
Expression of Interest Form

If you want to be a part of the Poverty Task Force's Community Advocacy Training, please fill out this form and email it to: info@gwpoverty.ca by 4:30pm on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Everyone who fills out this form will get a response, whether or not they are selected.

If you have questions, need help filling out the form or want to apply in a different way, please contact Chelsey Edwards, Community Engagement and Communications Coordinator at info@gwpoverty.ca.

What is the Poverty Task Force's Community Advocacy Training?

This is a no cost six-week training program for up to ten people from Guelph and Wellington County who have experience living with low income and want to advocate about poverty issues.

Participants will attend training sessions on topics, such as:

- Advocacy
- Storytelling
- Anti-oppression
- Public speaking
- Talking with media
- Meeting with elected officials

This program will help participants build new skills and strengthen the skills they have to:

- Raise awareness about poverty issues
- Advocate for solutions
- Build relationships and connections

When training is done, participants will have the chance to advocate with the Poverty Task Force in places like: community meetings, advocacy opportunities, outreach activities, events and more!

Who can participate in the training?

You can apply if you:

- Live in Guelph or Wellington County
 - Have direct experience living with low-income
 - Are interested in advocating on poverty issues, such as:
 - Income insecurity (example: living on social assistance or other income supports)
 - Homelessness & Housing issues (example: renovictions, discrimination when finding housing, lack of accessible housing, unaffordable rent)
 - Decent work (example: low wage work, jobs with no benefits or security, no sick pay, gig work)
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When does the training happen?

The training runs in person every Wednesday for six weeks from May 14th to June 18th. The sessions will take place in a physically accessible location that can be accessed by transit. Full details will be sent to confirmed participants.

Training Schedule:

- **Wednesday, May 14th, 9:00am-1:00pm:** Introduction & Welcome
- **Wednesday, May 21st, 9:00am-12:00pm:** Storytelling & Advocacy
- **Wednesday, May 28th, 9:00am-12:00pm:** Anti-oppression & Advocacy
- **Wednesday, June 4th, 9:00am-12:00pm:** Storytelling & Public Speaking
- **Wednesday, June 11th, 9:00am-12:00pm:** Advocacy & Government Relations
- **Wednesday, June 18th, 9:00am-1:00pm:** Media Relations & Putting Skills into Action

Additional Meeting Times:

- **Onboarding Meeting** (week of **May 5th to May 9th**): A meeting will be scheduled with each participant before training begins. Time to be decided once participants are confirmed.
- **Drop-In Work Sessions** (optional, but encouraged for developing your story):
 - **Monday, May 26th, 10:00am-11:30am:** Drop-in Work Session
 - **Monday, June 2nd, 10:00am-11:30am:** Drop-in Work Session
 - **Monday, June 9th, 10:00am-11:30am:** Drop-in Work Session
- **Awareness Opportunity:** On **Friday, June 13th from 9am-11am**, participants can attend a Poverty Task Force Member Committee Meeting to share their experience.

If you are interested, but are not available during the above times, please still apply! Times may change based on participant availability.

Honorarium and participation supports:

Participants will be provided with an honorarium for their participation in Community Advocacy Training. Additional participation supports (example: money for transportation, childcare, technology support, etc.) will be provided as needed.

1. Please fill out this section with your contact information:

First name(s):	Last name(s):	
Pronouns (example: they, she, he):		
Phone number:	Cell number:	
Email:		
Street address:	City:	Postal code:

2. What is the best way to contact you? Check all that apply.

☐ Phone Call ☐ Email ☐ Text Message ☐ Other (please list):

3. Will you need any of the below supports to attend the training? Check all that apply.

☐ Funds to pay for childcare
☐ Technology support
☐ Bus tickets
☐ Other (please list):

4. Are there any more supports that will help you to participate or is there anything you would like us to know to best support you? (Examples: dietary restrictions, allergies, accessibility request, reading or writing support, etc.)

5. Training runs for six weeks starting on May 14th and is on Wednesdays from 9:00am until 12:00pm, but the first and last session are from 9:00am until 1:00pm. Are you available at these times?

☒ Yes
☐ No

6. If the time does not work for participants, we will explore having the training at a different time. What is your general availability?

Please place an ☒ in the times you are usually free.

Time of Day	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Morning 9am-12pm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Afternoon 12pm-3pm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Is there anything else you would like us to know about your schedule?

In up to 5 to 7 sentences, please answer the below questions.

1. Please tell us why you are interested in Community Advocacy Training?
2. What skills do you hope to get from this program?
3. What personal experiences do you have living with low income and poverty issues?

4. Which of these poverty issues matter most to you? (Check all that apply)

☐ Decent work & living wages	☐ Not being able to afford rent
☐ Basic income	☐ Homelessness
☐ Increasing income supports (example: increasing social assistance)	☐ Renovictions or eviction issues
☐ Affordable childcare	☐ Discrimination when finding housing
☐ Food Insecurity	☐ Mental health and addiction
	☐ Affording medication or dental care

5. Are there any other issues that you are passionate about advocating on?

6. What changes would you like to see to eliminate poverty?

7. This program is about advocating to change the systems that cause poverty. Are you interested in pushing for big changes like better housing policies and fairer income supports?

8. How did you learn about this program?