

Hungry for Action: How Municipal Government Can Reduce Poverty Background Report

A collaborative initiative led by
Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health Food Security Workgroup

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August 2014

This project was made possible through funding from the Heart and Stroke Foundation



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Section 1: Role of Municipalities in Poverty Reduction

The following table provides some overall comments about the role municipalities can play in the area of poverty reduction, as well as a brief description about the current state of municipal poverty reduction initiatives in Canada.

Role of Municipalities in Poverty Reduction	Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cities Reducing Poverty is a Vibrant Communities Canada initiative (through the Tamarack Institute). The mission of this initiative is to create a connected learning community of 100 Canadian cities with multi-sector roundtables addressing poverty reduction. Their goal is aligned poverty reduction strategies in cities, provinces and the federal government resulting in reduced poverty for 1 million Canadians▪ Donna Jean noted that municipal poverty reduction strategies are still fairly emergent. We have only started to see municipal poverty reduction strategies in the last five years. The oldest one is in Saint John, New Brunswick▪ Poverty reduction strategies in rural areas are just emerging. A number of roundtables have just been established (Simcoe County, Huron County, Oxford County, Leeds/Grenville, Northumberland) and have yet to develop an approach to poverty reduction▪ As this is an emergent field, not a great deal of evaluation has been done▪ The most evaluation has been around affordable transit passes and tax programs, as these types of initiatives have been in existence the longest▪ There are a number of different models of how municipal governments are involved in poverty reduction<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Municipal led strategy (Example: Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy is a strategy that is led by the regional government)- Municipality participates in a community strategy (Example: Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction is a community led initiative and the municipality is a participant on the roundtable)- Corporate municipal strategy (Example: The Region of Waterloo has a poverty reduction strategy for itself as a corporation. It is called the Comprehensive Approach to Poverty Reduction and was developed to address poverty comprehensively across Regional departments and program areas to find sensible, innovative and lasting solutions for poverty reduction. The Region felt that they needed to get their own house in order first before developing a community strategy)- Municipality as a funder (Example: The Region of Niagara provides funding to the Niagara Prosperity Initiative to support poverty reduction and prevention activities. An advisory committee guides	<p>Phone conversation on July 10, 2014 with Donna Jean Forster-Gill. Donna Jean Forster-Gill is the Project Manager for Vibrant Communities Canada – Cities Reducing Poverty (519-612-1154, donnajean@tamarackcommunity.ca)</p> <p>www.vibrantcanada.ca</p>

Role of Municipalities in Poverty Reduction	Source
<p>investment decisions and works to leverage additional community resources)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other potential strategies to look at include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pathways to Potential (P2P) in Windsor/Essex County. This is a multi-sector approach. They have a Market Dollar Program that has been evaluated - Guelph-Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination. This Task Force is housed in the public health unit and is focusing on transit, housing and living wage. They have completed an evaluation of their affordable bus pass program - Saint John, New Brunswick. This municipality has the oldest poverty reduction strategy and has done some evaluation work - Calgary, Alberta 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Municipalities manage and deliver a range of human services (income security, employment services, social housing, homelessness prevention, child care) ▪ They are well positioned to build effective local partnerships among individuals, communities and governments that help to lift people out of poverty ▪ Municipalities have many levers to achieve social and economic goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity to integrate and coordinate service delivery - Build local capacity and cooperation - Lead strategic economic and social development planning ▪ Municipal responses to poverty reduction involve a combined effort of municipal driven programs and initiatives and a collaboration of efforts with community stakeholders ▪ Municipalities offer programs that directly help individuals and families: dental services, vision care, special assistance ▪ They are involved in broader community initiatives to reduce poverty like poverty roundtables. These tables bring together municipal representatives with local stakeholders to develop comprehensive responses to poverty (London, Peel, Brantford, Brant, York, Ottawa, Windsor, Hamilton, Nipissing, Kitchener-Waterloo, Peterborough, Kingston) ▪ Municipal efforts can provide leadership and act as a champion for change (public awareness of local issues, resource for engagement of individuals living in poverty) 	<p>Government Makes a Difference: Working Together Towards Poverty Reduction. A Discussion Paper by the Association of Municipalities (AMO) and Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), January 2009</p> <p>http://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-PDFs/Reports/2009/2009AMOOMSSAPovertyReductionPaper2009Jan.aspx</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The social infrastructure provided by municipalities includes affordable housing, emergency shelters, subsidized child care, recreation, transit and libraries. It includes municipal facilities, programs and services ▪ Social housing offers an affordable solution to households in need of core housing 	<p>Mending Canada's Frayed Social Safety Net: The role of municipal governments. Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).</p>

Role of Municipalities in Poverty Reduction	Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emergency shelters place municipalities at the frontline of addressing absolute poverty, alleviating some of the most extreme impacts of poverty ▪ Public transit maintains a crucial link between home and place of work of the working poor and those seeking employment ▪ Affordable and adequate child care facilities and programs are essential to enabling parents in the labour force to secure access to employment ▪ Extensive and affordable recreation and library services ▪ Municipal governments are important partners in the delivery and management of social infrastructure ▪ The role municipalities play varies from province to province, ranging from service delivery, to management oversight, to funding, and community partnerships 	http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/reports/Mending_Canadas_Frayed_Social_Safety_Net_The_role_of_municipal_governments_EN.pdf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local government is a crucial sector in comprehensive community initiatives (engage diverse sectors in working together on a collaborative basis, over the long term, to tackle a wide range of interrelated issues) ▪ Local governments have many of the levers to support basic needs, ensure inclusion and promote learning for all ▪ Can promote awareness of the pressing social needs in the community and of the importance of social investment ▪ Can foster a sense of responsibility for social well-being among all sectors including business, community groups and other levels of government ▪ Can help build relationships among the diverse organizations and sectors that comprise the community ▪ Can integrate more effectively the services they provide ▪ Can undertake focused interventions, in collaboration with key partners, to tackle poverty reduction ▪ The roles that local governments can play in creating vibrant communities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exemplary employer (training and employment practices) - Service provider (child care, social assistance, public health, arts, recreation – opportunity for service integration) - Investor (provide funds to community programs and processes) - Leader and champion for community based poverty reduction initiatives - Convener of and partner with various sectors (in a unique position to convene the diverse sectors that should be involved in any community based poverty reduction effort – business, labour, education/training, social organizations , anti-poverty groups and other levels of government) 	<p>The Social Role of Local Government. Caledon Institute of Social Policy, March 2003.</p> <p>http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/the_social_role_of_local_government.pdf</p>

Role of Municipalities in Poverty Reduction	Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Municipalities of all sizes can transcend the ills of poverty by adopting a vision of shared prosperity ▪ They can use their policy levers and leadership position to create environments where people enjoy a high quality of life, innovation thrives and a robust social infrastructure leads to economic and social benefits for all residents ▪ The two principal costs of poverty are health care and lost opportunity. Municipal efforts in the areas of transportation, recreation, homelessness and housing are improving the health outcomes and financial outlook of their citizens ▪ Local governments have a unique and important role in building communities that matter. A municipality's services, programs and facilities form a social infrastructure upon which people rely to earn a living and raise their families ▪ The municipal levers include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership (naming the issue, keeping it on the public agenda, develop public/private partnerships) - Convening stakeholders (convening partners around specific topics or opportunities and developing ongoing relationships that build capacity for community investment) - Providing information and data (stimulating new thinking and ideas) - Cutting red tape (creating a supportive policy environment that attracts investment and builds social capital) 	<p>Creating Shared Prosperity: cities that lead, succeed. Vibrant Communities Canada.</p> <p>http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/creating20shared20prosperity.compressed2.pdf</p>

Section 2: Examples of Poverty Reduction Actions Taken by Municipalities

This next table provides specific examples of poverty reduction actions taken by municipalities. The actions are organized by topic area, with the following topics being covered. Note: These lists of actions are not meant to be exhaustive in nature. Rather, they are meant to provide a cross section of examples of actions happening at the municipal government level.

1. Affordable Transportation
2. Poverty Reduction Tables/Community Poverty Agenda
3. Corporate Poverty Agenda
4. Affordable Housing
5. Food Security
6. Recreation
7. Precarious Employment
8. Early Childhood
9. Social Awareness and Engagement
10. Efforts to Influence Public Policy at the Provincial and Federal Levels of Government

Municipality	Description of Actions/Initiatives Taken to Impact Poverty Rates (Specific Examples, Key Findings, Rationale for how it impacts poverty)	Topic Area	Source
	<p>Affordable Transportation</p> <p>Transit affordability has received significant attention in recent years because of barriers it creates for people experiencing low income. High transit costs limit people’s ability to participate in employment, prevents them from attending important medical and other appointments, as well as from participating fully in community life. The cost of transit has an impact on people’s household budget.</p> <p>The impact that a lack of affordable transit has on individuals and families facing economic hardships include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Money used for bus fare could be used for other items such as food and shelter▪ Not having affordable public transit significantly impacts quality of life▪ Multiple trips means multiple fares▪ Many do not have another form of transportation <p>A 2003 Cabinet Office study of 10 cities in the United Kingdom found that the following were constraints on removing oneself from living in poverty: restrictions from working overtime due to the incongruity of bus and work schedules,</p>		<p>http://www.povertyinpeel.ca/task-forces/affordable-accessible/pdf/affordable-transit-pass-pilot-dec2013.pdf</p> <p>http://gwpoverity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Transit_Research_Feb_2011.pdf</p>

Municipality	Description of Actions/Initiatives Taken to Impact Poverty Rates (Specific Examples, Key Findings, Rationale for how it impacts poverty)	Topic Area	Source
<p>and the cost of public transit.</p> <p>Access to affordable transportation for people living with low income makes the trip to work, school and medical appointments possible. It fosters self-sustainability, promotes independence, and permits spending on other household essentials.</p> <p>Many municipalities have recognized that affordable and accessible public transit is important for poverty reduction and social development. Persons with limited mobility due to low income may be socially excluded and have less viable employment opportunities.</p>			<p>http://www.nascsp.org/data/files/csbg_publications/issue_briefs/issuebrief-benefitsofruralpublictransportation.pdf</p> <p>http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/reports/Mending_Canadas_Frayed_Social_Safety_Net_The_role_of_municipal_governments_EN.pdf</p>
Guelph, Ontario	<p>Affordable Bus Pass Program (2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A bus subsidy program designed to increase the affordability and accessibility of public transit for people living with low income ▪ Initiated by the City of Guelph in 2012 ▪ The program was expected to reduce barriers to accessing work, recreation and other amenities so all citizens can truly participate in the community ▪ Target population is individuals and families living with low income in Guelph (any with income below the Statistics Canada Low-Income Cut Off are eligible). 50% off the cost of a regular bus pass ▪ The program was evaluated by an external consulting company in 2013 and following a successful pilot period, the City of Guelph made its Affordable Bus Pass program permanent, effective January 1, 2014 ▪ Key findings from the evaluation of the program include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 27% of people living below the Low Income Cut Off in Guelph are users of the Affordable Bus Pass Program - Public transportation is consuming less money from their monthly budgets, leaving more for food and shelter - Increased access to public transit has improved overall wellbeing 	Affordable Transportation	<p>http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/abppexecutivesummary.pdf</p>

Municipality	Description of Actions/Initiatives Taken to Impact Poverty Rates (Specific Examples, Key Findings, Rationale for how it impacts poverty)	Topic Area	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pass has enabled people to use transit more frequently and in a flexible way – leading to more non-essential trips that create a sense of connection to family, community and services 		
City of Kawartha Lakes and County of Haliburton, Ontario	Transportation Action Plan (March 2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A lack of affordable, reliable, public transportation and access to other transportation options is directly linked to poverty ▪ The Action Plan contains a number of recommendations for the municipality to implement, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand discounts for Lindsay bus passes and rural “dial-a-ride” transit to low-income earners - Develop a rural transportation system for the County - Designate public seats on school buses, replicating successful programs in other communities such as Orangeville 	Affordable Transportation - Rural	https://www.city.kawarthalakes.on.ca/residents/house-and-home/transportation-prs-action-plan-march-2014.pdf
Region of Peel, Ontario	Affordable Transit Pass Pilot Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Region of Peel, in partnership with Brampton Transit and the Mississauga MIWay Transit have created an affordable transit pilot program for Ontario Works clients in Brampton and Mississauga ▪ It will be a 12 month pilot (started in 2014) ▪ The cost of the program is being shared between the Region of Peel, Brampton Transit and the Mississauga MIWay Transit and participating Ontario Works clients – each contributing one third ▪ The Region of Peel’s portion of the cost is being funded from the 2014 Social Assistance budget 	Affordable Transportation	http://www.povertyinpeel.ca/task-forces/affordable-accessible/pdf/affordable-transit-pass-pilot-dec2013.pdf
Hamilton, Ontario	Affordable Transit Pass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This program has been in place since 2008 and operates with a budget of \$403,000 annually ▪ It supports residents with low income as well as Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program clients ▪ It is managed by the City’s Community Services Department, in conjunction with Hamilton Street Railway 	Affordable Transportation	http://www.povertyinpeel.ca/task-forces/affordable-accessible/pdf/affordable-transit-pass-pilot-dec2013.pdf

Municipality	Description of Actions/Initiatives Taken to Impact Poverty Rates (Specific Examples, Key Findings, Rationale for how it impacts poverty)	Topic Area	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key findings from this project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% of respondents agree that the program made it easier for them to secure employment 91% indicated the program made a difference in their family budget 		
York Region, Ontario	<p>Transit Fare Subsidy Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October 2011, Council approved a Transit Fare Subsidy Pilot Program. This became a permanent program January 1, 2014 The program offers a 75% discount on a monthly transit pass to Ontario Works clients The program also provides funding to community agencies so that they can purchase transit tickets for low income residents (mainly used for employment, education and health care) The program was funded through the Region's Social Assistance Reserve in 2013 and 2014 and will move to tax levy support after that Evaluation results from the pilot found that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% of clients reported that the pilot helped lower the cost of travel and made a difference in their monthly budget 81% of clients reported finding it easier to get to work as a result of the program Between 70 and 79% felt the program helped with accessing daily needs (child care, grocery shopping, doctor appointments) 67% of clients reported using transit more often 45% of clients would not have bought a pass if the pilot didn't exist 	Affordable Transportation	http://archives.york.ca/councilcommitteearchives/pdf/oct%2029%20kelly.pdf
Windsor-Essex County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Windsor has an Affordable Pass Program (APP) The APP provides discounted bus passes for those people living with low income Financial assistance is also provided to eligible Ontario Works recipients to support transportation in Essex County related to employment 	Affordable Transportation	http://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/transitwindsor/rider-programs/pages/affordable-pass-program-(app).aspx

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Calgary, Alberta	<p>Low-Income Monthly Transit Pass (2008)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 2005 and was funded temporarily on a year-by-year basis Calgary City Council voted in November 2008 to make it a permanent program \$2.5 million a year service (funded through Calgary Transit surplus revenues) which helps low-income Calgarians participate more fully in the social, political and economic life of their community. Access to affordable transportation is key to being able to participate fully in the life of a city All adults with incomes lower than 75% of the low income cut off can apply to purchase a monthly transit pass for half the full fare. A pass holder must be 18 years of age and have lived in Calgary for one year 5,000 of Calgary's 300,000 monthly transit users access the Low-Income Transit Pass Key findings from the evaluation of this project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59% of users said the pass allowed them to keep a job 49% of users said they found better or new employment because they could now access public transit 97% of users said their life was better when they had the pass 13% said they could not otherwise afford a bus pass 48% said the \$37.50 would come from their household food budget if the pass wasn't available to them This project demonstrated a social return on investment of up to \$16 for every dollar invested and that the City's investment creates far more social value than the financial investment The social value created through affordable transportation includes improving a person or family's financial situation, improving the quality of a person's overall health and improving a person or family's overall quality of life Nine other Cities Reducing Poverty members have instituted affordable transit passes in their communities 	Affordable Transportation	<p>Creating Shared Prosperity: Cities that lead, succeed (Vibrant Communities Canada: Cities Reducing Poverty) http://vibrantcanada.ca/content/creating-shared-prosperity-cities-lead-succeed</p> <p>Fair Fares Calgary Social Return on Investment http://vibrantcanada.ca/resource-library/transportation/fair-fares-calgarys-social-return-investment</p> <p>Success for Fair Fares http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/success_for_fair_fares.pdf</p>

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Abbotsford, British Columbia	Emergency Transit Assistance Program (2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Mission Abbotsford Transit Committee (MATC) has approved a significant increase in transit tickets for the Emergency Transit Assistance Program (ETAP) ▪ The United Way of the Fraser Valley will receive an increase in the number of adult tickets from 1,720 to 2,295 per month to be distributed through their 18 ETAP Partners ▪ Individuals who can't afford transit may use the tickets to attend medical appointments, shop, attend counselling and other important appointments ▪ MATC also increased the monthly Child Transit allotment from 60 per month to 310 per month ▪ Due to recent awareness of the ETAP Program, a newly identified need for HandyDART Tickets has also been addressed (HandyDART is the term used for specially-equipped Metro Vancouver vehicles designed to carry passengers with physical or cognitive disabilities.) Registered HandyDART users in financial need will have access to 120 tickets per month through two ETAP Partners ▪ These transit tickets will allow hundreds of residents to be more active in the community. Discounted transit passes can make a real difference for families and individuals struggling to make ends meet. The costs associated with transportation can often lead to social isolation and can affect people's ability to access needed services. Providing additional tickets to help improve access to transportation and transit to those who need it most is the right thing to do 	Affordable Transportation	http://www.abbynews.com/news/244330931.html
Mahoning County, Ohio, United States	Dial A Ride Transportation Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Youngstown Area Community Action Council sponsors a Dial a Ride Transportation Services program in areas of Mahoning County where there isn't a public transportation system ▪ This program serves individuals and families who meet the federal poverty income guidelines 	Affordable Transportation - Rural	http://www.nascsp.org/data/files/csbg_publications/issue_briefs/issuebrief-benefitsofruralpublictransportation.pdf http://www.my-cap.org/about

Municipality	Description of Actions/Initiatives Taken to Impact Poverty Rates (Specific Examples, Key Findings, Rationale for how it impacts poverty)	Topic Area	Source
Windsor, Ontario	Funding for the Pathway to Potential (P2P) Table <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The City of Windsor and County of Essex provide \$185,000 each year for P2P overall operational costs funding P2P-directed initiatives ▪ Windsor-Essex poverty reduction strategy is jointly funded by the City of Windsor and County of Essex. Collectively they provide just over \$2 million of funding toward poverty reduction. Approximately \$180,000 of this is to fund Pathway to Potential's work and staff, the remaining goes to direct poverty reduction programs, for example affordable recreation programs, affordable transportation (low-income bus passes), breakfast programs, etc. All of the programs are facilitated through the City's social services department who handles social services for the whole region Pathway to Potential doesn't do any programming, nor fundraising. The funds are moved through the local United Way who acts as a fiscal and legal sponsor. Pathway to Potential has two full time staff members 	Municipal Funding for a Poverty Reduction Table	http://pathwaytopotential.ca/about-us/
Region of Peel, Ontario	Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee (PPRSC) was formed in 2008 ▪ It is co-chaired by the United Way of Peel Region and the Region of Peel ▪ It is a collaborative, which includes local government and the non-profit sector. In order to effectively address poverty, we must all work together – people experiencing poverty, residents, businesses, academia, all levels of government and the non-profit sector ▪ Taskforces are being launched to address the five issues identified in the plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food Security Taskforce - Economic opportunities - Income security - Affordable, accessible transportation - Safe and affordable housing ▪ Action plans have been developed in each of the five issue areas 	Co-chair (lead) of a Community Poverty Reduction Strategy	http://www.povertyinpeel.ca/index.asp

