

From: Poverty Panel

Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 8:22 AM

Subject: Mayor's Advisory Panel on Poverty: community engagement

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What we're doing

Mayor Matt Brown has given his Mayor's Advisory Panel on Poverty a six-month mandate to develop recommendations regarding how our community can address poverty more effectively. In addition to being informed by research, we believe the recommendations must reflect the experiences, challenges, and aspirations of Londoners, and we need your help to make this happen.

Since the panel launch on September 16, we have been developing our engagement plan and speaking informally with partners and people with lived experience to gather an initial sense of London's collective approach to poverty. We recognize there is more to learn. On November 12, we will begin a month of listening to, learning about, and aggregating the community's collective understanding of gaps, barriers and solutions for poverty in London.

Our goal is to allow everyone who wants to contribute the opportunity to do so. We are therefore using multiple methods of engagement, including:

- Interactive community conversations at the launch and close of this engagement stage
 - o November 12, 4-6pm (Goodwill Industries)
 - o December 10, 4-6pm (Goodwill Industries)
- Online feedback through www.london.ca/povertypanel
- Delegations for those wishing to provide formal comment
 - o December 4 and December 9 – details to follow
- Partner-hosted conversations

How you can help

Many of you have already extended an offer to support the work of the panel. With appreciation, we'd like to take you up on your offer.

We are asking for your help with facilitating partner-hosted conversations. We know London's service providers and residents have deep expertise to share. We want to hear from everyone, and we believe these conversations are where we will reach that depth. *Specifically, we are asking if your organization can schedule, promote, host and document key findings of a conversation with:*

- *Residents with lived experience;*
- *Staff in your organization; or*
- *Partners in an inter-organizational network.*

We have heard the importance of going to places where residents with lived experience are already gathering and are comfortable; your organization's existing, trusted relationships with residents create these environments. By hosting conversations, you provide a direct and vital connection between the views of residents, professionals, and the Panel's recommendations to the Mayor.

At this point, we are asking you to identify and schedule conversations you are able to host in November and December. In advance of these meetings, we will provide you with a "conversation-in-a-box" that includes all the resources required to host the conversations, such as a facilitator's guide, background information documents, and submission forms. You will also be provided with a key contact for consultation, should you have any questions.

If you are able to host any conversation(s), please respond to this email identifying planned conversation dates, locations, and audiences (i.e. professionals or residents).

We will soon be releasing details on engagement opportunities and are asking for your help to distribute this information to partners and residents. We hope to be overwhelmed by the number of conversations. Panel members may not be able to attend all conversations, but will strive to attend as many conversations with residents with lived experience as possible, where invited.

We have been humbled and encouraged by the energy of the community and are looking forward to listening, learning, and gathering the collective voice of London on what needs to happen to make real change. With your help, we believe we can develop recommendations that do just that.

Thank you, and please look for more details soon.

Maureen Cassidy & Christopher Mackie
Co-chairs, Mayor's Advisory Panel on Poverty