

# Niagara Poverty Reduction Network

Wednesday, March 16, 2016 9:00 am to 11:30 am  
Niagara Catholic District School Board – Father Burns Room



## AGENDA

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|--|-------|
| 1. Welcome and Introductions: Glen Walker & Melenie Neamtz | 9:00  |
| 2. Coordinating Committee Update                           | 9:05  |
| 3. Cost of Living Presentation                             | 9:10  |
| 4. 2016-18 Work Plan                                       | 9:30  |
| 5. Break   | 10:00 |
| 6. Be A Voice  | 10:15 |
| 7. Niagara RideShare                                       | 10:30 |
| 8. Push for Change   | 10:40 |
| 9. Other   | 10:50 |
| 10. Adjournment  | 11:30 |

**Please mark your calendar for the next meeting dates:** All meetings are 9:00am - 11:30am at the Niagara Catholic District School Board (427 Rice Road, Welland)

April 20, 2016  
May 25, 2016

June 15, 2016

## Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN)

**March 16, 2016 9:00 am Niagara Catholic District School Board**

**Present:** Glen Walker (Chair), Melenie Neamtz (Vice-Chair), Karina Armstrong, Rhonda Barron, Lori Beech, Alison Behring, Amber Butts, Mark Carter, Natalie Chaumont, Tamara Coleman-Lawrie, June Corman, Diane Corkum, Lisa Garlent, Filomena Goldsworthy, Marcy Heit, Sara Johnston, Lori Kleinsmith, Catherine Livingston, James MacIntosh, Marty Mako, Irene Motz, Debbie Ogilvie, Sandy Rempel, Jennifer Sauvé, Jeff Sinclair, Jennifer Sinclair, Carol Stewart-Kirkby, Tracy Tkaczyk, Jennifer Trozzi, Barb Van Der Heyden, Erin Walters, Mary Wiley, Elisabeth Zimmermann

Item	Discussion
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting minutes for January 20, 2016 were approved as written.</li> <li>The agenda was approved as written</li> </ul>
2. Coordinating Committee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network members were reminded to sign-up for the monthly News Digest by visiting <a href="http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca">www.wipeoutpoverty.ca</a></li> <li>Members were also encouraged to visit <a href="http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca">www.wipeoutpoverty.ca</a> for news articles, minutes, events and policies and to engage in NPRN's social media using Facebook and Twitter @wipeoutpoverty</li> <li>The Chair reminded members that a voluntary membership fee was introduced and organizations who are able to pay the fee can contact <a href="mailto:Natalie.Chaumont@unitedwayniagara.org">Natalie.Chaumont@unitedwayniagara.org</a> for an invoice or for more information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fees are used towards transportation, training, printing of infographics and events</li> <li>There are no consequences if you cannot pay a fee, it is strictly voluntary</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3. Cost of Living Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Calculating the Cost of Living in Niagara</a> presentation by Lori Kleinsmith</li> <li><a href="#">Calculating the Cost of Living in Niagara Region 2016 Brief</a></li> <li>All members are encouraged to read the brief, share it with organizations, staff and boards and think about ways you can support this work.</li> </ul>
4. 2016-18 Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three meetings were held to discuss each objective. 11-14 people attended each meeting for a total of 25 unique participants</li> <li>Collated results from the meetings showed two themes emerge for task groups: <b>Puzzle pieces / Cost of living and Network Development</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 1: <a href="#">Cost of living theme</a> using the <a href="#">systemic solutions to poverty puzzle diagram</a>:</b></p> <p>The following puzzle pieces were recommended as focus: Affordable Housing, Access to Health Care, Affordable Childcare, Public Transit, End Stigma and Discrimination, Income Security (Basic Income Guarantee and Cost of Living)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Other puzzle pieces can be addressed as well if there are enough people interested and willing to do the work</li> <li>Where community groups already exist and the work is already being done, the task group may fold but NPRN will stay connected</li> <li>Each puzzle piece will use the cost of living lens to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Inventory existing poverty-related data and /or determine how to access data;</li> <li>▶ Review data gaps and bring to NPRN for input</li> <li>▶ Identify people and groups connected to puzzle pieces already. Confirm they are using evidence. Determine who is missing</li> <li>▶ Determine strategies and solutions for what we want to accomplish and how it connects with cost of living</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Item	Discussion
	<p><b>Theme 2: Network development/ capacity building theme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation Process / Internal training</li> <li>• Marketing (website, presentation)</li> <li>• Speakers Bureau</li> <li>• Operations Committee (who is coordinating it all, internal communication, time of meeting, how to ensure we include the voice of people experiencing poverty)</li> </ul> <p><b>Other discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work plan is not exclusive to members who attend NPRN meetings, will need to tap into different expertise at different times</li> <li>• Recommended including on website that everyone is welcome to attend meetings and participate</li> <li>• The Coordinating Committee recommend that NPRN move to 5 meetings per year (January, March, May, September and November) where task groups will come to the table with asks to support their work. By consensus, all members attending the meeting agreed that the meeting frequency would be reduced to 5 meetings per year.</li> <li>• The new Coordinating Committee may consist of leads from each task group and two ex-officio members: Secretariat and Niagara Region representative.</li> <li>• All members were asked to sign-up for one or more a task groups during break. Members will also be asked to sign-up electronically</li> <li>• Natalie will arrange the first meeting between April and May.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Be A Voice Presentation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Be A Voice</a> presentation by Sandy Rempel</li> <li>• Habitat for Humanity is considering running the program again but will need sponsorship to cover costs</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Niagara RideShare</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.NiagaraRideShare.ca">www.NiagaraRideShare.ca</a> has launched as a tool to help with transportation across the region.</li> <li>• Individuals and organizations can register</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Push for Change</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joe Roberts from the <a href="http://www.ThePushforChange.com">www.ThePushforChange.com</a> campaign to walk across Canada to support the end of youth homelessness will be traveling through Niagara at the end of October. The walk will take place over a week and YWCA Niagara is taking a lead in organizing events to coincide with the walk. Fundraising form the event will go towards a foundation for youth homelessness. Anyone interested in helping to plan or hosting events can contact <a href="mailto:Ezimmermann@ywcaniagararegion.ca">Ezimmermann@ywcaniagararegion.ca</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Other</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone providing services beyond shelter provision to veterans, please contact <a href="mailto:carol.stewart-kirkby@unitedwayniagara.org">carol.stewart-kirkby@unitedwayniagara.org</a></li> <li>• The Province has committed dollars towards a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) pilot in the fall. By consensus, the BIG working group was approved to write a letter to encourage the Province to have Niagara pilot the program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recommended BIG contact MPPs prior to submitting the letter</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Please mark your calendar for the next meeting date:</b></p> <p>May 25, 2016 from 9:00am - 11:30am at the Niagara Catholic District School Board (427 Rice Road, Welland)</p>