1 NO POVERTY

Toward Ending Poverty in Nogojiwanong | Peterborough

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We respectfully acknowledge that the Kawartha World Issues Centre (KWIC) and GreenUP are located on Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa First Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

KWIC and GreenUP respectfully acknowledge that the Williams Treaties First Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters in perpetuity, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

What are the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

The 2030 Agenda was adopted by the United Nations general assembly in 2015. It is a framework of seventeen interconnected goals, referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs focus on economic, social and environmental themes including sustainable development, poverty, and climate change. At the heart of the 2030 Agenda is the idea of equity, or 'Leaving No One Behind.' For more information about leaving no one behind and the Sustainable Development Goals Framework, please visit the UN SDGs website.

About this project

In March 2019, Kawartha World Issues Centre (KWIC), GreenUP, Fleming College, and Trent University hosted a Community Forum called Understanding the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Canada's Commitment and the Local Connections. Later that year, KWIC applied for Sustainable Development Goals Program Funding, in partnership with GreenUP, to build upon the foundation established at this forum. The grant was awarded in March 2020, which coincided with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. These circumstances created unique challenges, constraints and opportunities for the project, which was reorganized to become fully virtual.

Advancing the 2030 Agenda Peterborough / Nogojiwanong has four main objectives:

1. Raise awareness of and support for the 2030 Agenda;

2. Enhance multi-stakeholder efforts toward the Agenda by building partnerships and bridging efforts across sectors;

3. Ensure that progress on the 2030 Agenda leaves no one behind, including vulnerable and marginalized groups; and,

4. Foster and integrate Indigenous knowledge into approaches and efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Five Action Teams were established to further these objectives in relation to priorities identified at the 2019 forum. Four of the teams focused on specific SDGs: No Poverty (SDG 1), Quality Education (SDG 4), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), and Climate Action (SDG 13). The fifth group, called the Indigenous Leadership Action Team (ILAT), guided and supported the work of the other four teams. Each Action Team met remotely three times, and worked toward the results shared at the 2021 Forum and in this report. Each Action Team made remarkable contributions, particularly given the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are extremely grateful for their expertise, experience, and generosity.

The No Poverty Action Team initially emerged from an interest in basic income, as identified at the 2019 Community Forum. Since there is an active basic income network in Nogojiwanong/ Peterborough, we shifted our focus toward how anti-poverty movements (including those advocating for basic income) can become more diverse, inclusive, and equitable. Our diverse group brought a variety of strengths, experiences, and perspectives to the work of localizing SDG 1. Together, we discussed what our communities will be like without poverty, and identified ways that anti-poverty movements can emphasize equity and prioritize Indigenous knowledge and leadership in their work. This report introduces SDG 1 and summarizes the Action Team's insights and recommendations; we are extremely grateful for the Team's expertise, experience, and generosity in working on this project.

A Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) is a regular payment from the government to all people, regardless of their employment status, who are living below a certain income level. BIG provides enough money for people to meet their essential costs of living and live with dignity. For more information on local efforts to secure a basic income, visit Nourish.

WHAT IS SDG 1 AND WHERE DO WE STAND?

SDG 1 aims to "end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030" (UNDP, 2015). The goal of ending poverty is specific to extreme poverty (target 1.1), which the UN defines as living on less than $1.90 USD per day. For poverty in other forms and dimensions, SDG 1 is more accurately described as a goal to reduce poverty, rather than end it.

In Canada, the $1.90 threshold is less useful for understanding poverty than the market basket measure (MBM). MBM is determined by the regional cost of a specific basket of goods and services, such as housing, food, clothing, and other necessary expenses. This type of measurement also accounts for regional differences and household size. In 2019, the Government of Canada adopted MBM as the basis for Canada's first Official Poverty Line. The federal goal is to reduce the rate of poverty by 50% below the 2015 baseline by 2030, which aligns with target 1.2 of the global SDG framework.

However, poverty is not experienced equally. Indigenous peoples and nations, people with disabilities, female-led households, Black and racialized households and communities, people living on low incomes and other marginalized groups are more vulnerable to living in poverty, due to colonialism, cuts to social services, declines in real wages, systemic racism, and other factors.

Poverty is about more than just individual and household income. It's about ensuring equitable and dignified access to culturally relevant food and resources, housing, education, and health services. 'Poverty' and 'wealth' can have additional meanings in Indigenous contexts too, where collective and community well-being are just as important as individualized concepts of scarcity and wealth (see page 3).

NO POVERTY SUB-TARGETS

The UN SDG Framework outlines five outcome-based sub targets and two process-focused sub targets for SDG 1, many of which are related to themes and priorities identified by the Action Team during their discussions.

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.90 a day.

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.

(United Way, Housing is Fundamental 2020).

DID YOU KNOW?

