

Historic Collaboration in Hamilton

Hamilton is historically recognized as a prosperous and industrial centre, and was recently named as the best city in Ontario to conduct business.

It may come as a surprise then to learn that there are enough people living in poverty in Hamilton to fill Copps Coliseum five times. One of every five Hamilton residents (95,605 people) lives in poverty. Hamilton has become a city of “haves” and “have nots”.

In his recent [State of the City address](#), Mayor Larry Di Ianni described the situation as “unacceptable” and praised the recently established Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (HRPR), a new collaborative effort to reduce poverty in the city.

Formed in February of this year, the HRPR is incorporating the City’s multi-year plan for poverty reduction into a comprehensive action plan. The planning process relies extensively on community engagement and will identify the leadership and resources required for success.

The City of Hamilton, Public Health and Community Services Department and the Hamilton Community Foundation have agreed to provide leadership as project convenors during the Roundtable’s planning phase.

HRPR’s membership consists of committed and results-oriented individuals from education, business, labour and the voluntary sector.

Together, members of the Roundtable are working on developing an action plan to be tabled in January 2006. Key priority or “flagship” areas they anticipate assessing in the action plan include skills development, children, families and youth and affordable housing.

The action plan will also identify opportunities to reduce poverty in Hamilton and the specific actions required to eliminate poverty.

The members of HRPR and its supporters are optimistic that continued community collaboration and partnerships involving government, business, labour and the voluntary sector is the key to success and will be the foundation of the action plan to reduce poverty in Hamilton.



[Roundtable for poverty reduction takes community approach](#)

Related Links:

- [Business community urged to join fight against poverty](#)
- [City leaders tackle high poverty rate](#)

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