



DCEC  
Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
meeting #11



**In person**  
Mel Lloyd meeting room -  
Shelburne

# 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”



## AGENDA

- Update on the Landscape
- Action Plan updates from the work groups
- Partners with Lived Experience presentation from Siobhan
- 2022 Report to Community



Update on the Landscape from Anna's desk

## **Municipal News**

- Elections are on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Local elections are important.
- Local municipal decisions do affect the local community.



## Provincial News

- Affordable Housing does seem to be a hot topic. No news on new funding yet.
- For Ontario Works Phase 6 sites (the last 12 remaining) will all move to centralised intake effective November 28th. Actual information/slides from that meeting then shared on October 5th. Important to note that clients can still go to local office in person to get service if they wish. Details from roll out still coming from the province.
- Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) – New programming where by September 2025 all children 0 to 6 will be eligible for licensed childcare at a cost of no more than \$10 a day. Responsibility for the development and roll out of the programme has landed heavily on the Service Managers, i.e., upper tier municipalities. Building the bridge as we walk on it. Ongoing tweaks still coming from Province.

## **Federal News**

- Affordable Housing does seem to be a hot topic. No news on any change in direction.
- It is worth noting that the local CAB have received more funding than ever before and that has gone to providing salaries for Housing Support Staff, Landlord Liaison staff and Crisis Outreach staff all to help the homeless population.
- Working to end homelessness not merely manage homelessness.
- Recognise that just getting someone into a house isn't always enough and the vulnerable population needs supports, to get and keep housing. Notwithstanding the real ongoing need for more affordable housing too.



## Local Tables

- **Community Safety Well-Being Plan** – the consultant is setting up meetings with the lower tiers to get local municipal involvement.
- **Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team** – New ED Tracy Coffin and admin support staff Briana Plester.  
**Ontario Health Central Region Equity Community of Practice Table** – new table comprised of members from local OHT's. First meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. This work will tie into the health side for DCEC.
- **Youth Climate Activation Circle (YCAC)** - Advisory Team meeting working on selection of youth circle members.



## Update on the Landscape from Heather's desk

- We would like to move ahead with Circles but will wait until after the election to pursue it
- There maybe a donor who would be interested in supporting the program and a two-year pilot project this will ensure there is enough time to collect data to secure its future
- Looking for a longer-term commitment to host the program after the funding is finished, typically the program lives with Ontario Works
- To get Circles up and running looking for interested individuals to sit on a time limited committee to build out the details – please contact Heather @ food bank. Understanding that we are all working on projects off the side of our desk, to be successful Circles needs a Coordinator which will be part of the funding ask
- Wellington Circles has closed down – Heather H to reach out to Ken Harvey and ask questions about their learning.
- Lambton County (Recent presenters for Bridges workshop) to share their learnings and the data they collected in support of the saving for County Social Services budget





# **Work group status updates on Actions/Initiatives/Projects/Activities:**



## 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

This work will be ongoing throughout the 2022-2023 term. Projects and activities underway in Q2 to increase community awareness and understanding include:

- a) Creating an engagement strategy
- b) Creating and distributing information to the community on a quarterly basis.
- c) Leveraging existing community events and gatherings to raise awareness of housing and homelessness issues



Key Actions and Initiatives:

2. Increased supply of safe and affordable housing

This work will be ongoing throughout the 2022-2023 term. Projects and activities underway in Q2 to increase supply of safe and affordable housing include:

- a) Engage local landlords
- b) Engage community partners
- c) Engage municipal planning department, housing developers
- d) Engage decision makers



HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Key Actions and Initiatives:

### 3. Increased access to safe and affordable housing

This work will be ongoing throughout the 2022-2023 term. Projects and activities underway in Q2 to increase access to safe and affordable housing include:

- a) Expand housing allowances and housing benefits offered in Dufferin County
- b) Leverage existing programs and partnerships
- c) Explore additional programs, partnerships and financial incentives
- d) Engage decision makers



