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## Irene Mathyssen

Member of Parliament for London-Fanshawe  
Critic for Veterans Affairs

London City Council  
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April 25, 2016

Dear Mayor Brown and Members of Council,

As a follow-up to the progressive work you have undertaken in striking a task force to implement the recommendations of “A London For All”, I would like to share with you the work that the Federal New Democratic Party of Canada has undertaken with poverty elimination as its goal.

On February 26 2016, my NDP Caucus colleague and Critic for Social Development, Brigitte Sansoucy, introduced Bill C-245: An Act concerning the development of a national poverty reduction strategy in Canada. We expect the Bill to come to the floor of the House of Commons for debate in about a year’s time.

In addition, the London-Fanshawe NDP riding association drafted and put forward a resolution at our recent convention in Edmonton to include a poverty reduction strategy based on Bill C-245 as part of the New Democratic Party of Canada’s federal platform. I am pleased to report that, with the support of 12 associations across the country, our resolution passed unanimously.

Bill C-245 outlines a strategy for poverty elimination that has the endorsement of progressive NGOs and citizens across the country and, while I am encouraged that the current government has included poverty reduction in its mandate letters to ministers, we recognize that the consequences of living in poverty are real and devastating and should not be allowed to continue a moment longer than need be.

This is the reason that the NDP is making poverty reduction and elimination a priority. I am proud to belong to both communities – the City of London and the NDP – working towards this goal and I confirm my commitment to working with City Council, Canada’s Parliament, and across party lines with my fellow London MPs to make this goal a reality.

In solidarity,

Irene Mathyssen, MP  
London-Fanshawe

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