



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CDR# 2019002

Date: January 21, 2019

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

SUBMITTED BY: Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation

DATE: January 21, 2019

SUBJECT: Poverty Reduction

ORIGIN: Council Strategic Priority

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: Council Strategic Priority

RECOMMENDATION: That Council forward a decision to endorse and support the creation of a poverty reduction advisory circle to the January 28, 2019 regular meeting of Council. This circle would be comprised of volunteer community representatives who have demonstrated a commitment towards the reduction of poverty in Amherst. Attached memo lists the rationale, the suggested poverty reduction circle members, initial terms of reference and a target date of March 31 to present to Council detailed terms of reference with timelines.

BACKGROUND: Council has identified poverty reduction as a strategic priority. In 2018 the Town hosted a municipal poverty forum, which included diverse stakeholders. The poverty reduction circle will allow Council to obtain advice and recommendations regarding the next steps in the priority to reduce poverty.

DISCUSSION: See attached memo.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Financial implications will be dependent upon the recommendations from the poverty reduction circle recommendations.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS: Vulnerable populations should be positively affected by any effort to reduce poverty in our community

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS: N/A

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: The municipal poverty forum was held, and it is anticipated that the poverty reduction circle will offer the opportunity for a number of community engagement initiatives. There will be ample opportunity for citizens to have a voice on this topic. In addition, there are ongoing, multiple conversation in the community regarding poverty reduction, including a pilot project on Community Innovation Lab—Food Insecurity project (Overview attached)



ALTERNATIVES:

1. Council does not accept the recommendation;
2. Council decides its own plan for poverty reduction;
3. Council determines that poverty reduction is no longer a priority.

ATTACHMENTS:

Memo on poverty reduction and the report on the poverty forum
Community Innovation Lab Food Insecurity project update

Report prepared by: Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation
Report and Financial approved by: