HUNGRY FOR ACTION:

Reporting on the Community’s Response to the Task Force on Hunger Recommendations

Submitted To: The Community Development Council of Belleville and District

Submitted By: The Task Force on Hunger Implementation Committee

January 26, 1993
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April, 1992 the Community Development Council's Task Force on Hunger reported its findings that hunger is a significant problem in Belleville:

- Conservatively estimated, one in ten households in Belleville is at risk of being hungry.
- Those most vulnerable to hunger are the young, particularly children.
- Although many of those at risk of being hungry are dependent upon social assistance, about half of them are employed.
- Poverty is the major reason for hunger in Belleville.
- Many hungry people do not ask for assistance.

The Report recommended a wide variety of initiatives and strategies. In order to promote awareness and encourage action on the recommendations, the Community Development Council approved an Implementation Plan with the following mandate:

- Create Public Awareness and understanding of the report findings.
- Meet with Organizations most affected by the recommendations.
- Engage Organizations and the Community in responding to the findings.
- Establish a Task Force on Poverty to carry out specified activities and further inquiry.
- Assess the results of the Implementation Plan.

The Implementation Committee has worked for nine months to accomplish this plan for action on the problem of hunger in Belleville. After more than 2,000 volunteer hours and more than fifty meetings with organizations in the community, there have been developments.
1) **PUBLIC AWARENESS HAS INCREASED.**
Through speakers and media presentations Belleville has been informed that many of its citizens are at risk of being hungry. The report has received province-wide attention.

2) **AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS WERE CHALLENGED AND MANY HAVE ALREADY ACTED.**
The report included recommendations regarding the coordination of emergency relief services, as well as recommendations to health agencies, health professionals, school boards, and income support services. Most were receptive to presentations by Implementation Committee members and have responded to the recommendations.

3) **THERE HAS BEEN SOME COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.**
Many of the report recommendations were not directed at particular organizations but were given as a 'call for action' by the community at large. Although response has been limited, several initiatives against hunger have begun.

4) **A TASK FORCE ON POVERTY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED.**
The 1992 Report made clear that the primary cause of hunger in Belleville is poverty. Therefore, hunger can only be alleviated by addressing the broader issues of poverty. To that end, the report recommended that a Task Force on Poverty be established. In the course of its on-going study and consultations, the Implementation Committee has concluded that a Task Force on Poverty is neither appropriate nor sufficient to meet the challenges of hunger in Belleville.

The Implementation Committee offers a new recommendation for the development of a community-based, integrated anti-poverty strategy which will engage on an on-going basis all segments of the population who are at risk of being hungry, all service providers, and the community at large. A plan for the accomplishment of this new objective is provided.

5) **THE COMMUNITY IS HUNGRY FOR ACTION!**
Although awareness of the problem of hunger has increased and despite many important initiatives, little has been done to change the fact of hunger for many citizens of Belleville. At the same time, continuing economic difficulties have increased the number of persons who are at risk of being hungry. The Implementation Committee offers several new recommendations and repeats the call for action against the causes of hunger in the community.

**SO LONG AS THERE ARE AMONG US THOSE WHO ARE AT RISK OF BEING HUNGRY, WE WILL REMAIN ... HUNGRY FOR ACTION.**
INTRODUCTION

FACTS:
- Conservatively estimated, one in ten households in Belleville is at risk of being hungry.
- Those most vulnerable to hunger are the young, particularly children.
- Although many of those at risk of being hungry are dependent upon social assistance, about half of them are employed.
- Poverty is the major reason for hunger in Belleville.
- Many hungry people do not ask for assistance.

The Work of the Implementation Committee

Hunger in Belleville, the report released by the Community Development Council of Belleville and District (CDC) in April, 1992 (see Appendix A, "Report Summary") contained recommendations to reduce hunger in the community (see Appendix B, "Recommendations"). Full copies of this report are available at the CDC.

Following the release of the report, the Task Force on Hunger Implementation Committee was struck to carry out five tasks:

Implementation Plan
- Create Public Awareness and understanding of the report findings.
- Meet with Organizations most affected by the recommendations.
- Engage Organizations and the Community in responding to the findings.
- Establish a Task Force on Poverty to carry out specified activities and further inquiry.
- Assess the results of the Implementation Plan

This is the report of the Task Force on Hunger Implementation Committee and refers to the work done in the community since the
release of the report.

Members of the Implementation Committee

Many of the members of the Task Force on Hunger remained to carry out the tasks of the Implementation Committee:

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<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Association/Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Rev. Ed Bentley</td>
<td>Eastminster United Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Ingrid Crowther</td>
<td>Loyalist College</td>
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<td>The Rev. Harry Disher</td>
<td>CDC</td>
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<td>Dr. Harold Goldsman</td>
<td>122 Bridge Street Group, CDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Rev. Jim Hutchison</td>
<td>St. Columba Presbyterian Church, Gleaners Food Bank, Belleville Ministerial Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joanne Jenkins</td>
<td>Quinte United Immigrant Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michele Leering</td>
<td>Hastings and Prince Edward Legal Services/CDC</td>
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<td>Yvonne Lem</td>
<td>CDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole McKinnon</td>
<td>Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit</td>
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Karen Tracey, Karen Beatens and Kathy Anderson of the CDC provided staff support services.

The Implementation Committee has spent over two thousand hours in the last nine months developing an implementation plan, making phone calls and writing letters in order to present the findings of the report to the community. There were over 50 meetings with many diverse organizations (see Appendix C, “List of Committee Presentations”). Not all organizations responded to the Implementation Committee or offers to present the findings to them.
personally and to get their ideas and commitment to reduce hunger in this area.

The report was distributed extensively to local community organizations, all of whom were given at least one free copy of the report to review at or before the presentations. Many local politicians and the Ministry of Community and Social Services received copies. The report or the executive summary was distributed to all who had responded to surveys conducted as part of the research (clients of Gleaners Food Bank, Salvation Army and Hastings County Social Services Department, seniors, individuals with disabilities, doctors and dentists, all local churches, Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit and Belleville schools, Quinte Early Childhood Education, and Loyalist College).

Over 300 copies of the report were published and distributed.

This report is organized according to the Implementation Plan (Page 1). The first section documents the work of the Implementation Committee in creating public awareness of the report; the second deals with the meetings between the Implementation Committee and a variety of community organizations directly affected by the recommendations; the third talks of how organizations in the community were engaged to act on the recommendations; finally, the fourth is about the Task Force on Poverty recommendation and the changes made to it since; finally, the fifth section assesses the work revealed in the four previous sections and proposes new and continuing recommendations.
1. **Creating Public Awareness**

The Implementation Committee was successful in making the local public, and several individuals and organizations throughout the province aware of the report findings.

