



March 2, 2017

Some 28 years ago the House of Commons passed a unanimous motion to eliminate child poverty. Today more than 1.3 million children live in poverty in Canada. The impact of poverty devastates our communities and overwhelms our citizens. In our own community McMaster University found that there was a 21-year gap in life expectancy between those living in the poorest neighbourhood and those in wealthiest neighbourhoods. The cost of poverty to our neighbourhoods and our health care system is inestimable.

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.

Municipal leadership is incredibly important as we work to reduce poverty, and I would like to extend to each of you a personal invitation and warm welcome to attend the *Cities Reducing Poverty: When Business Leads* National Summit happening April 4-6, 2017 in Hamilton ON. The conference is organized by the Tamarack Institute in partnership with the City of Hamilton.

The *Cities Reducing Poverty: When Business Is Engaged* summit will bring major business leaders together with community organizers, mayors and municipal staff, federal and provincial/territorial governments, Indigenous leaders, as well as funders, policy makers, and persons with lived experience with a focus on ending poverty.

To register please visit <http://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/crp> or if you have further questions please contact Kirsti Battista [kirsti@tamarackcommunity.ca](mailto:kirsti@tamarackcommunity.ca) at Vibrant Communities Canada.

I look forward to seeing you in Hamilton April 4-6 2017. Working together we can reduce poverty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Eisenberger".

Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor