Present were: Chair T. Galloway, L. Armstrong, J. Brewer, D. Craig, R. Deutschmann*, J. Haalboom*, B. Halloran, R. Kelterborn, G. Lorentz, C. Millar, J. Mitchell, K. Seiling, S. Strickland*, J. Wideman and C. Zehr

Members Absent: T. Cowan

OPENING REMARKS

T. Galloway provided opening remarks, advising that an additional public input meeting will be held on January 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. He stated that Regional Council will approve a final budget on January 15, 2014. He noted that some recent developments have provided good news for the budget and has provided some additional flexibility to the budget options.

DELEGATIONS

a) Lorna Hykawy and Melissa Webster, ALIV(e), provided a presentation to the Committee; a copy is appended to the original minutes. They gave an overview of the accomplishments of the organization and outlined the benefits and importance of maintaining discretionary benefits. They extended their appreciation to Regional staff for the assistance given to local residents in need.

b) Cindy Jefferson, YMCAs of Cambridge & Kitchener-Waterloo, addressed the Committee regarding Fee Subsidy for Childcare Families; she provided a presentation, which is appended to the original minutes. As a representative of the Child Care Network of Waterloo Region, she asked Regional Council to support option A of the report presented to Council, which includes full services. She shared her personal story and the benefits of the early-learning programs and the childcare subsidy for families in need.

c) David Marskell, CEO, THEMUSEUM, introduced Linda Fabi, Board Director, who gave a presentation to the Committee regarding Arts and Culture Funding; a copy of the presentation is appended to the original minutes. She outlined the programs and exhibits at the facility and provided an overview of the revenues and attendance statistics. She stated that the organization has worked very hard to keep a tight budget but is not yet sustainable and she requested that Regional Council not reduce funding. D. Marskell added that Regional funding represents 22% of THEMUSEUM's annual budget and that a 5% decrease would be $20,000.

d) Linda Terry, Executive Director, Social Planning Council of Cambridge & North Dumfries, gave a presentation about Discretionary Benefits; a copy is appended to the original minutes. She acknowledged the impact of provincial cuts to the Region’s discretionary benefits program and summarized the impact of reductions in 2013. She encouraged Regional Council to recognize that the unspent benefits in 2013 were due to restrictive
criteria and she asked that the Region put $1M back into the budget for discretionary benefits.

e) Lynn Macaulay, Homelessness & Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG), addressed the Committee regarding Discretionary Benefits. She highlighted the need to reduce homelessness and to collect data to better understand the needs in the community. She provided an overview of the current complex system, the need for eviction prevention and stated the need for greater accessibility. She requested that Regional Council maintain the $1M for discretionary benefits.

Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Commissioner, Social Services, responded to Committee questions regarding the 2013 eligibility criteria for discretionary benefits.

f) Brad Ullner and Barbara Spronk, Poverty Free Kitchener Waterloo Action Group, provided a presentation on Discretionary Benefits; a copy is appended to original minutes. They gave an overview of the goals and mandate of the group. They requested continued financial support from the Region, citing expanded medical coverage as a priority. They also noted their concern with system navigation, information gathering, accessible budget consultations and employment practices.

* R. Deutschmann left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

g) James Howe, Kitchener, stated that Regional staffing costs should be reviewed and he shared his support of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT); he offered suggestions for promoting transit use. He recommended that Regional Council reduce financial support for discretionary benefits over a span of several years, maintain rural transfer stations, maintain funding for arts and culture and, overall, not cut any Regional services.

h) John Neufeld, House of Friendship, addressed the Committee regarding Discretionary Benefits – Food Assistance, representing The Food Assistance Network of Waterloo Region (the Network). He acknowledged members of the Network in the audience and provided a presentation; a copy is appended to the original minutes. He summarized the increase in demand and the operating efficiencies that the House of Friendship has undertaken the past year to deal with financial restraints. He stated the need to stabilize discretionary benefits and he provided local statistics and benefits to the Region. He urged Regional Council not to decrease funding for food for those in need.

The Committee offered its appreciation to the Network for the work they do in the community.

i) Barbara Wallace, Volunteer, addressed the Committee regarding Joseph Schneider Haus. She thanked Regional Council for its support over the years and she gave an overview of the awards and accomplishments of the program. She urged Regional Council to extend funding for a curator.

* S. Strickland left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

j) Bruce and Irene Thurston, Friends of McDougall Cottage, provided a presentation regarding Arts and Culture Funding; a copy is appended to the original minutes. They expressed their concern that the curator position is being eliminated and summarized the benefit of reinstating this position.

* J. Haalboom left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.
k) Isabella Stefanescu, Chair, Region of Waterloo Arts Fund, addressed the Committee with regards to Arts and Culture Funding; a copy of her presentation is appended to the original minutes. She stated that the Arts Fund has supported more than 400 local projects since 2002, many of which are free to the public. She highlighted the financial return of funded projects and provided examples. She provided details about the impact of a 5% funding reduction and she encouraged Regional Council not to reduce funding to the Arts Fund.

