

## ACCAC recommendations to the Mayor's Poverty Panel

The ACCAC would like to thank the Mayor's Poverty Panel for doing a great job in producing the draft report. We would like to recommend the panel consider the following points when finalizing their report:

- A. There are no recommendation to increase ODSP or ACSD. Often when OW or minimum wage increase without comparable increases in ODSP/ACSD, persons with disabilities (PWD) and their families end up further behind.
- B. Address the expense of obtaining a police record check for employment by persons in receipt of social assistance (OW, ODSP, ACSD, CPP, etc) to allow easier access to work.
- C. Increased supports in education are significantly needed for persons with developmental disabilities, mental health disabilities, and many other forms of disabilities. It is short-sighted to develop strategies that support only one portion of the PWD population in this regard.
- D. There is significant focus on indigenous population; almost to the neglect of other disproportionately impoverished populations, including persons with disabilities. If the 'short term' thinking that goes into finalizing these recommendations fails to mention PWD, it is unlikely any long-term change will occur. London's Anti-poverty Strategy: Literature review (April 17, 2008) found "Persons with disabilities in London comprise 26.9% of the low-income population". If PWDs account for over a quarter of people experiencing low income, why are only 6 recommendations related specifically to this population. By comparison, indigenous population comprised 3.4% yet are repeatedly focus of numerous specific recommendations. We do not think the panel intended to 'favour' or 'diminish' the value of any one group, but we do STRONGLY encourage the panel to focus more heavily on PWD with its recommendations.
- E. Maintain and promote the ACCAC Funding Guide for PWD in London (currently part of the 2016 ACCAC work plan, but may not be continued in the future if not planned for)
- F. Many CNIB card holders rely heavily on the subsidized transit. Be aware the elimination of the pass in favour of a new needs based plan will adversely impact many blind and low vision Londoners. That said, we strongly support a more widespread subsidy plan for transit and participated in a city committee that reviewed options.y

In conclusion, recommendations should speak to multiple barriers. Often times persons experiencing multiple forms of marginalization (age, gender, ability, race, language, etc) are not well served by existing programs focusing on one segment of the population; or are considered 'out of mandate' for a particular organization. These leave individuals and families struggling further for resources and supports and significantly increase chances for poverty. At a minimum the city should commit to reviewing, and where necessary, removing mandate barriers that could inadvertently prevent access to services.

Thank you for considering our recommendations and we look forward to the final report.