

Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN)
March 21, 2018 9:00 am- 11:30 a.m. Niagara Catholic District School Board

Present: Glen Walker (Chair), Melenie Neamtz (Vice-Chair), Anne watters, Don Brown, Jennifer Trozzi, Shideh Houshmandi, Arlene High, Diane Corkrum, Julie Gregory, Jenna Kirkwood, Francesca Vergalito, Ruthanne Brown, Barb Van Der Hayden, Carole Fuhrer, Tamara Coleman-Laurie, Natalie Chaumont, Deb Ogilvie, Brandon Agnew, Suzanne Veenstra

Item	Discussion
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The meeting minutes for January 24, 2018 were approved as written. ● The agenda was approved as written
Coordinating Committee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current bank account holds \$6,357.74 ● Reminder of voluntary memberships. ● Announcement: Suzanne Veenstra, NPI Convener will be taking over Natalie Chaumont’s position of NPRN Support as Natalie is taking on new responsibilities with NPI. For any future inquiries or correspondence with NPRN, please email info@wipeoutpoverty.ca and Suzanne will pass on the information or attend to your inquiry directly. Thank you so much to Natalie for her years of service to the NPRN Table.
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carole Fuhrer presented about a new initiative that Community Care West Niagara is taking the lead on- Food Rescue. The program started by Second Harvest, works to redirect surplus food from private donors to those in need, through not-for-profit partnerships. An online platform allows not-for-profits and agencies with direct service to clients, to sign up as a supplier and redistribute fresh and healthy food that would otherwise be put to waste. If you are interested in finding out more or signing up, please contact Carole (carole@communitycarewn.ca) directly or visit the website, www.foodrescue.ca. ● Reminder: The Health Equity Task Group has put together a letter of support to be sent to the LIHN endorsing the recommendations set by the HEART project. The Task Group has two requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Please take a moment to sign the letter to add your support to this report. ○ Please find the attached template email to distribute to your personal or professional contact lists.
Everyday Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Elections Task Group lead a discussion regarding the barriers to voting as well as ways not-for-profits can encourage voter turnout. ● Barriers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ID ○ Transportation ○ Childcare ○ No voting card ○ Apathy- what change can actually happen? ● Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask candidates to offer transportation to voting stations ○ Possible alternative voting stations at service organizations ○ Education surrounding the importance of voting; what can be gained and what can be lost
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brock Experiential Learning Department came and gave a presentation about how students can help your organization in either full-time or part-time internships, co-ops or project based involvements. For more information visit: https://brocku.ca/ccee/. If you have a project idea or an internship need please contact one of the following leads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sandy Howe, Experiential Education Associate Director- showe@brocku.ca, (905) 688-5550 x4126 ○ Carolyn Finlayson, Experiential Education, Faculty of Social Sciences- cfinlayson@brocku.ca, (905) 688-5550 x6188 ○ Koreen McCullough, Experiential Education, Faculty of Humanities- kmccullough@brocku.ca, (905) 688-5550 x6210

Task Group Updates	<p>Affordable & Accessible Childcare - <i>Next meeting: TBD</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalized content of infographic. Now sent to marketing for graphic design and publication. <p>Anti-Stigma & Marketing - <i>Next meeting: May 9th, 9 a.m. United Way, Seaway Mall</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting this week to review tasks from the two task groups and to identify action plan <p>Business Engagement- <i>Next meeting: April 12th, 9 a.m. Niagara Folk Arts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put together an online survey for NPRN members to gather information about business connections, existing within the network. The Task Group is asking all NPRN members to take a moment to fill out this survey and identify possible business connections that could begin to engage with the work of NPRN. Follow this link to complete the survey. <p>Elections Committee - <i>Next meeting: March 29, 9-11 a.m. MacBain Centre</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee working on putting together a leave-behind for Provincial Candidates, outline the role of provincial government in poverty reduction. This document will be made available to all NPRN members to use as their own discretion and will also outline a few statements to generate discussion and debate. Stay tuned for a link to this document. Committee is open to NPRN members interested in municipal elections as this task group will shift focus from the provincial election to municipal after the June election. Please contact Suzanne if you are interested in joining this committee. <p>Health Equity - <i>Next meeting TBD.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See “Opportunities” for action items. <p>Housing- <i>Next meeting TBD</i></p> <p>Orientation – <i>No longer a task group; merged with Coordinating Committee</i></p> <p>Speakers Bureau - <i>Next meeting: March 28th, 12 p.m. Positive Living</i></p> <p>Wages & Work - <i>Next meeting: TBD</i></p> <p>Youth Strategy - <i>Next meeting: April 12th, 9 a.m. Niagara Catholic Education Centre</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Youth Strategy Task Group, in partnership with educators, aims to raise awareness and improve communication of current systems that provide local supports and services to students and families at risk of poverty. Working with organizations like INCommunities/211 to investigate ways to improve communications and increase resource accessibility for educators to pass onto families and children at risk of poverty.
Round-table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round-table updates on upcoming events
Next Meeting	<p>Please mark your calendar for the next meeting date. All meetings are from 9:00am - 11:30am at the Niagara Catholic District School Board (427 Rice Road, Welland)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 23, 2018 NO NPRN Meetings throughout summer months (June-August) September 19, 2018 <p>Transportation assistance is available, contact Natalie.chaumont@unitedwayniagara.org for information.</p>