Hanson**

**Port Library acting CAO Rachel Tkachuk**

**Scott Luey, city CAO**

1. Chair Lori called meeting to order 1:01pm
2. Approval of the agenda -- with one change, to move mayor's report up -- moved by Jeff, seconded by Joanna
3. Approval of the minutes from Nov. 2, 2023, moved by Phil, seconded by Kim

### **Mayor Steele Health care services update**

Mayor Steele expects to see Premier Ford and Health Minister Sylvia Jones in Niagara Falls Friday; expects the meeting we requested months ago to be set. Still awaiting

news of how \$110 million promised by province to primary health care teams will be dispersed. Announcement first expected in November, then December, expected any day/week now.

Mayor's working group continues to meet monthly, with guests in health care field to continue to educate and inform members who are strategizing the improved delivery of primary health care in Port when current Urgent Care Centre is shuttered in 2028. Niagara Health expected to coordinate community engagement Town Hall meetings in Port Colborne and Fort Erie.

#### **4. Business arising from the minutes**

##### **Lodging bylaw update by Scott Luey**

Scott provided background of the bylaw, eight years in the making, which he, and the SDOH advisory committee consider should be a provincial matter, or Regional, but neither has acted. Perhaps when our bylaw is passed other 12 municipalities will adopt. Hamilton, a single-tier government, has implemented its own lodging bylaw.

CAO expects bylaw to be at council early March. He plans to advise current landlords implementation of the bylaw is underway.

Issue of bedbugs, one of the major issues at lodging houses, is not a public health issue as bedbugs do not spread disease. Bedbug issue is a nuisance matter, therefore a bylaw enforcement issue. Food standards issues to be directed to Region health inspectors.

##### **Regional transit committee position for Port Colborne appointee**

City received no applications for transit committee. City will leave it open on city website in hopes someone steps up.

#### **5. New business**

##### **New apartment update – Gary Long, manager of strategic initiatives**

Gary provided update on new 101-unit building proposed for Main Street and Mellanby, including history of the development, planning meetings, public meetings, various provincial and federal funding incentives for which the developer applies, not the city. CAO noted NIMBY is the new normal: everyone is aware of need for housing, especially multiple-unit buildings, but few want them near them, hence the outcry on social media. Important to note it is the building applicant who proposes the development, not the city.

## **Landlord engagement update – Sherry Hanson, manager of bylaw services**

Sherry attended a conference of the Canadian Alliance defending Homelessness where there were 95 sessions on how municipalities can deal with homelessness in towns and cities across Canada. Most successful program provides housing for marginal individuals. A non-profit is established to work with landlords of vacant homes/buildings to guarantee monthly rent from tenants. Landlords sign up because they know they'll be paid monthly, non-profit works with tenants to negotiate rent, provide support and counsel.

Jeff and Judy said they are aware of the program, and many others, which have been successful years ago in Port Colborne.

Sherry will provide report on the program, to be included with the minutes.

## **6. Community updates -- Roundtable discussion**

Coun. Hoyle serves on Mayors Youth Advisory Committee which plans to present a mental health day for students facing stresses during exam time.

Kaitlynn is working on a food access program – a pay-what-you-can pop-up produce market -- for residents of Niagara Regional Housing. It is pay-what-you-can for seniors, for example in the 90 units at 551 Steele St. The program will also be available at 340 Wellington and a delivery model arranged for Saturn Crescent area. Her team, “working hard on healthy food distribution in Port Colborne,” also distributed 100 bags of produce from St. Therese School.

## **7. Action items**

Lori will follow up with MYAC chair.

Rachel offered space at the library for any social service and outreach on a weekly or monthly basis.

## **8. Next meeting**

Thursday, April 4 committee room 3, third floor city hall, from 1 to 3pm

9. Adjournment at 3:15pm

# Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy

April 4, 2024

**Marc Todd**

*Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO)*

# Agenda

- Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy
  - Recommendations
  - How to create change
- Next Steps
  - Community discussions and alignment
  - Niagara Prosperity Initiative funding

# Poverty as a Human Rights Issue





# Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy



- Recommended by Brock University report
- Identified in the Region's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
- Part of Council's Strategic Priorities under Equitable Region
- Links to other strategies i.e. HHAP, DEI, Ec-Dev, Transportation, Children's Services Plan etc.
- Developed with extensive community input and research

# Areas of focus

- **Indigenous Well-being**
- **Housing**
- **Income**
- **Employment**
- **Food Security**
- **Early Child Development**
- **Transportation**
- **Mental Health and Addiction**

# Recommendations

- **Indigenous Well-Being:** Indigenous community to develop a strategy for Indigenous specific poverty reduction initiatives.
- **Housing:** Provide housing stability services for people living in poverty to maintain their current housing, prevent eviction, improve social inclusion, and access income through periods of financial instability.

