

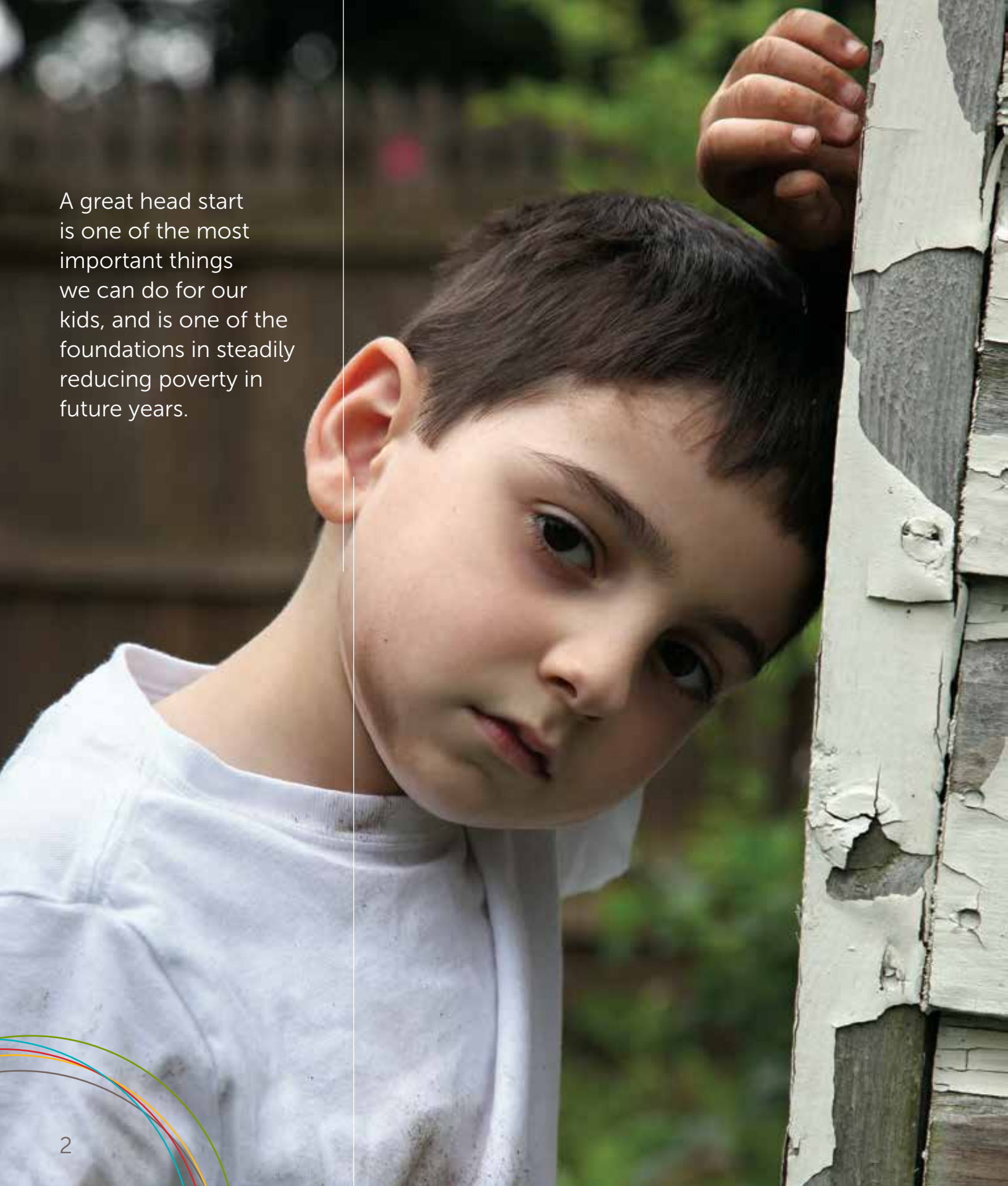


2013 Report

Plans for Action
as a Community

What part will you play
in **reducing poverty?**

A great head start is one of the most important things we can do for our kids, and is one of the foundations in steadily reducing poverty in future years.



On a journey to reduce poverty... together

As we seek to build a sustainable community, poverty reduction remains one of the most potent and persistent challenges we face, with impacts in all four of the social, cultural, environmental and economic spheres.

The statistics are daunting: 15% of Kingstonians live in poverty. We also know that 47% of Canadians live from paycheque to paycheque¹. So many of our children, families and neighbours are vulnerable to desperate circumstances, which can be caused in an instant by an unexpected layoff or a family breakup, an accident or sudden illness – or by ongoing cycles that span generations.

Living in poverty means there is not enough money for the basics of a healthy life. Poverty imposes hard economic choices – between shelter and medicine, nutritious food and transportation, childcare and employment opportunities, moving towards a self-sufficient future versus just getting through today. Collectively, we need to change these circumstances, so all residents can live without worrying about their next meal or a roof over their heads.

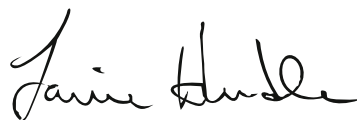
When it comes to poverty reduction, we all have a part to play ...

This plan has been developed by the community for the community – by agencies who work with clients in poverty, policy makers who shape the environment that reduces or sustains poverty and individuals and families who live the experience every day. All of us must collectively understand this complex issue and stand together to one day eradicate the stress, suffering and hopelessness that walk hand in hand with poverty.

Thank you to all those who shared their thoughts, and to the 80 volunteers who worked hard this past year to suggest and develop actions that can start bringing relief now, while building momentum for sustainable longer-term solutions. This is the start of a very important journey. We will accomplish it, together, as a community.



Co-Chair Bhavana Varma
President & CEO
United Way serving KFL&A



Co-Chair Lanie Hurdle
Commissioner, Community Services
City of Kingston



15% of Kingstonians
live in poverty.

The Hon. Hugh Segal speaking to fellow senators during debate on the 2013 Economic Action Plan: A Focus on Poverty Reduction Should Come First in our Priorities²

"... We have lost the core focus on poverty reduction that should really come first in our social, economic and fiscal policy priorities. Why? Poverty, aside from being avoidable and inhumane, is very expensive.

"Honourable senators, it is poverty that is the most reliable predictor of poor education outcomes, early dropouts, poor literacy, substance abuse, family breakup, family violence, poor health outcomes, poor and expensive interactions with the law, incarceration, longer stays in hospital and earlier death...

"Ignoring the elephant in the room does not make the elephant disappear."

General Index for Recommendations:

Executive Summary, Methodology and Principles of Poverty Reduction	6
Community Supports for Education	9
Health	11
Housing	15
Skills Development and Employment	17
Social Services and Community Supports	18

Appendices:

Income Levels Vary Substantially Across Our Community	21
Poverty May Not Be What You Think	22
Goals for Poverty Reduction in Kingston	25

Poverty Reduction Initiative Steering Committee Members

Organizing Committee:

City of Kingston: Lanie Hurdle, Sheldon Laidman and Adele Lafrance
Kingston Community Health Centres: Hersh Sehdev, Helen Mabblerly
United Way KFL&A: Bhavana Varma, Kim Hockey and Susan Belyea

Chairs, Working Groups:

Community Supports for Education
Daren Dougall, Brenda Slomka

Health
Dr. Kieran Moore, Delina MacDonald

Housing
Linda Cassidy, Sheldon Laidman

Skills Development and Employment
Debbie Gillis, Bonnie Sweet, Elayne Furoy

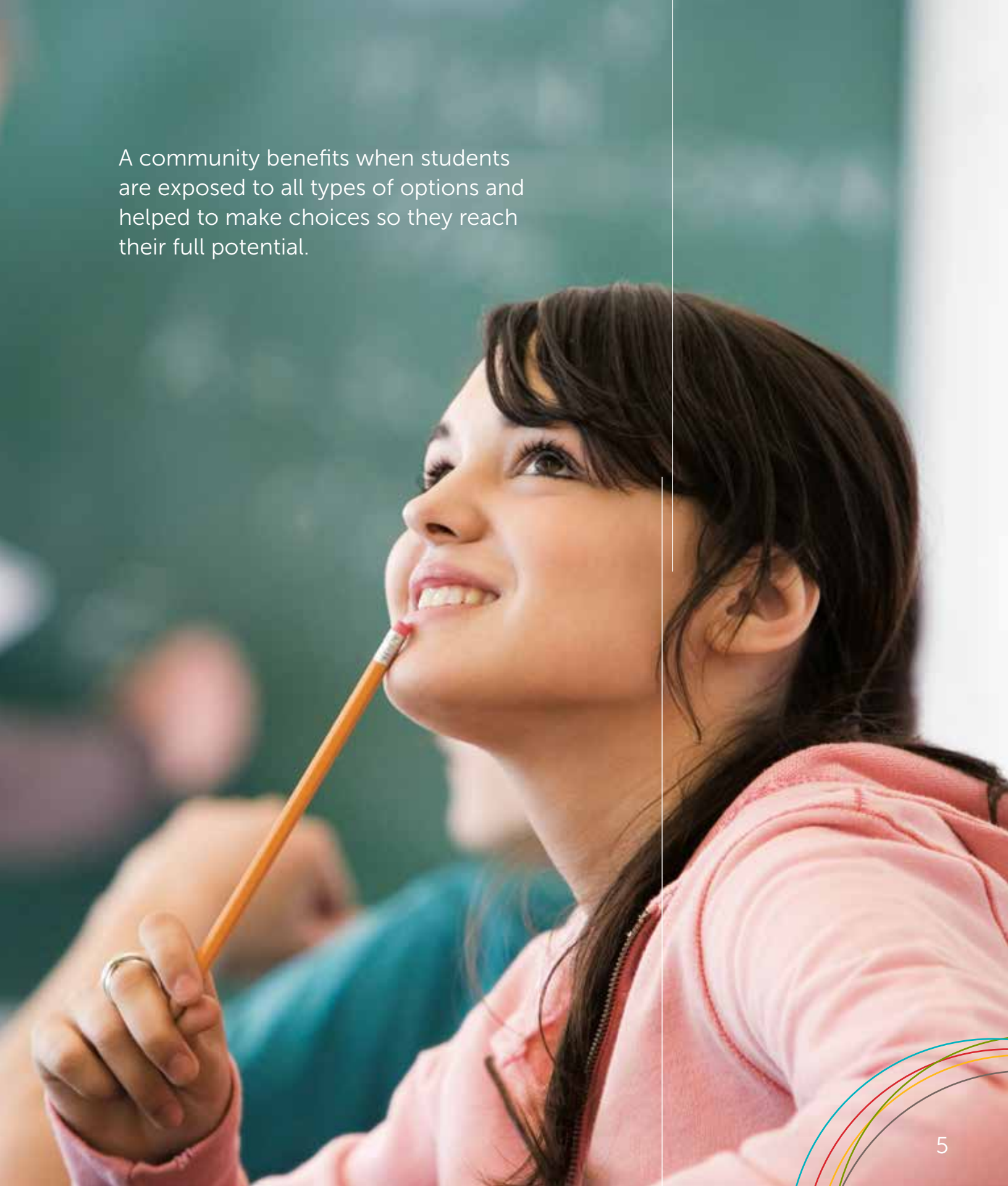
Social Services and Community Supports
Kimberly Lonsdale, A. Harmsen

Members:

Community Foundation for Kingston & Area: Vikram Varma
Sustainability Kingston: Viviane Paquin

Poverty Reduction Initiative logo and this report designed by BmDodo Strategic Design

A community benefits when students are exposed to all types of options and helped to make choices so they reach their full potential.



Executive Summary



Housing

1. Empower landlords, tenants and neighbours with knowledge
2. Engage neighbourhood networks in the solution
3. Facilitate access to essential services

Health

1. Look at policies and programs with a health equity lens
2. Promote community understanding of the impact of poverty on health outcomes
3. Develop methods by which vulnerable persons can obtain health care at the right time and in the right place to meet their needs

Social Services and Community Supports

1. Use “smart cards” to enable people living in poverty to access goods and services
2. Facilitate and promote access to 211 for information on social services
3. Develop networking mechanisms for service providers and for people living in poverty

Community Supports for Education

1. Build on successful models/ strategies to stimulate parent–teacher engagement
2. Use directories and maps to promote awareness of existing supports and also identify gaps and opportunities
3. Address gaps in programming for children of all ages facing difficulties in school

Skills Development and Employment

1. Promote information sharing, mapping resources and employment supports
2. Explore public transportation improvements to support employment
3. Promote recruitment practices and hiring opportunities for low-income applicants

Methodology

This report marks a milestone in a journey that began more than six years ago, when the Mayor's Task Force on Poverty, began focusing attention on poverty reduction. The Kingston Community Roundtable on Poverty Reduction was created as a result of the Task Force recommendations.

In September 2010, the City adopted recommendations for a coordinated, community-based strategy to reduce poverty, an initiative funded and supported by the City and United Way. Leadership was provided through a Poverty Reduction Initiative Steering Committee composed of representatives from the City of Kingston, the United Way serving KFL&A and the Kingston Community Roundtable on Poverty Reduction.

In the first year, the Project Steering Committee consulted widely with the community and ensured that the voices of people who experience poverty were heard. Steps included a public survey to gather information about poverty in Kingston, community consultations, conversations and focus groups, and research on leading practices and learnings both from the past and from other communities in North America. A public workshop was facilitated to develop goals and objectives for the strategic plan.



A collaborative community achievement ...

It became apparent that a community effort was needed to change systemic attitudes towards poverty. Exploring the major causes of poverty in this community also led to the identification of five themes for action – the need for more:

- community supports for education
- health supports
- (affordable) housing
- skills development and employment
- social services and community supports

Over the past year, the City of Kingston, United Way and Kingston Community Health Centres have worked with groups made up of service providers, individuals, organizations and people with lived experience of poverty. Working Groups representing a diversity of perspectives in the community were established in each of these five areas. Their discussions produced the recommendations that follow in this plan.



Poverty Costs Us All ...

According to a recent report on poverty reduction:

“...poverty costs us all. Poverty expands healthcare costs, policing burdens and diminished educational outcomes. This in turn depresses productivity, labour force flexibility, life spans and economic expansion and social progress, all of which takes place at huge cost to taxpayers, federal and provincial treasuries and the robust potential of the Canadian consumer economy...”

We believe that eradicating poverty and homelessness is not only the humane and decent priority of a civilized democracy, but absolutely essential to a productive and expanding economy benefitting from the strengths and abilities of all its people.”

— *Federal Poverty Reduction Plan*³

Five Principles of Poverty Reduction

These critical principles that guide poverty reduction efforts, noted by Vibrant Communities Canada, come from *Cities Reducing Poverty*, edited by Mark Cabaj and published by The Tamarack Institute in 2011:

1. Poverty is better addressed when reduction, not alleviation is the goal.
2. Poverty is more effectively addressed by multi-sector leadership and collaboration involving business, government and non-profit leaders as well as people with firsthand experience living with poverty.
3. Poverty Reduction is more effective when comprehensively focused on the interrelated causes and effects of poverty as opposed to isolated and unrelated efforts to address symptoms.
4. Poverty Reduction is more effective when built on local assets as opposed to looking for solutions from outside the community.
5. Poverty reduction efforts are more productive when they are part of an ongoing process of learning, evaluation and change rather than the pursuit of a silver bullet.

Community Supports for Education

Goal: Help children succeed in school with parental and community support

1. Build on successful models/strategies to stimulate parent–teacher engagement:

- Develop a model for parent engagement based on promising local practices (e.g. Pathways to Education) and help roll it out in other neighbourhoods.
- Increase the access and comfort level for parents to interact with teachers/schools.
- Develop toolkits for educators and service providers to help them engage parents in their child’s learning from early years through high school.

2. Use directories and maps to promote awareness of existing supports and also identify gaps and opportunities:

- Develop a directory of supports and diagnostic services for parents and students and geographically map those services and supports (using GIS) to help residents access them.
- Identify gaps in provision of/access to services and supports based on this exercise.
- Develop a tracking system to evaluate when gaps are filled.

3. Address gaps in programming for children of all ages facing difficulties in school, including children with Learning Disabilities (LD)/Mild Intellectual Disabilities (MID):

- Explore pairing children with skilled volunteer educators and ECE workers.
- Promote programs from infancy on, including after and outside of school, to support parents and children with MID and/or LD.
- Investigate potential roles for Queen’s Faculty of Education, St. Lawrence College and unions in assuring training and qualification of educators working in this capacity.

Making Progress Through Community Supports for Education:

- Supports and services through the education system
- Early Years Supports, United Way Success By 6, Better Beginnings for Kingston Children, Ontario Early Years Centres
- KFLA Public Health early years initiatives/programs

Learning from the Pathways to Education model

‘Pathways to Education’ is a community based program that helps to reduce the highschool drop-out rate among youth in disadvantaged communities. It provides support through tutoring, social and financial support. Strategies to engage parents and caregivers in their children’s education are a key component, contributing to the success of the Pathways to Education model. 62% of Pathways to Education graduates across Canada have gone on to post-secondary education, greatly improving their chances of secure employment in the future.⁴



Getting a Great Start in the Early Years:

The time from a child's conception to age six is a crucial period of development. During this time, the child grows physically and develops emotional attachments, attitudes, behaviours, language and motor skills.



Events such as Success By 6 Week, held annually in May, highlights the importance of focusing on early years in our community. The following six pursuits reflect the goals and objectives of this initiative:

- Bright From The Start (promoting healthy births)
- Handle With Care (protecting children from abuse and neglect)
- No Place Like Home (supporting families and neighbourhoods)
- Putting Children First (building safe and caring communities)
- From Head to Toe (promoting healthy early development)
- Ready, Set, Go! (promoting school readiness and early learning)

A great head start is one of the most important things we can do for our kids, and is one of the foundations in steadily reducing poverty in future years.

Health

Goal: Understanding the impacts of poverty and other determinants of health

1. Look at policies and programs with a health equity lens

Use the Provincial Government's Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) Tool and similar tools to develop Kingston's Poverty Impact Checklist to review the policies and programming at agencies, services and all levels of government – for example at KFL&A Public Health, the City of Kingston and health agencies. (The template and methodology are available through <http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/heia/tool.aspx>)

2. Promote community understanding of the impact of poverty on health outcomes

Develop strategies for public awareness of the social determinants of health. One of these strategies is to ensure the voice of the people living in poverty is included in the Canadian Index of Well-Being research being carried out through KFL&A Public Health, Kingston Community Health Centres and the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area. The results of this research could be used as part of a public awareness strategy.

3. Develop methods by which vulnerable persons can obtain health care at the right time, and in the right place to meet their needs.

Improve programs and services by examining methods to make it easier for vulnerable persons to access and navigate the health care system and related support network.

We're Making Progress on Health:

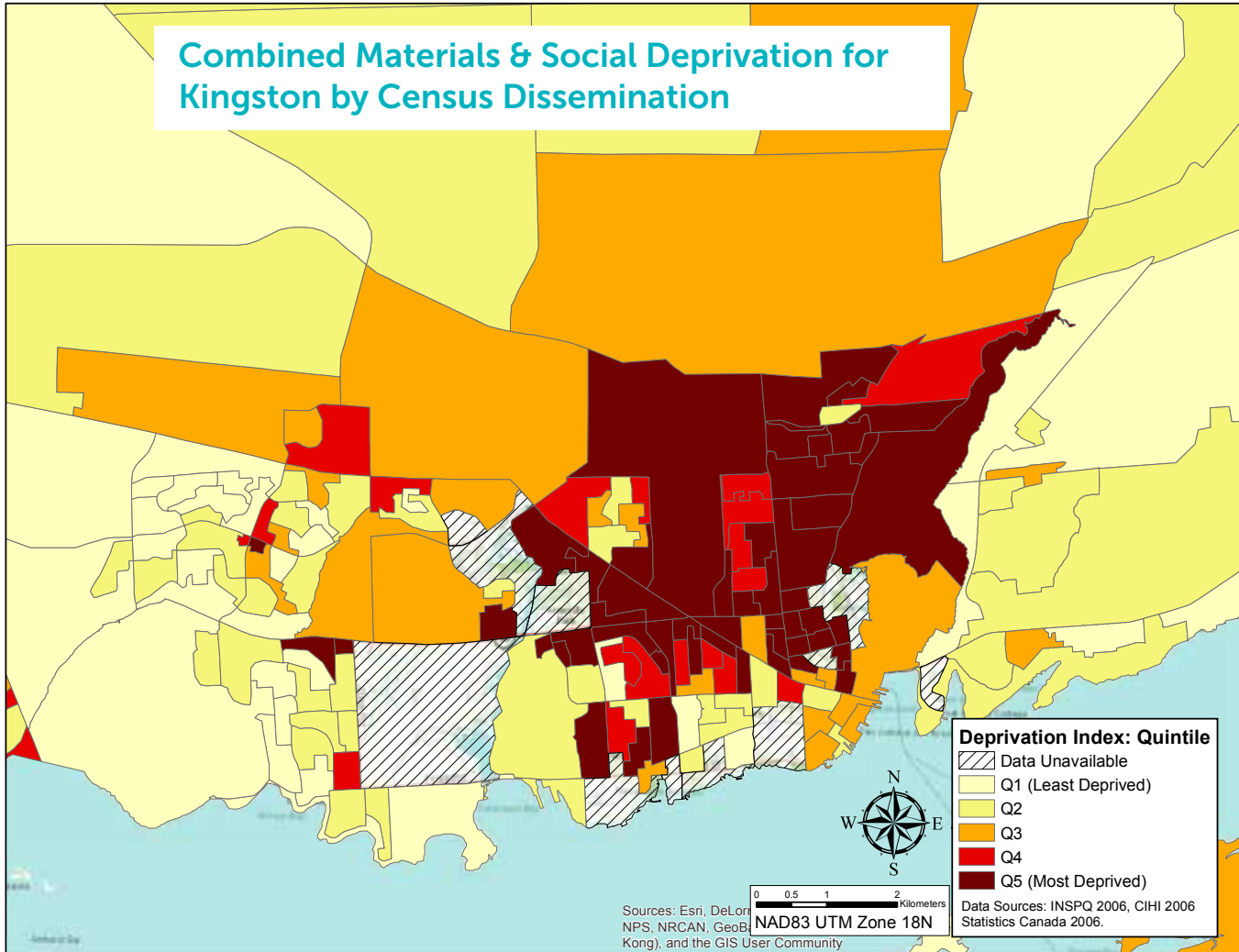
- Food Providers Networking Group initiatives (ranging from coordinating services to gathering key data to guide community – wide planning)
- Food Policy Council to be established in 2013
- Canadian Index of Well-Being—KFL&A Public Health, the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area, Kingston Community Health Centres and the Canadian Index of Well-Being (CIW) are partners in a national pilot program that will measure how well citizens of KFL&A region are really doing with special attention to including the voice of those living in poverty. Residents are being surveyed randomly to learn about their overall well-being in eight domains: community vitality, healthy populations, democratic engagement, the environment, leisure and culture, education, living standards, and time use. The data will help to identify and track the overall quality of life in the area.

Health Is ...

- A good start in life⁵
- A rewarding job with a living wage
- Food on the table
- A place to call home
- A safe, walkable and environmentally friendly neighbourhood
- Having opportunities and good personal health
- Physical activity, sports and recreation



Combined Materials & Social Deprivation for Kingston by Census Dissemination



Poverty – Indicators of Health Issues

This map of Kingston shows the combined effect of two types of deprivation: material deprivation, in terms of not having goods or conveniences, and social deprivation – being alone and/or isolated from social networks.

Material deprivation involves deprivation of the goods and conveniences that are part of modern life, such as adequate housing, a car, a television set, or a neighbourhood with recreational areas. Social deprivation refers to relations within the family and in the workplace and community.

Deprivation Indices take into account education, food, geography, health, housing and income as the combined factors contributing to poverty.



Spotlight on Healthy Eating – Developing a Food Policy Council

A core deliverable of the Poverty Reduction Plan Health working group was a safe, reliable, local and sustainable food supply. Following up on initial work to develop a KFL&A Food Charter, the region's Healthy Eating Working Group has now completed active community consultations and mapped out a framework to establish a KFL&A Food Policy Council.

A Food Policy Council (FPC) is being established in the KFL&A region to help create a more secure and sustainable community food system, especially through its policy work, with the following purposes: **To serve as a forum for discussing food issues; To assess the community food system in KFL&A; To inform and influence food and food related policies and programs**

In the course of its work, the KFL&A Food Policy Council will foster coordination between sectors in the food system. It will also provide education and overall guidance on community food system solutions for government, institutions, agencies, businesses and the public.

The KFL&A Food Charter

Celebrates and champions nourishment for all. It imagines the region having healthy, food-secure communities where:

- food is recognized as a basic right,
- a just food system ensures all members of our community have access to adequate, nutritious, safe, affordable and culturally appropriate food,
- an ecologically and economically sustainable food system thrives, and
- a strong relationship exists between our rural and urban communities, which advocates and supports our local food system.

Point in Time Food Count: May 14th, 2013

A Point in Time count was coordinated to estimate the use of emergency food services in Kingston on a single day. 28 agencies participated in this count.

- 986 meals were served to people in shelters, meal programs and other agencies; 156 of these meals were served to children under 16 years
- 259 people received food hampers from local food banks and pantries
- The Food Sharing Project provided a further 1900 meals to students in schools in the area*

**approximate number based on monthly meals in March 2013, divided by number of school days in the month*

The community at large understands that health is impacted by **poverty, employment, housing, education, food security, income, social and physical environment** and other determinants of health.



Housing

Goal: A safe, stable, accessible and affordable home for everyone

1. Empower landlords, tenants and neighbours with knowledge

Promote understanding and education about housing-related issues, including tenants' rights and responsibilities, the plan for inclusive mixed-income housing development throughout the city, and empowering people in social housing to live with pride and dignity.

It is recommended that educational efforts focus on three audiences and type of content:

- Landlords (e.g. learning about human rights and tenant rights)
- Tenants (e.g. understanding their rights and obligations)
- Community (e.g. engaging agencies, policy makers and the community in general to promote understanding of social, affordable and mixed housing)

2. Engage neighbourhood networks in the solution

Support the development of neighbourhood organizations (such as Community Response to Neighbourhood Concerns (CRNC) or McBurney Park Neighbourhood Association) and consult with their formal and informal networks to identify housing needs, propose solutions and establish priorities. These associations can help by acting as a liaison between the City and individuals or small groups on housing related topics.

3. Facilitate access to essential services

Establish forums and service hubs to support better coordination and access to essential housing and related services:

- Start by bringing together managers of essential services to discuss how they can better coordinate their programs.
- Establish one-stop-shops for clients to access services in their own neighbourhoods. This could include satellite hubs in each area of the city for services offered, perhaps weekly, by food banks/ emergency food providers, Ontario Works, health clinics, and similar organizations, agencies and programs.

We're Making Progress on Housing:

- Rideau Heights Renewal Project
- 5 year Municipal Housing Strategy
- Mobilizing Local Capacity to End Youth Homelessness (pilot project)
- Plans for integration of mixed income and RGI (Rent Geared to Income) housing in neighbourhoods throughout Kingston
- Introduction of Kingston Frontenac Renovates Program



Youth Homelessness

In 2011, of the 653 people staying in shelters, 26.5% were youth between the ages of 16 and 25. As part of a pilot project to Mobilize Capacity to End Youth Homelessness, a one day count was coordinated by United Way to estimate the number of homeless youth in Kingston and area. On March 7th, 2013:

- Youth in Shelters:
15 females and 14 males
- Youth in Transitional Accommodation:
8 females and 8 males

To keep up-to-date on more recent snapshots as they are developed, see: www.wecanreducepoverty.ca



Spotlight on Housing and Homelessness in Kingston & County of Frontenac

The first annual report⁶ on the state of housing and homelessness in the area was issued on April 11, 2013. It offered a number of compelling local housing facts and statistics:

2012 by the numbers:

\$ 1,005 the average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kingston

\$ 34,000 income needed to afford a one-bedroom apartment in Kingston at market rates

25 percentage of Kingston and County households earning less than \$34,000

13 number of homes purchased with the help of City's Home Ownership Program aimed at helping eligible renters become homeowners

27 number of affordable housing units for Seniors added on Queen Mary Road by the Kingston Frontenac Housing Corporation

86 number of emergency shelter beds funded in Kingston

818 number of individual shelter users over the course of a year

20,798 number of emergency shelter bed nights in 2012 (an increase)

15 percentage reduction in provincial funding for shelters in 2012

54 the average wait time, in months, for social housing in Kingston.

Skills Development and Employment

Goal: Enhance access to living wage jobs; build employment potential of people

1. Promote information sharing, mapping resources and employment supports

- Develop a template and process for creating print-ready resources drawn from 211 information.
- Promote the use of 211 as a self-serve resource for individuals seeking services related to skills development and employment.
- Encourage all community agencies to commit to registering and maintaining up-to-date information on 211.
- Engage the Employment Network Committee to coordinate services.

2. Explore public transportation improvements to support employment

- Pilot a program providing complimentary or reduced cost short-term transit passes for low income individuals and social service agencies, on the basis of defined criteria, to address transportation barriers as people enter or re-enter the workforce.
- Create better access to information about transit routes, transit fares, including the City's Affordable Transit Pass subsidy programs for those seeking employment.
- Consider commercial/industrial land uses (employment locations) and work shifts/hours of employment when planning Kingston Transit service.

3. Promote recruitment practices and hiring opportunities for low-income applicants

Develop a strategy to inform and assist employers in the human resource practices that would help them consider, recruit and retain employees from low-income circumstances. Key audiences for education efforts regarding employment issues facing people living in poverty should be:

- Employers
- Job seekers and employees
- Community

Knowing what services are available:

Networks of services providers help to align services and identify gaps.

The Employment Network Committee is made up of organizations that help people connect with jobs and skill training opportunities. Organizations take turns hosting meetings. They are in the process of re-developing their mandate.



Poverty and Mental Health

The experience of living in poverty has been proven to worsen mental wellbeing, Research in Toronto showed **67%** of single men and women who are homeless have mental illness or have experienced mental illness sometime in their lives.⁷



211 is a three-digit phone number and website that provides 24/7 information and referral services about community and social services. Over 4,000 calls were made from Kingston and area in 2012.

64% of 211 callers are on social assistance.*

**211 Eastern Ontario 2012 Caller Needs & Trends Report, Community Information Centre of Ottawa*

Social Services and Community Supports

Goal: A compassionate community & system of supports for people in need

1. Use “smart cards” to enable people living in poverty to access goods and services

Exploring partnerships to provide discounted products and services through a “smart cards” to include and strengthen the purchasing power of people living in poverty in Kingston.

- Identify which services are needed and feasible (examples suggested include pet care/vet services, restaurants, coffee shops, malls, personal services, hair cuts, etc.)
- It is estimated that individuals in the Kingston community on disability or social supports spend \$100-million annually. Additionally, there are a number of individuals precariously employed, often with multiple part time temporary jobs, who contribute to the local economy.
- Engage individual business owners and business associations to partner and participate in the program.

2. Facilitate and promote access to 211 for information on social services

Maximize use of 211 for social service purposes by increasing information-sharing opportunities, access and awareness/knowledge of available services, by:

- Developing printable resources for specific searches/needs (e.g. food sources).
- Promoting the use of 211 as a self-serve resource for individuals seeking services.
- Encouraging all community agencies to commit to registering and maintaining up-to-date information on the 211 system.

(211 is a free, confidential 24/7 service that connects individuals with a trained referral agent who helps them find the services they need.)

3. Develop networking mechanisms for service providers and for people living in poverty

- Develop programs for peer support opportunities for people living in poverty.
- Offer regular Brown Bag lunches to encourage interaction among service providers and create networking opportunities such as barbecues and festivals at agency sites.
- Use electronic drop box/message boards to list services available.



Fact: working full time on minimum wage still leaves you below the Low Income Cut-Off



Poverty reduction may be addressed at a community-wide or system level, but its impact is felt by individuals who are our neighbours.

Visit www.livingwagekingston.ca for information about the Living Wage Initiative in Kingston.

Spotlight on the Living Wage Initiative

A Living Wage is an hourly rate of pay that provides a family with enough to live on, not merely to subsist or survive. It would allow a family to afford everyday expenses including housing, nutritious food, clothing, utilities, child care, a vehicle, internet access, and supplementary health benefits such as dental, eyeglasses and prescriptions.

Our local Living Wage was calculated by the Kingston Living Wage Group and the Canadian Centre for Policy alternatives at \$16.29 per hour for a family of four with children aged four and seven. It is based on both parents working full-time for 37.5 hours a week. Deductions for taxes, CPP and EI have been subtracted and government transfers added.

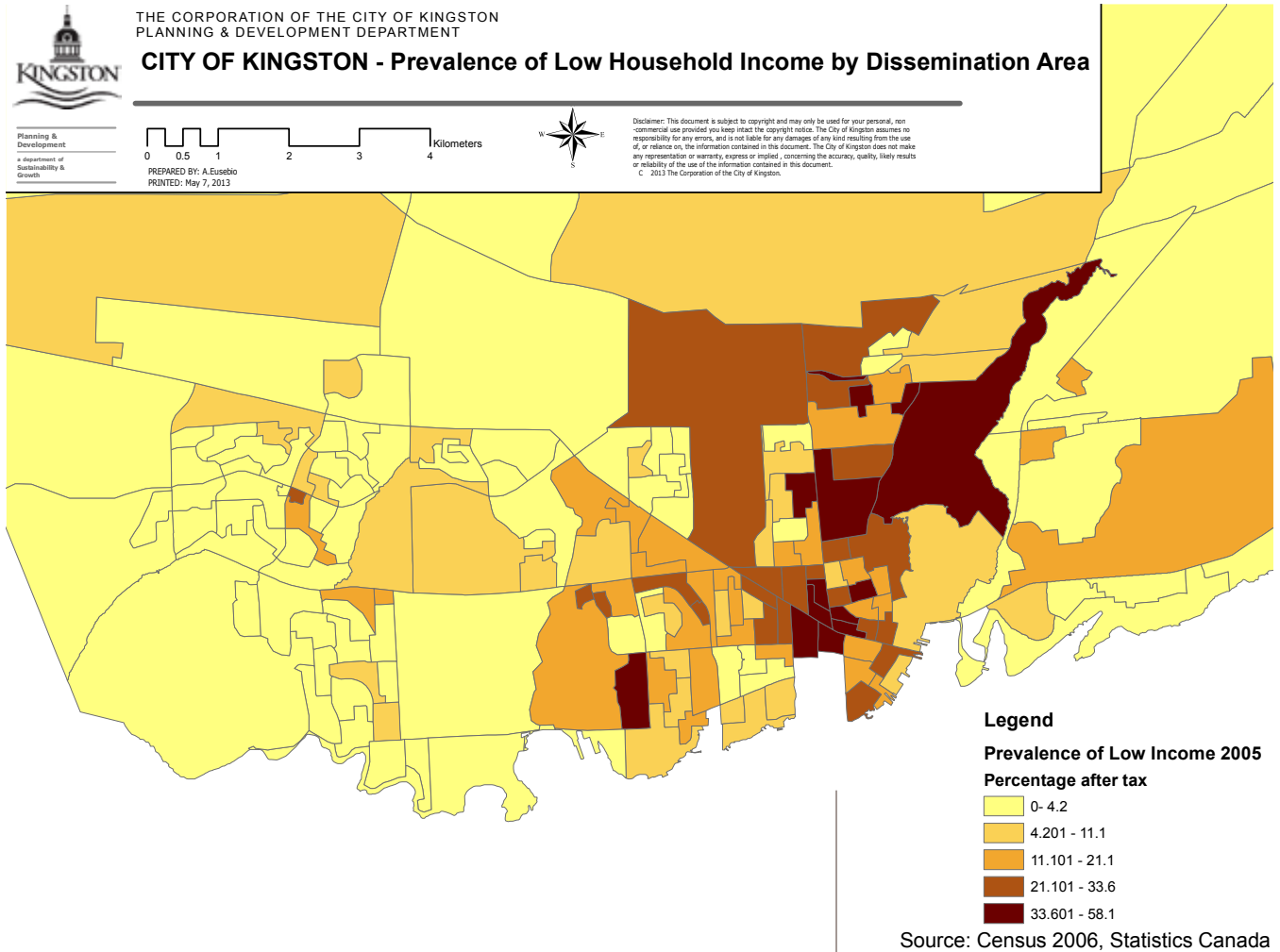
The Living Wage Kingston coalition includes anti-poverty activists, representatives from non-profit organizations, Labour, and interested individuals. Last year the Kingston and District Labour Council took the Living Wage as its theme for their Labour Day celebrations.

In December 2012, Kingston City Council passed a motion requesting City staff to do three things:

- Recommend a methodology for the calculation of a living wage.
- Investigate the costs and other implications of adopting a living wage policy for City of Kingston employees and contracted services.
- Investigate the feasibility of utilizing a living wage as an income threshold for municipal assistance programs for low-income residents.

Appendices:

Income Levels Vary Substantially Across Our Community



Not Just Geography

54% Single Mothers in Kingston lived in poverty in 2006.⁸

Some Facts About Poverty

- Myth: People living in poverty do not have a job. **Fact: 14% of people who use food banks in Kingston are employed.**⁹
- Myth: All full-time workers earn enough to support themselves and their families. **Fact: working full time on minimum wage still leaves you below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO)**
According to KFL&A Public Health's "The Cost of Eating Healthy 2012", after paying for rent and food, a full-time minimum-wage earner with a family to feed has just \$632 to pay for utilities, phone, transportation, child-care, and other costs.
- Myth: Poverty is an issue only for the poor. **Fact: poverty costs us all in increased health care, emergency and policing services, and diminished productivity.**

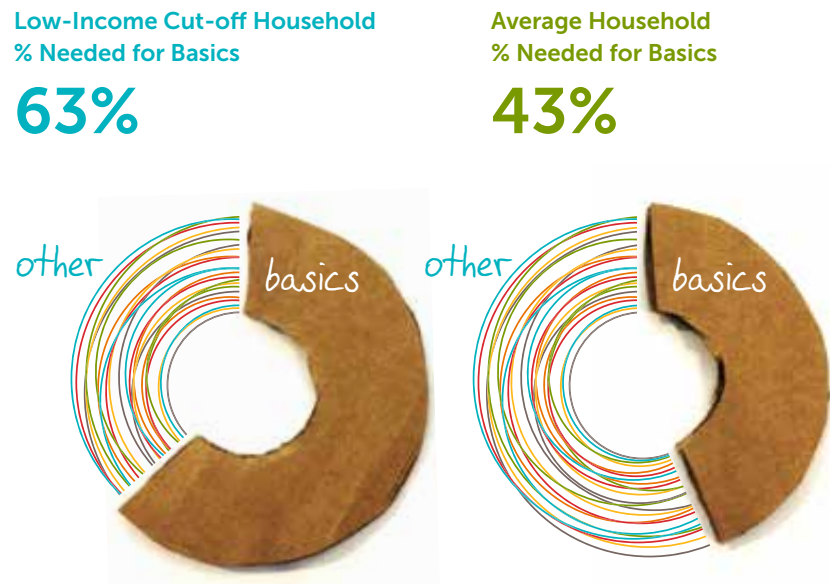
More importantly, beyond the pocketbook impacts, poverty should be a concern to all of us as neighbours and as a caring community.

Appendices:

Poverty May Not Be What You Think

The basic necessities take a big bite out of household budgets...

According to Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Off (LICO)¹⁰ definition of poverty, a household is poor if it spends at least 20% more than the average Canadian household on basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. Here's what it looks like:



After Tax LICO for a Canadian City the size of Kingston – 2011

Number of Individual	Income Level
1 person	\$16,328
2 people	\$19,872
3 people	\$24,745
4 people	\$30,871
5 people	\$35,154
6 people	\$38,986
7 + people	\$42,819

Appendices:

A Sampling of Statistical Profiles

Employment Information: Ontario Works Recipients in Kingston and Frontenac

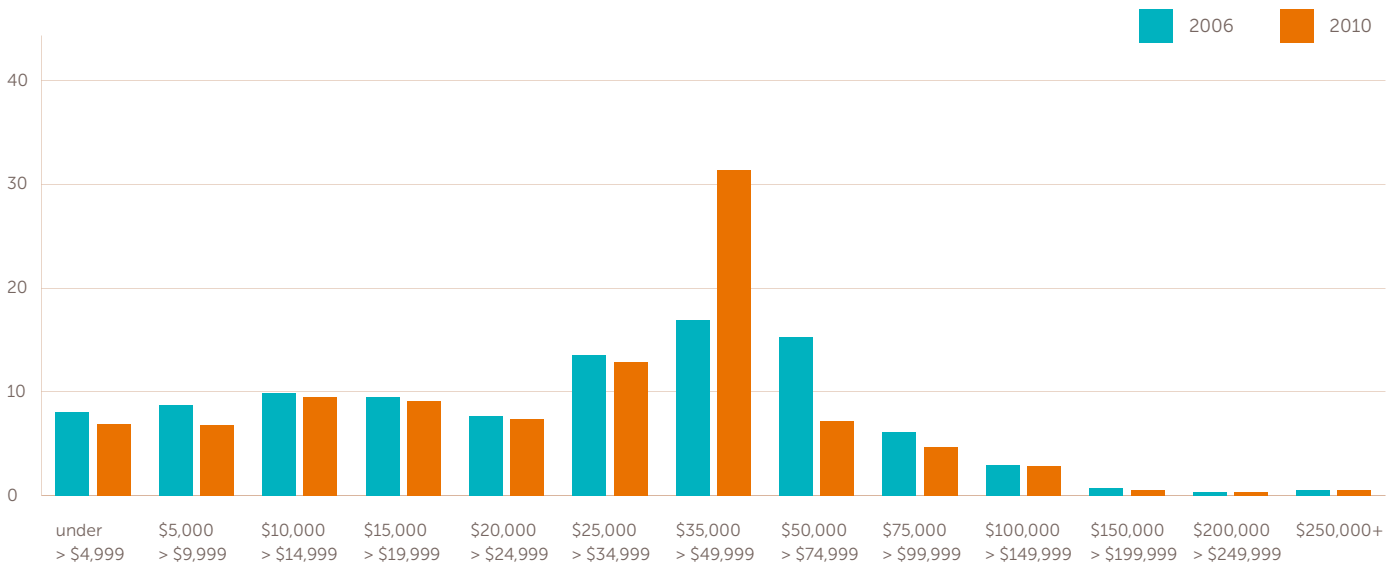
Source: Ontario Works Branch Employment Outcomes Report

Measure	2008	2012
Average Monthly Number of Benefit Units*	2,581	2,976
Average Monthly Number of Beneficiaries	5,506	6,077
% of Benefit Units with Employment Income	14.9 %	13.1 %
Average Employment Earnings of Benefit Units	\$ 768.60	\$ 799.66
Average Length of Time to Employment	13 months	11 months
% of Benefit Units exiting OW for Employment	21.1%	27.2%
Average Employment Earnings at Time of Exit	\$1,054.71	\$1,162.78
Average Duration of Employment (before having to reapply to OW)	8.9 months	8.3 months

**A Benefit Unit is a single recipient (person determined eligible for Ontario Works) or a recipient plus his/her dependents including spouse, and dependent children (both minors and adults) who reside in the same dwelling.*

Rental Market Highlights¹¹

- At 1.7 % in October 2012, Kingston's vacancy rate for apartment buildings with at least three units was higher than the 1.1 % observed in October 2011.
- Average rent for two bedroom apartments in existing structures was up 3.1 per cent from last year.
- In 2013, the Kingston vacancy rate is projected by CMHC to be only 1.8%, well below the 3% vacancy rate considered acceptable in a community.



Income Groups:

As the chart indicates, 31% of Kingston incomes fell in the \$35,000-49,999 range. Almost 40% made less than \$25,000. The median income (the point at which half of Kingston's residents have more income and half have less) was \$32,960, up almost 12% over the 2006 figure of \$29,500.

Individual Incomes for the Kingston CMA (Tax-File Data 2006 and 2010)

	2006	2010
under \$4,999	8.04%	6.87%
\$5,000-\$9,999	8.68%	6.83%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	9.89%	9.50%
\$15,000 - \$19,999	9.49%	9.07%
\$20,000 - \$24,999	7.70%	7.42%
\$25,000- \$34,999	13.51%	12.90%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	16.91%	31.34%
\$50,000- \$74,999	15.24%	7.22%
\$75,000-\$99,999	6.15%	4.64%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	2.90%	2.84%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	0.69%	0.50%
\$200,000 - \$249,999	0.31%	0.37%
\$250,000 +	0.49%	0.51%

Source: Statistics Canada Tax-filer Data CANSIM Table 111-0008

Goals for Reducing Poverty in Kingston

In 2011, the Steering Committee, made up of the City of Kingston, United Way and the Kingston Roundtable on Poverty Reduction identified the following goals, using input from community consultation.

Housing

- A safe, stable, accessible and affordable home for everyone

Skills Development and Employment

- An economic plan that creates living-wage employment opportunities.
- A community that understands and embraces the benefits to the entire community of providing living wage jobs.
- Enhancing skills and employment potential of people to access living wage jobs.

Community Supports for Education

- Local education supports that expose students to all types of options and helps them make choices to reach their full potential.
- All children, families and neighbourhoods have access to the support and services they need to support their education.
- An awareness that equitable, inclusive education reduces poverty.

Social Services and Community Supports

- Programs and services are coordinated and meet the unique and changing needs of individuals and families.
- A social assistance system that provides eligible income security, programs and services to people in need.
- An integrated and compassionate community that recognizes and accepts responsibility to individuals and the community.

Health

- The community at large understands that health is impacted by poverty, employment, housing, education, food security, income, social and physical environment and other determinants of health.
- A safe, reliable, local, healthy, and sustainable food supply for all Kingston residents.
- All citizens have equal opportunities for their best health potential.

Methodology

The goals were developed through consulting widely with the community, ensuring that the voices of people who experience poverty were heard the voices of people who experience poverty were heard.

The steps in the methodology to develop goals for the Poverty Reduction Plan were as follows:

- Implemented a survey to gather information about poverty in Kingston from the public.
- Researched leading practices and learnings from the past and other communities in North America.
- Conducted community consultations, conversations and focus groups.
- Facilitated a public workshop to develop goals and objectives for the strategic plan.

Endnotes and Further Reading

- 1 The statistics are daunting: 15% of Kingstonians live in poverty. Statistics Canada, 2006. Statistics Canada, Census Division, Custom Tabulation for Federation of Canadian Municipalities' *Quality of Life Reporting System*.

47% live from paycheque to paycheque. Canadian Payroll Association as reported in the Globe and Mail Nov 22, 2012.
- 2 Senator Hugh Segal, April 2013 1st Session, 41st Parliament, Volume 148, Issue 154, Tuesday, April 23, 2013 – Orders of the Day – Budget 2013 <http://bit.ly/10XV0sN>
- 3 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan: Working in Partnership Towards Reducing Poverty in Canada. Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, November 2010, 40th Parliament, 3rd Session.
- 4 62% of Pathways to Education Graduates have gone on to post secondary education. BCG Assessment of Pathways to Education Executive summary February, 2011.
- 5 "Health Is..." comes from a presentation by Dr. Keiran Moore, KFL&A Public Health, at the Sustainable Kingston Community Forum, April 2013, Kingston, ON.
- 6 The first annual report on the state of housing and homelessness in the area was issued on April 11, 2013. <http://bit.ly/18umHzF>
- 7 It is estimated that 67% of individuals who are homeless have mental illness or have experienced mental illness sometime in their lives. Poverty & Mental Health (49 Hwang, S. & Henderson, M. (2010). Health Care Utilization in Homeless People: Translating Research into Policy and Practice. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Working Paper No. 10002 as cited in City of Kingston & County of Frontenac Housing and Homelessness Plan | PART 2 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness April 2013.
- 8 54% of single mothers in Kingston lived in poverty in 2006. V Statistics Canada, Census Division, Custom Tabulation for Federation of Canadian Municipalities' *Quality of Life Reporting System*.
- 9 In fact, 14% of people who use food banks in Kingston are employed. May 2013 by Executive Director Sandy Singers of Partners in Mission Food Bank, Kingston, ON.
- 10 Statistics Canada Catalogue [#75F0002MWE](http://bit.ly/75F0002MWE)
- 11 Rental Market Highlights - Fall 2012 Report for Kingston CMA by Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation <http://bit.ly/115uZMd>

Further Reading

Goals & Objectives for Poverty Reduction in Kingston: Community Report – November 2011. Prepared by: City of Kingston, Kingston Community Roundtable on Poverty Reduction and United Way serving KFL&A <http://bit.ly/1aqAg23>

Community Picture Report 2011 - Prepared for the Purpose of Healthy Communities by KFL&A Public Health, January 2012. <http://bit.ly/12YrhUF>

The Cost of Eating Healthy in KFL&A 2012 - KFL&A Public Health, January 2012. <http://bit.ly/16ZU2oc>

The Cost of Poverty - An Analysis of the Economic Cost of Poverty in Ontario (November 2008) -

Ontario Association of Food Banks. <http://bit.ly/Za2Cfb>

KFL&A Food Policy Council <http://bit.ly/18udhUX>

Tamarack Institute <http://tamarackcommunity.ca>

Vibrant Communities <http://www.vibrantcommunities.ca>

Myth: All full-time workers earn enough to support themselves and their families.





poverty
reduction initiative

For more information on the
Poverty Reduction Initiative, visit:
www.wecanreducepoverty.ca

