



## **The Leeds and Grenville Poverty Reduction Alliance Supports Consultations on a Basic Income Pilot**

The Province of Ontario announced in its 2016 budget that it would explore a pilot to investigate the impact of a Basic Income. The Honourable Hugh Segal was asked to prepare a report on how such a pilot could be conducted. Mr. Segal delivered a discussion paper entitled, *'Finding a Better Way': A Basic Income Pilot Project for Ontario*.

A basic income is a guarantee that everyone has a reliable, adequate income, sufficient to be able to meet basic needs and to live with dignity regardless of work status. A basic income is intended to ensure that everyone has a decent standard of living and well-being.

The Honourable Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services and the Honourable Chris Ballard, Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy have organized public consultations across the province. The consultations started in November and will end on January 31, 2017. A final report on the feedback and a plan for the pilot is to be released by April 2017.

The Leeds and Grenville Poverty Alliance has organized two public consultations because there were no consultations scheduled in Leeds and Grenville by the province. The consultations will take place on January 16<sup>th</sup> in Cardinal and January 23<sup>rd</sup> in Brockville. All members of the public are welcome to attend and provide their feedback.

If you would like to attend one of the local consultations please call 613-342-3840 ext. 2122 or email [CSSadminservices@uclg.on.ca](mailto:CSSadminservices@uclg.on.ca)

**For those who cannot attend, feedback may be provided online at:**

<http://ontario.ca/form/basic-income-pilot-public-survey>

Mr. Segal recommended that feedback be sought about:

1. who should be eligible
2. which communities should be included
3. the design of the benefit
4. how it would be delivered
5. how it should be evaluated

*The Leeds and Grenville Poverty Reduction Alliance is comprised of a number of organizations including: Bartholomew Community Hub, Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, Employment and Education Centre, Every Kid In Our Community, Food Matters, Girls Inc., Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, Loaves and Fishes, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, Upper Canada District School Board, and Well Grounded Gardens. This group of organizations works to support the efforts of poverty reduction in our community. The purpose is to bring issues about poverty to the forefront in order to make systemic and programmatic changes.*

For more information on the Basic Income Pilot Project consultations, please contact Tammy Herbison at 1-613-342-3840 ext. 2122 or 1-800 267-8146 ext. 2122.