

Community Forum on Poverty - It's Time for the Federal Government to Do Its Part

Thursday, March 17, 2011

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Ajax Council Chambers

Organized by:



END CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY IN CANADA

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY.CO  ABOLISSONS LA PAUVRETÉ.CO



FAMILY SERVICE TORONTO
For People. For Change.



CDCD
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL DURHAM

Organizers include:

- Community Development Council Durham (CDCD)
- Campaign 2000
- Make Poverty History

Moderated by

- Carol Goar



Tracey Vaughan-Barrett

- As Executive Director of Community Development Council Durham (CDCD), Tracey has dedicated her career to the enhancement of the social service sector and community engagement and development. She brings to the Durham community extensive experience from working with communities across Ontario in a wide variety of social services settings; and working with planning and advocacy organizations, grass roots community organizations, agencies of the voluntary sector, and academic institutions.
- Her role as a volunteer in a number of community agencies demonstrates her commitment to advancing issues of social justice and inclusion. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, the Board of Directors for the Social Planning Network of Ontario, the Steering Committee for the 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction, the Durham Economic Downturn Taskforce, Durham Continuing Education Community Advisory Board, and the Steering Committee for the Local Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council for Durham Region.



Ben Earle

- *As Manager of Community Development at CDCD*, Ben began his career in community development while studying at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. While working for the McMaster Students Union, he was responsible for the delivery and management of community outreach and engagement activities that helped build strong community university relations. Building on this experience, in 2004 Ben travelled to Belo Horizonte, Brazil to coordinate a community health study and planning project in one of the cities favela communities.
- Ben graduated in the spring of 2005 with a degree in applied medical anthropology. In September 2005, he joined the CDCD in the role of Social Research Coordinator, and in 2008 was promoted to his current role of Manager of Community Development. Ben has developed skills in facilitation, research, policy analysis, and program and service planning; and a strong knowledge base in poverty and poverty reduction, diversity and immigration, praxis research and community development practice. Currently Ben is enrolled in the Master of Arts Program in Criminology at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa. His research is focused on the political economy of crime and its intersection with diverse communities and the impact of poverty as a state crime.

Dennis Howlett, Make Poverty History

- Dennis is currently the Coordinator of Make Poverty History Canada which is campaigning for more and better aid, trade justice, cancelling the debt and ending child poverty in Canada. He also served as the chair of the Canadian 2010 G8 Civil Society Coalition which has launched the At the Table public engagement campaign.
- Prior to assuming the MPH Coordinator position in August of 2006 he was the Executive Director of the National Anti-Poverty Organization for two and a half years. While at NAPO he initiated a national campaign for making the minimum wage a living wage and for action on youth poverty.
- For over 30 years he worked for a number of ecumenical social justice coalitions including Ten Days for Global Justice and KAIROS where he led successful campaigns for cancellation of Third World debt, fair trade coffee, and ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change.



Laurel Rothman, Campaign 2000

Laurel is the National Coordinator at Campaign 2000 & Director of Social Reform at Family Service Toronto.

Campaign 2000 is a cross-Canada network of more than 120 partner organizations, working together to end child and family poverty in Canada.



Carol Goar, Toronto Star

- Carol Goar is a columnist at Toronto Star. Her mission is to shine a light on people and issues that society often overlooks. Poverty is one of those issues. So are homelessness, hunger, Canada's fraying safety nets and the widening gap between rich and poor. Her column is published three times a week.
- She has been a journalist for more than 30 years, working in Ottawa, Washington and Toronto.



Michael Creek, Voices from the Street

- Michael Creek is a coordinator of the Toronto Speakers Bureau; Voices from the Street, where he has learned research, public policy and public speaking. He is chair of the board with the Gerstein Crisis Centre. He is co-chair and one of the leaders with 25 in 5 poverty reduction network. He is a board member of Social Planning Toronto.
- Michael is a survivor of Cancer and physical and mental abuse, homelessness, poverty and is a psychiatric consumer/survivor. Poverty oppresses people and communities it was my unwanted companion and has caused more physical and emotional pain than any other illness, that I have gone thru in my life. Michael advocates by speaking out on the dangers that poverty inflicts on the health and well being to those in his communities.



AGENDA – A Community Forum on Poverty: It's time for the federal government to do its part

- **2:00** Opening Remarks
- **2:15** Carol Goar moderating – Remarks from Federal Party Reps – Mark Holland, MP (Liberal, Ajax-Pickering); Chris Alexander (Conservative candidate, Ajax-Pickering); Trish McAuliffe (NDP candidate, Whitby-Oshawa); Rebecca Harrison (Green Party candidate, Whitby-Oshawa)
- **Q & A**: Questions in writing submitted to the Moderator from the audience (both in-room and online)
- **3:30** Final Brief Statements from Party Reps
- **3:40** Next Steps for Durham Region - Online portion of the forum ends
- **4:00** Forum Ends

If you have further thoughts/ideas, email us at: liyugu@familyservicetoronto.org

Our panel includes -

- **Mark Holland, MP (Liberal, Ajax-Pickering)**
- **Chris Alexander (Conservative Party candidate, Ajax-Pickering)**
- **Trish McAuliffe (NDP candidate, Whitby-Oshawa)**
- **Rebecca Harrison, (Green Party candidate, Whitby-Oshawa)**

Mark Holland, MP (Lib. Ajax-Pickering)

- Mark has lived all his life in Ajax-Pickering, the community he represents as federal Member of Parliament. In addition to his role as the M.P. for Ajax-Pickering, Mark is Parliament's Official Opposition Critic for Public Safety and National Security. Prior to entering federal politics in 2004, Mark served on local and regional councils in Pickering and Durham.
- Mark has a strong record supporting the arts, including the Durham West Arts Centre. Top among his priorities is supporting business and employment in Durham.
- Mark is deeply concerned about community safety and reaching out to youth, including youth-at-risk, having co-founded the Youth Partnership Initiative with other community partners in public administration and faith-based organizations. He also spearheaded the Crime Prevention Council in Durham, bringing together Durham Police and the regional network of crime prevention groups to help victims and marginalized persons get the support they need and to make our neighbourhoods as safe as they can be.
- Mark is passionate about his family and enjoys spending time with his three children and wife Cindy Fournier-Holland. He is an avid reader, technophile, and adventure-racer.



Christopher Alexander, Conservative candidate in Ajax-Pickering

- **Christopher Alexander** was Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General in Afghanistan from December 2005 until May 2009. In this position he was responsible for political affairs, including elections, disarmament, governance, regional cooperation, rule of law and police reform, as well as cooperation with ISAF. He also contributed to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) – a five-year blueprint that serves as Afghanistan’s poverty reduction strategy. Prior to this assignment he served as Ambassador of Canada to Afghanistan from August 2003 until October 2005.
- Chris Alexander was selected in September 2009 to be the federal candidate for Ajax-Pickering for the Conservative Party of Canada. He is active on community, national and international issues.
- He grew up in Toronto, attending the University of Toronto Schools (UTS) from 1979 until 1985. He has recently moved back to Ajax with his wife Hedvig Christine Alexander and has a young daughter.



Trish McAuliffe, NDP candidate for Whitby-Oshawa

- 15 years experience in social justice advocacy; as an educator and in leadership roles within the Canadian Auto Workers Union
- Executive member on the local council of the Congress of Union Retirees
- Employed 27 yrs - General Motors Canada
- Currently studying and apprenticing in mediation/alternative conflict resolution; labour, community and restorative justice
- Completing a Labour Studies Certificate at McMaster University
- Facilitator in the CAW National Task Force on Canadian Politics in the 21st Century
- Volunteer - ISARC 2010 Social Audit; a faith community assessment of the status of poverty in Ontario
- & an active volunteer on various community anti-poverty initiatives.
- Married with two teenaged sons and resident of Whitby.



Rebecca Harrison, Green Party candidate in Whitby-Oshawa

REBECCA HARRISON is the nominated candidate for the Green Party of Canada in her home riding of Whitby-Oshawa. She is also the Poverty Elimination Critic on the Green Party's Shadow Cabinet. As such she is engaged in developing the party's various social policies with a specific focus on Guaranteed Annual Income.

Outside of her political life Rebecca is an advocate for social justice and women's issues. Rebecca speaks to youth on violence against women, and poverty elimination to help engage them in the shaping their communities. For her advocacy work towards poverty elimination Rebecca was recently appointed as a Champion with Canada Without Poverty.



Our thanks to -

- Town of Ajax
- CDCD & MPH
- Jonathan Perkins of the Leadwell Foundation in Calgary, host of the online-webinar portion
- Family Service Toronto
- Community Groups, Partners, Friends, Students, etc.
- Others



Q & A

- Please submit your question in writing to the online Moderator
- Given limited time, we'll try our best to answer as many questions as possible, and we thank you for your valuable input
- Email us if you have further thoughts or ideas at: liyugu@familyservicetoronto.org

For more info -

❖ www.campaign2000.ca

❖ www.makepovertyhistory.ca

❖ www.cdcd.org