



# 2018

Report to the Community

# 2019

Roadmap

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# About Us

## Vision

Poverty will be eliminated in Guelph-Wellington

## Mission

To work collaboratively, informed by diverse voices of experience, to take local action and advocate for system and policy change to address the root causes of poverty.

## Pathways

- Advocate & Inform
- Collaborate & Involve
- Communicate & Engage
- Research & Mobilize Knowledge

## Funders & Host

The Poverty Task Force (PTF) thanks **Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health** for their support as host agency.



## Organizational Framework



The PTF also thanks the following funders for their ongoing support, including the **City of Guelph**, **County of Wellington**, and **United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin**.





# Membership

## Co-Chairs

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- Brendan Johnson, Executive Director, Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition
- Helen Fishburn, Senior Director, Canadian Mental Health Association, Waterloo Wellington

## Members

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- Adrienne Crowder, Manager, Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy
- Alex Goss, Manager of Community Investment, City of Guelph
- Andrea Roberts, Director - Child & Family Health, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
- Andrea Wyshniowsky, Manager - Programs & Services, Family Counselling and Support Services for Guelph-Wellington
- Andrew Seagram, Coordinator - Community Use of Schools Program, Upper Grand District School Board
- Barb McPhee, Peer
- Dana Nuttley, Peer
- Debbie Bentley Lauzon, Executive Director, Wyndham House
- Elaine Weir, Certified Bridges Trainer, Circles Initiative of Guelph-Wellington
- Elsa Mann, Team Leader, Outreach Program, Mount Forest Family Health Team
- Gail Hoekstra, Executive Director, Welcome In Drop-In Centre
- Gavin Dandy, Directing Coordinator, The Seed
- George Kelly, Chair, Guelph Wellington Coalition for Social Justice
- Iona Sky, Director of Service, Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County
- Jane Londerville, Wellington-Guelph Housing Committee
- Jane Tuer, Executive Director, Project READ Literacy Network
- June Hofland, City Councillor, City of Guelph
- Jason McCrossan, Peer
- Jaya James, Executive Director, Lakeside HOPE House
- Kari Simpson, Executive Director, East Wellington Community Services
- Ken Harvey, Manager of Employment Services, County of Wellington
- Lisa Needham, Public Health Nutritionist, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health
- Raechelle Devereaux, Executive Director, Guelph Community Health Centre
- Ron MacKinnon, Executive Director, Community Resource Centre of North & Centre Wellington
- Ryan Pettipiere, Director of Housing, County of Wellington
- Sarah Haanstra, Project Manager, Toward Common Ground
- Sandra Cocco, Executive Director, Immigrant Services Guelph-Wellington
- Sheila Markle, Executive Director, Family & Children's Services of Guelph & Wellington County
- Shakiba Shayani, Community Investments Manager, United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin
- Sly Castaldi, Executive Director, Women in Crisis
- Stuart Beumer, Director of Ontario Works, County of Wellington
- Tina Brophey, Peer



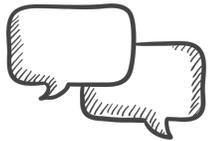
# 2018 Impacts & 2019 Actions

## 2018 Impacts:

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### Strategic Plan Extension

- In 2018, the PTF released its 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, an extension of the PTF's previous strategic plan. It provides a comprehensive document that introduces new value statements and priorities.

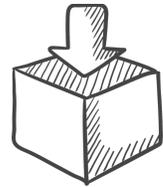


### Intersectional Approach

- In June 2017, the PTF Member Committee made a unanimous decision to work toward adopting an intersectional approach.
- In 2018, the PTF explored peer involvement, took part in anti-oppression training, outreached to organizations working with groups most impacted by poverty, and began to conduct a review of its membership.

### Provincial Election

- During the 2018 Provincial Election, the PTF advocated for policy change on key poverty issues. The PTF also created and shared fact sheets, voter information and candidate Q & As.



### Municipal Election

- During the 2018 Municipal Election, the PTF developed municipal election kits for Guelph & Wellington with voter information, fact sheets, and a candidate report card tool.
- The PTF also hosted a poverty briefing event for candidates & advocated for action on key poverty issues.

## 2019 Actions:

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### Intersectional Approach

**Goal:** That the PTF take an intersectional approach to its work.

- Develop peer involvement practices for the PTF
- Provide anti-oppression training and offer educational opportunities for PTF members
- Complete a review of the PTF's membership, make changes and orient new members

### Federal Election

**Goal:** Raise candidate and voter awareness about poverty issues during the federal election.

- Publish fact sheets on key election issues related to poverty
- Publish responses from election candidates on questions related to poverty
- Publish political party platform comparisons on issues related to poverty
- Provide voter information to low-income community members



Priority Area

# Livable Incomes

A **livable income** is the amount of income an individual or family needs to meet basic needs, maintain a safe, decent standard of living in their community, and save for future needs and goals. Livable incomes can be achieved through employment earnings, as well as government transfers and benefits, such as social assistance.

## 2018 Impacts:

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### Social Assistance

- The PTF made an official submission in response to *Income Security: Roadmap for Change* and advocated for increased rates and system improvements in response to the Provincial Government's roll-back of positive changes and 100-day review.

### Basic Income Pilot

- The PTF worked to amplify the voices and experiences of Basic Income Pilot participants and advocated for the reinstatement of the pilot after the Provincial Government announced its cancellation.



### Living Wage

- The PTF supported the Ontario Living Wage Network to review the living wage methodology and further develop of the Ontario Living Wage Employer Program
- The PTF updated Guelph-Wellington's local living wage rate to: \$16.90/hour and hosted a Living Wage Week employer lunch and learn to recognize the 33 local living wage employers.

## 2019 Actions:

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### Living Wage

**Goal:** Champion the living wage as a strategy to support strong social policy and increase the number of workers paid at least a living wage in Guelph-Wellington.

- Increase the number of Guelph-Wellington living wage employers
- Host an employer lunch and learn, and recognize local living wage employers

### Livable Incomes

**Goal:** Research and share knowledge on what it costs to thrive in Guelph-Wellington.

- Conduct research on livable incomes and release a Guelph-Wellington livable income report

### Income Security

**Goal:** Advocate for income-based solutions to poverty.

- Identify opportunities and advocate for policy change that supports income security



Priority Area

# Decent Work

**Decent work** sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities to work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all.

## 2018 Impacts:

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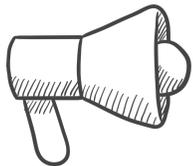


### Decent Work Project

- The PTF applied for and received a grant from the Atkinson Foundation's Decent Work Fund to support an 18-month project focused on building the decent work movement in Guelph-Wellington. This project is in partnership with the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition and will roll-out in 2019.

### Championing Decent Work

- The PTF co-hosted the Ontario Nonprofit Network's *Championing Decent Work in the Nonprofit Sector* workshop with the United Way and The People and Information Network.
- The PTF also increased awareness of decent work by providing presentations to employers and at conferences on fair wages and working conditions.



### Fair Wages & Working Conditions

- The PTF joined advocacy efforts from across the province against the repeal of Bill 148 in support of fair wages and working conditions including:
  - Minimum wage increases
  - Equal pay for equal work
  - Paid sick days

## 2019 Actions:

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### Decent Work Project

**Goal:** Increase awareness of decent work in Guelph-Wellington and build the capacity of workers to engage in advocacy on the issues they experience.

- Train 6 peer leaders in outreach, advocacy and facilitation
- Host community conversations on decent work and workers' rights
- Organize and run a series of community skill-building trainings focused on decent work
- Identify opportunities and advocate for policy that supports decent work



Priority Area

# Homelessness & Housing

**Homelessness** encompasses a range of physical living situations, including:

- Unsheltered – living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation
- Emergency sheltered – including those staying overnight in emergency shelters
- Provisionally accommodated – those whose accommodation is temporary
- At risk of homelessness – those who are not homeless, but whose economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.

In Canada, **housing** is considered affordable if shelter costs account for less than 30 per cent of before tax income. The term “**affordable housing**” can refer to any part of the housing continuum. The Poverty Task Force focuses primarily on the portion of the continuum from emergency shelters to market rent for low income community members.

## 2018 Impacts:

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### Registry Week / Point-in-Time (PiT) Count

- In 2018 the PTF partnered with the County of Wellington for the second time to coordinate a joint Registry Week / PiT Count.
- To support planning and outreach, the PTF created honorarium supported peer roles for individuals with lived experience of homelessness.
- At the end of the week, the PTF co-hosted a community debrief event and released *Everyone Counts: 2018 Guelph-Wellington Point-in-Time Count*.

### 20,000 Homes Campaign

- In 2018, the PTF worked with the County of Wellington to support Guelph-Wellington to become the 4<sup>th</sup> community in Canada to achieve a Quality By-Name List.
- The PTF supported an evaluation and further development of the Guelph-Wellington Coordinated Entry System.
- The PTF released a 20,000 Homes Progress Report in the spring and supported the campaign as a community champion for ending homelessness in Guelph-Wellington.

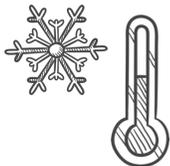


### Advocacy and Awareness

- During the provincial and municipal elections, the PTF advocated for increased investment in housing solutions to meet community needs.
- The PTF also advocated for increased funding to Guelph-Wellington through Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy.
- Through partnering with the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute at the University of Guelph, the PTF researched Yes In My Backyard (YIMBY) Campaigns.

## Homelessness Supports

- The PTF partnered with the Legal Clinic of Guelph & Wellington County to develop an ID Bank. Launched by the Guelph Community Health Centre in 2018, it offers individuals a secure location to store and access their ID.
- The PTF also partnered with the United Way to launch a housing stability fund to support individuals to maintain housing.



## Cold Weather Response

- The PTF convened partners to update and circulate the Cold Weather Response Plan for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness.
- The PTF also coordinated partners to pool resources and distribute winter survival kits with blankets, hats, mitts and other items.

## 2019 Actions:

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### Housing Crisis

**Goal:** Increase awareness of the housing crisis in our community and the solutions.

- Release a report on the housing crisis
- Host a housing crisis event to increase community awareness of the issue and solutions

### Yes in My Backyard (YIMBY)

**Goal:** Develop a YIMBY campaign to encourage community members to say yes to affordable homes and developments that meet the needs of low-income community members.

- Release a report on YIMBY campaigns
- Develop guidelines and launch a YIMBY campaign

### Built for Zero (Formerly 20,000 Homes Campaign)

**Goal:** End chronic homelessness in Guelph-Wellington.

- Act as a community champion and support work through participation in committees
- Support evaluation of the coordinated access system and By Name List

### Indigenous Homelessness

**Goal:** Gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous homelessness and support appropriate solutions.

- Release a report on Indigenous homelessness and advocate for solutions

### Cold and Hot Weather Response Plan for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

**Goal:** Support the development and distribution of a plan for both cold and hot weather seasons.

- Convene partners to develop and circulate response plans in the community

### Housing Access Guide

**Goal:** Update the Guelph-Wellington Housing Access Guide.

- Contact housing providers, update information, and circulate guide



Priority Area

# Food Insecurity

Household **food insecurity** is commonly defined as inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints. Experiences of household food insecurity can range from concerns about running out of food before there is enough money to buy more, to the inability to afford a balanced diet, to going hungry, missing meals, and in extreme cases, not eating for a whole day because of lack of food and money for food.

## 2018 Impacts:

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### Advocacy and Awareness

- In 2018, the PTF advocated for income-based solutions to address the root cause of food insecurity. This included supporting the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health's Cent\$less Campaign.
- The PTF also increased awareness of food insecurity in Guelph-Wellington by providing presentations to community groups and university classes.

### Community Food Initiatives

- The PTF supported the work of The SEED as a Steering Committee member.
- The PTF also supported The City of Guelph & County of Wellington's Smart Cities bid to have Guelph-Wellington become Canada's 1<sup>st</sup> Circular Food Economy as a Steering Committee member.



## 2019 Actions:

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### Food Access Guide

**Goal:** Update the Guelph-Wellington Food Access Guide.

- Contact emergency food providers and programs to update information
- Promote and circulate the guide

### Healthy and Culturally Appropriate Food Policies

**Goal:** Pilot healthy and culturally appropriate food policies with local emergency food providers.

- Conduct a scan of healthy and culturally appropriate food policies
- Introduce policies and models to emergency food providers
- Identify providers and develop policies

### Income Based Solutions

**Goal:** Advocate for income-based solutions to food insecurity.

- Identify opportunities and advocate for policy change to address the root cause of food insecurity



Priority Area

# Health Inequities

**Health inequities** are health differences that are:

- Systemic, meaning that health differences are patterned, where health generally improves as socioeconomic status improves;
- Socially produced, and therefore could be avoided by ensuring that all people have the social and economic conditions that are needed for good health and well-being; and
- Unfair and/or unjust because opportunities for health and well-being are limited.

## 2018 Impacts:

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### Oral Health

- In 2018, the PTF continued to advocate for the expansion of public oral health programs for low-income adults. This included successfully receiving support from Guelph City Council on a resolution to support advocacy to the provincial government.
- The PTF also released and distributed information on no and low-cost oral health programs in Guelph-Wellington.

### Overdose Prevention Site

- The PTF supported the work of the Overdose Prevention Site as a member of the Steering Committee and Evaluation Committee.



### Homelessness and Health

- The PTF increased awareness of the complex health needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in Guelph-Wellington and advocated for permanent supportive housing.

## 2019 Actions:

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### Oral Health

**Goal:** Improve access to oral health care for low-income community members.

- Identify opportunities and support local action and advocacy efforts

### Pharmacare

**Goal:** Improve access to prescription drug coverage for low-income community members.

- Identify opportunities and support advocacy efforts leading up to the federal election