

May 2, 2016

Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of Council,
Hamilton City Hall
2nd floor - 71 Main St. West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

Re: Support for Plan to Reduce Poverty

On behalf of the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, I would like to congratulate Mayor Fred Eisenberger on his "Initiative to Increase Affordable Housing and Reduce Poverty by Investing in People." We would encourage all Members of Council to add their support and endorsement to this proposal.

Poverty remains a persistent and significant problem in Hamilton that continues to undermine the health and well-being of those individuals and families struggling under these conditions. Given that the overall poverty rate for the City of Hamilton did not improve at all over the 2001 – 2013 time period, this new investment is needed both to improve prospects for change as well as add some encouragement to those members of our community committed to this matter. Over the long term, with the appropriate strategy and accompanying investments, we know that poverty rates can in fact change and be significantly improved. Hamilton can formulate effective strategies, make strategic investments and mobilize broad community engagement.

Together we have the proven capacity to bring together a broad range of community partners and formulate effective plans for change that can substantially reduce poverty. History teaches us that to be successful these plans will call for strong commitment and investment of all levels of government working together. City Council support for this proposal to create a fund in the amount of 50 million dollars to be invested to reduce poverty in Hamilton would provide an important signal to all members of our community that we have confidence in our capacity to improve these troubling conditions.

We know that persistent high rates of poverty in our community will limit our potential to create viable, sustainable and healthy communities well into the future. In the interests of current residents and generations to come, we encourage you to seize the opportunity to assemble the funds needed to support this Initiative.

Sincerely,


Don Jaffray
Executive Director

Through our research and social planning services, the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton is committed to ensuring that Hamilton is the best community it can be for all who live here and that no one is left out of the benefits and opportunities that Hamilton has to offer.

