

**Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN)**  
**Wednesday, January 23, 2019 9:00 am- 11:30 a.m. Niagara Catholic District School Board**

**Present:** Glen Walker (Chair), Melenie Neamtz (Vice-Chair), Ashley Chiarello, Candice Stewart, Alyssa Zandwyk, Ryan Hilimoniuk, Greg Shupe, Cassie Ogunniyi, Erin Walters, Laura Ciccone, Lori Kleinsmith, Sandi Day, Aidan Johnson, Brandon Agnew, Jennifer Sinclair, Natalie Chaumont, Marc Todd, Carol Maingot, Lidia DiLorenzo, Barb VanDer Heyden, Deb Ogilvie, Jen Trozzi, Jon Braithwaite, Michael Mandloch, Tara Wincott, Mark Newman, Tamara Coleman-Laurie, Ron Walker, Chris Walsh, Pam Swick Janjac

**Regrets:** Ricky Kwan, Jennifer DeAngelis, Anne Watters.

Item	Discussion
<b>Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The meeting minutes for November 28, 2018 were approved as written.</li> <li>● The agenda was approved as written</li> <li>● Introductions around the table</li> </ul>
<b>Coordinating Committee Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Current bank account holds \$6,040.26</li> <li>● Glen reminded members of membership renewal and reminded as no membership fee, that donations to NPRN and the work of the Network are always welcome. Thank you to those who have made recent donations.</li> <li>● Encouragement to NPRN members to engage with the work of the task groups. This is where the real work of the Network happens. All members are encouraged to participate. Anyone interested, please see one of the Coordinating Committee Members.</li> <li>● Glen discussed briefly the work of the NPRN Speaker’s Bureau and the work to be done to update the volunteer recruitment and training as well as the update of the various presentations to be offered through the Speaker’s Bureau. It would be most helpful if “someone could take it on as a project”. NPI funding could be applied for, to take this on as a project and whoever is interested, could speak with Natalie Chaumont today, and/or attend the NPI Information event being held Monday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. <b>(Info Flyer enclosed)</b></li> <li>● Overview of 2018 NPRN Highlights. Melenie confirmed the Highlights were being done every 2 years previously, but beginning with this year, will be completed and distributed annually. (each January NPRN Roundtable Meeting) 2018 Highlights enclosed.</li> <li>● Glen added in reference to the 2018 Highlights, there is “lots going on within the Network”.</li> <li>● There will be a meeting of the Coordinating Committee January 29<sup>th</sup> to review and begin work to update the NPRN Work Plan.</li> <li>● Also, highlighted was the work this last year of the Elections’ Task group and Glen reminded there is a Federal Election in the Fall of 2019. A sign-up sheet was circulated for any interested in becoming part of the group to work toward the Federal Election. A meeting will be forthcoming.</li> <li>● Anyone else interested in the Elections Task Group work this year are asked to send their information to <a href="mailto:info@wipeoutpoverty.ca">info@wipeoutpoverty.ca</a> and will be included in the call for the first Elections Task Group meeting.</li> <li>● NPRN Convener position change: Pam will be leaving the position and as interviews are taking place this week, the new Convener will be introduced as soon as possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Presentation</b>	<p><b>Housing Update: Ashley Chiarello</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ashley reminded the table of the NPRN Affordable Housing Group and if others are still interested in getting involved along the way, to please forward an email to Ashley @ <a href="mailto:ashley.chiarello@bridgeschc.ca">ashley.chiarello@bridgeschc.ca</a> <b>(presentation enclosed)</b></li> <li>● She reported on the 2 meetings to date of the NPRN Affordable Housing Group and the Consultation, Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario.</li> <li>● Barb Van Der Heyden offered to facilitate connection with Linda Bush with Development and Innovation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer Sinclair (Bethlehem Housing) offered to have Laurie Beach, Executive Director be in touch with Ashley/Affordable Housing Group as per the current consultation which Laurie is involved with.</li> <li>• Look at what are the roles of the municipalities around housing and encourage them to develop strategy significant to them.</li> <li>• Hope they will look to the Recommendations from the Affordable Housing Group</li> </ul>
<b>Everyday Advocacy</b>	<p><b>Living Wage Infographic: Lori Kleinsmith</b></p> <p>Lori shared the new Infographic on Living Wage in Niagara and had cards to share with members. Copies are still available and can be accessed by contacting Lori @ <a href="mailto:lori.kleinsmith@bridgeschc.ca">lori.kleinsmith@bridgeschc.ca</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori referred to testimonials from Living Wage Employers</li> <li>• Members are encouraged to stay connected to NPRN Wages and Work Task Group and refer to the Living Wage page(s) on the NPRN Website. <a href="https://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca/">https://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca/</a></li> <li>• Also Lori talked about the most recent additions to the Living Wage Employers in Niagara and members can stay current on the information both on the NPRN Website and also refer to the Ontario Living Wage Website for further information. <a href="http://www.ontariolivingwage.ca/">http://www.ontariolivingwage.ca/</a></li> <li>• Important for NPRN Members to be aware and to share the infographic cards but also share their awareness of the importance of Living Wage whenever they can.</li> </ul>
<b>Task Group Updates</b>	<p><b>Business Engagement: Next meeting in February (TBD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melenie Neamtz reported some new members to the Task Group and they are happy to be working with the Job Developers as they are in the community working with both Employers and Employees.</li> <li>• Also encouraged the various other Task Groups to reach out to Business Engagement as they are the connection with the Business Community</li> </ul> <p><b>Health Equity: Next meeting in February (TBD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Equity Task Group was supporting the Heart Project in their work to access funding in order to develop the project to work with Peer Support in the Emergency Departments when people who are experiencing homelessness present.</li> <li>• The project has to date been successful in accessing \$33,000 toward the project and is moving ahead.</li> </ul> <p><b>Housing: Next meeting in February (TBD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per earlier on agenda</li> </ul> <p><b>Wages &amp; Work: Next meeting in February (TBD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New members are encouraged to reach out to Lori @ <a href="mailto:lori.kleinsmith@bridgeschc.ca">lori.kleinsmith@bridgeschc.ca</a> or the new Convener @ <a href="mailto:info@wipeoutpoverty.ca">info@wipeoutpoverty.ca</a></li> <li>• 10 Employers have now become Certified Living Wage employers in Niagara and 2 are currently working on finalizing soon.</li> <li>• Ontario Living Wage indicates they are continuing to receive inquiries from Niagara</li> <li>• 15 of the newly elected councilors/school board trustees across Niagara had signed the Support Living Wage and it is hoped more will come on board as work happens across the region. Wages and Work Task Group is working with Ontario Living Wage staff to approach municipalities. (Niagara has 12 municipalities, the Region, and 4 school boards and they will be working with all)</li> </ul>

	<p>All NPRN members are encouraged to <a href="#">learn more about living wage</a> and consider becoming a living wage employer.</p> <p><b>Youth Strategy: Next meeting in February (TBD)</b>  Group is working toward changes to help economically disadvantaged students through a variety of efforts; beginning with the planning of a workshop to be presented to secondary school teachers and staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Workshop: HELP STARTS HERE</b> – Understanding that every student has a story and the impact of Poverty on Youth, learn how to find resources that will help educators support and connect to economically disadvantaged students and families. This workshop will help raise awareness of community services and programs. This workshop is being delivered by members of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network Youth Strategy task group and IN Communities 211.</li> </ul> <p><b>SARN Spring Forum: Next meeting in February (TBD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SARN (Social Assistance Reform Network) reviews Social Assistance annually and has been hosting the forums in Niagara for 20+ years with usually 40-80 attendees</li> <li>• This year requested to work with NPRN to plan and host a joint session</li> <li>• Topic: Income Security + Workers Rights in Ontario</li> <li>• Spring Forum is to be held for ½ day in either April or May and currently investigating a few different key note speakers and once confirmed will set date and confirm location</li> <li>• Gracia (SARN) and Glen and Melenie (NPRN) will also be speaking</li> </ul>
<p><b>Round-table Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Other</b></p>	<p><b>Income Security and Worker’s Rights in Ontario: What’s Next? Marc Todd</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marc participated in a Teleconference with Jennifer Laidley (ISARC- Income Security Action Centre) and Pam Franche (Worker Action Centre) presenting. Jennifer spoke about the changes to Income Security and Pam spoke about the changes to Bill 47 and proposed Bill 66 (Ontario’s Workplace Laws).</li> <li>• Changes around definitions of disability for ODSP; how does it impact those currently on program? Reassessment? And level of difficulty for new to qualify?</li> <li>• Will all be watching for next steps and any information coming from the government</li> </ul> <p><b>REMINDER: NPI Information meeting on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:00 p.m. @ Four Points by Sheraton, Schmon Parkway, Thorold.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications will be available at <a href="http://www.NiagaraProsperityInitiative.ca">www.NiagaraProsperityInitiative.ca</a> from Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>-Mar. 1, 2019</li> <li>• For questions or further information, contact Natalie Chaumont @ <a href="mailto:Natalie@unitedwayniagara.org">Natalie@unitedwayniagara.org</a> 905-688-5050 ext. 2124</li> </ul> <p><b>Please mark your calendar for the next meetings: 9:00-11:30 a.m. @NCDSB Offices 427 Rice Rd. Welland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday, March 27, 2019</li> <li>• Wednesday, May 29, 2019</li> </ul> <p><b>Transportation assistance available: Contact : <a href="mailto:Natalie.chaumont@unitedwayniagara.org">Natalie.chaumont@unitedwayniagara.org</a> for information</b></p>