**Local Attention**

The Implementation Committee had two additional goals under this part of the Implementation Plan:

- To brainstorm further ideas to alleviate hunger in the community.
- To find individuals who might be interested in further commitment and involvement with implementing recommendations.

The findings and the report were first presented at the United Way Community Forum Luncheon on April 22, 1992. This was reportedly the best-attended of these luncheons. Consumers and local politicians, including a federal Member of Parliament, a mayor and several municipal councillors were in attendance, as well as many local social service organizations, health agencies and service clubs. The presentation generated only limited discussion.

The report received excellent coverage by the local media. The Community Forum Luncheon was taped and broadcast by Cablevue 4. Members of the Implementation Committee appeared on Steve Marlin's CJBQ Radio show. In addition, Milt Johnson featured the report on his open-line show on the same radio station. The report was reviewed and several callers requested information about STEP, the Supports to Employment Program, available to working recipients of Family Benefits and General Welfare. Milt and his audience were receptive to the findings of the report. Diane Tenwold, a reporter
with CHWS Television, reported on the findings and one of her Kingston colleagues interviewed a Committee member for a special feature report.

Articles appeared in the Intelligencer, the Trentonian, the Community Press, the Loyalist College Pioneer and the Eastel, the Quinte Early Childhood Education publication which is distributed to every child care agency in the Quinte area.

MP (Hastings County) Lyle Vanclief and Belleville City Councillor Kay Manderville host a current affairs program on Cable 4, and on one particular segment, interviewed two members of the Implementation Committee. This program was taped and was aired on Cablevue 4 several times over several weeks.

The Implementation Committee received an invitation from the Belleville General Hospital’s Family Practice Unit (Recommendation 5.15). The subsequent presentation did not generate much discussion.

The results of the report were presented to the South Hastings Planning Committee, a community group empowered to plan for child care services within the South Hastings community. The findings were well received, and awareness of hunger was increased.

An Implementation Committee member provided a copy of the report to Loyalist College. Findings were discussed in relevant Early Childhood Education classes and at faculty meetings.

The findings were presented to the YMCA Men’s Club. The club indicated their desire to promote community participation in a “Day of Fast”. 10% of the money from “skipped meals” would be donated
to international projects around poverty and hunger, with the remainder distributed to local projects. YMCA members recognized that hunger is a critical community issue and that projects such as the "Day of Fast" facilitate community awareness of hunger.

In addition, there are ongoing efforts to meet with service clubs, such as the Rotary.

Across the Province...

A Senior Consultant at the Ontario Ministry of Health requested a copy of the report, and mentioned it in the Ministry of Health's "Health Unit Initiatives that Promote Increased Access to Sufficient, Nutritious and Personally Acceptable Food".

A Committee member presented the findings at the Colloquium on Child Nutrition in Toronto, sponsored by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The purpose of the event was to discuss possible community development approaches to addressing problems of poor child nutrition with representatives of key stakeholder groups. Input from this event was to be forwarded to the provincial government for further consideration. The findings were well-received.

An Implementation Committee member presented the report findings on the CBC Radio program Ontario Morning. In the ten-minute interview, the findings were broadcast across the province.

Many organizations across the province requested copies of the report, including a member of the Social Assistance Review Board (an administrative tribunal hearing appeals from denials of General
Welfare Assistance and Family Benefits). The Legislative Library at Queen's Park requested a copy. Several nutritionists at area health units requested copies of the report, among them, the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Health Unit, and the Peterborough County Health Unit.

The report results were shared with a Toronto coalition called the Task Force on Food Banks. In response, the CDC will attend a province-wide conference on poverty and hunger, entitled "Beyond Food Banks" on February 15 and 16, 1993. The intent of this conference is to examine hunger in Ontario, and for representatives of organizations across the province to collectively assess alternatives to food banks as well as ways to implement these alternatives.

In May, 1992, Gerald Vandezande of Citizens for Public Justice, a national charitable organization, gave an address at Eastminster United Church (sponsored by the Gleaners Food Bank) entitled "Economic Renewal and Constitutional Change: Economic Justice for Whom?", arguing for a social charter to be included in the Constitution (Recommendation 6.17). Mr. Vandezande had been sent a copy of the report prior to his address by a local newspaper editor, and quoted from it extensively. In a meeting with Mr. Vandezande later, suggestions were made for increased publicity of the report. At his suggestion, reports were sent to Ms. Penny Moss, Deputy Minister, Premier's Council on Health, Social Justice and Well-Being, and Ted Moses, Policy Analyst with the Community Services Branch of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.
2. MEETING WITH AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS

The purpose of these meetings was to share pertinent information with organizations directly affected by the report's recommendations.

Emergency Relief Services

Emergency relief services were asked to focus on the ten criteria for improving service delivery (see Recommendation 5.4) by emergency food relief services. This request received positive responses from the Gleaners Food Bank, the Stirling Food Bank and the newly formed Soup Kitchen Steering Committee.

Following the presentations to emergency relief services (Recommendation 5.2), the Implementation Committee called a meeting of all local emergency relief service providers. This resulted in the formation of the Emergency Relief Service Providers (ERSP). It now consists of individuals from Gleaner’s Food Bank, Soup Kitchen Steering Committee, Hastings County Social Services, Task Force on Hunger Implementation Committee, Belleville Ministerial Association, Tabernacle United Church, United Way, Hastings and Prince Edward Legal Services, Salvation Army, Christmas Sharing, Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Local Service Centre, the Housing Resource Centre, Integrative Housing, and the Access to Permanent Housing Committee.

Perhaps one of the most important networks in the social services sector, the ERSP has been hard at work since August, 1992. This group has met with Ontario Hydro, Belleville Utilities and
CentraGas regarding the costs of utilities and cut-off practices. The ERSP has formed a permanent ongoing committee with senior staff of Belleville Utilities and CentraGas. In February, the ERSP has organized a local workshop for those in hydro-related financial difficulties. The ERSP will be exploring responses to the development of "storage and distribution facilities for surplus "unmarketable" food" (Recommendation 6.4).

The ERSP continue to meet monthly at either the United Way office or at the Salvation Army Family Services Building. The CDC has donated administrative support.

In response to the hunger and nutrition needs of those at greatest risk of hunger, particularly those who are on low incomes and who require emergency food relief services, alternatives to emergency food relief services, such as Collective Kitchens, food cooperatives and community gardens, are being explored in Belleville (Recommendation 6.2).

Collective Kitchens, established in Belleville in September, 1991, allow groups (comprised mostly of people on low incomes) to collectively cook five main dishes to take home at a time of the month when money and food supplies are low. The Implementation Committee suggested that the Collective Kitchens' Steering Committee could be instrumental in acting on the ten criteria set out in Recommendation 5.4. At this meeting, an interest in starting a bartering system with food was indicated by the Steering Committee. The Implementation Committee supports the work of this committee in alleviating hunger in Belleville.
Although Belleville's new Soup Kitchen at Victoria Street Baptist Church, which opened in late October, 1992, was being formed before the report was released, it responded to Recommendation 5.5, reflecting a community concern about hunger.

Health Organizations

The Implementation Committee presented the results of the report to organizations such as the Health Unit and the District Health Council. In each case, a commitment to act on specific recommendations or to develop a strategy to reduce hunger in Belleville was hoped for.

The Health Unit Board and staff attended presentations by the Implementation Committee. The Board presentation was brief. The staff presentation was a morning workshop involving all of the Health Unit departments. As a result, Nutrition Services responded to Recommendations 6.14 and 6.15.

The Health Unit will review staffing levels of the Public Health Dietician (Recommendation 6.14 (d)) and will advocate for improved labelling of food and for another nutrition survey (Recommendations 6.14 (d), 6.15). The Health Unit will also review the adequacy of food hampers delivered by the Food Bank (Recommendation 5.4). The Health Unit, with a CDC Research Group consultant, is in the process of reviewing food prices at local grocery stores (Recommendation 3.2).

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1 This group was hired under the Unemployment Insurance Job Creation Program (Section 25 Grant) discussed later on.
The Health Unit has been involved in workshops for childcare providers, teachers and parents to develop and distribute nutrition education information (Recommendation 6.6).

The Nutrition Services Department has been involved in helping the Boards of Education integrate nutrition in curricula by "providing in-service education or workshops to teachers developing Reach 'n' Teach kits, and other nutrition education resources for use by the school team and teachers" (Recommendation 6.16). A Food Availability Survey was recently completed in all elementary schools of the Hastings Board of Education with the assistance of the School Team of the Health Unit.

Following the workshop with the Health Unit staff, their dietician made a presentation to the Quinta Dieticians' Association. The presentation was well received.

On behalf of the CDC and the Task Force on Hunger, the Health Unit applied to the Ontario Women's Directorate for funding to do a nutrition needs assessment in low-income women entitled "Food Security in Low Income Women and their Children". This would identify programs and services which would help low income women and their children improve their food security (Recommendations 6.14 (a), (b)). Although the Ontario Women's Directorate did not feel that access to adequate food and food security were solely women's issues, and the proposal was turned down, the Health Unit has now applied to the Ministry of Health through the District Health Council for funding for this same study, now in low income families.
Copies of the report were sent to all members of the Hastings and Prince Edward District Health Council (Recommendation 6.19). The District Health Council is new to the area. The council has recently formulated its terms of reference and is still in the process of considering a sub-committee to examine and to respond to the results of the report, a committee which would involve the CDC. Their initiatives around the recommendations in the Hunger Report are awaited.

Most recently, the CDC responded to an invitation to apply for Health Promotion Project Grant funding from the District Health Council and Ministry of Health to do a Healthy Community Implementation Strategy. A grant application for a community garden was also submitted.

**Education Services**

A principal from Our Lady of Fatima School invited an Implementation Committee member to apprise his teachers and students about the findings of the report. Following this meeting, there was an evening session with the Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) of Our Lady of Fatima School to review the results of the report and develop "safe" strategies regarding discussions of hunger and of poverty with students, who themselves were victims of hunger and poverty. PTA members granted permission to proceed with class discussions with senior students of the school. One full day was devoted to these class discussions.

An Implementation Committee member addressed the principals of
The Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Roman Catholic Separate School Board with the findings, focusing on the effects of poor and inadequate nutrition on the health, behaviour and learning efficiency of students. Strategies for ensuring that no one goes hungry within the school system were explored.

Finally, an Implementation Committee member met with the Directors of Education for both the Separate School Board and the Hastings County Board of Education in order to review report findings and to explore possibilities of setting up permanent Hunger and Poverty Committees for each board. This committee would respond to students who are hungry, and would explore strategies to prevent hunger in students.

A second meeting with the Director of Education for the Hastings County Board of Education revealed that the process for setting up such a committee had already begun in this board. The director proposed that its membership comprise one superintendent, three principals, two trustees, and three teachers, each representing a teachers' union. The first two committee meetings addressed the projects that had already started and that the work of the committee should proceed further along these lines.

**Income Support Services**

The purpose of these presentations was to talk to income support services about the recommendations, and get commitment where appropriate, to improve service delivery. Participation in the proposed Task Force on Poverty was also solicited
(Recommendations 6.10 and 6.11).

A. Hastings County Social Services Department

Mr. Eric Fry, Director of the Hastings County Social Services Department committed his staff to involvement in the "Social Services and You" Conference. He provided a great deal of information on the number of people eligible for the STEP program, and made a commitment to working with the proposed Task Force on Poverty. Mr. Fry has since indicated that some gradual improvements have been made concerning more public awareness of the STEP program (Recommendation 6.11). In addition to a number of presentations made to community groups and media articles, Mr. Fry's department has made available to his client group additional information regarding STEP, as well as information about the availability of legal assistance and the avenue of appeal. This has been facilitated by providing a library/resource centre in all of the departments' waiting rooms. This past October, the department conducted a client survey assessing the need for increased STEP awareness and concluded that more information was required. The department is considering a mass mail-out of STEP information.

Cheque withholding practices at the Department had changed, although manual cheque writing procedures had not (Recommendations 6.10 and 6.11). A lack of manual cheque writing and problems

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This conference, held October 1-2, 1992, and sponsored by the Hastings Prince Edward Legal Services, is discussed in more detail further on in this report.
associated with cheque withholding place people at a greater risk of hunger and of needing emergency food relief services.

Mr. Fry also expressed concern with the problems that individuals on low incomes have with creditors, and wanted to publish a brochure on individual's responsibilities to creditors. This information has since been included in the Hastings and Prince Edward Legal Services' publication, "A Guide to Living on a Low Income in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties".

Mr. Fry has facilitated meetings with the Joint Social Services Committee (an arm of Hastings County, Belleville and Trenton City Councils responsible for supervising the Hastings County Social Services Department). After an initial meeting with the full committee, the Implementation Committee participated in a second review of the findings. In the second meeting, both Mr. Fry and Mr. Tom Deline, Reeve of Madoc and the Chair of the Committee, indicated a willingness to work with the Implementation Committee, including sharing statistical information on social assistance programs and facilitating consumer involvement in anti-poverty work.

Marvin Valensky, Program Supervisor at the Ministry of Community and Social Services Office in Kingston, who oversees the administration of the Department, looked into the problems raised by the report, specifically around emergency cheque writing systems. Mr. Valensky also made a commitment to working with the proposed Task Force on Poverty.
B. Ministry of Community and Social Services

The findings were presented to front-line social service workers at the Ministry of Community and Social Services. This information was well-received, generating considerable and animated discussion. It was suggested that a committee of interested workers be formed with a view to exploring ways and means of enhancing the quality of life of people who found themselves to be financially disadvantaged largely through no fault of their own.

The Ministry committed to working with the proposed Task Force on Poverty.

C. Canada Employment Centre/Unemployment Insurance Commission

Two Implementation Committee members met with the manager of the Canada Employment and Immigration Centre and the Unemployment Insurance Commission, David Crofton. Problems pertaining to late Unemployment Insurance cheques and cheque withholding were discussed.

3. ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

These presentations resulted in three types of responses by organizations: some organizations were not receptive to the findings or recommendations; others were receptive but did not act on any recommendations; still others were very receptive to the report findings and have since acted on one or more of the recommendations.
Alternatives to Emergency Food Services

The Implementation Committee, with the support of the CDC, applied for and received a Section 25 Job Creation Grant from the Canada Employment and Immigration Centre for four employees to do research on poverty and to assist with research on and the implementation of these emergency food alternatives, such as food cooperatives and community gardens.

Food cooperatives are groups of people who collectively buy food in bulk from wholesalers, saving between 40-60% on their food budget. A member of the CDC Research Group assisted the CDC and the Health Unit to organize a day-long workshop on how to organize a food cooperative with the help of Peterborough Food Cooperative Coordinator Rosemary Dooley. The CDC Research Group, located at Eastminster United Church, acts as a support network for the formulation of food coops. Three coops have been established, and two are on their way. Leslie Robbins of the CDC Research Group at 968-2167 can be contacted for more information until April 23, 1993, and then thereafter, the Nutrition Services Department of the Health Unit, 966-5500.

The Committee is facilitating the reemergence of community gardens in Belleville. Other projects, primarily directed at low-income families, such as the London Good Food Project, the Barrie Neighborhood Gardening Project, and the Toronto Grow T.O.gether Community Gardeners, have been successful. The CDC, in association with the City of Belleville Parks and Recreation Department, the Centre and South Hastings Recycling Board and Master Gardeners,
have submitted a proposal to the District Health Council for funding for a community garden for low income consumers, to be started in the spring of 1993. A request to use land at Hastings Manor by the CDC and the Recycling Board was turned down. Other locations are being explored.

"Social Services and You"

Hastings Prince Edward Legal Services hosted two one-day conferences educating the public, particularly those living on low incomes, on social assistance programs and legislative changes in the area (Recommendation 6.12). The first day, intended solely for consumers, hosted over 100 consumers; the second day was intended for service providers attracted 165 people, including 40-45 Loyalist College students. Each day consisted of a series of workshops to assist people in understanding how the social safety net works. Common topics throughout both days included the General Welfare Assistance Act, the Family Benefits Act, and the Unemployment Insurance Act. A variety of speakers discussed self-help, consumer involvement with social assistance reform, and the delivery of income support services. On the first day, the conference ended with a discussion about grassroots community economic development. The second day ended with a talk on "Can We Afford Social Justice in Hard Times?"

Everyone who attended the conferences had access to a wide variety of information. Staffed booths featuring displays by several local organizations including emergency food relief
services, income support services, social services and local constituency offices.

A Guide to Living on a Low Income in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties

This 64-page information and resource handbook was produced by the Clinic in response to Recommendations 6.11 and 6.12, and was distributed to all conference attendees. To date, 3,000 copies have been published and are available free of charge at Hastings and Prince Edward Legal Services, 158 George Street, 966-8686.

Faith Communities

A resource kit on hunger, designed for congregations, was established for the Ministerial Association by the Reverends Harry Disher, Jim Hutchison, and Ed Bentley. Entitled "Here Hunger, There Hunger: A Bible Study on Hunger for People of Faith", the kit contains sermon and prayer resources, as well as a global/local hunger quiz and articles on hunger. It was distributed to all faith groups in Belleville, and is available from the CDC or the Belleville Ministerial Association. College Hill United Church is preparing to offer a breakfast program at Prince of Wales School (Recommendation 6.16).

Presentations with representatives of faith communities provided the opportunity to affirm ongoing anti-hunger programs of churches (for example, Food Bank support, the Christmas Sharing Program, the Soup Kitchen) and to dialogue around possible new initiatives.
In addition to ongoing discussions with churches in the Belleville Ministerial Association, an invitation to speak with the Unitarian Fellowship in Belleville was received. Responses that the Unitarians identified were donations to food banks, support for greater access to emergency food services and increased rent-g geared-to-income housing. The Fellowship was very interested in alternatives to traditional solutions to hunger (following Recommendation 6.5).

Local Members of Provincial Parliament

Presentations to local members of provincial parliament were made to receive commitment to advocate for social assistance reform (Recommendation 6.8) and to assist with "Social Services and You", a planned social assistance conference (Recommendations 6.8, 6.11., 6.12). The Implementation Committee met with Elmer Buchanan, MPP for North Hastings, Hugh O'Neil, MPP for Centre and South Hastings, and Paul Johnson, MPP for Prince Edward County.

Essentially, the report findings were well received. Written responses to the report were requested, but have not yet been received.

Mr. Buchanan, the Minister of Agriculture, was supportive regarding possible action from his office. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Implementation Committee are following the work of the Toronto Food Policy Council. Mr. Buchanan's staff participated in the "Social Services and You" Conference. In addition, he personally delivered copies of the report to Marion
Boyd, Minister of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and Charles Pascale, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. In a meeting with members of the Implementation Committee, Mr. Buchanan discussed government initiatives around breakfast programs in schools and proposed Good Samaritan legislation around feeding people.

Mr. O’Neil expressed an interest in fundraising for the Food Bank. He also requested 150 copies of the report for distribution to the Liberal Caucus.

Mr. Johnson was extremely receptive. His assistance in distributing the report was requested. He took several copies of the report and passed them out to individuals at Queen’s Park in Toronto. The provincial government has not acted to reform income maintenance legislative reform in any substantial way as the Implementation Committee outlined (Recommendation 6.8). When asked, Mr. Fry (Hastings County Social Services Department) indicated that he is unaware “what, if any, changes are in the works concerning new social assistance legislation”.

Local Politicians

Belleville City Council was approached with the intent of getting a City Councillor to sit on the proposed Task Force on Poverty and to brainstorm around other strategies to alleviate hunger in Belleville. In addition, discussion around community economic development, community gardens, housing standards bylaws, affordable housing planning and legislation, public utility bylaws,
and municipal social service agreements was intended. Those were identified as areas which City Council could take action to make a significant difference. Despite Mayor Langer’s efforts to improve attendance at an initial meeting, only two councillors, Gerry Boyce and Doug Crobie, and two staff, Cliff Belch and Doug Moses, attended. The arrangement of a second meeting has been unsuccessful. The Implementation Committee remains open to the possibility of roundtable discussions regarding the report, particularly as the Committee begins to bring together community members to develop an anti-poverty strategy.

Social Service Organizations

Counselling Services of Belleville and District is working with the ERSP on an emergency food relief directory, soon to be available in food banks, grocery stores, welfare offices, and other locations (Recommendation 5.3).

The Implementation Committee presented its findings to the Children’s Aid Society. Attendees were receptive to the findings. Telecare also received a presentation and were supportive of the results.

With respect to seniors’ services, the Board of Community Care and the Council on Aging were presented with the findings and recommendations. The committee had hoped that someone would offer to continue research into hunger among seniors (Recommendation 2.2).
4. **ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON POVERTY**

Revise the Recommendation

The Implementation Committee was charged with the establishment of a Task Force on Poverty to "carry out the activities specified in Recommendation 6.1 and to undertake future inquiry" (Task Force, 1992: 74). Recommendation 6.1 states that the Task Force was to create a network of individuals and organizations "committed to advocating for and investigating systemic solutions to poverty" (Task Force, 1992: 74). The proposed Task Force on Poverty was to examine the causes of local poverty and the creation of better employment opportunities, local community economic development opportunities, and support for a minimum wage increase. Several community organizations and individuals have already indicated an interest in participating in the proposed Task Force. However, others indicated that the idea of a Task Force was intimidating.

As a result of extensive meetings already discussed and additional consultations and research, this recommendation has been revised. It is now proposed a network of individuals and organizations committed to developing an anti-poverty strategy be developed. The Implementation Committee recommended in the report would not be an appropriate or sufficient model to undertake this task. It is recommended that this group could be action-oriented and community-based with a comprehensive mandate. Activities would be directed by a steering committee reporting to the CDC but accountable to the entire community.
Developing an Anti-Poverty Strategy

To develop a vision of what was requested, materials from the Peterborough Anti-Poverty Network and Steering Committee were reviewed. Implementation Committee members met with Kevin Edwards, who started these projects under the auspices of the Peterborough Social Planning Council. He explained their integrated approach to combatting poverty (see Appendix D, "Peterborough Anti-Poverty Strategy for more information"). It is designed to identify what community-based solutions to poverty are and what low-cost strategies can be implemented that would be beneficial.

It is recommended that a Quinte anti-poverty strategy follow the principles advocated in the Peterborough strategy. To this end, this strategy would recognize:

- That many people have inaccurate and inadequate information about poverty, which exacerbates situations of poverty. Improved access to information is crucial to combatting poverty.

- Community economic development, including training programs, is necessary to facilitate employment opportunities for low-income people, to allow people the chance to develop their full economic potential.

- Improved service delivery and access to community facilities will foster a sense of self-esteem and community.

- Action against poverty will only occur with concurrent local and provincial policy changes.

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Copies of the Peterborough Anti-Poverty Strategy (Peterborough Social Planning Council, 1991) are available from the CDC at 968-2466.
May, 1991: Partnership Against Poverty

The means to develop a holistic anti-poverty strategy for Quinte warrants further discussion. It is proposed that a one-day event, perhaps entitled "Partnership Against Poverty", be held to start this discussion. It will be important to build a community of support to tackle this issue. At this point, a design team is required, which would preferably be made up of consumers, representatives of local organizations, social service providers and some members of the Implementation Committee. Its mandate would be to develop this one-day event.

The likely date for such an event is the second or third week of May, at Eastminster United Church. All stakeholders, including individuals from all populations with disadvantages, politicians, government, social service organizations, service clubs, church leaders and business would be invited to attend. Fifty-percent consumer involvement is recommended.

Funding must still be procured for this event. All local organizations may wish to share in funding this event. Possible funding sources include the United Way and the Bridge Street Foundation. Ongoing funding to support the development of an anti-poverty strategy will also have to be procured.

To support the development of an anti-poverty strategy, the CDC Research Group is developing various background materials, including assessments of anti-poverty strategies in other areas. This group could also assist the design team in carrying out its mandate.
To volunteer, donate or attend, please call the CDC at 968-2466.

5. **Assessing the Results of the Implementation Plan**

**A Successful Venture**

It has been the Committee's greatest fear that the report would be read and then shelved. Every effort has been made to accurately portray the results of meetings of the Implementation Committee. At times the Committee has been tempted to relay their disappointment with a particular group for not responding favourably to the report or for not making any commitment to carry out recommendations in spite of having adequate resources to do so. Sometimes it was feared a group may not have understood clearly enough what the Implementation Committee's expectations were.

Nonetheless, the work of the Implementation Committee during the last nine months has been successful and the community response positive. This committee has facilitated the implementation of many recommendations which have gone a long way to alleviate hunger in the local area. Each stage of the Implementation Plan has been dealt with. It is of critical importance that the momentum gained by this venture is both continued and expanded upon.

**Unfinished Business**

Some new recommendations have been developed and some old recommendations have yet to be addressed by the community. In some
cases the Implementation Committee has identified who they see as responsible for carrying out specific work. Interested community members or organizations should call the CDC if they are prepared to undertake any of this work. The Implementation Committee has laid down its work, and, with many recommendations, are still waiting for the community to come forward.

1. The organization of a one-day workshop on poverty, perhaps entitled "Partnership Against Poverty" in order to build a community of support to address the issue of poverty. This will become a permanent, action-oriented and community-based anti-poverty network. This network will be comprised of individuals who are both concerned with and affected by poverty in the community. The CDC has taken this responsibility on.

2. The development of a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy to address and to alleviate poverty. This strategy would be based on innovative community solutions to poverty. The work done by the CDC Research Group around anti-poverty research and the assessment of anti-poverty strategies in other areas would be examined. This task should be the responsibility of the CDC and the community.

3. Canvassing community groups interested in establishing innovative partnerships among families, income support organizations, and food retailers is advocated (part of Recommendation 6.2). It is recommended that the community address this recommendation.

4. The storage and distribution facilities for surplus and "unmarketable" food, such as damaged cans from local stores, should be developed (Recommendation 6.4). As well, programs and services offering free and proactive credit counselling and budget advice should be addressed (Recommendation 6.18). These recommendations are most appropriately dealt with by the ERSP.

5. Research on hunger in seniors (Recommendation 2.2) needs to be done by an appropriate seniors' organization to further investigate its extent and what factors contribute to their hunger. This is the responsibility of the community.

6. As an alternative to emergency food relief services, community gardens should be a community priority (Recommendation 6.2).

7. Boards of Education are encouraged to further explore the possibilities of alleviating hunger through their establishment of Hunger and Poverty Committees (Recommendation 6.18).
APPENDIX A

TASK FORCE ON HUNGER

REPORT SUMMARY

In June, 1991, the Community Development Council of Belleville and District established a TASK FORCE ON HUNGER to study the problem of hunger in Belleville. The Task Force has studied the problem by seeking answers to six questions:

1) Is there a problem of hunger in Belleville?
2) Who are at risk of being hungry?
3) What are the causes of hunger in Belleville?
4) What are the effects of hunger?
5) What help is available for those at risk of being hungry?
6) What can be done to reduce reliance on emergency food services?

The main sources of data for the study were three surveys conducted during the summer and fall of 1991: a survey of people at risk of being hungry by personal contact; a care providers survey distributed to social service agencies, churches, doctors and dentists; and a schools survey. The Task Force’s resources included the varied experience and insight of its members as well as recent literature, government reports and the results of related studies in other communities.

In making its recommendations, the Task Force has distinguished between those which are based on specific data generated by this study and more general recommendations which address the causes of hunger and suggest strategies for its eradication. All of the recommendations reflect the philosophy of the Task Force, that access to adequate food is a RIGHT and not a privilege for which merit must be proven.

The results of this study include the following:

* Conservatively estimated, one in ten households in Belleville is at risk of being hungry.

* Those most vulnerable to hunger are the young (below 39 years), particularly children.

* A majority of those at risk of being hungry live in rental facilities. Although many are solely dependent upon social assistance, about half are employed.

* Insufficient income is the primary reason for hunger. Housing is the major expenditure which reduces income available for food. Emergency expenses often cause incidents of hunger.

* Poverty is the major reason for hunger.
* Undernourishment negatively affects the health of pregnant women, infants, children, adults, and the elderly.

* Many hungry people do not ask for assistance. Many who seek help turn to relatives and friends while others go to food banks and other emergency food relief services.

* The report identifies ways in which local services can be improved.

The Task Force on Hunger recommends to the Community Development Council a variety of initiatives and strategies to address the problem of hunger in Belleville. They include:

* Establish a permanent Task Force on Poverty in Belleville.

* Create public awareness about the problem of hunger.

* Provide food-relief agencies and organizations with its study results.

* Engage the entire community, including all help/relief agencies, in the search for innovative and effective solutions to the problem of hunger.

* Assess the results of the recommendations within a six month period.

Copies of the full text of the report are available from the Community Development Council of Belleville and District.

April 22, 1992
2.1 That more community awareness of the many groups and the diversity of the groups who are at risk of being hungry be developed through media coverage, community information forums, and a speakers' bureau.

2.2 That the extent of hunger amongst seniors be further investigated by an appropriate seniors organization.

2.3 That the reasons why employed people are at risk of being hungry be further explored.

3.1 That the links between hunger and the need for affordable housing be publicized.

3.2 That food prices in Belleville be monitored on an ongoing basis by an appropriate agency.

4.1 That public awareness be heightened about the effects of hunger on specific age groups (pregnant women, infants, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly) in the City of Belleville to dispel some of the popular myths that surround the issues of hunger and poverty.

5.1 That survey results be shared with the Board of Directors of Gleaner's Food Bank and the Salvation Army.

5.2 That coordination between emergency food relief services become established to close the gap in services and to ensure that the transients and homeless people also have access to food.

5.3 That a directory for emergency food relief services be shared with all members of the community.

5.4 That the following criteria should be considered by all emergency food services, subject to budget constraints:
- hours of operation that meet clients' needs
- accessibility of service to all clients
- no restriction on the number of times service can be used except in circumstances of deliberate, consistent abuse
- empathetic treatment of clients
- a referral from a community agency is not a requirement to receive food
- linkages and coordination opportunities with other services are encouraged to close gaps in services provided
- availability of published information about services, especially to those at risk of being hungry
- statistics compiled and publicized about users of the service
- information made available about possible entitlements to social assistance programs and the rights to appeal denials of this assistance.
- the actual food content provided by food services be regularly reviewed by Nutrition Services at the Health Unit to ensure nutrient sufficiency of food distributed.

5.5 That additional emergency relief services be considered and provided in Belleville, such as soup kitchens.

Task Force on Poverty

6.1 That a permanent Task Force be established to address poverty. Specifically this committee should be mandated to do the following:

a) Establish a network of concerned individuals (including low-income people) and representatives of agencies, organizations and government committed to advocating and investigating systemic solutions to poverty to reduce the need for band-aid, case-by-case and crisis solutions.

b) Investigate the causes of poverty locally.

c) Encourage the creation of more remunerative employment opportunities locally in concert with organizations and individuals already working to this end.

d) Investigate community economic development initiatives in other communities and develop local applications of this concept. This may include membership in the Ontario Alliance for Community Enrichment.

e) Advocate for an increase in the minimum wage to represent a living wage as an important weapon against poverty.¹

f) Make every effort to ensure that people who are fully employed receive an adequate income.

g) Encourage and support the development of more creative employment policies that support working families such as flexible hours, job sharing, and parental leave for sick children and other dependents.

¹Melanie Hess, "Sinful Wages", Perceptions (Vol. 15, No. 3), Summer 1991. "Minimum wages are no longer an important weapon against poverty. Their capacity to protect workers from poverty has weakened considerably over the past 15 years."
h) Encourage the Ministry of Community and Social Services to increase the number of existing subsidized daycare spaces in daycare centres of the parents’ choice. At present, there is only one facility in Belleville that offers subsidized spaces. Subsidized daycare makes daycare costs affordable.

i) Prepare a submission to the Ontario Fair Tax Commission regarding the need for a reformed taxation system to benefit low income people.

j) Prepare a similar submission to an appropriate federal government body on the need for fair taxation.

k) Endorse a guaranteed annual income system to eliminate poverty.

l) Investigate and promote a reformed child benefit package.

m) Investigate child poverty in Belleville with particular reference to the findings of the recently released report Unequal Futures: The Legacies of Child Poverty in Canada. This may include joining the Campaign 2000 initiative, a cross Canada coalition of national and community organizations that will be outlining and promoting public policy initiatives for the reduction of child poverty in Belleville. The United Nations charter on child poverty should be investigated.

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2 Task Force on Food Banks, Not by Bread Alone: A Strategy to Eliminate the Need for Food Banks in the GTA, April 1991. "The Conference Board of Canada has noted that thousands of Canadian women would be working excepting for their child care duties or the cost of child care. Many thousands more women are working part-time or on limited hours for the same reasons."

3 Since the guaranteed annual income scheme is much better at delivering income supplementation to all those in need, not only low-wage workers, the case for a guaranteed annual income to eliminate poverty is strengthened by our findings." Derek Hum and Wayne Simpson, Ministry of Supply and Services Canada, Income Maintenance, Work Effort, and the Canadian Income Experiment, 1991.

Monitor the initiatives being undertaken by the Toronto Food Policy Council, a subcommittee of the Board of Health that has been working since October 1990 for a just and environmentally sustainable food system.