* S. Strickland returned to the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

l) Goranka Vukelich, Cambridge, shared her concerns about any budget cuts affecting Childcare Subsidy. She shared the experiences of parents not having access to subsidy, highlighting her concerns about unregulated daycare and the benefits of quality daycare. She requested that Regional Council increase the Children’s Services operating budget to address the need.

m) Robert Milligan, New Dundee, addressed the Committee regarding LRT and the Regional Budget; a copy of his submission is appended to the original minutes. He summarized the synergist theory and outlined the benefits of a variety of energy technology options for the LRT. He stated that he supports the concept of light rail transit but would propose other means of running the system.

n) Sandra Hill, Cambridge, gave a presentation to the Committee regarding Waste Management Budget; a copy is appended to the original minutes. She expressed her concerns with a contract the Region is currently involved in and urged Regional Council to reevaluate the overall cost of the contract. She also advised that she wishes to appear as a delegation at the January 7, 2014 Budget Public Input session to speak to the issue of the program, Furnish the Future.

o) Kathleen Bissett, Waterloo, addressed the Committee regarding Joseph Schneider Haus; she is a participant and volunteer at the facility. She stated that the facility’s success is due to the dedication of the volunteers and the outstanding leadership. She urged Regional Council to hire a curator to maintain the reputation of the site.

p) Tim Mollison, TriTAG, indicated that he will defer his delegation to the January 7, 2014 Budget Public Input meeting, when he will speak on the issue of the 2014 Budget and Councillor Craig’s Motion to Defer RTMP Reserve Contribution for 2013.

CALL FOR DELEGATIONS

T. Galloway called for additional delegations but no one came forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

K. Seiling noted that declarations weren’t solicited at beginning of meeting. He declared a pecuniary interest with respect to any meeting discussion related to the Light Rapid Transit, due to two of his adult children who own residential properties within the proposed light rail transit corridor.
ADJOURN

MOVED by J. Brewer
SECONDED by B. Halloran

THAT the meeting adjourn at 9:01 p.m.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE CHAIR, T. Galloway

COMMITTEE CLERK, S. Natolochny
ALIV(e) (Awareness of Low Income Voices) is a collaborative group of individuals dedicated to bringing an active and positive voice for low-income individuals and families struggling with poverty in Waterloo Region.

www.alivecommunity.ca

www.thealiveblog.wordpress.com
2013 Highlights

• Advocate with Confidence training day
• Presentations at Laurier and Waterloo
• Community-university partnership

• Representation on:
  – Waterloo Region Food Roundtable; Healthy Communities Partnership
  – Employment and Income Support Community Advisory Committee (EISCAC)

• Trip to Queen’s Park
• New work plan
• Act as consultants
Discretionary Benefits

• Concerned with the potential 2014 budget cuts to these crucial benefits.

• Concerned that left over funding won’t be in the 2014 budget.

• Provincial cuts added pressure to Region’s budget
"...the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life; the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

~ Last Speech of Hubert H. Humphrey

"A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members."

~ Mahatma Ghandi
Positive Steps taken by the Region of Waterloo in 2013

Funded the 2013 shortfall.
The importance of discretionary benefits to people’s lives:

Lorna’s story
Our Request

That Regional Council:

1. Realize that the funding left over from 2013 doesn’t mean that the need isn’t there in the community.

2. Ask regional staff to monitor requests accepted and denied for discretionary benefits to better know what’s happening.

3. Keep funding the same amount as last year.
   - The $400,000 not spent last year could be carried over to 2014 and an additional $600,000 could be added to the benefit
Thank you!

2013 Sponsors & Funders
Region of Waterloo
Budget Input Meeting

Child Care Network of Waterloo Region
Change The First Five Years and You Change Everything

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbSp88PBe9E
Region of Waterloo Employee & Family Weekends!

December 14-15
December 21-22

Only $8+tax admission when you show your employee card or business card

13.09.20 – 14.01.05
SURFACE TENSION
THE FUTURE OF WATER

SURFACE TENSION brings together work by artists, designers, engineers and scientists to explore the future of water. Through 35 installations, it plays on water’s physical properties, its role in politics and economics and discusses ways it’s harnessed, cleaned and distributed.

THEMUSEUM.ca   DOWNTOWN KITCHENER
Good evening members of regional council and thank you for the opportunity to participate this evening. My name is Linda Terry and I am the Executive Director of the Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries. We are a nonprofit organization that is committed to high quality research on local issues and bringing together all facets of our community to work collaboratively to promote social change. This evening I would like to discuss our concerns with the staff’s proposal on funding for discretionary benefits available to families in need in our community.

I would like to start by acknowledging that you, as regional council, have been placed in a very difficult situation by the province in its decision last year to cancel the Community Start Up Benefit and cut funding for discretionary benefits. I would like to also applaud you for your leadership last year in providing transitional funding for this very important program. Not all regions were as fortunate, and your decision highlighted how committed this regional council is to building an inclusive community here in the Waterloo Region.

As you know, last year the provincial government introduced a cap on the discretionary benefits program that resulted in a $3.5 million dollar shortfall. At the same time the provincial government also cancelled the Community Start Up Benefit, known as CSUMB and partially replaced it with the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, known as CHPI. CSUMB was a benefit available to low income people to help them secure sustainable housing. It covered things like first and last month’s rent deposits, buying or replacing furniture, deposits for utilities, and overdue utility bills.

When CSUMB was cancelled and discretionary benefits were cut, you as a regional council responded by allotting an extra $1 million dollars to the discretionary benefits program in addition to $1 million dollars in base funding. This still left the discretionary benefits program with reduction of $2.5 million dollars. Staff responded to this shortfall by making a number of significant eligibility restrictions to the benefits offered under the program and also removed a number of items such as baby supplies, moving costs, and the purchase of furniture and mattresses. This resulted in the program being considerably underspent as the benefits became inaccessible to the vast majority of families in need.

When OW staff, recipients, and agencies were asked this summer why the discretionary benefits program has been so underspent they pointed to two main reasons:

First, recipients of social assistants were informed in late 2012 and early 2013 that benefits were no longer available. There was quite a bit of miscommunication between the cancellation of CSUMB and the changes to discretionary benefits and the community was under the impression that there were no benefits to apply for, so for the first part of the year there were very few benefits distributed. Even agencies that work day in and day out helping people navigate the system were unaware of what benefits were still available.
How were discretionary benefits changed?

When funding was reduced staff removed a number of benefits and significantly restricted the eligibility criteria and amounts for many of the benefits.

Benefits no longer available

- Mattresses
- Purchase of furniture
- Moving costs
- Baby supplies

"Moving expenses are important particularly when a person is accepted into subsidized housing. This can happen quickly so clients cannot plan for this expense..."

- OW Staff

Benefits with restricted access

- Mobility aids and orthotics ($100 deductible)
- Eviction prevention (require eviction notice, amounts at levels too low to resolve issues, not available if one needs to move due to unaffordable or unsafe unit)
- Food hamper amount is capped and does not reflect actual cost
- The Energy Assistance Program and CHPI were used to pay for late/connexion utilities fees. When these funds are exhausted, recipients will need to rely exclusively on the discretionary benefits program

"$400 for a single person for rent arrears is too low. Most people cannot even rent a room for this amount..."

- OW Staff

"Eligibility criteria are so restricted that hardly anyone qualifies.”

- OW Staff

What has been the impact of these changes?

- 72% of staff from community organizations indicated that the changes had an effect on people’s access to benefits
- OW staff have noted an increase in stress among recipients because they are no longer able to access needed benefits
- Recipients commented on the negative health, economic and social impact of not being able to access dental benefits
- The changes have more than likely contributed to increased use of shelters and food banks and caused a strain on local charities that are already operating at capacity
- The 2013 budget for discretionary benefits is estimated to be underspent by $400,000

"My worker told me I have to go to a shelter to get last month’s rent.”

- Recipient

Next steps

- Recognize that there were a number of factors impacting the use of discretionary benefits during this time of transition. The underuse of the benefit does not reflect actual levels of need in our community for discretionary benefits
- Maintain $2 million of regional funding to the discretionary benefits program
- Develop a mechanism to measure requests (granted and declined) for discretionary benefits
Proposed budget for Discretionary Benefits as published in Report: SS-13-039

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Actual</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental for adults</td>
<td>1,045</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>(145)</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food hampers</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision care for adults</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late payment/connections</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral costs</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>(77)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel/bus tickets</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthotics</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs/medical supplies</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreter services</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility aids</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing aids</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appliance repairs</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture/appliance purchase</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eviction prevention</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
<td>440</td>
<td></td>
<td>440</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency response</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of mattresses</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of documents</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total                                   | $2,878         | $4,467       | $1,599   | $3,500           |

Sources:

Social Planning Council
Of Cambridge & North Dumfries
Ken Seiling  
Regional Chair

Tom Galloway  
Regional Councillor  
Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee

Poverty Free Kitchener-Waterloo 2014 Budget Presentation

Since the Ontario Government made its commitment to create a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy and reform the social assistance system, Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo and its partners in the Poverty Free Kitchener Waterloo Action Group have hosted many consultation meetings, community conversations and public forums. From all of this has emerged the commitment to eliminate the conditions that create, or keep people in, poverty. From the local perspective, we are following through on a commitment to ensure an integrated system of supports1 that will accomplish the following:

- Engage our community at a grass roots level to mobilize and advocate for system change
- Contribute to public education campaigns to break the prejudice and stereotypes about poverty that are entrenched in policy making and service delivery
- Advise and lobby all orders of government against taking a counterproductive austerity approach, and continue to educate our political leaders about growing economic inequality and its impact on our community
- Work to disseminate information and help people navigate available support systems

---

Monitor the implementation of reforms and participate in local stakeholder advisory activities.