- 5.4% of the population within the Peterborough census metropolitan area was living in poverty in 2016. Single-parent families are more vulnerable to living in poverty, with a rate of 36.5% in 2016 (Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, Vital Signs Data Portal). This is especially true of female-led, single-parent families. Note: these rates use Statistics Canada's low-income cutoff (LICO) to measure poverty, which is not the same as the market basket measure outlined above.

- The overall average rent in Peterborough increased **from $921 per month** in 2015 to **$1,054 per month** in 2019. That is a **14.6% increase, more than double the rate of inflation (6.4%)** over the same period.

This increase puts affordable housing further out of reach for low-income households, especially those enrolled in Ontario Works (OW) or the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). For example, in 2019, the monthly income for a one person household enrolled in ODSP was just $1,272 (Peterborough Public Health, *No Money for Food is...Cent$less, 2019*).

- The 2017/2018 Canadian Community Health Survey found that 14.5% of households in Peterborough were food insecure, which was higher than the provincial average of 13.3%.

- People living in poverty are more vulnerable to economic, social, and environmental crises and disasters, such as COVID-19 and the impacts of climate change.

WHO GETS LEFT BEHIND?

During our first meeting, the No Poverty Action Team engaged in a series of conversations about what poverty means in Nogojiwanong/Peterborough. Who gets left behind? What does poverty look like locally? The team members generated the following list:

Single parent families, female-led households

Seniors living with low incomes

People in the sex trade, whether by choice or not

Indigenous peoples and nations, through ongoing colonialism

People in domestic violence situations, who are frequently people of marginalized genders

Black and racialized people and communities

People on minimum wage and social assistance

People involved with the justice system

People with disabilities

Youth, especially those coming out of the children's aid system

People without secondary education

People with mental health challenges and/or those seen as 'undeserving' of care and support

Refugees or newcomers, especially those for whom literacy is a challenge, or English is a second language

People with lots of student debt

OUR COLLECTIVE VISION

After discussing the ways in which poverty manifests in Nogojiwanong/Peterborough, and reflecting on the Indigenous Leadership Action Team's insights about poverty and wealth in Indigenous communities, we turned our attention to the following prompt:

What will our community be like when we eradicate poverty? What does a community look like when we all thrive?

Here are some common themes that emerged when we collectively envisioned our community without poverty:

Access to basic income and a wide range of services and other supports, including affordable and accessible childcare, comprehensive health and dental services, public transportation, education, sufficient and culturally appropriate food, and digital technologies.

Collective wealth and well-being, in addition to individualized concepts of poverty and wealth. Examples of collective well-being included strong social safety nets, resilience to challenges like COVID-19 and climate change, and flourishing public assets, such as community gardens, parks in all neighbourhoods, public art, local businesses, and the health of the environment and non-human beings. A common thread throughout the discussion was how ending poverty would allow people and whole groups to thrive rather than simply survive. Our community and local economy would flourish as a result of investing in people.

Dignity and equity for people and communities who are typically left behind and living in poverty. This includes acknowledging and supporting communities that are disproportionately and systemically affected by poverty, and also the dignified treatment of all individuals in the context of accessing services and engaging in anti-poverty work.

What will our community look like when we eradicate poverty? What does a community look like when we all thrive? What would help us thrive?

Collective visioning ideas documented during one of the No Poverty Action Team virtual discussions.

✓ Go to grocery store and not food bank. Buy/access food you need/want in a dignified way.

✓ Unemployment rates lower, much greater job access for those with disabilities

✓ No/less crime without poverty because we have what we need!

✓ Access to medical services, prescriptions and dental care for example.

✓ Increase in meaning/ purpose, being less stressed about basic needs, we can express parts of our identity, more space and capacity!

✓ Better transit system, the routes and regular hours. Transit shouldn't be a business, it should be fully inclusive and accessible - not everyone can drive and should have less people driving. The right voices, community voices, shape the transit system.

✓ Increase in meaning and purpose, when less stressed about basic needs.

✓ Meaningful accountability for harm. Jail doesn't address the issues. Better justice system? Restorative conversations, those who've been harmed direct how justice is served and support those doing harm. Dehumanization leads to further harm. Decolonial restorative justice, transformative justice.

✓ Political leaders would be people who care about their community, those people are too busy putting food on their table.

✓ More gardens, diverse environmental spaces, accessible gardens. Public art. Flourishing!

✓ Opens up so much more room for collaboration and opportunities for change.

✓ Communities with all supports needed within walking distance and everyone knows they're there.

✓ Willingness/ability to try new things (new businesses, particularly small, local businesses, and local consumption, etc.) Interdependency, interconnections, at its core. Everything is interdependent!

✓ More hubs for connecting downtown instead of roads. Safe places in our community. Support for families. Money doesn't resolve everything. Money is a tool. We give money a lot of value when there is value in community.

Cultural & racial equality

Greater sense of community

Greater mental health supports

Less focus on profit

Less stigmatized, more supportive housing

Affordable daycare

Jobs above minimum/ living wage

Not making do, but thriving.

Everyone has appropriate clothing -- not being cold anymore.