Monitor the work being done by the Task Force on Food Banks and their strategy to eliminate the need for food banks in the Greater Toronto Area. Their strategies are comprehensive and include the following: adequate income, access to affordable housing, child care, and public education about the societal cost of hunger and poverty.

Support affordable housing work in the community. (See 6.13).

Work to implement all recommendations not acted upon by some other appropriate local group.

Obtain suitable resources to do this work from the CDC and other interested organizations, charitable foundations, or government.

Provide speakers and information locally on the causes of poverty.

Coordinate and communicate community responses on poverty issues to appropriate governmental inquiries.

Advocate for changes to the Unemployment Insurance legislation to decrease disqualification periods.

**Alternatives to Emergency Relief Services**

6.2 That alternatives to emergency food relief services be explored in this community. Suggestions include the current Collective Kitchens initiative, community gardens, food cooperatives or buying clubs, and the development of innovative partnerships between families, income support agencies, and food retailers.

6.3 That the development of a wide variety of community-based cooperative, mutual aid activities, services and programs be fostered. An example of a local initiative that should be supported is Citizens for Action, an anti-poverty grass roots organization. An initiative organized by Low Income ...
Families Together (LIFT) in another community is also of interest. 

6.4 That storage and distribution facilities be developed for surplus and "unmarketable" food (e.g. damaged cans from local stores, day-old baked goods, etc.).

Education

6.5 That "helping" groups and agencies be educated about the nature of the hunger problem in Belleville so that both their attitudes and responses may be informed.

6.6 That in-service education be encouraged and supported for those working with children to ensure the availability of nutritious food and to increase awareness of the effects of hunger and the appropriate instructional and remedial responses to take with children who are at risk of being hungry.

6.7 That the food bank and other emergency relief services be encouraged to "move the relationship with the public from support for food banks - by giving food - to support for eliminating poverty by engaging in direct political action. For instance, food drive bags could be distributed with a pre-printed card addressed to the Prime Minister or the provincial premier asking for specific social policy reforms. The card would only have to be signed and sent, postage-free. Co-ordinated with food banks across the country, hundreds of thousands - perhaps millions - of calls for policy reform could descend on our political leaders."

*A conference was organized in 1988 by Low Income Families Together (LIFT) inviting low income people and front-line workers. The theme of the conference was "Understanding the System and Making it Work". Several conclusions emerged from the conference. Poor people lacked information about community services, the social assistance program and support systems, and how they are all inter-related. Poverty caused isolation. Poor people have skills - for example, "maintaining a family on an income that is only 60% of the Statistics Canada poverty line (1988 Ontario social assistance rates) requires skills in planning, financial and time management, and many others ..."

6.8 That social assistance and income maintenance programmes be improved so that they provide adequate allowances for those in need whether they are unemployed, unemployable, disabled, single parent or working poor.

a) Additional monies for emergency food shortages should be mandatory items of "special" and "supplementary" assistance under the General Welfare Assistance Act and the Family Benefits Act. Currently "food vouchers" for emergency food relief are available from the Hastings County Social Services Department but are then deducted from a recipient's next benefit cheque. This current system creates an unending cycle of dependency on emergency relief services.

b) Shelter allowances for recipients of General Welfare Assistance and Family Benefits Allowance should be increased.

c) A market basket approach should be used to establish a standard of adequacy for social assistance allowances and benefits.

d) A "frugal comfort" approach should be taken to basic needs that includes recognition of the need to reduce stigma and enables recipients to integrate into the community, achieve self-reliance and exercise choice.

e) Once benefit rates have been properly established, they should be tied to inflation.

f) Youths aged 18 to 20 living in the parental home should be granted social assistance when they are in need and when there are special circumstances. Applicants 16 and 17 years old who are living on their own should be eligible for social assistance, subject to a special approach to opportunity planning.

g) Basic dental care should be extended to all recipients of assistance. One comprehensive dental care program should be developed and made available to all low-income children and adults, whether or not they are social assistance recipients.

h) Special and supplementary assistance items (such as dentures, expenses for travel for medical appointments, drug items not covered by a drug card, etc.) should be mandatory and in the event of denial an appeal possible. When a special need is a prerequisite to meeting an individual's basic needs, it should be considered a mandatory benefit.
1) That, in particular, the municipal and provincial social assistance programmes (General Welfare Assistance and Family Benefits Act Allowances) be completely overhauled. Specifically, we endorse the recommendations contained in the Transitions report and Back on Track.

Major recommendations here include the above and:

j) The Family Benefits Act and the General Welfare Assistance Act should be merged into one piece of legislation, with one benefit structure that covers all social assistance recipients.

k) Asset limitations should be immediately equalized for all recipients at the highest levels currently permitted. An immediate increase should be granted in the allowable limits for everyone by at least the amount of inflation since the last increase in 1981 (that is, a 50% increase as of 1988).

l) Whenever it is proposed that benefits be refused, cancelled, suspended, or reduced, or whenever any other appealable decision is made, the applicant or recipient should receive adequate notice providing meaningful reasons.

m) Consideration should be given to extending the Drug Benefit Plan to low-income people who do not receive social assistance, particularly those with higher-than-average drug costs.

6.9 That representation from our area on the proposed Council of Consumers to assist in the design and implementation of a new social assistance system be encouraged.


*Working Group on the Council of Consumers, Council of Consumers: Background Paper for Community Discussions, February 1992. “Council of Consumers is an idea which was first mentioned in Transitions, the report of the Social Assistance Review Committee (SARC) which was released in 1988. SARC said: Members of the public who clearly must be involved in social assistance planning are the recipients themselves.”
6.10 That all income support programmes be delivered in such a way as to be a reliable source of income for recipients. It was apparent from the surveys that this is not always the case locally. Late cheques and cheque withholding practice should be further investigated with the agencies involved. A manual or emergency cheque writing system may be a viable solution.

**Income Maintenance – Education**

6.11 That access to information about social assistance and income maintenance programmes be improved. In particular, community awareness of the S.T.E.P. programme offering assistance to the working poor must be increased. Furthermore, a person’s right to appeal a denial of assistance and the availability of free legal assistance to do so should be better publicized.

6.12 That a conference be organized locally on social assistance and income maintenance programmes by an appropriate organization to inform people at risk of needing these programmes and service providers of their availability.

**Affordable Housing**

6.13 That the development of affordable housing be supported in the following ways.

a) Increase community awareness of the problem of homelessness in our area being investigated by the South Hastings Access to Permanent Housing Committee and the CDC.

b) Increase awareness of the work of the South Hastings Access to Permanent Housing Committee.

c) Discourage the N.I.M.B.Y. syndrome in whatever ways are possible.

d) Support Official Plan changes that would lead to this result.

e) Encourage less restrictive zoning by-laws and more flexibility in building standards.

f) Support, in particular, the development of community land trusts, non profit corporations and cooperatives.

g) Encourage the fast tracking of zoning by-law changes to permit affordable housing.
1. Holistic integration refers to the sharing of ideas, co-operative actions and the overall interdependency of all community development initiatives under this strategy.
Appendix D(a): Description of the Peterborough Anti-Poverty Strategy

According to the Peterborough Anti-Poverty Strategy report by the Peterborough Social Planning Council, this project represents a community-based response to poverty.

