

Niagara Poverty Reduction Network

2024-2025
highlights, member
feedback and focus
for 2026



NPRN focus

Mission statement: Reduce poverty in the Niagara Region by addressing the barriers that impact poverty

Objectives:

- Change mindsets to encourage decision makers to work towards system changes that improve dignity and equity for all
- Advocate for income-based solutions to end poverty e.g.,
 - Increase social assistance rates
 - Establish Basic Income Guarantee
 - Increase minimum wage to a living wage



NPRN Highlights - 2024



Delegation asked Regional Council to send correspondence to the province about the need to increase social assistance rates



Released statement supporting the position of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

“NPRN does not support the use of the notwithstanding clause to dismantle encampments by force”

NPRN Highlights – 2024 more



Chair interviewed by Brock students about poverty in Niagara



Formed new task groups and workplan: Government Advocacy, Film Night, Speaker's Bureau, Social Media, Living Wage

NPRN Highlights – 2024 meetings

Presentations at Roundtable meeting:

- Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Housing and Homelessness Action Plan and status of the shelter system
- Niagara Well-Being Tool



NPRN Highlights - 2025



Joined Tamarack “Circle of Action” for Building Belonging. Created position statement on Building Belonging for Niagara. Received grant from Tamarack of \$2,840 to promote this work



Drafted Interactive “Understanding Poverty” Presentation



Provided orientation to Workforce Collective to advance Living Wage efforts



Collected input to Ontario’s Poverty Reduction Strategy

NPRN Highlights – 2025 more



Niagara Falls library curates a list of books on behalf of the network -- available at <https://nfpl.info/BasicIncomeBooks>.



Increased Facebook following after unique posts featured significant dates and encouraged voting in the Federal and Provincial elections



Adopted Canadian Consensus statement on Basic Income

NPRN Highlights – 2025 events



Spring forum on Basic Income – 50 members gathered to build momentum for basic income advocacy



Film night - 70 people viewed “It’s Basic”, hosted with the Film House and Brock University, followed by a panel on basic income with Dierdre Pike and Jesse Golem

NPRN Highlights – 2025 meetings

Presentation at Roundtable meeting:

- Niagara Human Trafficking Code of Conduct (TOES)



Member feedback

21 members responded to a 2025 survey

- **Engagement:** Average engagement score reported as 3.24/5. Nearly 50% rated their engagement as 3. ~20% rated it as 5
- **Valued Activities:** Members found the Roundtable meetings and Spring Forum on Basic Income most valuable (each cited by 43%), followed by the draft Interactive “Understanding Poverty” presentation (33%), the film screening It’s Basic (29%), and Living Wage promotion activities (29%)
- **Areas to Improve:** When asked how to improve, respondents pointed to enhanced meeting format and accessibility and continued inclusion of lived experts. Four people offered general encouragement or noted personal time limitations.
- **Insights:** Network's key roles in convening, education, and advocacy are appreciated. Small adjustments in meetings and lived expert inclusion could boost engagement.



Task Groups for 2026

- Advocacy
- Film Night
- Living Library / Public Education
- Living Wage / Decent Work
- Social Media
- Building belonging

Meeting Calendar for 2026

- Jan 28 roundtable with presentations
- Apr 29 (Spring Forum with focus on housing)
- Sep 23 roundtable with presentations (Truth and Reconciliation)
- Nov Film Night
- Nov 25 roundtable with annual recap & planning



Next steps for the Coordinating Committee

- Invite network members to sign up for a task group
- Set up 2026 meetings for task groups
- Determine renewal and growth of Coordinating Committee membership
- Consider feedback from member survey e.g. pilot an online webinar and increase networking time at meetings

Becoming a member

- **New members can email info@wipeoutpoverty.ca to receive an agreement form**
- 320 subscribers – membership does not need to be renewed

