



AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

RFD# 2019002

Date: January 28, 2019

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

SUBMITTED BY: Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation

DATE: January 28, 2019

SUBJECT: Poverty Reduction Circle

ORIGIN: Council Strategic Priority

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: Council Strategic Priority

RECOMMENDATION: That Council endorse and support the creation of a Poverty Reduction Advisory Circle consisting of:

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

And further that the Poverty Reduction Circle set a target date of March 31, 2019 to present to Council a 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 conversations 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: