

“In order to increase equality, we commit to bringing together diverse efforts toward poverty elimination through strategic community action: building community of like-minded people and sharing what we learn with the larger community”

Poverty Free KW is an action group of the Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo.

Active since 2011. The group members are organizations and individuals dedicated to poverty elimination who have been mobilizing local community and uniting voices during the development of the 1st Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Social Assistance Review process.

Issues we worked on

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Social Assistance Reform

Provincial and Municipal Budgets

Persons and Disabilities

Underlying Assumptions on Poverty

Immigrants and Refugees

Minimum Wage

Fair Labour Practices

Open Government

Fair Elections Act

Social Justice Tribunal Consultation

Consultation on Casino in Kitchener

What are you interested in?

Let us know and be a part of the conversation. Together, we can build common ground and make positive changes in day to day lives of people in our community.

Poverty Free Kitchener-Waterloo Action Group

Mobilizing to Eliminate Poverty





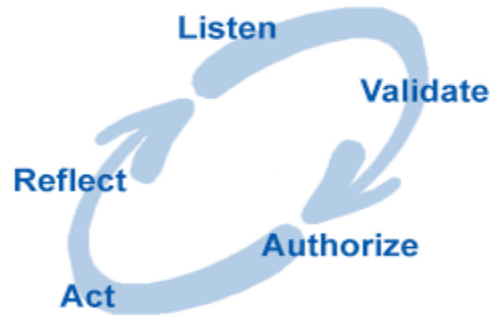
What We Do

There are so many plans, strategies and consultations addressing poverty pulling us in different directions. In response, we have created a Framework “Dignity and Respect for All”, a set of simple criteria which we use to:

- Talk about and unpack important issues
- Write submissions, proposals and letters to decision makers and elected officials
- Prepare delegations and presentations at consultations, budget hearings and municipal council meetings
- Organize and support forums, community conversations and dialogue

How We Do It

We are an action group that reflects, makes decisions and acts together. The knowledge we bring to the table and that we create together is recorded, applied, shared and validated through ongoing engagement.



Focus on What You Do Best

We have experienced poverty and we are supported by others in the group in pursuing an optimistic view of the future for our community. We contribute our skills and lived experience; we contribute when we have time and energy; and we find a way to contribute whatever our abilities and skills may be.

“It is comforting to know that if I have to withdraw for some time, there is a group of capable and skilled people that will always find ways to continue the work...”



How You Can Join

In January 2013 we launched a Community Strategy that has been the focus of all our actions:

- Raising social assistance rates
- Ensuring the well-being of people with disabilities
- Reducing poverty for everyone

Come to a group meeting or take part in a community forum

If you think that greater equality and poverty elimination are important for our community, you are welcome to join one of our meetings.

“Social policy is not dry, scary or boring. It stops being dry or boring when you realize how it impacts your life.”

If you wish to support the ongoing community dialogue we are creating in Kitchener-Waterloo, come to one of our community events. If you believe that creating a dialogue across different perspectives is necessary for healthy, resilient and fair society, you can sponsor a forum today!

Contact Us

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Visit us on the Web:
www.waterlooregion.org/poverty-elimination