# Recommendations

- **Income:** Increase opportunities for living wage employment in Niagara and advocate for adequate, liveable rates from government income assistance programs.
- **Employment:** Promote and develop decent work opportunities that provide fair wages and benefits and foster stable, consistent, and safe employment.

# Recommendations

- **Food Security:** Improve access to fresh, culturally appropriate, affordable and nutritious foods through income-based solutions to food insecurity.
- **Early Child Development:** Improve access to affordable, high-quality child care for families living in poverty or at risk of poverty.

# Recommendations

- **Transportation:** Continue the work of Niagara Region Transit to achieve affordable and equitable access to services across municipalities.
- **Mental Health and Addiction:** Enhance core service capacity and offer a choice of timely, early recovery interventions and treatments for people who are living in poverty or at risk of poverty.

# How to create change

- Service Access, Coordination, and Capacity
  - improve ease of system navigation and access
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
  - poverty is shaped through the intersections of identity, such as age, culture, gender, race, ability and other social aspects

# How to create change

- Leveraging Voices of Lived Expertise
  - creating opportunities for people with lived expertise to provide input in policy development, planning and decision making
- Changing Mindsets
  - address false belief systems that feed into negative and harmful stereotypes



# How to create change

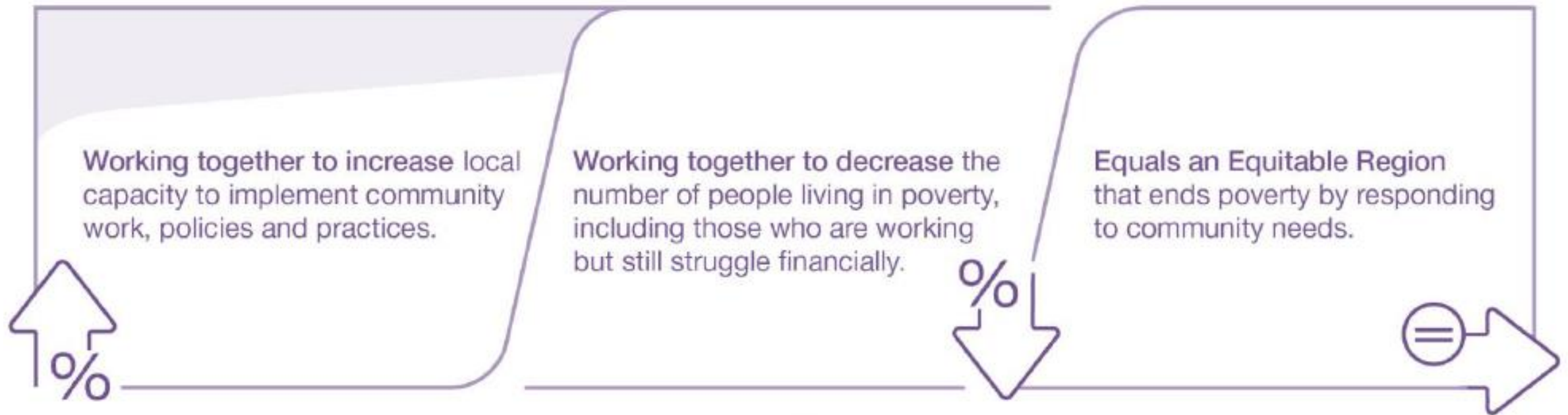
- Advocacy

- ensure that people have their voice heard, to protect and promote rights and have views considered when decisions are being made

- Funding

- adequate funding for outcome focused programs and addressing funding gaps

# Working Together



# Next steps

## **March - December 2024**

- Connect with interested and affected parties and invite them to identify their role in helping to end poverty
- Explore with community champions ways to best implement actions listed in the strategy along with others that emerged during community engagement
- Align Niagara Prosperity Initiative with the strategy and release call for applications

## **January 2025 - December 2028**

- Start Niagara Prosperity Initiative funded projects
- Increase local capacity to implement community work, policies and practices
- Monitor and evaluate the strategy and impact on poverty
- Bring together implementation champions to explore the impact of our collective work and share knowledge about promising practices