A major tool in this work is the Local Framework for Successful Poverty Reduction Outcomes. We have used this framework, developed out of our many community meetings, conversations and forums, in analyzing a number of initiatives that relate to poverty in our community, including the budget proposal of Regional Council for 2014. In applying the nine criteria that comprise the Framework to this proposal, we make the following points.

**First, the discretionary benefits.**

Given that the current Social Assistance rates are not adequate to ensure a healthy and dignified life, the amounts allocated to discretionary benefits must be increased to ensure that residents of our Region have access to basic necessities, including shelter, food hampers, and dental and health coverage.

We are asking you to keep the funding of discretionary benefits at the same level as the last year and to continue to lobby the province for the $1.5 million, while increasing the caps per person in the 2014 budget.

In addition, the list of funded discretionary benefits must be expanded to include other essential supports such as medication coverage, transportation, and bus tickets. Finally, eligibility criteria that are limiting access to discretionary benefits must be made more inclusive, specifically regarding housing and homelessness prevention and dental care.

**Second, the communication process.**

Every transition takes time, and we ask the Region to invest in improving communication and transparency regarding the availability of discretionary benefits and the eligibility criteria, so that the entire community knows what supports they can rely on. Equally, more funds are needed to support the work of community groups that can provide system navigation and individual advocacy for low-income people, so that we can make sure that everyone involved in the benefits system is treated with dignity and respect.
Third, information gathering.

Again, community organizations that work on behalf of low-income people can play a major role in information gathering together with the Region. We need to take full advantage of the information gathered to understand the need for supports and the use of the supports. Collecting data on non approved requests for discretionary benefits would systematically improve service delivery and has to happen on an ongoing basis with community partners and service recipients.

Fourth, the Budget Consultation being more accessible.

The Budget input process itself would benefit from finding more intentional and inclusive ways to gather feedback from community groups and individuals, beyond the two budget hearings. Community groups can provide a number of suggestions for making consultations less intimidating, and for making more people aware of the consultations and feeling they are welcome to take part. As it stands, the information provided is overly complex; by providing more accessible materials and focusing on public education, Council can realize greater and more meaningful public participation.

Finally, employment and labour practices.

We ask that Council adopt a policy of wherever possible employing people who are transitioning out of social assistance. This is not so much a budget issue as a policy issue that would contribute to poverty reduction.

Waterloo Region has been doing a commendable job to date of finding ways to combine supports and funding from different departments and orders of government to provide the best possible service delivery to its residents. This is the leadership we have come to expect from you, and we look forward to seeing it continue.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sproul and Brad Ullner
on behalf of Poverty Free Kitchener-Waterloo
Eliminate Poverty

Local Framework for Successful Poverty Reduction Outcomes

Criteria 1: Adequate assistance levels to support well-being and health

Criteria 2: Support to all low-income people and for a range of needs

Criteria 3: People are treated with dignity and respect in service delivery

Criteria 4: Greater accessibility to and navigation of the system

Criteria 5: Adequate Employment supports

Criteria 6: Fair labour market, practices and policies

Criteria 7: Integrated systems and appropriate investment by all orders of government

Criteria 8: Underlying assumptions and philosophy of system plans and reforms are not blaming or punitive

Criteria 9: There are accessible and meaningful ways to participate in the planning, decision making and assessment process

Share knowledge in the community to eliminate poverty

Assess policies and plans addressing poverty

Apply

Reflect

Act

---

Poverty Free Kitchener-Waterloo

Local Framework for Poverty Elimination

Region of Waterloo 2014 Budget Hearing
December 11th 2013
Our Commitment

• Engage our community at a grass roots level
  • Contribute to public education
  • Advise and lobby at all orders of government
• Work to disseminate information to help people navigate support systems
• Monitor the implementation of the poverty reduction strategies and plans

Region of Waterloo 2014 Budget Hearing
December 11th 2013
Local Framework for Successful Poverty Reduction Outcomes

Eliminate Poverty

Local Framework for Successful Poverty Reduction Outcomes

Criteria 1: Adequate assistance levels to support well-being and health

Criteria 2: Support to all low-income people and for a range of needs

Criteria 3: People are treated with dignity and respect in service delivery

Criteria 4: Greater accessibility to and navigation of the system

Criteria 5: Adequate Employment supports

Criteria 6: Fair labour market, practices and policies

Criteria 7: Integrated systems and appropriate investment by all orders of government

Criteria 8: Underlying assumptions and philosophy of system plans and reforms are not blaming or punitive

Criteria 9: There are accessible and meaningful ways to participate in the planning, decision making and assessment process

Share knowledge in the community to eliminate poverty

Assess policies and plans addressing poverty

Measure the impact of plans and policies addressing poverty

Reflected

Act
Region of Waterloo is doing a great job

- Providing the best possible service delivery
- Advocating before the Provincial Government
- Combining funding from different levels of government
1. Discretionary Benefits