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Hamilton, Ontario	Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction was formed in 2005 to tackle the City's unacceptable levels of poverty ▪ Roundtable members come from across Hamilton and include leaders from the business and non-profit sectors, from government, education and faith communities as well as individuals who experience poverty daily ▪ The goal of the Roundtable is to reduce and eliminate poverty through the aspiration of Making Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child ▪ The Roundtable doesn't offer programs or direct services; its role is to build understanding about the need to invest in poverty reduction to create a healthier, inclusive and more prosperous Hamilton ▪ The Roundtable's Action Priorities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shifting Attitudes - Speakers Bureau - Living Wage - Social Assistance Reform - National Poverty Plan - Tracking Progress ▪ Its Community Priorities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hamilton's Neighbourhoods Strategy - Student Nutrition - Housing - Early Childhood Development - Precarious Employment ▪ This Roundtable has action plans to reduce poverty that have been formally reviewed and ratified by elected officials 	Municipality is a participant in a community poverty reduction strategy	Creating Shared Prosperity: Cities that lead, succeed (Vibrant Communities Canada: Cities Reducing Poverty) http://vibrantcanada.ca/content/creating-shared-prosperity-cities-lead-succeed
Guelph-Wellington, Ontario	Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Poverty Task Force is housed at the health unit ▪ The Task Force has a number of ongoing projects, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Living Wage Campaign 	Municipality housing the poverty reduction	http://gwpoverity.ca/

Municipality	Description of Actions/Initiatives Taken to Impact Poverty Rates (Specific Examples, Key Findings, Rationale for how it impacts poverty)	Topic Area	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Seed Community Food Hub - Advance Your Voice 	strategy table	
Winnipeg, Manitoba	<p>Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council (WPRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Winnipeg United Way has been a founding partner of the WPRC from the beginning. They currently have a focus on collective impact across their movement, so there is support for the concept of intermediaries or 'backbone organizations' that can reduce poverty and enhance inclusion/innovation by helping leaders to work across sectors to accomplish results that no one organization or sector can achieve on its own ▪ WPRC has been able to secure sustainable funding from the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg ▪ The City funds come from Community Services & the Provincial funds come from Family Services ▪ The core budget is \$150,000 each year from city, province and United Way ▪ WPRC also has special projects for which they secure additional dollars through fundraising, enterprise or other creative partnerships. There is one full-time staff person at WPRC and several other part-time or project based personnel 	Municipal Funding for a Poverty Reduction Table	http://vibrantcanada.ca/blogs/donna-jean-forster-gill/funding-poverty-reduction-roundtables-season-fiscal-restraint#sthash.mdd09jsP.dpuf
Surrey, British Columbia	<p>Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition (SPRC) was established in October 2012 to mobilize the community and oversee implementation of the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan ▪ The Poverty Reduction Plan was endorsed by Council in July 2012. The process was a collaborative effort between Vibrant Surrey, SPARC BC, the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research: Community Learning and Engagement (CIR:CLE) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and the City of Surrey ▪ The Plan is focused on policy areas rather than vulnerable population groups. This way we can make a difference for all low-income people. The Plan includes 19 priorities and 75 recommendations. It is primarily 	Collaborative Poverty Reduction Strategy	http://www.surrey.ca/community/11554.a.spx

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	<p>focused on specific actions that the City of Surrey and local community groups can take to tackle poverty. The four key policy areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation - Housing - Income - Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A session was held in November 2013 to develop implementation plans 		
Calgary, Alberta	<p>The Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) (2012 – ongoing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engaged Calgarians to develop and implement a long-term community-based strategy to significantly improve the well-being of all residents. This strategy, Enough for All; unleashing our communities’ resources to drive down poverty in Calgary (2013), was approved by City Council and the Board of United Way last June. It aims to halve local poverty rates by 2023, via the following four key goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.All Calgary communities are strong, supportive and inclusive 2.Everyone in Calgary has the income and assets needed to thrive 3.Everyone in Calgary can easily access the right supports, services and resources 4.All Aboriginal people are equal participants in Calgary’s prosperous future ▪ Calgary City Council adopted a resolution in May 2013 that commits it to cut poverty in the city by 50 per cent over the next decade ▪ Six implementation tables developed implementation strategies over the course of 2013. Some actions that are moving forward include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common Intake System: The City is developing a single entry system to make it simpler for residents to access low income subsidy programs and services. Approved by City Council in December 2013. Streamlining 8 subsidy programs across 5 municipal business units - Co-op Development: Developing new co-op proposals including new housing, food and worker co-ops, working to establish an Opportunity 	<p>Approved Poverty Agenda</p> <p>Affordable Housing</p> <p>Precarious Employment</p>	<p>http://www.enoughforall.ca/</p> <p>December 2013 Newsletter http://www.enoughforall.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Newsletter-December-2013.pdf</p> <p>Spring 2014 Newsletter http://www.enoughforall.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Spring-20142.pdf</p>

Municipality	Description of Actions/Initiatives Taken to Impact Poverty Rates (Specific Examples, Key Findings, Rationale for how it impacts poverty)	Topic Area	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Co-op (financing vehicle for new co-op development) - Calgary Poverty Reduction Fund: Fund to provide expansion capital to firms who provide meaningful employment opportunities to those living in or at-risk of poverty 		
Corporate Poverty Agenda Municipalities, as corporations, also play a role in the area of poverty reduction – leading by example.			
Region of Waterloo, Ontario	Comprehensive Approach to Poverty Reduction (2012 – ongoing) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This approach was designed to identify actions the Corporation could undertake to effect change or make improvements within existing programs in the Region’s direct control or sphere of influence ▪ Since the development and approval of the Comprehensive Approach to Poverty Reduction (December 2012), two progress reports have been prepared ▪ Actions that have been undertaken by the Region include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Leadership Team was established with corporate-wide representation to monitor and guide the implementation of the Comprehensive Approach - A corporate-wide eligibility survey was administered to regional programs and services that support people living in low income to better understand how eligibility is determined for programs - Exploring the use of Innovation Hubs on the topics of housing and affordable transportation options - Inclusive language guidelines were developed for staff (helpful tips to talk about poverty in an unbiased way) 	Corporate Poverty Agenda	http://socialservices.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/communityPlanningPartnerships/resources/-comprehensiveapproachtopoverty_web_8_5_X11_.pdf Progress Report #1 http://socialservices.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/communityPlanningPartnerships/resources/-Comprehensive Approach Progress Report Accessible.pdf Progress Report #2 http://socialservices.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/communityPlanningPartnerships/resources/CAPRPR2.pdf#CAPRPR2.pdf
City of Kitchener, Ontario	City of Kitchener Human Resource Policies and Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The City of Kitchener assessed their policies, programs and human resource practices to see how they could better enhance their contribution to local poverty reduction ▪ After reviewing their operations, they identified a number of measures they could take to improve employment practices. For example, they 	Corporate Poverty Agenda Precarious Employment	The Social Role of Local Government. Caledon Institute of Social Policy, March 2003. http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/the_social_role_of_local_government.pdf

Municipality	Description of Actions/Initiatives Taken to Impact Poverty Rates (Specific Examples, Key Findings, Rationale for how it impacts poverty)	Topic Area	Source
	<p>decided to waive the normal waiting period for new employees to access the employee benefits package – an important consideration for those individuals moving from social assistance to work (especially for those who require assistance with cost of medications and other supports). They also agreed to waive the 50% employee contribution for those employees with lower incomes</p>		
Affordable Housing Thousands of Canadian families can barely make ends meet because their rent consumes most of their budget. They often go without food and other amenities such as warm clothing. Their paycheques don't cover even the basics. Many live in unsafe, infested or cramped quarters.			http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/the_social_role_of_local_government.pdf
Hamilton, Ontario	Hostels to Homes Pilot Project (March 2010) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Province of Ontario provided the City with the flexibility to use emergency shelter per diems for housing and support costs. The hostelling costs of \$1,316 per person per month were reallocated to Ontario Works (\$548 per month) and the remaining \$768 was used to cover costs for programming (housing, mental and physical health, addiction, education and employment supports) ▪ Focused its efforts on chronic male emergency shelter users ▪ Phase one of the project was June 2007 to December 2009. Phase two ended in June 2010 ▪ Created an Integrated Mobile Case Management Team that was available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing clients with mobile support, housing placement, access to employment supports and community-based services ▪ Key results from this project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 73% of the people housed in phase one and two of the project are still in their homes - The project resulted in cost savings for the municipality and Province - City was able to reduce the number of men's shelter beds from 250 in 2010 to 145 in 2011 	Affordable Housing	http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/871ENG.pdf

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Hamilton, Ontario	Blueprint for Emergency Shelter Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Endorsed by City Council in 2009 ▪ Collaborative effort between shelter services and the City ▪ Created a unique partnership between hospitals and shelters which decreased the number of visits to emergency rooms 	Affordable Housing	http://vibrantcanada.ca/content/creating-shared-prosperity-cities-lead-succeed
Hamilton, Ontario	Neighbourhood Down Payment Assistance Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Homeownership Program offers financial assistance as a down payment up to \$25,000.00 to help in purchasing a home at the purchase price of up to \$250,000.00. These funds provide an interest-free and payment-free loan, but some conditions apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The home must be purchased within the City of Hamilton - The loan must be repaid in full if sold within 20 years - If the home is sold after 20 years, the down payment assistance is considered a forgivable loan and no repayment or capital appreciation repayment is required - The forgivable loan does not have to be repaid if the home is sold for less than the original price, the transaction is at arm's length, and the program is satisfied that the sale is at fair market value ▪ Households that have an annual household gross income at or below \$65,000 are eligible ▪ People are also eligible to apply for a curb appeal grant of up to \$1,500. The curb appeal grant supports the homeowners to improve (if necessary) the external look of the property as it appears from the street curb ▪ The City invested \$535,842 in this program which will support the purchase of at least 35 homes in identified neighbourhood development areas 	Affordable Housing	http://www.hamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/F5CAA4A0-908D-47AC-AFB8-46B5BACACB2A/0/Apr10EDRMS_n291140_v1_8_2_CS12001_Neighbourhood_Down_Payment.pdf
Windsor-Essex County	Service System Manager for Housing Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The City of Windsor led the development of a 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan with a Housing First focus 	Affordable Housing	http://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/housing/Social-Housing/Pages/Social-Housing.aspx

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The following eight Housing First strategies were identified: access, person-centred housing supports, interim housing, housing linked with supports, rental housing, ownership housing and monitoring, reporting and evaluation ▪ Indirect service provision for Interim Housing and Housing with Supports are administered by the City of Windsor, which also administers programming with Consolidated Homeless Prevention Initiative funding. The Municipality also administers funding from the Federal government for the Homeless Partnering Strategy (HPS) as aligned with a plan developed through the Homeless Coalition ▪ The following affordable housing programs are currently offered for Windsor and Essex County: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Social Housing Programs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Housing (RGI) • Provincial Reform (RGI) • Rent Supplement • Federal Housing (RGI) • Low End of Market (COAHP) • Transitional Housing - <u>Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeownership 10% Down Payment Assistance Program • Ontario Renovates – Home repair and upgrades - <u>Homelessness Programs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Stability Plan (HSP) – including rental arrears assistance and the emergency energy fund 		
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	<p>Affordable Housing Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The program enables a nonprofit community organization to purchase and refurbish houses with the participation of the prospective homeowner ▪ The City contributes 5% of the cost of each house and the Saskatchewan 	Affordable Housing	http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/the_social_role_of_local_government.pdf

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	<p>Housing Corporation provides a forgivable equity loan amounting to 25% of the house's assessed post-renovation value, up to a maximum of \$55,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This financing makes it possible for low-income residents to secure an affordable mortgage from local financial institutions 		
Edmonton, Alberta	<p>Affordable Housing Plan: Cornerstones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City Council's affordable housing plan has established a number of grant programs to assist with housing affordability. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building grants for new long term affordable housing projects - Grants for the purchase or renovation of existing housing stock - A municipal fee rebates program for new multi-unit affordable housing projects - A rent supplement pilot program 	Affordable Housing	http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/reports/Mending Canadas Frayed Social Safety Net The role of municipal governments EN.pdf
Edmonton, Alberta	<p>Housing First Approach to Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing First is an approach to ending homelessness that involves giving people direct access to permanent housing, along with the services they need and want to maintain their housing. There is no requirement for people who are homeless to become "housing ready" before getting permanent housing. Housing First is based on the idea that issues that may have contributed to a person's homelessness can be best addressed once a person has stable housing ▪ Homeward Trust embraces the principle of Housing First—that every person has the right to a safe, secure home. This principle is at the core of both the Government of Alberta and City of Edmonton 10 year plans to end homelessness. Homeward Trust officially began the Housing First Support Program on April 1, 2009 ▪ The focus is on ending homelessness by providing permanent housing and follow-up support. Individuals who are experiencing homelessness are housed first and then given appropriate supports ▪ The Housing First Support Program is intended to last 12 months 	Homelessness/ Affordable Housing	http://www.homewardtrust.ca/programs/housing-first.php

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clients are stabilized then transitioned to a reduced level of support ▪ The final stages of the program involve planning to discharge the client once self-sufficient ▪ Homeward Trust provides a number of services to agencies and clients including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing First Worker Training: Workers regularly attend workshops and training sessions, where they learn best practices and refine required skills - Rental Assistance: With support from the Government of Alberta, Human Services, clients receive partial funding towards their rent - Furniture: Through the social enterprise, Find, clients in the Housing First Support Program receive essential household items including furniture and small household items before moving into their home ▪ In 2013, Homeward Trust received \$6 million from the federal government, \$23 million from the provincial government and \$1.2 million from the City of Edmonton ▪ Key results of this initiative include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since 2009, more than 2,500 people have found housing through the Housing First Support Program; more than 80% successfully remain in housing - Clients are living in more than 800 supported units across Edmonton and the Capital Region - Find has provided furniture, at no charge to the client, in more than 2,500 units 		
Greater Vancouver, British Columbia	Comprehensive Action Plan for Homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vancouver has been at the forefront among Canadian cities in adopting unique models and partnership approaches to address homelessness and distressed urban areas ▪ They have developed a homelessness funding model that involves the upgrading of existing housing stock, the construction of new supportive 	Homelessness/ Affordable Housing	http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/reports/Mending_Canadas_Frayed_Social_Safety_Net_The_role_of_municipal_governments_EN.pdf

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	housing, bylaw revisions		
Surrey, British Columbia	Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Society's mission is to raise, manage and distribute funds to support programs, projects and initiatives to make a difference in the lives of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness ▪ One of the City's Councilors sits on the Board of the Society ▪ In 2007, the City of Surrey allocated \$9 million from the City's Affordable Housing Reserve Fund to seed the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Fund ▪ The fund is an endowment and will grow by donations 	Homelessness	http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/reports/Mending Canadas Frayed Social Safety Net The role of municipal governments_EN.pdf
Food Security Food security occurs "When all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" (Source: Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, 2009). On the face of it, food security may seem like a simple thing to understand – food security means having enough to eat. But when you start looking deeper, food security is not so simple. Hunger occurs when need is greater than availability. But explaining why need exceeds availability means understanding that the reasons are complex, linked to the supply of food in a region, a household's ability to obtain food and an individual's ability to prepare, serve and consume the food, and any combination of these. Food security matters because of its impact on health.			Current and Emerging Practices in Food Security. London Poverty Research Centre (not published)
Prevalent in the United States and Canada	Food Policy Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food Policy Councils are developing across Canada to support and integrate an increasing number of community food initiatives and encourage the development of policy that supports a food system that is both just and sustainable. One of the primary tools Food Councils utilize to coordinate their work is a Food Charter – a document that highlights a community's vision for a healthy and sustainable food system ▪ Food Policy Councils were developed to bring together all stakeholders in a community food system and give them a say in constructing a system that reflected their values 	Food Security	https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jak1lyovordw9ou/AACJ4m3VB4rCw1bp82v9EWfia/Food%20Policy%20Councils%20and%20Food%20Strategies/Doing%20Food%20Policy%20Councils%20Right%20A%20Guide%20to%20Development%20and%20Action.pdf http://www.ncchpp.ca/docs/FoodPolicyCouncils-ConseilsPolitiqueAlimentaire_EN.pdf

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Policy Councils work toward the idea of food democracy - the long process of striving for improvements in food for all not the few. Achieving that goal means bringing the bulk of society to work together to ensure there's enough affordable, easily accessible, and nutritious food for everyone By drawing on the knowledge and experience of people from all segments of the local food system, a Food Policy Council becomes a source of information for the policy makers in government. A council can also help government agencies see how their actions affect the food system Food Policy Councils, Coalitions and Networks in Canada include: Vancouver, Kamloops, Quesnel, North Thompson Valley, South Okanagan, Kaslo, Shushwap, Calgary, Edmonton, Grand Prairie, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Waterloo Region, Rainy River Valley, Sudbury, Guelph-Wellington, Halton, Haliburton Highlands, Thunder Bay 		
Prevalent in the United States and Canada	Food Charter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food charters are emerging as a starting point for many communities seeking to strengthen their local food system Food Charters act as a tool to portray the visions of the community members that developed the document. As a result, a Food Charter has the ability to guide programming, policy, and planning within a municipality A Food Charter is a statement of values, principles, and priorities for a just and sustainable food system that will promote health and food security for all Developed by the public, a Food Charter represents the voices and visions of community members, resulting in a community-owned and locally focused action plan to improve food access and sustainability The primary role of a Food Charter is to act as a guide to foster the development of municipal food related planning, policy, and program development that can encourage a healthy food system As a result, a Food Charter, which is developed by community members 	Food Security	https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jak1lyovordw9ou/AAAVokZ3gKWbTpc-GyQdWvJga/Designing%20A%20Food%20Charter-%20How%20To%20Guides/An Assessment of Canadian Food Charters.pdf

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	<p>and intended to be endorsed by community decision makers, has the potential to be a powerful political document that can be utilized to encourage current and future municipal governments to foster the key principles of a sustainable food system that are outlined within it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Charters can contain several components including a background or rationale, vision statements, action goals, and key principles While the principles of Food Charters vary by region, some common principles included within these documents are: food security, local food system support, food skill development, food safety, social justice, nutrition, and health, with many of the principles of Food Charters targeting dimensions of community food security The following Canadian communities have food charters: Region of Peel, Region of Durham, Halton Region, Hamilton, Kawartha Lakes, Guelph-Wellington, Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington, London, Prince Albert, Simcoe County, Sudbury, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria Capital Region, Waterloo Region, Saskatoon At least 11 of these communities have had their local food charter approved by Municipal Council 		
Toronto, Ontario	<p>Good Food Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FoodShare's Good Food Programs connect families and communities with affordable, fresh, culturally diverse vegetables and fruit, increasing consumption of healthy produce and improving the income of Ontario family farms Every year, 40,000 Good Food Boxes are delivered through 180 volunteer-run drop offs The Bulk Fresh Produce Program for Schools and Community Agencies delivers affordable fresh produce directly to over 300 locations, serving 70,000 children weekly The program helps increase the availability of fresh, affordable high-quality vegetables and fruit in food deserts, breaking down social isolation 	Food Security	http://www.foodshare.net/fresh-produce-our-good-food-programs

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	<p>and creating vibrant public spaces, by supporting more than 20 Mobile and Good Food Markets within the City of Toronto and Ontario's North through a partnership with Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Results from the Good Food Market include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 79% of Good Food Market customers come back for each and every market, which indicates just how vital they are to communities - Because of these markets, 52% of adults and children are eating more fruits and vegetables - 35% prepared home cooked meals - 37% reported feeling significantly healthier - 47% said they got to know more of their neighbours - 98% felt that the market had improved their neighbourhood ▪ With the Ontario Food Terminal, over 25 local farms, and the Ontario Good Food Box Network we are working to establish better food access and more direct farmer linkages through expanded food hubs ▪ This program creates bridges between low income households need for fresh produce and local farmers who have high quality vegetables to sell ▪ This is a project of the Toronto Food Policy Council 		
Hamilton, Ontario	<p>Hamilton Tastebuds Student Nutrition Collaborative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This collaborative is a project of the Hamilton Poverty Reduction Roundtable ▪ It is a partnership of community agencies and community members that supports and facilitates local student nutrition programs for children and youth in Hamilton ▪ The program helps serve over 23,000 children at over 100 schools in the Hamilton area, every single school day 	Food Security	http://www.tastebudshamilton.ca/
District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration	<p>Canal Community Garden (2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administrative Board (Ontario Works) and Destination North have completed a Community Garden Project ▪ The non-profit Community Garden was built by community volunteers and 	Food Security Precarious Employment	http://www.sootoday.com/content/news/details.asp?c=74779

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Board, Ontario	<p>individuals in receipt of Social Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The goal of the project was to recruit people on Social Assistance and provide intensive wood working skills from Sault College, helping these individuals find work in carpentry ▪ Of the 19 students that participated in the project, 3 have successfully found employment and 3 more are planning on returning to Sault College in the Fall for additional training ▪ “This type of initiative is exactly the approach to skills development that is needed,” notes Mike Nadeau, Commissioner, Social Services Sault Ste. Marie. “Practical, hands-on learning in a professional, supportive environment improves learning outcomes, increases self-esteem and promotes self-sufficiency. I am so proud of the work done by the staff in making this initiative happen” ▪ The Canal Community Garden mission is to support and create opportunities for all residents of Sault Ste. Marie, regardless of circumstances. The garden will have 30 garden boxes, 10 of which will be occupied by several community service groups such as the Soup Kitchen, Pauline’s Place and Vincent Place. The remaining 20 boxes will be for anyone wishing to grow vegetables with a membership base garden that will allow individuals, families or community groups to plant and harvest a variety of healthy organic vegetables 		
Windsor, Ontario	<p>Market Dollar Program (2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pathway to Potential, Food Matters, United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County, and the Downtown Farmers’ Market have partnered together to launch a downtown farmers’ Market Dollar program ▪ Distributed by the City of Windsor’s social services department, this project offers families with access to the downtown core that struggle with food security printed Market Dollars equivalent to a monetary value of \$20 ▪ The Market Dollars program was designed to improve lives in Windsor-Essex County by allowing community members, experiencing low income, 	Food Security	http://windsorite.ca/2013/10/downtown-market-launches-food-voucher-program/ http://pathwaytopotential.ca/marketdollars/

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	<p>to have access to healthy foods and resources they may otherwise lack. Community members are empowered to make their own healthy food choices while contributing to the betterment of our community. Market Dollars users practice skills learned at the markets that can improve their lives in a positive, healthy and lasting way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common in other communities, market voucher programs aim to provide lower income families or individuals with opportunities to purchase nutritious food while promoting and supporting local producers and markets 		
London, Ontario	<p>Harvest Bucks Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2011, the Child and Youth Network implemented a pilot fruit and vegetable voucher program. This pilot was led by the Middlesex London Health Unit. Preliminary results of the first pilot resulted in approval for expansion of the pilot along with some program adjustments. The second pilot was implemented in 2012-2013 The pilot voucher program was intended to increase access to and consumption of fresh produce and to improve food literacy for targeted Londoners (those participating in the program). Secondary outcomes were to increase exposure and revenue for local produce farmers, and familiarity with and comfort shopping at a farmer's market The program was evaluated in May 2013 and the findings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 411 individuals and families received food literacy resource kits and vouchers (\$8,000 worth of Harvest Bucks) 78% of surveyed participants reported using all their Harvest Bucks. The primary barriers for those who didn't included inability to get to Market during Market hours, and/or transportation barriers. Some were still intending to use the Harvest Bucks 83% said that the program helped them buy fresh and healthy food 54% were able to buy produce they couldn't usually afford 33% bought produce they could not find in their neighbourhood 	Food Security	Child and Youth Network. Harvest Bucks Pilot Program: Evaluation Summary. May 2013. London, ON

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 76% reported eating more produce - 49% reported that their eating habits changed as a result of the program - 61% spent their own money at the Market in addition to using the vouchers - 91% said they would return to the Market to shop with 31% saying they were more comfortable going as a result of the program - 34% said they felt more connected to their community - Client characteristics impact likelihood of redemption; anecdotally, characteristics that facilitate redemption include: established relationships with staff; need and desire for fresh produce; own transportation and/or geographic proximity to Market and familiarity with Market; and personal resilience 		
Hamilton, Ontario	<p>Good 2 Go Food Box Pilot Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2012, City of Hamilton Council passed a motion in support of a one year pilot project to distribute fresh fruit and vegetables to single Ontario Works (OW) clients as single individuals receiving OW benefits continue to be the most at risk for insufficient access to healthy food ▪ This project was a direct response by the municipality to the lack of adequate income among single OW clients to purchase healthy food ▪ The Food Box was approved as a one year pilot project, to provide fresh food to 500 single Ontario Works recipients ▪ The municipality invested \$65,000 in this project, with \$55,000 coming from the Social Services Initiatives Reserve and \$10,000 coming from the Hamilton Poverty Roundtable ▪ This is an interesting good food box program as the majority of programs are promoted to the general population, with just less than 40% being promoted specifically to individuals and families on lower incomes, and only two programs targeting strictly individuals and families living on low incomes 	Food Security	http://www.hamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/1318B33B-7701-4A24-BE36-3D75A0077D1E/0/Oct2151BOH13039.pdf

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each month, participants are provided with 6 to 8 fresh produce items valued at \$15 per box The pilot was evaluated and the following are the key findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52.7% of participants reported changes as a result of receiving the box (eating more vegetables and fruit, not needing to buy or get food that is not affordable or not available at the food bank, eating or feeling better) 47.3% reported that if they did not get the food box they would have no other way to obtain vegetables and fruit 		
Chatham-Kent, Ontario	<p>Aim for 8 Fruit and Vegetable Voucher Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim for 8 is into its sixth year of operation Chatham Kent Public Health Unit has partnered with various farmers' markets and local vendors to offer a Fruit and Vegetable Voucher Program since 2008 This program provides residents with \$10 vouchers that can be used to purchase fruits and vegetables from local farmers The majority of vouchers are distributed through community partners, including Ontario Works There are no eligibility requirements and households do not need to submit an application The general public is able to pick up a voucher at participating grocery stores and farmers' markets on specific dates Information about the locations and times are posted on the website as well as disseminated via a media release 	Food Security	http://ckphu.com/category/healthy-living/?s=aim+for+8 www.ckphu.com
Many Canadian Cities	<p>Community/Collective Kitchens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community kitchens appear to have social benefits, providing people with social interaction and enhanced coping skills, as well as helping to improve nutritional habits; however, they do little to resolve severe and chronic food insecurity Collective Kitchens are made up of small groups of people (usually 4 to 6 	Food Security	Current and Emerging Practices in Food Security. London Poverty Research Centre (not published)

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	per group) who get together and cook for themselves and their families. The participants share their knowledge, skills and energy to prepare lower cost, nutritious meals for themselves and their families		
Many Canadian Cities	Community Gardens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluations of community garden initiatives suggest the following benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community organization is facilitated - Community involvement and life satisfaction - Nutritious eating habits ▪ However, the cost of setting up and maintaining a community garden is not insubstantial ▪ An Ottawa study found that it cost \$3,000 to \$5,000 to set up a community garden assuming land availability and volunteer labour ▪ The return on this investment is not known at this time ▪ A U.S. study estimated that a 10 foot by 20 food garden would cost \$200 per year and could yield \$70 to \$540 worth of vegetables per year (Provincial Health Services Authority and ActNowBC) ▪ Research conducted by PROOF suggests that low participation rates by low income households limits the value of community gardens as an effective food security program 	Food Security	Current and Emerging Practices in Food Security. London Poverty Research Centre (not published)
London, Ontario	Coupons for Hunger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This program helps address the needs of the estimated 25,657 residents in London that face food insecurity every year ▪ The program acquires low, or in many cases no-cost, grocery items through its couponing programs. Through its partnership with the London Food Bank, these items are then distributed to households across the city that find themselves in need ▪ The program is comprised of three parts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of coupons through drop-boxes located at all sixteen of the London Public Library locations 	Food Security	http://www.couponsforhunger.org/

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clipping and sorting of these coupons at Coupon-a-thon drives, whether in the form of hosted Employee Engagement Programs or at drop-in programs downtown - Cashing in of the coupons that have been collected and donation of the resulting groceries to the London Food Bank and other organizations such as Mission Services, Women's Community House, Animal Rescue Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, Tampon Tuesday and more - Provision of Coupon Workshops to teach couponing skills to attendees who are then in turn empowered to drastically reduce their own monthly grocery bills 		
Baltimore City, Maryland, United States	<p>Baltimarket: The Virtual Supermarket Project (VSP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In Baltimore City, as in far too many other American cities, access to food is a challenge for low-income residents. Twenty percent of Baltimore is considered a food desert, as the nearest supermarket is more than a quarter of a mile away, the median household income is at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, more than 40 percent of households lack transportation, and the average Healthy Food Availability Index for area stores is low (Center for a Livable Future, 2012). In addition, these neighborhoods are heavily saturated with corner stores, fast food, and carry-out establishments that provide few healthy food options ▪ This is a Health Department program (in partnership with ShopRite) that uses an online grocery ordering/delivery system to bring food to neighborhoods with low-vehicle ownership and little access to healthy foods (commonly called food deserts) ▪ The Virtual Supermarket enables neighborhood residents to place grocery orders at their local library branch, school or senior/disabled housing site or from any internet enabled computer or device ▪ Residents pick up their order weekly at their community site ▪ The delivery cost is paid by the Health Department ▪ Individuals get a \$10 bonus to spend on healthy foods the first time they 	Food Security	http://www.baltimarket.org/virtual-supermarket/

