

The Role of Ontario's Provincial Government in Poverty Reduction



Provincial government has an important role in reducing and ultimately, eradicating poverty in Ontario. Recommendations for provincial leaders can be found in a recent report, *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change*, released in 2017. The report was commissioned to recommend concrete steps to achieve a modern, responsive and effective system. The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN) feels achieving income adequacy is the most important recommendation, but endorses the overall position and perspective of the report.

NPRN releases [The Cost Of Living Report](#) which determines and calculates expenditures necessary to meet basic needs and to participate both economically and socially in the community. The calculation maintains consistency with other Canadian communities while recognizing the unique context of the cost of living in the Niagara region.

As part of our vision that: *all Niagara residents live above the poverty line*, NPRN has focused its most recent work on aligning with the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Roadmap on key issues including: income security and employment, access to affordable child care, health equity and access to affordable housing. The Network has consulted community, authored reports, conducted research and taken the following positions on these important issues as they affect residents of the Niagara region. Please consider the information and resources below each key issue.

Income Security and Employment

Basic Income Guarantee Position Statement: Basic Income Guarantee will ensure that all Canadians have universal and unconditional access to a regular income that pays for the basic necessities of life, such as food, housing, transportation and clothing, while allowing for full participation in society. [Basic Income Guarantee Position Paper](#)

Living Wage Position Statement: A living wage is an important income policy lever to help get Niagara families out of severe financial stress by lifting them out of poverty and providing a modest level of economic security and social inclusion. [Calculating The Living Wage For Niagara, 2017](#)

Access to Affordable Child Care

NPRN is working to identify the challenges and possible solutions to ensuring affordable, accessible, quality and responsive child care is in place for all Niagara residents who require this support, especially those experiencing poverty.

Health Equity

Health equity means all individuals have the opportunity to reach their full health potential regardless of social, economic and environmental factors. Health discrepancies exist on individual and population levels, where those with the lowest income experience worse physical and mental health outcomes. We focus on applying a health equity lens in order to prevent and reduce avoidable, unfair, and unjust health inequities experienced by those living in poverty.

[Healthcare First Proposal and Recommendations](#)

[Niagara Region Adult Dental Health Care Barriers Survey Report, 2017](#)

Access to Affordable Housing

Rent Supplement Position Statement: The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network sees Rent Supplement programs as a significant part of the region's continuum of housing and homelessness services. These programs offer individuals a stigma free, cost effective solution to the growing pressures for attaining quality affordable permanent housing.

[Rent Supplement Position Paper](#)

[Rent Supplement Position Paper Background](#)

Other Resources:

[Income Security: A Roadmap for Change](#)

[Niagara Poverty Reduction Network's Response to Income Security: A Roadmap for Change](#)

[Living In Niagara Report, 2017.](#)