

# SYNOPSIS

## Poverty Reduction Circle

---

Amherst Town Council identified Poverty Reduction as a Strategic Priority in 2018. One of the first steps in the process was staging its first municipal forum on poverty which was held in March of 2018. The goal of the forum was to provide greater awareness of the significant level of poverty in our community.

The recommended next step to Council in the process to reduce poverty is the creation of a Poverty Reduction Advisory Circle.

The Town of Amherst Poverty Reduction Advisory Circle will provide advice and assistance to Mayor and Council towards the development of a collaborative poverty reduction strategy for Amherst.

### **MOTION:**

#### **That Council endorse and support the creation of a ad hoc Poverty Reduction Advisory Circle to:**

- Provide advice and assistance to council in understanding and addressing poverty in Amherst
- Engage a broad range of stakeholders and government departments at all levels on the issues related to poverty in Amherst.
- Through engagement, develop a better understanding of the capacity and roles of stakeholders to address poverty in the community.
- Identify opportunities for short term actions
- Development of a poverty reduction action plan.

#### **And further that the ad hoc Advisory Circle consist of:**

<b>Deputy Mayor Sheila Christie</b>	<b>Town of Amherst</b>
<b>Bill Schurman</b>	<b>Town of Amherst</b>
<b>Sarah MacMaster</b>	<b>Executive Director Maggie's Place</b>
<b>HeeYeon Son</b>	<b>Volunteer, Newcomer</b>
<b>Colleen Dowe</b>	<b>Community Health Board Coordinator, NSHA</b>
<b>Veronica Richards</b>	<b>Volunteer, St. Vincent de Paul, Empowering Beyond Barriers</b>
<b>Connie Fisher</b>	<b>Academic Chair, Health &amp; Human Services, NSCC</b>
<b>Dawn Ripley,</b>	<b>Health Equity Consultant, NSHA</b>
<b>Allison Lair</b>	<b>Community Support Coordinator, YMCA</b>
<b>Janine DeWitt</b>	<b>Health Promoter, Public Health, NSHA</b>

**And further that the Poverty Reduction Circle present to Council a detailed terms of reference with timelines by March 31, 2019 for consideration and approval. .**