



March 2, 2017

**President
Président**

Clark Somerville
Councillor
Regional Municipality of
Halton, ON

**First Vice-President
Première vice-présidente**

Jenny Gerbasi
Councillor
City of Winnipeg, MB

**Second Vice-President
Deuxième vice-présidente**

Sylvie Goneau
Conseillère
Ville de Gatineau, QC

**Third Vice-President
Troisième vice-président**

Bill Karsten
Councillor
Halifax Regional
Municipality, NS

**Past President
Président sortant**

Raymond Louie
Acting Mayor
City of Vancouver, BC

**Chief Executive Office
Chef de la direction**

Brock Cariton
Ottawa, ON

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are in the midst of a country-wide movement to overcome poverty and replace it with prosperity. For the first time in Canadian history over 150 municipalities are represented by cities committed to reducing poverty and nearly all provinces/territories have or have committed to a poverty reduction strategy. Today as the federal government considers a National Housing Strategy and a National Poverty Strategy we need to work together at every level right across this country in the fight against poverty. Poverty reduction must be a priority for all of us in 2017.

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 Medicine Hat, for example, recently came out with an ambitious new anti-poverty strategy. The City of Toronto has adopted a Social Procurement Program, and the City of Victoria is looking to adopt an action plan to increase community benefits through leading economic change, social enterprise development and social procurement.

I am pleased to formally invite you to attend *Cities Reducing Poverty: When Business is Engaged*, a pan-Canadian gathering organized by Tamarack Institute in partnership with the City of Hamilton taking place this April 4-6, 2017 in Hamilton, Ontario. This Summit is the largest gathering of people who are working to end poverty in Canada and beyond. It is a forum for learning about solutions and innovations, forming and deepening relationships with one another, and exploring opportunities that will help all of us advance our poverty reduction work. The goals of the summit are to:

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

This event will bring together more than 300 individuals, including mayors and councillors, provincial and territorial representatives, business representatives, persons with lived experience of poverty and key sector stakeholders. Highlights of the program include:

24, rue Clarence Street,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 5P3

T. 613-241-5221
F. 613-241-7440

www.fcm.ca



- Discover game-changing innovations in poverty reduction work;
- Learn how Indigenous leaders and communities are engaged in business development and job creation for Indigenous people.
- Experience the launch of a new publication on successful cases in which business leadership and involvement has been a defining factor. These stories will include emerging innovative ideas and vital resources to inform your own work.
- Join a study tour through unique sites in Hamilton to understand that city's most innovative community poverty reduction activities and meet the amazing people behind it; and,
- A reception hosted by Mayor Fred Eisenberger and the City of Hamilton.

More information about the event can be found on the summit website: <http://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/crp>. To register or inquire about the event, please contact Alison Homer (alison@tamarackcommunity.ca) 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