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> place an order and every fourth time they order after that People can pay for groceries using cash, credit, debit and EBT/SNAP (food stamps) 		
City of New Orleans, Louisiana, United States	Fresh Food Retailer Initiative (FFRI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fresh Food Retailer Initiative (FFRI) is an innovative new financing program created by the City of New Orleans to increase the number of supermarkets, grocery stores, and other fresh food markets in low-income, underserved communities across Orleans Parish The intent of the program is to enable operators to open, renovate, or expand retail outlets that sell fresh fruits and vegetables The program will provide direct financial assistance to retail businesses by awarding forgivable and/or low-interest loans to supermarkets, grocery stores, and other fresh food retailers 	Food Security	http://www.nola.gov/city/fresh-food-retailers-initiative/
Recreation Recreation opportunities for all children, youth and their families are another important area of municipal investment. These are activities which promote inclusion. Recreation is crucial. Not just for healthy individuals and families, but for strong neighbourhoods. Participation in sports, recreation and other leisure activities promotes inclusion and are associated with an enhanced quality of life through the acquisition of new skills and improved physical and psychological well-being. Recreation, and arts and cultural programs help build self-esteem for children and young people. These activities have been found to reduce negative social behaviour in youth and are particularly effective in reducing crime among young offenders. Local recreational policy is a policy response intervention to poverty. Municipalities can make their facilities and programs available at little or no cost to the public and can offer subsidies to families.			http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/the_social_role_of_local_government.pdf http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/720ENG.pdf
Ottawa, Ontario	Ottawa Hand in Hand, Recreation and Culture Fee Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Ottawa offers help with program fees so that all residents can take part in recreation and culture activities regardless of their ability to pay 	Recreation	http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/parks-and-recreation/registered-classes-all-ages/financial-support

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each qualifying individual, or member of a family, is eligible for an annual amount of fee support (\$165 per person) Many other Ontario cities also offer recreation subsidies to residents. These include: Markham, Ajax, Oakville, London, Waterloo and Kingston 		
Halton Region, Ontario	Halton Sport Leadership Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Halton Sport Leadership Program (HSLP) is a sport education program that provides low-income youth the empowering opportunity to gain confidence, leadership and experience through free training in nationally recognized certification programs in a variety of sports This is a unique opportunity that provides great experience and the skills for future employability and career prospects The program will be piloted in 2014 in Oakville, with the long-term vision to have additional delivery sites across Halton in the next few years There is also a Toronto Sport Leadership Program. In the first 8 years over 1,100 students have completed the program 	Recreation	http://haltonpovertyroundtable.com/?page_id=611 http://www.torontosportleadershipprogram.com/pages/about.php
Region of Waterloo, Ontario	Opportunities Waterloo Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities Waterloo Region has recognized the importance of making recreation accessible to all children and youth in the Waterloo Region Community consultations repeatedly indicated a need for a simplified and single source recreation and leisure reference source. This on-line directory was developed to assist users and providers of recreation and leisure opportunities in accessing the abundant recreation and leisure resources in the Region of Waterloo (playscapewr.ca) 	Recreation	http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/824ENG.pdf http://www.playscapewr.ca/
Kingston, Ontario	Positive Recreation Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an annual subsidy program provided to approved applicants 18 years or younger This program provides financial assistance to eligible youth to cover the cost of non-municipal recreation program fees, equipment costs and/or transportation costs Subsidy amounts are determined by the cost of the program and the 	Recreation	http://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/community-services/pro-kids

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	applicant's ability to pay		
Windsor- Essex County	Access to Recreational Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pathway to Potential program (P2P) funds are available for each municipality in Essex County as well as the City of Windsor to partially subsidize recreational programs for low income residents in their community ▪ In the City of Windsor, low income residents (as well their spouse and children) who are on one of the following programs: Ontario Disability Support Program, Ontario Works or social assistance; may be eligible for a special rate of 15% off the program fee for one recreation program per session per person (only some programs are available). Participants must pay material fees ▪ Children up to 17 years of age whose parents are eligible may obtain a special rate of 10% off the program fee for one program per child per session (funds are limited). Participants must pay material fees ▪ If residents are age 60+ or a person with a disability, they are eligible to receive 10% off the cost of programs 	Recreation	http://pathwaytopotential.ca/
Edmonton, Alberta	Access to Recreation Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leisure Access Program that allows eligible low income individuals to receive unlimited, free admissions to various City facilities ▪ Eligible seniors and adults receive a 75% discount on registration and supplies for three programs ▪ Eligible children and youth receive the same discount for four programs 	Recreation	http://vibrantcanada.ca/content/creating-shared-prosperity-cities-lead-succeed
Revelstoke, British Columbia	Access to Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This program enables low-income individuals and families free access to the Arena and Aquatic Centre, and 50% off all city-run Parks and Recreation programs, including the preschool 	Recreation	http://www.caledoninst.org/Policy/
Vancouver, British Columbia	OneCard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The city's OneCard allows access to the entire network of Park Board pools, rinks and fitness centres, and participating community centres 	Recreation	http://vancouver.ca/news-calendar/onecard-s-universal-access-increases-participationand-recreation-

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	<p>across the city – regardless of address or income level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The One Card is a joint initiative of the Vancouver Park Board and participating Community Centre Associations ▪ The card can be loaded with any of the Park Board's Flexipass options and 10-visit passes, and also includes a built-in 50% subsidy, for those who qualify ▪ More than 115,500 OneCards have been issued as of April 30, 2014 		program-uptake-across-city.aspx
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	<p>Program Grant Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The City of Saskatoon provides program grant funding to the 43 community associations in Saskatoon ▪ In 2006, the 43 community associations collectively provided 15,131 hours of programming to 10,179 residents 	Recreation	http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/reports/Mending Canadas Frayed Social Safety Net The role of municipal governments_EN.pdf
Surrey, British Columbia	<p>Leisure Access Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides support for low income families to obtain passes to local recreation facilities ▪ The program provides children (0 to 12) , youth (13 to 18) and seniors (60+) with a one-year Full-Facility Pass for unlimited access to drop-in activities at all City-operated recreation facilities ▪ Adults (19 to 59) are offered a 75% discount on single admission or monthly or yearly passes ▪ Drop-in activities include swimming, skating, weight room, fitness classes, etc. ▪ The program also offers eligible residents with a 75% discount on most Parks, Recreation and Culture registered programs, with a maximum discount during year-long enrolment of \$300 per family member 18 years and younger and \$150 per family member 19 years and older 	Recreation	http://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/1773.aspx
<p>Precarious Employment</p> <p>The standard employment relationship based on full-time, continuous employment with access to good wages and benefits is no longer the predominant form of employment. For many, taking a part-time job or contracted employment with less job security, few, if any, benefits and minimal control over working conditions is the norm.</p>			

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Precarious work is characterized by job instability, lack of benefits, low wages and a low degree of control over the process. The forms and types of work that are often described as precarious are: temporary agency work, self-employment, part-time work, casual work, or temporary migrant work.			
Municipalities Across Canada	Living Wage Campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A living wage is not the same as the provincially legislated minimum wage The living wage is calculated based on the amount a family requires to meet basic expenses, such as housing, child care, food and transportation. The calculation also incorporates government taxes, credits, deductions and subsidies The living wage gets families out of severe financial stress by lifting them out of poverty and providing a basic level of economic security A number of municipalities have already adopted or are in the process of adopting a living wage ordinance. 30 municipalities have established living wage campaigns A Living Wage Campaign involves establishing a community-based living wage committee of business leaders, engaged citizens, community leaders, government, academics and other interested parties, calculating a living wage for your community, and establishing a communication strategy and campaign In Ontario, Guelph-Wellington, Halton, Hamilton, Kingston, Peterborough and Toronto have all calculated their living wage amount Ottawa, Waterloo, Brantford and Windsor are emerging communities 	Precarious Employment	http://vibrantcanada.ca/content/creating-shared-prosperity-cities-lead-succeed http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/municipal_living_wage_101_summer_2011.pdf www.livingwagecanada.ca
London, Ontario	Impact Loan: Microloan Pilot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program provides small targeted loans to help individuals increase income through self-employment or business start up It is a three year pilot (target is families, youth and newcomers) People are eligible for \$5,000 per loan In just over 2 years, 34 people have found a new career path through self or organizational employment. 25 new businesses were started 	Precarious Employment	London Child and Youth Network presentation (personal file)

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Toronto, Hamilton, Region of Peel, Ontario	Poverty and Employment Precarity in Southern Ontario: Research Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Much of the evidence regarding precarious employment and its impact on households and communities is anecdotal and, without solid quantitative research, it has been impossible to influence public policy ▪ A research group submitted a CURA proposal that now includes over twenty community partners from across southern Ontario and university researchers from various Canadian and foreign universities ▪ Through surveys administered by Statistics Canada and six related case studies, this CURA will assess a series of questions related to individual, household and community well-being ▪ The six case studies being developed are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precarity and its Impact on Household and Community Well Being - Collective Responses to Precarious Employment - Precarity in the Community Services Sector - Migrant Labour – Undocumented Labour - Impact of High Levels of Precarity on the Urban Neighbourhood Economies and Particular Populations - Jobs-skills Mismatch and Precarious Employment Faced by Racialized Newcomer Women in Toronto ▪ The objective is to provide a comprehensive database to facilitate a deeper understanding of how society is changing in the face of changing labour market dynamics 	Precarious Employment	http://pepso.ca/
St. Thomas/Elgin County, Ontario	Pathways to Prosperity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women, especially those living in rural and remote communities, face unique challenges to maintaining economic security. These challenges impact the economic stability and prosperity of the whole family and the community at large ▪ The YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin is embarking on a three year project to collaborate in identifying barriers and opportunities to economic security 	Precarious Employment	http://www.ywcastthomaselgin.org/pathways-to-prosperity/ https://stthomas.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentDisplay.aspx?ID=3508 http://ywcapathways.com/wp-

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	<p>that are unique to women living in its region and to create a community plan for Women's Economic Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Planning for Women's Economic Security in Elgin-St. Thomas began in March 2012 to advance women's economic security and opportunities for local prosperity through the following efforts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance understanding and awareness of barriers and local supports to women's economic security - Collaborate to identify gaps, priorities and opportunities and implement supports and strategies - Develop a community plan & take specific actions to address the economic situation of women living in St. Thomas and Elgin County ▪ The group has created a 2014 report card about women's economic security 		content/uploads/2014/03/2014ReportCard-web.pdf
Windsor	<p>Tax Repayment and Tax Relief Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The City of Windsor has a Tax Repayment Program and also a Relief from Property Taxation Program for Sickness or Extreme Poverty 	Income Security	http://www.citywindsor.ca/cityhall/Taxes--and-Assessment-/Pages/Tax-Rebates-and-Relief.aspx
British Columbia and Cities in the United States	<p>Municipal Living Wage Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementing a municipal living wage policy is a way local governments can directly improve residents' lives and put widely held community values into practice ▪ Municipal living wage bylaws ensure that City workers as well as contracted staff are paid enough to meet basic, locally calculated, family living expenses ▪ Living wage bylaws apply only to city employees and contractors, but they set an important local benchmark that other employers can follow ▪ Canada's first municipal living wage bylaw was passed in April 2010 by New Westminster City Council (living wage was calculated as \$18.81 in 2011) ▪ Esquimalt passed a second bylaw in early 2011 (living wage was calculated as \$17.31 in 2011) and interest is growing in a number of other 	Precarious Employment	http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/municipal_living_wage_101_summer_2011.pdf

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	<p>B.C. municipalities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although new to Canada, at least 130 U.S. cities have successfully implemented a living wage, including New York, Chicago, Boston, Detroit, Cleveland, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose and Miami Almost half of the urban population in the U.S. lives in a city covered by a legislated municipal living wage Impact of implementing a living wage policy has been documented as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saves families between \$3,000 to \$4,000 in taxes Higher rates of spending in the local economy (\$0.40 of each additional dollar of pay gained through living wage measures would be spent directly in the local economy) Reduces staff turnover Improves workplace morale Increases productivity 		
Red Deer, Alberta	<p>Living Wage Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Living Wage has been calculated for the city of Red Deer, and 8 municipalities that surround the "rurban" centre. The Living Wages that have been determined are not unlike calculations from other Alberta communities such as Grande Prairie, Calgary and Medicine Hat, as it ranges from approximately \$13 to \$16 per hour (depending on size of family, and community location) Budget items that were included in this Living Wage are. 1.Food 2.Shelter (rental) 3.Clothing and Footwear 4.Transportation 5.Other Household expenses (bank fees, personal care items, furnishing, household operation supplies) 6.Child Care 7.Health Care 8.Social Inclusion items (basic cell phone, TV and internet, recreation, gifts, two week camping vacation) and 9.Contingency funds There were several budget items excluded from this Living Wage; 1.Special dietary needs 2.Owning a home 3.Credit card, loan or other debt/interest payments 4.Savings for retirement 5.RRSP, RESP or RDSP 	<p>Income security</p> <p>Precarious Employment</p>	<p>http://vibrantcanada.ca/blogs/red-deer/9-municipalities-and-living-wage</p>

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	<p>contributions 6.Costs of caring for a disabled, seriously ill or elderly family member 7.Hobbies 8.Pet ownership 9.Parking 10.Alcohol or tobacco costs 11.Personal life or disability insurance 12. Remittances to family members living abroad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the launch of the Living Wage, we'll continue our community collaboration and work on strategies to bridge the gap between the minimum wage in Alberta (the lowest in our great nation at \$9.05/hour for those serving liquor and \$9.95/hour for all others) and the Living Wage in Central Alberta 		
Edmonton, Alberta	<p>Make Tax Time Pay Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary clinics provide low income earners with access to information and application forms for benefits and subsidies to which they were entitled Offer free tax clinics and helps people complete forms for nine additional subsidies and benefits From 2006 to 2009, the program helped 4,446 Edmonton residents put over \$1 million in tax dollars back in their pockets In 2010, 259 volunteers in 22 program sites offered this service, Tax returns were filed by 4,176 families and individuals who expected to claim more than \$1.1 million in tax refunds and applied for more than 1,300 benefits and subsidies These types of programs are also available in Brantford, Brant County and Waterloo Region 	Income Security	<p>http://vibrantcanada.ca/content/creating-shared-prosperity-cities-lead-succeed</p> <p>http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/913ENG.pdf</p>
Halifax, Nova Scotia	<p>Human Resources Development Association (HRDA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HRDA was created in 1978 with \$275,000 from the Halifax social assistance budget It is now a successful venture capital and business development group set up primarily to serve social assistance recipients Through its subsidiary, HRDA Enterprises Ltd., it created small businesses that placed more than 1,400 social assistance recipients in newly created 	Precarious Employment	<p>http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/the_social_role_of_local_government.pdf</p>

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	jobs in the areas of environmental care services, painting, property management, bakery, consultation and training, sewing contracting		
Saint John, New Brunswick	TIES 2 Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training to employment project that would secure employers job-ready entry level employees ▪ The goal of the project is to create a match between employers and potential employees by providing essential skills training specifically tailored to employer requirements ▪ 12 weeks of classroom and on-site training are provided and then the person moves to a full-time job ▪ The first year program results include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two rounds of recruitment, 13 clients and 8 employers - In round one of the program, 4 out of 6 participants secured employment - In round two of the program, 6 out of 7 were successful 	Precarious Employment	http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/777ENG.pdf http://sjle.org/data/documents/ties2workyear1report.pdf
Saint John's, Newfoundland	Makin' it Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business owners in Saint John's were frustrated that advertisements for well-paid entry level jobs were going unanswered. At the same time, unemployed people in low-income neighbourhoods were indicating a desire to find meaningful, full time employment ▪ They developed a pilot project to provide on the job training and mentoring ▪ 22 people participated in the pilot ▪ At the end of the pilot, 14 of the 22 participants moved from income support to employment 	Precarious Employment	http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/778ENG.pdf
Surrey, British Columbia	Project Comeback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research in 2005 showed that 18.6% of Surrey's homeless population worked as day labourers. There were paid minimum wage, received no benefits and had no guarantee of work from one day to the next ▪ The project had two goals: to assist, empower and support homeless day 	Precarious Employment	http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/671ENG.pdf

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	<p>labourers in finding full time, sustainable employment and independent housing, and to significantly improve the lives of project participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First year results of the project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 71.4% success rate. 34 of the 49 participants were placed in jobs and worked for 12 continuous weeks - 30 participants were still living independently in market rental housing at the end of the evaluation period - The cost per person was \$6,000 - 95% of the participants rated the project as good or very good - Benefits reported by participants include: increased ability to participate and contribute to the community, improved support networks, quality of life and self-esteem and increased employability and independence 		
<p>Early Childhood</p> <p>The first few years of life are critical for brain development and affect children’s subsequent performance at school and, eventually, in the job market. The condition of the early childhood years, including prenatal development, influence significantly a person’s chance throughout life. Children who do not receive the nutrition and stimulation necessary for good development in the earliest months and years of life may have difficulty overcoming deficits later on. Investment in early childhood nutrition, stimulation and development is a crucial prevention measure.</p> <p>Research evidence has found that effects of disadvantage on children can be reduced by a number of careful interventions such as good prenatal health and adequate nutrition of the mother, bonding of the child with a nurturing caregiver, opportunities for learning experiences in the home and community (especially early childhood education).</p> <p>Children in low income families have significantly more psychosocial difficulties than other children, including more mental and physical health problems, academic troubles and behavioural issues. Entrenched parental poverty effectively starts a chain of social risk leading to reduced readiness for and acceptance of school, poor behaviour and attendance, higher risk of unemployment, low status jobs and perceived social marginality.</p> <p>Early childhood programs are an important means of mitigating childhood deficits and promoting healthy development.</p>			<p>http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/the_social_role_of_local_government.pdf</p> <p>http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/720ENG.pdf</p>

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High quality child care can compensate, to some extent, for developmental deficits. Quality early childhood interventions have been shown to improve performance in school, lessen the learning risks associated with low income and enhance parents' childrearing and coping skills.			
Region of Niagara, Ontario	Niagara Prosperity Initiative (2008 – ongoing) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Niagara Prosperity Initiative was established by Niagara Region in 2008, and provides for an annual investment of \$1.5 million to support poverty reduction and prevention activities. An advisory committee guides investment decisions and works to leverage additional community resources ▪ The \$1.5 million is a reinvestment of the municipal cost savings associated with the implementation of the Provincial Ontario Child Benefit ▪ The Niagara Prosperity Initiative uses a research-based approach to address the root causes of poverty, allocating resources where they will have the greatest effect. While some projects are designed to meet the immediate needs of individuals living in poverty, the Niagara Prosperity Initiative is also focused on longer-term strategies which require stronger partnerships and improved coordination and planning across the public, private and voluntary (not for profit) sectors and among stakeholders ▪ As of 2013, 229 projects have been funded through 65 different agencies ▪ In 2010 and 2011, the majority of funding (over 44%) was allocated to educational programs for children and youth ▪ A review and evaluation of the funded projects is conducted each year ▪ Key results from the evaluation include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52% experienced improvements in individual and household assets (social, human, physical, personal and financial assets) - 48% experienced an increase in the community's capacity for poverty reduction 	Early Childhood Municipal funding to meet identified community needs	http://www.niagararegion.ca/social-services/niagara-prosperity-initiatives.aspx http://www.niagararegion.ca/council/Council%20Documents/COM%2037-2013.pdf http://www.niagararegion.ca/social-services/pdf/NPI-Community-Impact-Report.pdf
Region of Peel, Ontario	Enrolled By Six: Peel Post-Secondary Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Peel Children and Youth Initiative, Enrolled By Six is a community impact strategy to enroll every eligible child in Peel region in the Canada 	Early Childhood	http://www.povertyinpeel.ca/task-forces/income-security/index.htm

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	<p>Learning Bond – Registered Education Savings Plan for post-secondary tuition before the age of six</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) is FREE money provided by the Government of Canada to children born after 2004, living in families receiving the National Child Benefit Supplement (i.e. earning less than \$43,561 after taxes per year) ▪ Eligible children receive up to \$2,000 by the age of 15 ▪ Parents do not have to put any money in the RESP, but if they do, their contributions will be matched by 40%. The earlier you enroll, the more interest you earn 		http://pcyi.org/enrolled-by-six/
London, Ontario	<p>Child and Youth Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Child and Youth Network (CYN) is composed of over 170 agencies and individuals that span the education, health, recreation and social services sectors. The CYN supports happy, healthy children and youth today...caring, creative, responsible adults tomorrow ▪ The CYN is dedicated to helping build strong families and breaking down the barriers that put our children, youth and families at risk. We do this by collectively planning, facilitating collaboration, building awareness, providing education and improving access to services ▪ The CYN has four priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ending Poverty - Making Literacy a Way of Life - Healthy Eating and Healthy Physical Activity - Creating a Family-Centred Service System ▪ Examples of initiatives include: The Baby Book Bag, London Food Charter, Food Families, development of Family Centres in neighbourhoods, in motion community challenge, microloans 	Early Childhood	http://londoncyn.ca/priority_areas/
Hamilton, Ontario	<p>Hamilton Best Start</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hamilton Best Start is a community collaborative supporting families by offering a broad range of services for children from birth to 12 years of age 	Early Childhood	http://hamiltonbeststart.ca/

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	<p>that will ensure children receive the best possible opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They have developed a community plan and implementation plan to move forward in their community 		
A Number of Ontario Cities	<p>OneLIST, OneHSN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides for improved access to licensed child care ▪ It is a centralized intake for licensed child care centres in a number of Ontario communities, including: Haldimand-Norfolk, Region of Waterloo, Hamilton, Windsor-Essex County, Brantford, Region of Niagara, London 	Early Childhood	
<p>Social Awareness and Engagement Poverty is a complex community issue. How do we make people aware of the extent of the issue and promote engagement in working toward collaborative community solutions?</p>			
Windsor, Ontario	<p>What Matters Windsor Essex Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pathway to Potential is surveying the community about what issues are important to them ahead of this year's municipal election ▪ Adam Vasey, director of P2P, said although the group has been involved in elections in past years through discussion groups, this year they decided to try a different method of engagement ▪ "This year we thought a strategy might be to have a survey to gather some really meaningful input from the community that could then be used to go to the candidates in the municipal election and say, 'Here is what people in the community care about,'" said Vasey ▪ The survey includes questions about education, transportation and health, but approximately one-third revolve around poverty as an issue. Vasey said the reason for the higher amount of poverty related questions compared to other issues is because he believes they're intertwined 	Social Awareness and Engagement	http://windsorite.ca/2014/04/new-survey-asks-what-matters-to-you-in-windsor-essex/
Hamilton, Ontario	<p>How's the Weather?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2012, the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty started a how's the weather campaign ▪ This campaign is designed to raise awareness about women experiencing homelessness 	Social Awareness and Engagement	http://www.howstheweather.ca/

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group has a twitter account at @howstheweather and a Facebook group 'How's the Weather?' to help people keep up to date with events and progress in the campaign 		
Pan-Canadian Collaborative of Cities	<p>Vibrant Communities Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vibrant Communities Canada is a pan Canadian collaborative of cities and provinces working to reduce poverty It is a connected learning community of more than 28 cities. 14 cities in Ontario are a part of this initiative, including: Halton, Peel, London, Kingston, Simcoe, Hamilton, Huron County, Niagara, Peterborough, Oxford County, Leeds and Grenville, Waterloo, Thunder Bay and Windsor-Essex The Vision is to create Vibrant Canadian Communities by significantly reducing the human, social and economic cost of poverty The Mission is to create a connected learning community of 100 Canadian cities with multi-sector roundtables addressing poverty reduction. Our goal is aligned poverty reduction strategies in cities, provinces and the federal government resulting in reduced poverty for 1 million Canadians This collaboration rests on five core principles: poverty reduction over poverty alleviation; work comprehensively to address root causes of poverty; build on the existing assets in a community; bring people together from all sectors; and learn together to scale up change 	Social Awareness and Engagement	www.vibrantcanada.ca
Halton Region, Ontario	<p>Business Engagement Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the four key initiatives of the Halton Poverty Roundtable is business engagement The private sector can help to eradicate poverty in many ways, most significantly by using the bright minds and resources that exist within the sector to find dynamic and creative solutions to the problem The Halton Poverty Roundtable welcomes and invites the Halton business community to the table to help alleviate poverty in a number of ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attending business outreach events Joining their business advisory group 	Social Awareness and Engagement	http://haltonpovertyroundtable.com/?page_id=327

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	- Donating financially to the work of the roundtable		
Niagara, Ontario	Wipe Out Poverty in Niagara <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wipe out Poverty in Niagara held a media launch in 2013. It included the development of a logo, website, social media and fact sheets One of the goals of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN) is to raise awareness about poverty in Niagara The NPRN has created a toolkit that includes fact sheets about NPRN and poverty in Niagara The NPRN offers presentations on poverty in Niagara to the community that are appropriate for faith groups, businesses or students 	Social Awareness and Engagement	http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca/#!/poverty-presentations/c1q43
Calgary, Alberta	Social Media Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2010, Vibrant Communities Calgary embarked on a social media project. This was part of its efforts to increase community awareness of poverty-related issues and encourage voter participation in municipal elections They opened a twitter area, a page on Facebook, Tumblr and Youtube feeds Created a pre-election newsletter that was distributed to the city's food banks, shelters and community organizations Over a three month period they saw the following results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,000 direct contacts with their material and more than 3,120 indirect connections to their online brand 1,659 page views on Facebook 65% of readers viewing blog materials more than once 	Social Awareness and Engagement	http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/893ENG.pdf
Efforts to Influence Public Policy at the Provincial and Federal Levels of Government Many traditional policy tools to alleviate poverty and unemployment lie with the provincial and federal levels of government. In order to have a broad impact in the area of poverty reduction, municipalities must try to influence public policy at these two upper levels of government. As the provincial context is different across Canada, this section of the literature review focuses specifically on			

Municipality	Description of Actions/Initiatives Taken to Impact Poverty Rates (Specific Examples, Key Findings, Rationale for how it impacts poverty)	Topic Area	Source
municipal actions in Ontario.			
Several Ontario Municipalities	Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brantford conducted a community consultation and prepared a written submission to send to the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy review Leeds and Grenville facilitated a day with the local MPP to provide feedback for the Ontario Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy London facilitated two community conversations to develop a response to the Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy review 	Influencing Provincial and Federal Public Policy	http://vibrantcanada.ca/blogs/donna-jean-forster-gill/cities-reducing-poverty-2013-accomplishments-2014-priorities
London, Ontario	Minimum Wage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> London submitted recommendations to the Province's minimum wage advisory panel 	Influencing Provincial and Federal Public Policy	http://vibrantcanada.ca/blogs/donna-jean-forster-gill/cities-reducing-poverty-2013-accomplishments-2014-priorities
Niagara, Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2013, the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network wrote letters to Provincial and Regional government about the termination of the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit, Housing Stability Plan and the Social Assistance Review 	Influencing Provincial and Federal Public Policy	http://vibrantcanada.ca/blogs/donna-jean-forster-gill/cities-reducing-poverty-2013-accomplishments-2014-priorities

Section 3: Working with and Influencing Municipalities

The following table provides some brief tips and suggestions about working with and influencing municipalities.

Working With/Influencing Municipalities	Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Peel Poverty Reduction Table commissioned a report that provided an assessment of food charters▪ As part of this report, there was a section entitled, “Gaining Municipal Endorsement”▪ The steps highlighted include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attempt to get municipal staff and councillors on board early in the process to ensure they are aware of the concept of a Food Charter, informed on the process taken to develop the document, and given the opportunity to provide feedback- Meet with municipal councillors and administration to gauge their interest and the potential for resistance towards a Food Charter- Personalize the Food Charter to the region. Putting a greater emphasis on key concerns, such as sustainability, can improve the chances for municipal endorsement- When presenting the Food Charter to the municipal council, have as many people as possible attend the meeting. Councillors love to see people in the audience showing their support and ensuring strong public support can help to encourage municipal councillors to endorse the document as they will listen to the people who elect them- Try to get as much buy-in from the municipal government upfront. Get a feel for what your municipality is willing to provide once the Food Charter is passed. Strategically think about what you want to ask them for and what you think they will commit to	<p>An Assessment of Canadian Food Charters https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jak1lyovordw9ou/AAVokZ3gKWbTpc-GyQdWvJga/Designing%20A%20Food%20Charter-%20How%20To%20Guides/An Assessment of Canadian Food Charters.pdf</p>

Working With/Influencing Municipalities	Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use a new angle. Everyone knows the social/moral argument but what is the economic argument? How much does poverty cost us? ▪ Know your Municipal Council. Who are the allies? ▪ Know Administration. Council changes often, administration does not ▪ Do your research. Review Standing Committee and Council agendas, minutes and reports. Research who is on the Committee and their issues, concerns and approaches ▪ Reach out to Committee members ▪ Reach out to members of administration preparing the report ▪ Know the decision making windows. When policies are being developed is the best time to influence recommendations. There is little opportunity to influence policy once it moves forward for Council approval ▪ Do not assume knowledge. Elected officials are often less knowledgeable about the issue you are passionate about ▪ Don't try to provide all your knowledge. Stick to a "one pager." Provide concise information ▪ Do not approach an elected member with an offer of personal gain ▪ Befriend everyone. The Mayor is only one vote ▪ Have them visit you and tour your agency ▪ Volunteer during elections ▪ Attend Council/Standing Committee meetings ▪ Engage online ▪ Be vocal but positive during elections ▪ Sustain your effort. Real change requires sustained effort (many letters and many meetings) 	<p>Engaging Municipalities in Poverty Reduction http://vibrantcanada.ca/files/engaging_municipalities_in_poverty_reduction.pdf</p>
<p>Approaches to take to influence public policy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting on the government agenda needs effective relationship building - Work through Elected Representatives (meetings, position papers) and Public Servants (technical reports, source of information, policy briefs) ▪ Media Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Politicians watch the media closely – indirect way to reach government officials and policy makers - Work through feature stories, news releases/news conferences, central information contact in your organization, television programming, advertisements ▪ Public Relations 	<p>J. Kirkham, Influencing Public Policy Presentation (personal document)</p>

Working With/Influencing Municipalities	Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish and promote a favourable relationship for the public (public outreach and education) - Work through printed information materials, information repositories, briefings/public presentations, internet (websites, social media, e-mail alerts) ▪ Partnerships and Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mutually beneficial and well-defined relationship to achieve common goals - Work through inter-organizational collaboration, participation on advisory panels and committees ▪ Membership/Supporter Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a membership of people who support your issue and goals (collective voice) - Work through maintaining contact and building support, Board of Directors ▪ Recognize efforts made in support of your issues (aids in building credibility and building strong relationships) – publicly recognize politicians at events, say thank you 	