



# Welcome to the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network

**Working collectively to wipe out poverty in Niagara through information sharing, changing attitudes, and compelling Niagara citizens to get involved and take action.**

We are glad you are interested in our network. Here's a quick overview of what we are all about. Lots more information is available at [www.wipeoutpoverty.ca](http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca).

## Why?

NPRN brings people together from across the region to provide individuals, businesses and organizations with information about poverty's root causes and the opportunity to take action to address these root causes.

Why should you join NPRN?

- **Resources:** Members get access to resources relevant to poverty as well as in-person networking, information sharing and training opportunities.
- **Support:** NPRN offers opportunities for individual, small or large group work in topics that relate to them personally and/or professionally. A transportation subsidy is available to members as well as other initiatives to make the network as inclusive and supportive as possible.
- **Empowerment:** Individuals who are affected by poverty often feel a lack of empowerment and this network gives individuals an opportunity to voice their concerns and give their input on issues that impact their lives.

## Who?

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN) is a group of social agencies, educators, business and government representatives, faith communities and individuals. (A complete, current list of the network's members can be found on our website.)

## What?

NPRN 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. NPRN is a nonpartisan network but cannot identify as being apolitical because the issues around poverty are political.

NPRN's vision is "**All Niagara residents live above the poverty line.**" This vision is supported by a mission that encourages Niagara residents, businesses and organizations to work together to improve the quality of life in Niagara.

NPRN's stated values are: Collaborative, Inclusive, Innovative, Integrity, Accountable.

The network depends upon the efforts of everyone to advance its work. For it to flourish, each member must take an active part.

## **Where?**

The work of NPRN takes place in the Regional Municipality of Niagara and the 12 municipalities within this geographic boundary. All components of the community, including neighbourhoods and special interest groups, regardless of where they are in Niagara, are encouraged to participate in the work of NPRN.

## **When?**

The network evolved in 2011 out of a community-based committee that had an interest in guiding a pool of poverty-reduction grants provided by the Regional Municipality of Niagara. Committee members identified the need for a network to tackle the issue of poverty reduction beyond grant-making because grants are finite but the depth and breadth of the issue of poverty is infinite. The network meets five times a year.

## **How?**

NPRN established two goals to direct its work:

- More residents, businesses and organizations know about poverty's root causes.
- More residents, businesses and organizations are engaged in taking action to address root causes of poverty.

These goals are part of a work plan which is executed by numerous task groups. As well, working tables and community groups are connected to NPRN to maximize the resources being devoted to reducing poverty in Niagara. A complete organizational chart and a list of active task groups can be found at [www.wipeoutpoverty.ca](http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca).