HEALTH INEQUITIES

OUR VISION

Everyone in Guelph & Wellington has the income, resources and opportunities to fully participate in the community.

WHAT WE KNOW

50% The amount of health outcomes that are attributable to socioeconomic factors[1].

Children in low-income households are more likely to have a range of health problems throughout life, even if their socioeconomic status changes later in life[2].

The percent of total health care spending attributable to poor health related to low income[3]. **20%**

Canadians with the lowest incomes are more likely to suffer from chronic conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, and heart disease, and to live with a disability[4].

The percentage of dental services paid out of pocket in 2009, resulting in inequitable access to oral health care[5]. **35%**

Among Ontarians who did not visit a dentist in the past three years, one in five cited cost as a barrier[6].

WHAT MUNICIPALITIES CAN DO

- Offer recreation, cultural and transportation subsidies for individuals with income at or below the living wage.
- Provide financial and resource support for rural transportation systems.
- Provide additional recreational opportunities in targeted neighbourhoods.
- Promote and invest in affordable housing.
- Promote and encourage living wage employment.
- Advocate to federal and provincial governments on issues related to income, housing, food insecurity and health.
- Take a leadership position by naming poverty as an issue, keeping it on the public agenda, and developing public/private partnerships.
- Convene stakeholders – develop ongoing relationships that build capacity.
- Engage people with lived experience of poverty in decision-making.
- Provide information and data to help stimulate new thinking and ideas for eliminating poverty.

QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

- What programs and policies would you support in order to increase health and well-being among low-income communities?
- Would you support raising the eligibility cut-off for recreation subsidies to ensure that all individuals and families living at or below the living wage would have access to affordable recreation subsidies?
- Would you increase financial support to reduce barriers to participation such as entry fees for community and cultural events such as fairs, festivals, and parades through financial subsidies?

INNOVATIVE IDEAS

1 MUNICIPAL FEE ASSISTANCE

The Municipal Fee Assistance program helps lower-income residents get around the city to lead active and healthy lives:

- The Affordable Transit Pass offers reduced-cost monthly transit passes.
- Transit Employment Program gives recently hired Kingston residents a free two-month Kingston Transit pass to get to and from work.
- SPARK (The Subsidy Program for Affordable Recreation in Kingston) - provides assistance for city-run recreation and leisure memberships, programs, classes, camps and fees.

2 SPORT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

HPRT
Halton Poverty Roundtable

This sport education program provides low-income youth the 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.
More information:
http://haltonpovertyroundtable.com/?pageid=611

This fact sheet was prepared by:

POVERTY
GUELPH & WELLINGTON TASK FORCE FOR
ELIMINATION

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