

*Bruce Grey*  
**POVERTY**  
**TASK FORCE**

21 Sept 2015

Attn: Barb Fedy, Director  
Grey County Social Services  
595 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue East  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3E3

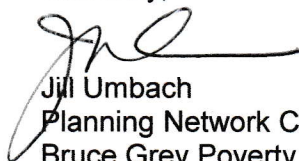
Re: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Progress Report

Dear Barb,

Please find attached a Progress Report of the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force submitted to the Grey County Social Services Committee for correspondence.

We are sincerely grateful of the support of Grey County Social Services and the active participation of Grey County staff on the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force. The funding we have received allows us to support the coordination of the Poverty Task Force and for meaningful engagement amongst government and community stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Jill Umbach  
Planning Network Coordinator  
Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

# PLANNING COORDINATION GRANT MID-TERM REPORT TO BRUCE AND GREY COUNTIES



poverty

31 AUGUST 2015

## REPORTING PERIOD: 1 APRIL 2015 - 31 AUGUST 2015

The Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force has become a recognized advocate for change in our community since its inception in 2012. Working in partnership with over 34 agencies, community groups and policy-makers we have created a structure that allows for meaningful dialogue, education and purposeful partnerships that address the root causes of poverty in our community. We have built a structure which has allowed us to build consensus on actions to achieve collective impact.

Most importantly, with the formation of our Community Voices we have increased the participation of people with lived experience (experience of living with low resources) in consultations on housing, income, food security and transportation. They now have direct access to influential champions such as MPPs, Councillors, Executive Directors of social agencies and social media.

In this Reporting Period, we have achieved greater coherence across the diverse activities of our 5 Action Groups (Income Security, Housing, Food Security, Transportation and Bridges Out of Poverty) and we are focused on the following projects:

### GREY BRUCE FOOD CHARTER

- ✓ The Grey Bruce Food Charter was developed after 1 year of public consultations. The latest version is available at : <http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/Your-Health/Eating-Well/Food-Charter>
- ✓ New endorsements have been received during this reporting period from Grey County, Grey Bruce Health Unit, United Way of Bruce Grey and Owen Sound Downtown Improvement Association. Presentations are scheduled for Bruce County and several lower-tier municipalities (The Blue Mountains, Grey Highlands) in September.

### COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY MODEL

- ✓ The Food Security Action Group has identified opportunities to collaborate with the agricultural community and economic development partners to implement the Grey Bruce Food Charter. They are focused on securing funding for the *Development of a rural health promotion community food security model*. This new model supports best practices of community-based food security initiatives such as: 1) gleaning program that will increase access to local and fresh produce; reduce food waste, and enhance local economic development. 2) Enhanced food distribution system incorporating the Good Food Box. 3) Food skills education and awareness programs with local partners such as Bruce Botanical Gardens; and Food Literacy workshops.

### ABOVE STANDARD HOUSING PROJECT

- ✓ The Housing Action Group has completed its focus group discussions with tenants, Community Voices, landlords, bylaw enforcement and public health officials across Grey and Bruce Counties. A workshop for regulatory professionals - 17 lower tier municipalities and bylaw enforcement officers - will be held on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>. Jamie

Shipley, Senior Researcher/Advisor, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is the keynote speaker addressing Healthy Housing: the relationship between substandard housing and social determinants of health.

- ✓ The Above Standard Housing Project is also working with the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE) to improve knowledge, capacity and responsiveness within the social service sector to better address housing-related health risks facing low-income tenants across Ontario. Two representatives from Community Voices and one YIMBY-awarded Bruce County landlord are on the RentSafe Advisory Committee.

#### **COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT**

- ✓ The Coordinated Transportation Project is underway. Grey County is working with service providers and consultants to increase efficiencies in scheduling and increase riders/ride. Bruce County is also at the table for discussions as service providers work across both counties.

#### **LIVING WAGE/PRECARIOUS WORK/INCOME SECURITY**

- ✓ During this reporting period, a Living Wage endorsement was considered by the City of Owen Sound, Bruce and Grey Counties; and set aside. Members participated in various conferences: the National Living Wage Summit, Community Programs and Policies, Collective Impact, and National Poverty Reduction Summit organized by Tamarack Institute's Vibrant Communities program. The Poverty Task Force has joined the Ontario Living Wage Network. Education and awareness continue on precarious work and the need for increased wages.
- ✓ The Income Security Action Group hosted a consultation on consumer protection regulations with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. Community Voices led the consultation and a general consensus is that payday loans have a place and serve a purpose, but something needs to make them less predatory and expensive. The Group and Community Voices are following up to look at alternative financial services that are less exploitive.

#### **COMMUNITY VOICES**

- ✓ Community Voices took a lead in designing a support program (Circles adaptation) for people graduating from the Getting Ahead program. A pilot project was undertaken in 2014 and a review of the pilot will be undertaken with the Bridges Action Group in Sept 2015.
- ✓ Community Voices have supported the work of our sector specific action groups by meeting with various community influencers one-on-one. The objective of these meetings are for guests to come away from the table with new information. In this reporting period, they have met with the City of Owen Sound Mayor Ian Boddy, MP candidate Kimberly Love and MP Larry Miller to discuss precarious work, housing and food security.
- ✓ Community Voices have planned a Strategic Planning exercise on Sept 4<sup>th</sup> at Grey Bruce Health Unit. Members are looking to be more actively engaged in the community, have more exposure to the larger community and ultimately to have more impact in the community.

### **BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY PROGRAM**

- ✓ The Bridges Out of Poverty program in Grey County has been supported through the work of Grey County and the Grey Bruce Children's Alliance. The Bridges Action Group now serves as a Steering Committee for all inter-related activities.
- ✓ The Action Group has received funding to develop a cadre of trainers and to offer Bridges Out of Poverty training for professionals. Three Bridges Out of Poverty Training for Professionals were held during this reporting period with over 60 participants across 10 agencies. New workshops for agencies are scheduled for the fall.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

- ✓ The members of the Poverty Task Force are committed to educating themselves, staff and communities-at-large on negative stereotypes. People who live on low incomes or receive social assistance face social discrimination and are often blamed for their situation.
- ✓ We cannot emphasize enough the importance in changing how people and institutions perceive, address and respond to poverty in our community. Poverty affects the sustainability of the entire community at all levels. The solution to poverty is to build personal and community resources.
- ✓ The Task Force is building an online presence – going public with a new website in this reporting period and creating a new twitter account.

WEBSITE: [HTTP://POVERTYTASKFORCE.COM](http://povertytaskforce.com)

TWITTER: @BGTASKFORCE

FACEBOOK: BRUCEGREYPOVERTYTASKFORCE

### **BUDGET NARRATIVE NOTES**

Reporting Period 1 April 2015 to 31 July 2015

The Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force has a direct budget of \$66,000 for this fiscal year (1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016). The funds are managed through a flow-through agency - the United Way of Bruce Grey. An additional \$5,000 is managed by the Grey Bruce Health Unit.

The contribution of Bruce County (\$20,000) and Grey County (\$20,000) has given the project a base to leverage additional funding: Bridges Action Group education and training activities (\$8,000), Community Voices participation and strategic planning activities (\$3,000) and Above Standard Housing Project implementation (\$5,000). The United Way of Bruce Grey provides in-kind and financial/administrative support (\$10,000). Please see the attached Funding Portfolio and Pipeline for funding sources. We continue to seek support for several initiatives of our Action Groups.

As of 31 July 2015, we have expensed 35% of the \$20,000 funds received from each County respectively. 50% of costs have been allocated against each County budget. An expenditure of \$7,045.15 per budget leaves us with a remaining balance of \$12,954.85 for the fiscal year from each County budget.

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>50% charged</b>
Wages & Benefits	11,866.70	5,933.35
Equipment	919.83	459.92
Travel/Conference	1,047.31	523.66
Local Travel	80.00	40.00
Admin/Communications	176.44	88.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,170.45</b>	<b>7,045.15</b>

Expenditures are made up of the Poverty Task Force Coordinator's wages & benefits, travel, communications, photocopies, office supplies and the purchase of 1 laptop. The Coordinator participated in a National Poverty Summit in Ottawa in May 2015. The airline travel and registration expenditures were charged to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (funding closed 31 March 2015) and hotel/travel to and from airport/per diem in were charged to County budget.

**Program: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Action Plan**  
**Situation: Reporting Period 1 April 2015 - 28 August 2015**

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes -- Impact		
	Activities	Participation	Short	Medium	Long
<b>Finances</b>  Grey County, Bruce County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinator</li> <li>• PTF Meeting space</li> <li>• PTF Food</li> </ul> United Way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract Management</li> <li>• Admin Support</li> </ul> Action Group Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Above Standard Housing Project – Canadian Mortgage and Housing Assoc.</li> <li>• Bridges Action Group – Bruce Grey Child and Family Services</li> </ul>	<b>Short Term – Year 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Action Groups involved in activities and projects.</li> <li>• 20-25 members at regular PTF meetings</li> <li>• 3 Action Groups with 5-10 members meet monthly.</li> <li>• Bridges Action Group with 8 members meets bi-weekly.</li> <li>• 8-10 members in Community Voices meet monthly.</li> <li>• 3 Bridges Out of Poverty training for professionals held.</li> </ul> Action Groups Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income Security: Living Wage campaign</li> <li>• Housing: Above Standard Housing Action Group</li> <li>• Food Security: Grey Bruce Food Charter</li> <li>• Transportation: Rural Community Coordinated Transportation Project</li> <li>• Bridges: Steering Committee, training and Action Plan.</li> </ul>	<b>Governmental</b>  Grey County Bruce County Lower Tier Municipalities MPP/MP  <b>Service Providers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diverse sectors</li> </ul> <b>NGO and Activist Organizations</b>  <b>Community Advisors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting Ahead Grads</li> <li>• OW clients</li> <li>• Food Bank clients</li> <li>• ODSP clients</li> <li>• Community Voices</li> <li>• Bridges out of Poverty Steering Committee</li> <li>• Tenants</li> <li>• Landlords</li> </ul>  <b>Social Media</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New public website</li> <li>• New twitter account</li> <li>• Facebook page</li> </ul>	Action Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income Security: Living Wage campaign engaged with City of Owen Sound, Bruce and Grey Counties and recommendation set aside.</li> <li>• Housing: Above Standard Housing Project consultations completed, workshops scheduled in Oct 2015. Participation in RentSafe provincial project.</li> <li>• Food Security: Grey Bruce Food Charter endorsed by Grey County, GB Health Unit, OSDIA,</li> <li>• Transportation: Coordination Project is initiated with support from Action Group.</li> <li>• Bridges Action Group formalized, TOR completed, members attended training workshop and Action Plan developed to direct the Bridges Out of Poverty implementation, training and network within Grey Bruce.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Voices engaging with influencers. Strategic Planning session planned for Sept 4<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Continued invested participation of community partners within action groups.</li> <li>• Bridges Action Group implementing Action Plan and Training.</li> <li>• Housing: Solutions being identified and action to be taken on solutions recommended from Project in 2016 onwards.</li> <li>• Food Security: Grey Bruce Food Charter has been endorsed by Grey County and 1 lower tier municipalities. Other presentations and motions scheduled with Bruce County and 2 lower tier municipalities in Sept 2015.</li> </ul>	A Poverty Task Force which holistically addresses ongoing poverty related issues in Grey and Bruce Counties.  A shared informed understanding of poverty among a diverse group of partners to have a collective impact to create sustainable change  Common agenda items, shared measurements systems, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, back bone support organizations

**Assumptions**

Community stakeholders and service providers see the value of the Poverty Task Force and will invest time and resources towards its goals.

Website: <http://povertytaskforce.com>

Twitter: @BGTaskForce

Facebook: BruceGreyPovertyTaskForce

**External Factors**

Competing agendas and time commitments reduce level of participation.  
Funding is obtained to implement campaigns and projects by Action Groups.

28 August 2015



**Program: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Action Plan**

**Situation: Year 3**

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes -- Impact		
	Activities	Participation	Short	Medium	Long
<p><b>Finances</b></p> <p>Grey County, Bruce County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinator</li> <li>PTF Meeting space</li> <li>PTF Food</li> </ul> <p>United Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract Management</li> <li>Admin Support</li> </ul> <p>Action Group Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Above Standard Housing Project – Canadian Mortgage and Housing Assoc.</li> <li>Bridges Action Group – Bruce Grey Child and Family Services</li> </ul>	<p><b>Short Term – Year 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of Action Group activities and projects</li> <li># of attendees at meetings, PTF, action groups, forums, Community Voices.</li> <li># of Bridges trainings</li> </ul> <p>Action Groups Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income Security: Living Wage campaign</li> <li>Housing: Above Standard Housing Action Group</li> <li>Food Security: Grey Bruce Food Charter</li> <li>Transportation: Rural Community Coordinated Transportation Project</li> <li>Bridges: Steering Committee, training and Action Plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Governmental</b></p> <p>Grey County Bruce County Lower Tier Municipalities MPP/MP</p> <p><b>Service Providers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diverse sectors</li> </ul> <p><b>NGO and Activist Organizations</b></p> <p><b>Community Advisors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Getting Ahead Grads</li> <li>OW clients</li> <li>Food Bank clients</li> <li>ODSP clients</li> <li>Community Voices</li> <li>Bridges out of Poverty Steering Committee</li> <li>Tenants</li> <li>Landlords</li> </ul> <p>Website and Facebook page launched.</p>	<p>Action Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income Security: Living Wage campaign engaged with lower tier municipalities to investigate feasibility.</li> <li>Housing: Above Standard Housing Project consultations completed and solutions identified.</li> <li>Food Security: Grey Bruce Food Charter presented to all lower tier municipalities.</li> <li>Transportation: Project is initiated with support from Action Group. Action Plan developed.</li> <li>Bridges Action Group formatted and Action Plan developed to direct the Bridges Out of Poverty implementation, training and network within Grey Bruce.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Voices priorities key advisory role and engages with key agencies and government planning tables.</li> <li>Continued invested participation of community partners within action groups.</li> <li>Bridges Action Group implementing Action Plan and Training.</li> <li>Housing: Action being taken on solutions recommended from Project.</li> <li>Food Security: Grey Bruce Food Charter is endorsed by all lower tier municipalities.</li> </ul>	<p>A Poverty Task Force which holistically addresses ongoing poverty related issues in Grey and Bruce Counties.</p> <p>A shared informed understanding of poverty among a diverse group of partners to have a collective impact to create sustainable change</p> <p>Common agenda items, shared measurements systems, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, back bone support organizations</p>

**Assumptions**

Community stakeholders and service providers see the value of the Poverty Task Force and will invest time and resources towards its goals.

**External Factors**

Competing agendas and time commitments reduce level of participation. Funding is obtained to implement campaigns and projects by Action Groups.