



Building Communities. Changing Lives.

April 13, 2016

**Bridges Out of Poverty
Action Group
Committee Members**

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Attention: Linda Rowe, Deputy City Clerk
Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee
City Hall
300 Dufferin Ave.
London, Ontario
N6A 4L9

To Whom It May Concern,

Bridges Out Of Poverty Action Group (BOOPAG) would like to extend our support for the recommendations put forward by the Mayor's Advisory Panel on Poverty. We believe that poverty has no place in our city, and we fully support the Panel's goal "for London to reach its full potential by ending poverty in one generation".

As a group which works at a grassroots level to address the systemic barriers which contribute to poverty, we would also like to commend the Panel on their extensive community consultation process. Eliminating poverty requires the whole community to rally together, and we would encourage those who are tasked with implementing these recommendations to fully engage with stakeholders at all levels.

BOOPAG is in support of initiatives like increasing advocacy and education campaigns to reduce stigma, enhancing supports for individuals with increased barriers to work, and establishing a Living Wage figure for London. Improving access to public transportation, through both accessibility efforts for persons with disabilities, as well as improving affordability for low income individuals, would also lead to significant improvements in quality of life and the ability to participate meaningfully in our community.

The elimination of poverty is a cause which cannot be delayed any longer. We are pleased that Deputy Mayor Maureen Cassidy is calling for unanimous support for these recommendations from City Council, and we encourage City Council to begin work as soon as possible to implement these recommendations. We have both an opportunity and an obligation to ensure that every Londoner is given the chance to get ahead. Our thanks to the Mayor's Advisory Panel on Poverty for completing this important first step, but we must all work to ensure the recommendations lead to meaningful and substantial change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Wendy Lau" and "Mary Ann McDowell" joined together.

Wendy Lau / Mary Ann McDowell
Co-Chairs