



# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE WATERLOO REGION



Social Development Centre  
WATERLOO REGION

## WALKING TOGETHER REQUIRES A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Social Development Centre Waterloo Region works with people who have lived experience and expertise to improve the quality of life for all citizens in Waterloo Region. This can only be achieved by proactively working towards equity and social justice in all spheres of life. Because we believe that walking together requires a level playing field, we are intentional about creating conditions and opportunities where every voice counts, no matter how strong, in decisions that affect their own lives and shape our community.

### OUR LEGACY OF IMPACT

Founded in 1967 as the Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo, the Social Development Centre Waterloo Region has a long legacy of impact.

- **Community Information Centre of WR**
- **ConnectKW**, a network of public Internet sites
- **Meet-the-Candidates**, unique participatory forums creating a space for exchange and dialogue
- **Visitable Housing WR** framework in collaboration with planners and builders
- **Decent Lives Framework** to show how strong neighbourhoods create opportunities for everyone
- **Poverty Free Action Group** bringing together social services, unions, and people with lived experience together in action and advocacy

**Many organizations that are now integral to our community evolved through this inclusive approach:**

- **Food Bank of Waterloo Region**
- **OneROOF**
- **Waterloo Region Community Legal Services**
- **KW AccessAbility**
- **Meals on Wheels and more...**
- **Volunteer Action Centre of KW and Area**

### HOW WE DO IT TODAY

#### INCLUDING ALL THE VOICES

We identify emerging issues in support systems through collaboration and research. Then we get to work on solutions led by people with lived experience.

**Mapping of Displacement**

**Unsheltered Campaign**

**Indigenization of Our Practice**

#### OPENING PATHWAYS TO SUPPORTS

By listening to people and understanding their challenges, we help improve community supports and services.

**Eviction Prevention & Tenant Rights**

**Financial Empowerment for Low Income Residents**

#### BUILDING COMMUNITY

We help build inclusive neighbourhoods that strengthen initiative in individuals and communities.

**A Better Tent City**

**Festival of Neighbourhoods**

**COVID Safe Gathering Spaces**

#### POWERING COMMUNITY ACTION

We facilitate citizen engagement that empowers individuals and groups.

**Civic Hub Waterloo Region**

**Kitchener's Housing Lived Expertise Working Group**

### OUR COMMON FUTURE

We are fortunate to live in a prosperous region but the benefits of living here are not shared equitably. Many of us are missed, forgotten or left behind. That is why we must continue working together to improve the lives of everyone in Waterloo Region by walking together.

23 Water St North, Kitchener N2H 5A4,  
519-579-3800, sdcwr@waterlooregion.org  
www.waterlooregion.org

**Walking Together Annual Campaign**  
Charitable Number 107987166 RR 001