Q3

Health care for all
dental, eyes, rehab, mental health

Housing 1st strategy
1. Discretionary Benefits

Current Social Assistance Rates are not adequate

- Amounts for discretionary benefits must be increased or kept at last year’s level
1. Discretionary Benefits

Current Social Assistance Rates are not adequate

- Amounts for discretionary benefits must be increased or kept at last year's level

- Investment is needed in housing and homelessness-related programs
1. Discretionary Benefits

Current Social Assistance Rates are not adequate

- Amounts for discretionary benefits must be increased or kept at last year’s level
  - Investment is needed in housing and homelessness-related programs
- The list of funded discretionary benefits must be expanded
2. System Navigation

Integration of Services.
Knowledge of Navigating The System.
2. System Navigation

Current Service Eligibility is not Transparent

- Investment is needed for improving communication regarding eligibility criteria
2. System Navigation

Current Service Eligibility is not Transparent

- Investment is needed for improving communication regarding eligibility criteria

- Funding is needed for community groups doing individual advocacy
3. Information Gathering

Annual Reportback with all sectors at table
- Non-partisan
- Regional could be C.H.C. B.P.C.
3. Information Gathering

Current Information Gathering is not Adequate

- Understanding the “need” in the community and the current “use” of services
3. Information Gathering

Current Information Gathering is not Adequate

- Understanding “need” in the community and the current “use” of services
- Collecting information about approved and non approved requests for benefits
3. Information Gathering

Current Information Gathering is not Adequate

- Understanding “need” in the community and the current “use” of services

- Collecting information about approved and non-approved requests for benefits

- Investing in a collective impact information sharing with community organizations
4. Accessible Budget Consultations

Increase engagement of those with lived experience - (more voices)

4. Create conditions that promote genuine citizen engagement:
   - Sharing stories and strategies
   - Creating awareness
   - Enhance inclusion
   - Those in poverty have genuine positions of influence
4. Accessible Budget Consultations

Current Public Input Hearings are not Inclusive

- Being more intentional gathering feedback from community members and groups
4. Accessible Budget Consultations

Current Public Input Hearings are not Inclusive

- Being more intentional gathering feedback from community members and groups
- Providing more accessible materials to gather input
5. Employment Practices

ENSURE LIVING WAGE
5. Employment Practices

Employing people transitioning from social services
Local Framework for Successful Poverty Reduction Outcomes

Eliminate Poverty
Local Framework for Successful Poverty Reduction Outcomes

Criteria 1: Adequate assistance levels to support well-being and health

Criteria 2: Support to all low-income people and for a range of needs

Criteria 3: People are treated with dignity and respect in service delivery

Criteria 4: Greater accessibility to and navigation of the system

Criteria 5: Adequate Employment supports

Criteria 6: Fair labour market, practices and policies

Criteria 7: Integrated systems and appropriate investment by all orders of government

Criteria 8: Underlying assumptions and philosophy of system plans and reforms are not blaming or punitive

Criteria 9: There are accessible and meaningful ways to participate in the planning, decision making and assessment process

Share knowledge in the community to eliminate poverty

Assess policies and plans addressing poverty

Measure the impact of plans and policies addressing poverty

Reflect

Act

Region of Waterloo 2014 Budget Hearing
December 11th 2013
Poverty Free
Kitchener-Waterloo
“Food is our common ground, our universal experience”

- James Beard
11% → 5%
2. FOOD BANKS COLLECT AND DISTRIBUTE FOOD
250 FOOD HAMPERS GIVEN OUT EVERY DAY IN 2012
ALL FOOD GROUPS EQUALLY REPRESENTED
1500 HOT MEALS SERVED EVERY DAY IN 2012
MEALS AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK
COMMUNITY NUTRITION WORKERS TEACHING HEALTHY EATING & FOOD BUDGETING SKILLS AT 16 LOCATIONS
17
COMMUNITY CENTRES WITH FOOD SECURITY SUPPORT
Farms Donating Regularly
93% of locations on GRT Path
553,000 people in Waterloo region

1 in 20 households are hungry
“We have the audacity to believe that people in Waterloo Region can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.”
MCDougall Cottage

Purpose:
-to preserve 1858 Scottish heritage structure, its designated interiors & context of setting; and
-to interpret site and partner with other Cambridge organizations to add value to the public cultural experience
Rationalizing Vacant Positions and Reducing Student Wages in Cultural Sites and Cultural Heritage 2014 Budget Impact $115,000

• The Cultural Sites Program Review (2013) recommended efficiencies that could be realized from a realignment of work done by staff at the cultural sites;
• subsequent vacant positions provide an opportunity to consider realignment and repurposing of positions.
Rationalizing the Vacant Position
Manager/curator of JHS and McD

• Small reduction in # of public offerings (programs events and exhibits)
• Small decrease in staff interaction with public at museums
• Small reduction in Cultural Heritage research initiatives
The Cultural Sites Program Review (2013)

