



DUFFERIN
COUNTY
EQUITY
COLLABORATIVE

DCEC
Jan 16, 2023
meeting #12



In person
Public Health 180 Broadway
Orangeville

Land Acknowledgment

We would like to begin by respectfully acknowledging that Dufferin County resides within the traditional territory and ancestral lands of the Tionontati (Petun), Attawandaron (Neutral), Haudenosaunee (Six Nations), and Anishinaabe peoples.

We also acknowledge that various municipalities within the County of Dufferin reside within the treaty lands named under the Haldimand Deed of 1784 and two of the Williams Treaties of 1818: Treaty 18: the Nottawasaga Purchase, and Treaty 19: The Ajetance Treaty.

These traditional territories upon which we live and learn, are steeped in rich Indigenous history and traditions. It is with this statement that we declare to honour and respect the past and present connection of Indigenous peoples with this land, its waterways and resources.



Pronunciation Guide:

Tionontati – “Tee-oh-nahn-TAH-tee”

Attawandaron – “At-tah-wahn-da-ron”

Haudenosaunee – “ho-DEE-no-Sho-nee”

Anishinaabe – “ah-NISH-IH-nah-bay”



January 21 is Lincoln Alexander Day— established to honour and recognize the significant contributions of Canada’s first Black Member of Parliament, Cabinet minister, and Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Throughout his life, the Honourable Lincoln MacCauley Alexander exemplified what it meant to be of service to others, becoming a passionate advocate for the equality of Black Canadians and the advancement of education, race relations, and youth issues.

As a trailblazer, he broke down barriers to make this country a better place for all, and his lifetime of hard work was instrumental in shaping the diverse and inclusive Canada that exists today. He demonstrated a longstanding commitment to serving his community and country—and we’re better because of him.



Every resident of Dufferin County will have the opportunity to realize their potential.

AGENDA

- Update on the Landscape
- Spotlight updates from the work groups
- 2022 Report to Community



Update on the Landscape



Update on the Landscape from Anna's desk

Municipal News – new term of council now in the process of creating the County's new Strategic Plan. Consultation for the plan will involve elected officials, County staff and residents.



Provincial News –

- Ministry of Education (EDU) – more funding for the implementation of the National Child Care Strategy. By Sept 2023, all children between 0-6 years of age should get licensed childcare at cost of no more than \$10 a day. New funding includes one time funding for “Workforce Strategy” to support local childcare sector to retain and create more licenced spaces.
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) – no news on funding for April 2023 onwards.
- Ministry of Children Community and Social Services (MCCSS) – funding still frozen at 2018 rates for both offices who deliver the service, i.e. Service Managers and for clients. Ontario Works Regular assistance for a single person is still only \$733 for basic needs and shelter.



- **Federal News** – current funding from federal programming for Reaching Home (homelessness) unchanged for April 2023. New agreement expected for April 2024 onwards.



Local Tables

- **Community Safety Well-Being Plan** – Integration Table met at the end of 2022. Now work in ongoing with the consultant to bring the local municipalities more onboard. Presentation to all elected officials will happen on January 31, 2023 by the consultant.
- **Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team Ontario Health Central Region Equity Community of Practice Table** – new Collective Decision-Making Agreement. Presentation was given by the ED Tracy Coffin to County Council on January 12, 2023.
 - Ontario Health Central Region Equity Community of Practice Table – still early stages of establishing what equity would look like, what they need to do to get there and how to measure the success of the work.



Update on the Landscape from Heather's desk

- May 6th Bridges event, Saturday, Tony Rose (TBC) to attract more community members, those not as familiar
- Circles timing being worked out
- OFB up to record 1000 clients /month expected to reach 1400 by year end
- Food purchasing huge increases, especially milk and eggs
- Food Banks Canada decision that food banks no longer need to do Means testing, OFB did not do this



Work group spotlight updates on
Actions/Initiatives/Projects/Activities:

Employment

Health Equity

Housing and Homelessness

Partners with Lived Experience



GOAL: All members of the community will have equitable access to meaningful employment opportunities with the ability to achieve economic well-being

