

Dear Sir/Madam:

Too many of our cities and communities are seeing the devastating impact of poverty. In fact, one in seven Canadians suffer the financial and social burdens of income insecurity. While many of the barriers to income security rest with other orders of government, municipalities are stepping up — developing solutions to support our citizens and help end poverty. As municipal leaders across Canada know, our communities cannot truly prosper if we let poverty persist.

While existing municipal services often help level the playing field, municipal governments of all sizes are also taking direct aim at poverty reduction itself. The City of Edmonton and the City of Toronto, for example, have come out with ambitious new anti-poverty strategies. St. Thomas, Ontario is working on poverty and health issues. Child poverty is a focus in St. John, New Brunswick, while New Westminster, British Columbia is the first municipality in Canada to introduce a local living wage.

In November, 2015, the newly elected federal government committed to developing a national poverty reduction strategy that aligns with existing provincial and municipal plans. This opportunity is one we cannot afford to miss.

I am pleased to formally invite you to attend Cities Reducing Poverty: When Mayors Lead, a pan-Canadian gathering organized by Tamarack Institute in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, City of Edmonton, and Vibrant Communities Canada, taking place this **April 5-7, 2016** in Edmonton, Alberta.

This event will bring together more than 300 individuals, including mayors and councillors, provincial and territorial representatives and key sector stakeholders, in an effort to:

- Understand urban poverty and its impact on our cities' economic and social prosperity;
- Share successful solutions from cities that are addressing urban poverty effectively; and
- Develop best practices to strengthen poverty reduction policies and actions in Canada.

Highlights of the program include:

- The launch of a key paper on the work of cities reducing poverty;
- Community innovation techniques leading to poverty reduction;
- Aboriginal poverty as a core information stream;
- Study tour through unique sites in Edmonton to understand that city's poverty reduction strategy and discussions with the amazing people behind it; and
- A reception hosted by Mayor Don Iveson and the City of Edmonton.

More information about the event can be found on the summit [website](#). To register or inquire about the event, please contact [Natasha Pei](#) at the Tamarack Institute.

I look forward to seeing you at this important event.

Yours truly,

Brock Carlton

Chief Executive Officer
Federation of Canadian Municipalities