



For Immediate Release

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### **The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network Welcomes New Leadership for 2016**

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN), which includes over 30 organizations and individuals working to raise awareness of poverty issues and solutions, welcomes new leadership starting in 2016. Glen Walker will become the Chair of the Network, while Melenie Neamtz steps in as Network Vice-Chair. Walker is the Executive Director of Positive Living Niagara with an extensive background in community development and the health and developmental services sectors. Neamtz is the Community Connections Coordinator with the Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre working to improve opportunities for youth in Niagara.

"The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network has become a strong and reliable voice on poverty issues within our region and I am proud to take on the role of Chair. Together we can Wipe Out Poverty," said Walker.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to work with Glen and NPRN. I look forward to building stronger community networks among our members, individuals, agencies and business," added Neamtz.

Since its inception in 2011, under the guidance of out-going Chair Elisabeth Zimmermann and Vice-Chair Willy Noiles, the network has increased its visibility in Niagara. Community presentations, events such as Chew on This, and documents focused on the roles of municipal and federal governments in reducing poverty, helped to raise the profile of the root causes of poverty, as well as the need for public policy solutions, amongst Niagara residents.

The network is developing its 2016/17 work plan, which will include the launch of Niagara's living wage calculation and report, as well as continued advocacy on basic income, public transportation, and affordable housing. In addition, its Speakers Bureau will be hosting a training opportunity in the new year to deliver public presentations to schools and community groups; new speakers are welcomed to join.

For more information visit [www.wipeoutpoverty.ca](http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca) or send an email via [info@wipeoutpoverty.ca](mailto:info@wipeoutpoverty.ca).

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The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network consists of individuals and 30+ organizations - health and social service agencies, boards of education, faith-based groups, the business community, regional government, and individuals who live in poverty - working collectively to reduce poverty in Niagara through information sharing, changing attitudes, and compelling Niagara citizens to take action. For more information on the NPRN or to get involved, visit [www.wipeoutpoverty.ca](http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca)

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