Access to Technology

Free post secondary education

Services are easy to access

More active transportation. buses. walking

Sense of safety on transit

Accessible and affordable housing

More progressive and dynamic politics

No addictions

The whole community makes decisions

Adequate funding for services. no more 'no money' responses.

Healthy families

Community infrastructure. build it for living not commuting.

Input from ILAT:
The definition of poverty to Indigenous peoples is different from Western concepts. Poverty in the Western sense can be rich in an Indigenous perspective with community and family. For Indigenous peoples, no poverty will mean the community is looking after each other and ensuring everyone has or has access to what they need to thrive.

If we had been taught

to trust our guts

we wouldn't be saying

   stop the cuts!

we'd be chanting

   let's grow a better world together!

proclaiming

  radical transformation – it's now or never!

....

we wouldn't be begging

we'd be insisting

   keep earth at the centre!

   value all ways of thinking!

   relationships are key –

   and make them reciprocal!

we'd be saying

   let's do better!

"stop the cuts"
by Ziysah, in consents + / = / - severances (2020)

HOW TO SHIFT THE PARADIGM IN ANTI-POVERTY MOVEMENTS

Overall, the No Poverty Action Team advocates for a local anti-poverty movement that strives for widespread system change rather than tinkering with the status quo. In doing so, it's critical that anti-poverty organizing emphasizes and reflects on what it means to leave no one behind and do this work in a good way.

During our second meeting, the No Poverty Action Team explored specific strategies and principles that anti-poverty organizations and movements can incorporate into their work, in order to more effectively centre Indigenous knowledge and leadership, and leave no one behind. These include (in no particular order):

- 'Nothing about us, without us.' Anti-poverty efforts must include and respond to the needs identified by people with lived experience of poverty and its interrelated issues.
- Listen deeply to people's stories.
- Foster spiritual engagement.
- Promote experiential learning.
- Practice harm reduction.
- Embrace and support social enterprises, social procurement, and small businesses for greater impact.
- Create space for youth and meaningfully include them in governance structures and all levels of policy activities.
- Build deeper partnerships and support systems between and across community organizations, including those that have not historically been aligned with, or seen themselves as part of, anti-poverty organizing.
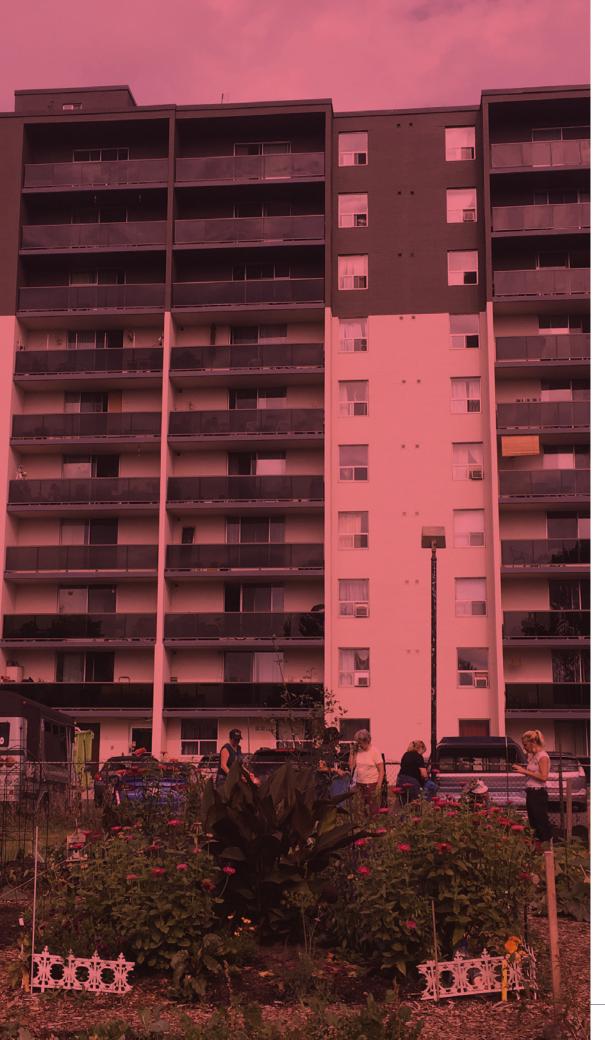
WHAT'S NEXT?

Local action is urgently needed if we want to reach No Poverty by 2030. We need bold actions grounded in a real commitment to leaving no one behind and a relational-centered and community-based approach.

If you are involved in anti-poverty organizing, we encourage you to adopt the strategies outlined on the previous page, and connect with other organizations and initiatives that are committed to ending poverty.

For more information about the Advancing the 2030 Agenda project, and to access our other project reports, please visit the Kawartha World Issues Centre project pages.

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SELF EMPLOYMENT

DIGNITY

BETTER HEALTH

BASIC INCOME

BETTER ACCESS

FOOD SECURITY

SAFE SHELTER

BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE ALL ROUND