This strategy is directed by an anti-poverty steering committee, and is facilitated by an anti-poverty network consisting of those individuals concerned with and affected by poverty. Currently, the network is made up of over 50% low-income individuals.

The overall concept has four key components.

1. **Communication.** There are many areas where inadequate information about poverty worsens the existing situation. Low-income individuals get wrong information, and the general public is often poorly informed about poverty.

2. **Economic Development.** The community’s human resources must be allowed to develop to their full potential. Low-income people have difficulty gaining employment, therefore the Peterborough Community Development Corporation has been established to initiate training programs.

3. **Community Programs and Facilities.** This component is designed to foster self-esteem, dignity and a sense of community through facilities where community members come together to help each other. Goals include maximizing accessibility.

4. **Advocacy.** This recognizes that action against poverty must be supported by policy changes at the provincial and local levels.

Appendix D(b) is a visual concept of the strategy. According to the report, this diagram is meant to demonstrate that there is an interdependency between all four components.

For more information about this report, call the CDC at 968-2466.
6.14 That the Health Unit be supported in continuing to address nutrition concerns and hunger issues and be specifically encouraged to:

a) Determine the viability of a community development project to address the nutrition and hunger issue in the Belleville area.\textsuperscript{11} Funding for a period of 3 to 5 years could be required in order to effectuate any improvement in dietary and nutritional status among disadvantaged groups.\textsuperscript{12}

b) Develop a training package to educate care providers to identify the effects of hunger, particularly in children and pregnant women.

c) Review staffing levels in community health services to achieve a minimum ratio of one Public Health Nutritionist per 50,000 population\textsuperscript{13} in order to increase access to nutrition professionals by people identified in this survey as needing these services.

\textsuperscript{11}C. G. Ziembicki, \textit{Hunger in the City of North York}, 1991. "Tarasuk and MacLean's (1990) research identified "getting enough to eat" as the primary concern of low-income single mothers. Additionally, the researchers found that in this group, decisions about food expenditures were made in the "context of long-term impoverishment and financial insecurity". In selecting food, the poor mothers appeared to be primarily concerned with satisfying their energy demands and those of their children. Concerns about the nutritional quality of foods was secondary to the over-riding issue of "having something to eat". This preoccupation of having enough food gave food different meanings than that perceived by higher income groups. Higher income groups viewed food as a source of entertainment and pleasure, while the low-income group saw it as a source of insecurity and anxiety."

\textsuperscript{12}Health and Welfare Canada, \textit{Background Paper on Nutrition for the Disadvantaged - Executive Summary}.

\textsuperscript{13}Health and Welfare Canada, \textit{Nutrition Recommendations ... A Call For Action}, (Ottawa: Ministry of Supply and Services, 1989).

\begin{tabular}{l|l}
Population of Hastings County: & 106,240 \\
Population of Prince Edward County: & 21,793 \\
(Statistics Canada, 1988) & 128,033 \\
\end{tabular}
d) Advocate that the National Health and Welfare repeat the National Nutrition Survey since the last one was conducted in 1973.

e) Continue to provide parenting programs with particular emphasis placed on nutrition.

6.15 That health professionals, food retailers, and members of the community should be encouraged to do the following:

- form a food retailer's association
- advocate for increased nutritional labelling
- conduct promotional campaigns consistent with sound nutrition practices in low cost/low fat products.
- hire registered dieticians (R.D.) to conduct supermarket tours, develop point of purchase nutrition information, discuss the effects of advertising on food purchases, and develop nutrition information for promotional flyers
- increase grocery delivery services for "shut-ins".

General

6.16 That School Boards be encouraged to continue examining their food policies and programmes to address hunger issues. Such examinations could include:

- adopting food policies that support sound nutrition practices
- integrating nutrition in curricula for all age groups
- providing teacher training on sound nutrition practices, nutrition education, effects of hunger on children, and effects of advertising on food purchases
- providing work shops and easy-to-read brochures for parents
- developing/increasing the availability of food programs for all students in the form of milk programs, snack programs, breakfast programs and lunch programs where ever there is a need for such programs
- looking at alternative food resources for early primary students to ensure that the move to day-long kindergarten and junior kindergarten includes the provision of adequate noon meals.

14Recommendation 6.17 is also found in the following report: Health and Welfare Canada, Nutrition Recommendations ..., A Call For Action, (Ottawa: Ministry of Supply and Services, 1989).

15School Food Policy: "A school food policy is a statement of principle that guides the schools in the selection of foods for special event days, fund-raising and in the cafeterias so that foods chosen support healthy food choices."
6.17 That the concept of a social charter as part of our Canadian constitution be supported and promoted locally. A social charter would enshrine a commitment to reducing child and family poverty, reducing domestic violence and abuse, securing economic and social dignity, and promoting the full participation of all in Canadian life.16

6.18 That programmes and services which offer free and proactive credit counselling and budget advice be supported.

6.19 That the role of the District Health Council in awareness campaigns and nutrition education programs should be investigated and defined.

Appendix C: List of Committee Presentations

(Note: The Implementation Committee met with some organizations more than once.)

Belleville General Hospital Family Practitioners
Belleville City Council
Canada Employment and Immigration
Collective Kitchens Steering Committee
Colloquium on Child Nutrition
Community Care Board
Council on Aging
Counselling Services of Belleville and District
CXWS Television
Emergency Relief Service Providers
Gleaners Food Bank Board and Staff
Gleaners Food Bank Volunteers
Hastings County Social Services Department
Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit Board
Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit Staff
Hastings County Board of Education
Hastings County Separate School Board Principals
Joint Social Services Committee
Milt Johnson Show, CJBQ
Ministry of Community and Social Services
MPP (Prince Edward County) Paul Johnson
MPP (Centre and South Hastings County) Hugh O’Neil
MPP (North Hastings County) Elmer Buchanan
Ontario Morning Show, CBC
Our Lady of Fatima School - Parents, Teachers and Senior Classes
Quinte Dieticians Association
Salvation Army
Soup Kitchen, Victoria Street Baptist Church
South Hastings Planning Committee
Steve Marlin Show, CJBQ
Stirling Christian Community Care
Telecare
The Children’s Aid Society, Hastings County, the City of Belleville and the City of Trenton
Unitarian Fellowship
United Way Community Forum Luncheon
Lyle Vanclief, Kay Manderville, Cable 4
YMCA Men’s Club