

Dear Mayor Brown and Members of Council,

Taking action to reduce poverty is important to me personally, and to my fellow NDP MPs. On February 26th 2016, my colleague Brigitte Sansoucy tabled The Poverty Reduction Act ([C-245](#)), An Act concerning the development of a national poverty reduction strategy in Canada.

I know tackling poverty is an important issue for many Londoners, as we saw from the participation in the Mayor's Poverty Panel consultations and report earlier this year. As a council, you should be proud of the work our community has started in the effort to reduce poverty among Londoners.

This fall, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) will begin its study of poverty reduction strategies in Canada.

On June 13th, the following motion was been adopted by the Committee:

That the Committee conduct a study of poverty reduction strategies; that the study focus on improving the delivery of federal resources and services for the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy; that the study be based on four main areas:

- 1) Housing: studying affordable housing, housing strategies, homelessness, and Housing First initiatives, and other new and or innovative approaches,*
 - 2) Education and Training: studying school based poverty reduction strategies, access to higher education, skills training/re-training, English as a Second Language/French as a Second Language (ESL/FSL), apprenticeship, financial literacy, and other new and or innovative approaches,*
 - 3) Government administered savings and entitlement programs: studying Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs), Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSPs), Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs), Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSA), Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), studying the Seniors Price Index and Consumer Price Index as they relate to these programs, and other new and or innovative approaches,*
 - 4) Neighbourhoods: studying urban planning, infrastructure building as a poverty reduction strategy, accessible and affordable transit, and community support networks, and other new and or innovative approaches;*
- that within these areas the Committee emphasize studying vulnerable communities;*
- that the study also explore the impact of gender on poverty and poverty reduction strategies in Canada;*
- that the study pay close attention and focus on innovation in poverty reduction through collaboration between levels of government (federal, provincial or territorial, and municipal), social innovation, private sector and non-profit initiatives, and social financing;*
- that the Committee hear from witnesses for sixteen (16) meetings; and that the Government provide a response to the recommendations made by the Committee.*

It is important to me that the work we have already begun in London is shared with the HUMA committee members. That is the reason I am asking you as a council to consider making an official submission to the committee, whether by presenting to the committee in person or by submitting a brief. In my view, the committee would benefit greatly from a presentation of the report London has produced through the work of the Poverty Panel.

Organizations and individuals who wish to appear before the Committee may ask to do so by clicking [here](#). You may also present a brief to the Committee by clicking [here](#).

I hope you will also share your submission with me by email at: irene.mathysen.c1@parl.gc.ca

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you both locally and as part of a Pan-Canadian effort to, in the words of Jack Layton create "a Canada where no one is left behind".

Sincerely,

Irene

Irene Mathysen

Member of Parliament for London-Fanshawe | Députée pour London-Fanshawe
Veterans Critic / Porte-parole des Anciens combattants
NDP Deputy Whip / NPD whip adjoint
New Democratic Party | Nouveau Parti démocratique