



# Welcome to the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN)

Working collectively to wipe out poverty in Niagara through education, collaboration and advocacy to address poverty's root causes.

We are glad you are interested in our network. Here's a quick overview of what we are all about. You can find more information at [www.wipeoutpoverty.ca](http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca), or email any questions to [info@wipeoutpoverty.ca](mailto:info@wipeoutpoverty.ca).

## Why?

The network evolved in 2011 out of a community-based committee that had an interest in guiding a pool of poverty-reduction grants provided by the Regional Municipality of Niagara. Committee members identified the need for a network to tackle the issue of poverty reduction beyond grant-making because grants are finite but the depth and breadth of the issue of poverty is infinite.

NPRN brings people together from across the region to provide individuals, businesses and organizations with information about poverty's root causes and the opportunity to take action to address these root causes.

Why should you join NPRN?

- Resources: Members get access to resources relevant to poverty as well as in-person networking, information sharing and training opportunities.
- Support: NPRN offers opportunities for individual, small, or large group work in topics that relates to members personally and/or professionally.
- Empowerment: Individuals who are affected by poverty often feel a lack of empowerment and this network gives individuals an opportunity to voice their concerns and give their input on issues that impact their lives.

*\* Note - A transportation subsidy is available to members, and may be requested by contacting the NPRN Convener at [info@wipeoutpoverty.ca](mailto:info@wipeoutpoverty.ca) \**

## Who?

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN) will broadly represent the communities of Niagara, non-profits, government, education, community leaders, the private sector and residents including people with lived experience

NPRN actively encourages the involvement of people who have lived or living experience of poverty. A person with lived experience is defined as: someone who currently has, or previously had, direct first-hand personal experience of being deprived of the resources, means, choices, and power necessary to acquire and maintain economic self-sufficiency and participation in society.

## What?

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN) works collectively to wipe out poverty in Niagara through education, collaboration, and advocacy to address poverty's root causes. NPRN is a nonpartisan network but cannot identify as being apolitical because the issues around poverty are political.

**Vision** – All Niagara residents live above the poverty line

**Mission** – Niagara residents, businesses and organizations working together to improve the quality of life in Niagara

**Values** – Collaborative, Inclusive, Innovative, Integrity, Accountable

The network depends upon the efforts of everyone to advance its work. For it to flourish, each member must take an active part.

## Where?

The work of NPRN takes place in the Regional Municipality of Niagara and the 12 municipalities within this geographic boundary. All components of the community, including neighbourhoods and special interest groups, regardless of where they are in Niagara, are encouraged to participate in the work of NPRN.

## When?

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network meets five times per year: January, March, May, September, and November.

## How?

NPRN established two goals to direct its work:

- More residents, businesses and organizations know about poverty's root causes.
- More residents, businesses and organizations are engaged in taking action to address the root causes of poverty.

These goals are part of a work plan which is executed by numerous Priority Tables. As well, working tables and community groups are connected to NPRN to maximize the resources being devoted to reducing poverty in Niagara. A complete organizational chart and a list of active Priority Tables can be found at [www.wipeoutpoverty.ca](http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca).

## How can you get involved?

There are a number of ways you can become involved with NPRN, and at any time you may increase your involvement on any issues that may be of interest to you. The opportunities for involvement have varied time commitments, and include:

- Participation in our bi-monthly roundtable meetings
- Participation in a Priority or Operations Table
- Participation as a person with lived experience
- Participation as a Chair, Vice-Chair, or Member at Large in our Coordinating Committee (as voted by NPRN members)

- Participation as a corresponding member, receiving information about the work of the Network

If you would like more information about these opportunities, or NPRN more broadly, please contact [info@wipeoutpoverty.ca](mailto:info@wipeoutpoverty.ca).