

Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN)
May 25, 2018 9:00 am- 11:30 a.m. Niagara Catholic District School Board

Present: Glen Walker (Chair), Melenie Neamtz (Vice-Chair), June Cormon, Natalie Chaumont, Don Brown, Laura Ciccone, Ashley Chiarello, Kathy Stead, Vicki Doidge, Lidia DiLorenzo, eb Ogilvie, Meanie Wessel, Dandi Dau, Same Messier, Ann Aharrison, Julie Gregory, Marc Todd, David Wyllie, Ron Walker, Pam Swick Janjac, Greg Shupe, Catherine Livingston, Maxine Hutchings, Francesca Vergalito, Jennifer Sauve, Cassandra Ogunniyi, Tara Wincott, Melissa Kirkpatrick, Anne Watters, Diane Corkum, Stephen Criddle, Carole Wallwork, Julie Hill, Brandon Agnew, Tamara Coleman-Lawrie, Suzanne Veenstra

Item	Discussion
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The meeting minutes for March 21, 2018 were approved as written. ● The agenda was approved as written
Coordinating Committee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current bank account holds \$6,342.15 ● 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.
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poverty & Employment Precarity in Niagara presentation, <i>Jeff Boggs & Lori Kleinsmith</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Please see the slide dock on our website.
Everyday Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do we ensure those experiencing precarious employment are involved in this conversation and helping to develop solutions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online tools ○ Community meetings/forums ○ Engage politicians to help organize ○ Apply for grant projects ○ Engage with minimum wage workers to hear their stories, changing the negative narrative around the minimum wage increase ● What role can the NPRN play to advance the work of PEPiN? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talk to employers about ways to change hiring practices and reduce the impact of precarious employment ○ Discuss the role of NPRN members in the precarious employment problem; how are not-for-profit organizations contributing to the problem? ○ Advocate for government funding streams to encourage secure employment practices among not-for-profits ○ Invite precarious employers to the conversation; continue to build relationships with the business community ○ Further highlight the importance of a living wage and promote existing living wage employers
Task Group Updates	<p>Affordable & Accessible Childcare - <i>Next meeting TBD</i></p> <p>Anti-Stigma & Marketing - <i>Next meeting: May 24, 3 p.m. MacBain Centre</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Task group submitted an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant application for a Niagara wide, anti-stigma marketing campaign. ● Finalizing infographic and hope to have this released in the summer ● Creating database of NRPN member organizations' communications & marketing coordinators to allow for greater online engagement and participation <p>Business Engagement- <i>Next meeting: July 10 John Howard Society, Welland</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Put together an online survey for NPRN members to gather information about business connections, existing within the network. The Task Group is asking all NPRN members to take a moment to fill out this survey and identify possible business connections that could begin to engage with the work of NPRN. Follow this link to complete the survey.

	<p>Elections Committee - <i>Next meeting: after June 7 election</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encouraging all NPRN members to engage in the election conversation. Please share and retweet NPRN social media posts to increase reach and awareness about the importance of voting. ● Please visit wipeoutpoverty.ca/elections for elections resources, images and sources <p>Health Equity - <i>Next meeting TBD</i></p> <p>Housing- <i>Next meeting TBD</i></p> <p>Speakers Bureau - <i>Next meeting TBD</i></p> <p>Wages & Work - <i>Next meeting: May 29, 1 p.m. City of St. Catharines</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage NPRN members who would like to continue the conversation about precarious employment to join this task group to further the conversation ● A new living wage employer will be announced this summer. This is a high profile employer and will go a long way to build awareness about living wage in Niagara ● All NPRN members are encouraged to learn more about living wage and consider becoming a living wage employer. <p>Youth Strategy - <i>Next meeting: May 29, 9 a.m. Niagara Catholic Education Centre</i></p>
<p>Round-table</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update on United Way merger ● Encouragement to all NPRN members to engage in the Region’s “Shape Niagara” strategic planning process. Please participate in any upcoming public meetings. ● Reminder: New Horizons for Seniors RFP is currently open, closing June 15. Please consider applying. ● Niagara’s Healthy Communities Forum is May 30th. Topic: Understanding Harm Reduction. Free event. Space is limited
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Please mark your calendar for the next meeting date. All meetings are from 9:00am - 11:30am at the Niagara Catholic District School Board (427 Rice Road, Welland)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NO NPRN Meetings throughout summer months (June-August) ● September 19, 2018 <p>Transportation assistance is available, contact Natalie.chaumont@unitedwayniagara.org for information.</p>