- forty (40) recommendations
- recommended efficiencies that could be realized from a realignment of work done by staff at the cultural sites found in implementing improved business processes such as marketing, graphic design (avoiding duplicity), volunteer management and exhibit development.
The Cultural Sites Program Review (2013)

• recommended efficiencies be achieved through the work of the museums management team and specifically the manager/curator of JSH/MC included:
  – documentation of the exhibits development process;
  – implementing two key corporate priorities (dialogue with employees and encouraging employee contributions)
  – museum management regarding consultation with the public on exhibits;
  – marketing strategies (special note regarding McDougall Cottage);
  – volunteer utilization;
  – developing and expanding community partnerships;
  – development of a statement of purpose; and
  – development of long term and short term strategic plans for each cultural site including an accountability system to measure efficiency, effectiveness and risk management. (This accountability system is council’s feedback mechanism to ensure the cultural site is achieving their goals in an effective manner).
Implementing the Recommendations of the Cultural Sites Program Review

• Recognize the critical role of the curator in museum management as it relates to the heritage structure and site and its interpretation relevant to the resources and its clients; and

• Maintain investment in cultural sites through strategies that respond to public expectations and needs.
Adding value to the public cultural experience
Musician-in-Residence Program: one of the many marketing strategies

Musician-in-Residence (MIR) 2012- Magical Guitarist, BOB MACLEAN
MIR-2013-Fiddler, DAN MACDONALD
PAINT THE GRAND

Community Partnerships: engaging the arts community
The Wee Quilt Challenge
Engaging the community in the exhibit process
Employee priorities
Communicating with employees and encouraging their contributions
Encouraging Volunteer Commitment
Preserving the context of setting in the wee garden
Adding value to the public cultural experience

Nurturing our youth
Region of Waterloo Arts Fund

**Impact of $1.00**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>RWAF</th>
<th>Earned</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Sponsorships</th>
<th>In Kind</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>1.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>3.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: *Other* includes provincial, federal, foundation grants, and private donations, but not grants from other municipalities.

Numbers for 2012 are still coming in from the final reports.
Sue Sturdy’s
KNIT CamBRIDGE
CAFKA

CONTEMPORARY ART FORUM
KITCHENER AND AREA
Recordings

Evening and Morning: the Sixth Day
Timothy Lanigan, boy soprano

Hammer & Wind
Chamber Music of Leonard Innes

DaCapo
ShadowLand

STILL
2005: EinsteinFest at Waterloo's Perimeter Institute,
5% cut = $12,780

**IMPACT**

$12,780 + $12,780 \times 3.66 = $59,554

$46,774 is the return on $12,780 investment

$21,853 would be the amount lost in donations, foundation grants, and grants from non-municipal agencies.
Robert Milligan, New Dundee

The Region needs to do more with less resources to optimize budget. With such an approach, the LRT would function better for less tax$. To achieve this objective, a project delay is required because so many are clammering in these tough financial times for much less money to be spent and a much better way for to do it -- or scrap it!. A few relatively easy innovative technological adjustments to the approved LRT plan could make a world of difference in public opinion and in the related Regional budget. One adjustment -- proven-in-service by Siemens & CAF -- would be to have Bombardier install their energy-cost-reducing but safe lithium-ion battery (as doing in China) and their ultra-capacitor on our LRV. Then we could afford another adjustment, a very inexpensive (like Ottawa O-Train) LRT commuter corridor (like Portland exemplar) from Ainslie to Northfield on historic rail route so as to attract more full-fare commuters. A third adjustment would be to have the LRT intensification corridors run in the road's curb lane freely with traffic (like Portland exemplar) with stations used in peak and with bus stops also used in off-peak (so as to better intensify very inexpensively). A fourth adjustment suggested in order to be super-frugal, would be to have Kitchener's LRT intensification corridor shortened in the first stage using the CN spur line south from the Victoria Hub instead of proceeding along Charles and Ottawa Sts. to the Mill St. station.
• $10 MILLION DOLLAR PER YEAR CONTRACT TO COLLECT GARBAGE, RECYCLING YARD WASTE AND CHRISTMAS TREES IN THE TRI-CITY ONLY. THIS IS $27,000 PER DAY /365DAYS PLUS BONUS DIESEL DISCOUNT & 7 YEAR CONTRACT DOES NOT EXPIRY TILL MARCH 2016

• *BUSINESS RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN CONTRACT*

• THIS TENDER WAS ACCEPTED IN NOV 2007 WHY DID THE REGION RUSH IN ACCEPTING TENDER - REGION SHOULD HAVE LOOKED AT OTHER OPTIONS $10 MILLION DOLLARS PER YR – 7 YR CONTRACT IN A RECESSION SHOULD HAVE BEEN A WAKE-UP CALL. THIS REGIONAL WASTE CONTRACT IS PROBLEMATIC LOSING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS PER YEAR.

• WHY WOULD THE REGION SPEND TAXPAYERS MONEY ON ADVERTISING SIGNAGE – RE::REGION LOGO ON THIRD PARTY VEHICLES COULD LEAD TO A LIABILITY RISK AND THIS COST TAXPAYERS?

• WHY WOULD THERE BE A BRIBERY CLAUSE IN THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THIRD PARTY AND MEMBER OR OFFICER OF THE REGION?

REGIONAL WASTE CONTRACT 2009

- REGION HAS DENIED SANDRA HILL A COPY OF THE FINAL CONTRACT BETWEEN REGION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT WHY?

- WASTE MANAGEMENT A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR NORTH AMERICAN COMPANY OPENED A RECYCLING PLANT 2012 SHIPPING INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTE BY TRUCK OUT OF THE REGION

- THE REGION NEEDS TO BE TRANSPARENT AND TELL THE TAXPAYERS THIS HAS AFFECTED THE REVENUES – TIPPING FEES WITH A HUGH LOSS OF REVENUES - THE RESULT THE REGIONAL OFFICIALS WANT TO BLAME THE TAXPAYERS WITH INCREASES IN PROPERTY TAXES

- IT IS IMPERATIVE TO THE TAXPAYERS OF THIS REGION THAT YOU REVISIT THE REGIONAL RESIDENTIAL WASTE CONTRACT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT – THE FACT THAT WASTE MANAGEMENT DEVIERTED COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL WASTE RECYCLABLES FROM THE REGION LANFILL SITE MAYBE PERHAPS A BREACH OF CONTRACT.

- THE IMPACT OF REVENUES WHERE DIVERTED.

- TO REDUCE THE DEVIRESION OF WASTE FROM THE REGIONAL LANFILL IS PROBLEMATIC AND THE LOSSES WILL ONLY GET WORSE.
• THE REGION TOOK THE RISK WITH TAXPAYERS MONEY OFFERING A DISCOUNT DIESEL FUEL PRICE. THE REGION IS NOT IN THE DIESEL FUEL BUSINESS

• THE REGIONAL CONTRACT ALSO GAVE WASTE MANAGEMENT A HUGE DISCOUNT ON DIESEL FUEL – SAMPLE REGION PAYS $1.10 PER LITRE – REGION REBATE WASTE MANAGEMENT $1.10 - $.50CENTS = $.60 WASTE MANAGEMENT RECEIVES THEREFORE REGIONS LOSS IS $.60CENTS A LITRE FOR DIESEL FUEL WITH SUNCOR BASED ON APPROX. SAMPLE REGION USED 1,200,000 LITRES PER YEAR

• THE TAXPAYERS WHAT FULL DISCLOSURE ON DIESEL FUEL LOSSES/PROFITS

• HOW MUCH DID THE REGION PAY WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR DIESEL FUEL YEARS 2009-2013 SINCE DIESEL FUEL PRICES HAVE ONLY INCREASED OVER THESE YEARS WHICH AGAIN HAS COST THE TAXPAYER IN THE END
WASTE CONTRACTOS REGION LOSSES

• 2009 – EXPENSES $20 MILLION INCOME $20 MILLION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 5.6 MILLION TRANSFER FROM CAPITAL OPERATING NO IMPACT TO TAXPAYER

• 2010 – EXPENSES $39 MILLION INCOME $15 MILLION WITH A LOSS OF $24 MILLION – PROPERTY TAXES INCREASED $91.23

• 2011 – EXPENSES $42.5 MILLION INCOME $17 MILLION WITH A LOSS OF $25 MILLION – PROPERTY TAXES INCREASED $106.04

• 2012 – EXPENSES $44.5 MILLION INCOME $16 MILLION WITH A LOSS OF $28 MILLION – PROPERTY TAXES INCREASED $109.00

• 2013 – EXPENSES $45.5 MILLION INCOME $13 MILLION WITH A LOSS OF 32.5 MILLION – PROPERTY TAXES INCREASED $126.00  TOTAL COST TO TAXPAYERS $432.00 FROM 2010-13
THE GOLDER REPORT - 2013

- How much did this report cost taxpayers - $429,000.00 in 2013 to complete an evaluation on waste reduction and diversion opportunities

- Region got into the e-waste business losing thousands of dollars when a program furnish the future who is an certified OES ELECTRONIC DEPOT at 420 PINEBUSH RD CAMBRIDGE – GOLDER REPORT STATES REGION SHOULD NOT BE IN THE BUSINESS OF E-WASTE TO PARTNER WITH OTHER PROGRAMS IN THE REGION

- The region needs to acknowledge furnish the future since the city of Cambridge mayor craig denied the program an opportunity to operate – charging her $20,000 per year property taxes is unethical as a elected official in our region

- I am very disappointed in the mayor of Cambridge and regional councillors representing Cambridge. They should have recommended to region council that Sandra hill from furnish the future should have an opportunity to speak about the program. Even if mayor craig would have suggested furnish the future applying for the region community environmental fund this would have brought insight to what the region needs to achieve to save taxpayer dollars. As per the Golder report!
THE GOLDER REPORT - 2013

- SANDRA HILL HAS A BACKGROUND IN WASTE SHE OWNED AND OPERATED A WASTE BUSINESS AND DID RECEIVE TENDER CONTRACTS FROM THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE FOR YEARS

- OVER 50% OF THE GOLDER REPORT THAT THE TAXPAYERS PAID FOR WAS ALREADY EFFECTIVELY RUNNING BY THE PUBLIC OF THE REGION OPERATING FURNISH THE FUTURE SINCE 2010

- BUT IN MONDAYS KW RECORD MAYOR CRAIG STATES HE WANTS TO PROTECT THE POOR. IF THIS WAS THE CASE WHY DID HE NOT ACKNOWLEDGE FURNISH THE FUTURE GIVING BACK TO THE LESS FORNUATE FOR FREE IN OUR REGION

- THE PUBLIC MUST DECIDE FURNISH THE FUTURE OUTCOME – FURNISH THE FUTURE WEBSITE KEEP FURNISH THE FUTURE ALIVE /CHANGE.ORG - PETITION IS FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK OUT

- FURNISH THE FUTURE HAS KEPT THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS OUT OF THE LANDFILL AND THE PUBLIC IS NOW BEING PUNISHED

- ONE GREAT EXAMPLE IS THOUSANDS OF MATTRESSES HAVE BEEN RECYCLED THROUGH THE COMMUNITY JUST AS THE GOLDER REPORT STATES THE REGION SHOULD BE PARTNERING WITH OTHER PROGRAMS IN THE REGION

- PARTNERSHIP AND PROMOTE FURNISH THE FUTURE SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED IN 2010 AND THE TAXPAYERS SHOULD NOT HAVE HAD TO PAY FOR THE GOLDER REPORT OF $429,000.00 THIS MONEY COULD HAVE HELPED FURNISH THE FUTURE AND OTHER PROGRAMS IN OUR REGION
FURNISH THE FUTURE BEST PRACTICES FOR WASTE RECYCLING IN OUR REGION MUST BE RECOGNIZED FOR ITS GREAT EFFORT

GOLDER REPORT STATES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PUBLIC AND PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY IS A GREAT INVESTMENT TO THE REGION - FURNISH THE FUTURE PROGRAM OPERATED BY THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHING YOUR WASTE REDUCTION AND DIVERSION IN THIS REGION SINCE 2010. THE PROGRAM MUST BE RECOGNIZED
REGION CAN NOT BLAME TAXPAYERS

• ENCLOSING – THE REGION NEEDS TO REVISIT THE PROBLEMATIC WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT THAT IS IN EFFECT TODAY – TAXPAYERS CAN NOT AFFORD AN INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES

• STOP YOUR BACKROOM APPROACH WITH SIGNING MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACTS, NEXT IN LINE IS THE LRT

• AND SUPPORT AND ACKNOWLEDGE FURNISH THE FUTURE – TOGETHER WE ALL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND SAVE THE REGIONAL TAXPAYERS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATE FROM MAYOR CRAIG

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge Extends Congratulations To

Furnish the Future

Environment Award – Excellence in Energy Cons.
2013 Business Excellence Awards

“Excellent firms don’t believe in excellence – only in constant improvement and constant change”.
– Tom Peters

Signed and Sealed
This 21st Day
Of March 2013

Mayor Doug Craig
420 PINEBUSH RD CAMBRIDGE ON
519-621-9053 SANDRA HILL
http://www.furnishthefuture.ca
MP GARY GOODYEAR CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENT IN CONSERVATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Congratulations

As the Member of Parliament for Cambridge,
I would like to extend my best wishes to

Furnish the Future

in honour of being nominated for the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce Bell Business Award

Environment Award - Excellence in Energy Cons.

March 2013

Gary Goodyear,
Member of Parliament
Cambridge/North Dumfries
E-WASTE DEPOT
420 PIÑEBUSH RD.

• CAMBRIDGE ON. 519-621-9053 – OES DEPOT
• ONTARIO ELECTRONIC STEWARDSHIP
Congratulations

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Cambridge, I would like to proudly recognize

Furnish the Future

In honour of your nomination for a Business Excellence Award, in the category of Excellence in Energy Conservation, celebrated on this, the twenty-second day of March, in the year two thousand and thirteen.

“This award is a representation of the hard work and dedication you have shown over the past year. Congratulations on your nomination and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.”

Dr. Rob Leone
Member of Provincial Parliament
Cambridge
FURNISH THE FUTURE DEPOT
HELPING A FAMILY IN NEED REDUCE WASTE FROM REGION LANDFILL
LET’S GIVE EVERY CHILD A BED!
Donated over $50,000 of household items priced at garage sale prices
PROUD SUPPORTORS