- Dream Dufferin skilled trades event – September 14, 2022
 - 30 businesses and over 1000 students and members of the public
- Career Education continues to get information into high schools through their Career Portal
 - Exploring return of school events to Dufferin in upcoming year
- Living wage calculations are now done at the Economic Region level by Ontario Living Wage Network
 - Dufferin-Guelph -Wellington-Waterloo is \$19.95
- Attempted a sessions for employers to discuss best practices for job postings – cancelled



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HEALTH EQUITY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Regrouped and increased membership (great representation from various sectors and organizations)
- Reviewed and updated 2022/23 Action Plan (previously 2019/2020 Action Plan)
- Revised new Health Equity Goal:
 - **All members of the community will have equitable access to resources for health and to receiving care that is person centered**



- Main focuses:
 - Two achievable goals were identified to raise awareness and capacity building for health equity in our community: food baskets, and access to period products. Two sub-groups have been created to address action items pertaining to each goal (i.e., increase access to food with a food basket program, pay-what-you-can pop-up food markets, period products made available (for free) at various community locations, educate public on both of these initiatives).
 - Survey DCEC membership regarding current state involvement in either of the above initiatives (what already exists?)



- Main Focuses Cont'd:
 - Connect with Partners with Lived Experience to gain insight and understanding of lived experience and what would help to lessen negative impact
 - Use existing data to increase our knowledge; present the data in a meaningful way (data obtained from Public Health, Dufferin County, Hills of Headwaters Ontario Health Team, etc.)
 - Raise awareness of the root cause of health equity issues (such as food insecurity, housing, transportation, access to primary care, etc.) by providing Bridges Workshops in the community, link to Bridges video for front line staff orientation, update Dufferin County Poverty facts poster for promotion



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HEALTH EQUITY

- Main Focuses Cont'd:
 - Identify and remove barriers to reduce health equity issues (i.e., insufficient number of physicians to support the community in tandem with the OHT Physician Recruitment Task Force)
 - Identify other priorities from existing data
 - Conduct a round table conversation of what barriers and gaps exist based on lived experience
- FINAL GOAL: utilize data and evidence to ensure evidence informed system and community planning = **SHARING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Key Actions and Initiatives:

1) Increase community awareness and understanding of:

- homelessness
- the lack of safe and affordable **housing in our community
- the impact these issues have on our community

2) Increase supply of safe and affordable housing

3) Increase access to safe and affordable housing

4) Increase initiatives to help obtain and maintain safe and affordable housing

Initiatives:

- 1) Recognized the need to expand our membership to be more representative and inclusive of diversity in our community
- 2) Ensure representation from all facets of the housing continuum
- 3) Recruitment campaign for new members
- 4) Community Engagement – Celebrate Your Awesome – June 18th
- 5) Orangeville Farmer’s Market



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5 Fast Facts about Housing & Homelessness in Dufferin County

1 Housing affordability exists on a continuum, not just at a specific price point. There is a range of housing needs in Dufferin County



Image: Ontario's Housing Continuum. Source: MMAH, *Municipal tools for affordable housing*, summer 2011

2 In 2021, **359** households applied to be on the wait list for community housing. This is a **32% increase** from 2020. The average wait time to be housed is 3-7 years



3 In 2021, Dufferin **reduced chronic homelessness** by **50%** and housed **41** individuals experiencing homelessness from the By-Name List



4 In 2021, **74%** of the total number of individuals identified as homeless on the By-Name List self disclosed as having mental health or addictions concerns



5 In 2020, **48%** of individuals agreed or strongly agreed that they had access to affordable housing options in Dufferin County





THESE ARE MY HOUSING CHALLENGES

- I cannot afford rent in my community.
- I cannot find safe accessible housing.
- I have been on the Housing Wait list for ___ years.
- I cannot afford to own a home with a full-time job.
- I cannot find affordable housing in my community.
- Other: _____

Please make affordable housing a priority.

I wish to be contacted:

Name/Address: _____

Town of Orangeville

ATTN: Town Council

87 Broadway
Orangeville, ON
L9W 1K1

Housing is a human right. There can be no fairness or justice in a society in which some live in homelessness, or in the shadow of that risk, while others cannot even imagine it. - Jordan Flaherty



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Are you looking to serve your community?

Join our Committee!

Dufferin County Equity Collaborative
Housing and Homelessness Working Group
is looking for new members

Are you a(n):

- Local landlord?
- Real Estate agent?
- Home builder/developer?
- Person with lived experience?
- Interested community member?



Committee meets on the last Thursday of every month
from 10-11am (subject to change)

Please send an expression of interest briefly outlining
why you would like to be a part of this important
work to: egoodyear@choicesyouthshelter.info
by Friday June 24, 2022

*We envision a community where all members
have access to safe and affordable housing.*



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HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Recruitment for new members - Received expressions of interest – met with those that were interested to share information. Of those in attendance – one candidate was selected.

Certified a staff member to deliver Rent Smart

Affordability:

Increased OPHI Housing Allowances from 54 to 66

Increased COHB – Housing Benefits from 25 to 49

Housing Stability Team (formerly Homeless Prevention Program)

- Realigned from the Housing Department into the Ontario Works Department reporting to the OW Supervisor and Manager
- 2 Community Service Workers
- 3 Housing Support Workers
- 1 Landlord Liaison
- 2 Outreach Workers provided by Family Transition Place

In the first 3 quarters of 2022 The Housing Stability Program (formerly Homeless Prevention Program) had 731 contacts resulting in the following:

- 268 Housing Stability Applications for rent or utility assistance
- 208 approved applications which provided \$169,736 in funding
- 64 Individuals with emergency motel stays
- 80 OESP or LEAP applications completed
- Provided 127 referrals to other community supports and services

Homelessness 2022

There were 138 households in Dufferin County identified in 2022 of which 33 were chronic

- 29 Youth
- 25 Family
- 84 Single Adults

There were 86 households housed of which 17 were chronic

The CATH Program assisted 48 individuals with transitional housing for a total of 3415 nights

Homeless Housing Allowances 2022

- Chronic Homeless Housing Allowance Program (CHHAP) assisted 15 households with \$105,241 in housing allowances
- Homeless Prevention Program Housing Allowance (HPP-HA) assisted 21 households with \$78,306 in housing allowances
- 4 homeless housing allowance household transferred to COHB and 1 household transitioned to a social housing unit



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PARTNERS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

- **PWLE Group is now meeting weekly now!** 7 individuals + facilitator (Siobhan)
- Group has begun working on
 - Telling their stories + recording experiences of receiving services/programs locally
 - Defining terms (example: what does community, equity, inclusion mean to people?)
 - Defining the group's name (The VOLE Collaborative?) and purpose (generated from the group, using "we" language):



1. Support of each other
2. Shift the perception of PWLE in the community
3. Consulting – we are sick of the “show” This is the main issue – People who live in poverty are talked about, have decisions made for them but we want to be at the table in an on-going consultation capacity on issues and programs in the community that impact PWLE
4. Creation of best-case practices (or framework) for working with PWLE which includes meeting people where they are at – and we see that as a working document



5. Highlight the value of PWLE and what they bring to their communities. What we do here also improves the community.
6. Look to other when needed to fill in the gap. For example, if we need more PWLE voices, our group will lead those discussions, surveys, etc.
7. We acknowledge that people who work in community mean well and want to do well but they don't really know what to do. We need to be on-going as a group and at the decision-making tables as consultants to do this work properly



Report to the Community

NEXT STEPS

Building our 2022 Report to Community

Next Check in April - date to be announced





DCEC.ca

ANNOUNCEMENT!

We have a url
DCEC.ca

It takes you directly
to the DCEC segment
of the DCMOVES
website

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It's always about the people. How people feel about something. What people believe is possible. What people need to understand, what they need to be assured of. For change to happen, it's always about the people.



CLOSE

Give ONE word describing what you need to: *Know; Feel; Be assured of ...* in order for us to create the DCEC vision that: *Every resident of Dufferin County will have the opportunity to realize their potential.*

*kindness; momentum; more energy; clarity; money;
a home; funding; voices of lived experience;
understanding; money; investment; valued; voices of
lived experience; compassion; possible*