### Key Actions and Initiatives:

#### 4. Increased initiatives to help obtain and maintain safe and affordable housing

This work will be ongoing throughout the 2022-2023 term. Projects and activities underway in Q2 to increase access to safe and affordable housing include:

- a) Expand existing programs and financial supports available
- b) Offer “Rent Smart” training on a regular basis in the community
- c) Leverage County of Dufferin’s Home Ownership and “Ontario Renovates”
- d) Engage decision makers



## **Outcomes:**

The Housing and Homelessness Working Group has made efforts to expand our membership to be more inclusive of the diverse needs of the community, as well as the needs of our residents across the housing continuum. A flyer has been created inviting new members to join the Working Group. The flyer has been shared on social media sites as appropriate and has been circulated to targeted groups such as: Local landlords, real estate agents, home builders, concerned citizens and those with lived experience.

Expanding our membership group is intended to have a positive impact on the following goals and activities in our work plan:

- Increasing community awareness and understanding of homelessness, lack of affordable housing, and impact on the community
- Increasing the supply of safe and affordable housing by engaging local landlords, community partners, municipal department, housing developers, decision makers



## Outcomes:

The Housing and Homelessness Working Group will have representation at an upcoming community event 'Celebrate Your Awesome'. This event will take place in the town of Orangeville on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.dufferincounty.ca/events/celebrate-your-awesome-0>

At this event, the following resources will be shared:

- Infographic/one page handout outlining local housing stats such as: average cost of rent in the area, local housing waitlist details etc.
- Housing Challenges postcards. Postcards will be handed out at the event as an interactive activity. Residents can use these postcards to share their thoughts about housing with the Town of Orangeville/County of Dufferin.

The Housing and Homelessness Working Group's involvement in this event is an additional step towards our community engagement strategy. The intention is that this is the first of several community events that are leveraged in order to help raise awareness of housing and homelessness issues in the community.

The 'Celebrate Your Awesome' event was well attended and a number of the Infographic and postcards were distributed. The infographic and postcards are also shared at the Farmers' Market. These initiatives are raising awareness of the housing and homelessness issues in the community.



**DUFFERIN  
COUNTY  
EQUITY  
COLLABORATIVE**

We look forward to updates from our other 2 working groups at the next check in



**EMPLOYMENT**



**HEALTH EQUITY**





**DUFFERIN  
COUNTY  
EQUITY  
COLLABORATIVE**



PARTNERS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE



Headwaters  
**Communities  
in Action**

*Making Life Better Together*



**United Way**  
Guelph Wellington  
Dufferin



**DCMOVES**  
Better together.

# Meet Siobhan

Siobhan Bonisteel has over a decade in the non-profit sector working in management, strategic visioning, and program development including managing a food bank and leading teams that have grown over 250,000 servings of food for those living in poverty.

PhD in Environmental Science at the University of Toronto. Siobhan has worked with many organizations and community groups to create meaningful community programming and initiatives of all kinds.



**SIOBHAN  
BONISTEEL**

PWLE Coordinator



**SIOBHAN  
BONISTEEL**

Team Information Forager

# Working Together To:

- ❖ improve our internal & external processes for working with those we serve in multiple ways
- ❖ develop a 'framework' or 'best practices tool kit' for doing our work better – **identify and develop the tools to work together in more meaningful ways!**
- ❖ This framework can be applied internally with a possible & eventual external application by partners/community overtime
- ❖ Can we answer the questions?: What needs to change in order for our work to have PWLE at the decision making table? How can we improve all our interactions by applying a new way (the “lens”) of working together? Can we identify and celebrate what is already working within our current approaches?



# FRAMEWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Partners with  
Lived Experience



# REVERSE ENGINEERING

*Where do we want to go? Know that, then work backwards*

*What is the best possible outcome we can create in:*

*1. How we interact*

*2. The services we provide*

*3. How we address systemic barriers*

What is the BEST way to engage with each other and how can that understanding be applied to our programs and other initiatives at our community level?





# how we begin to create our “lens”

## BUILD COMMUNITY VOICE

- The PWLE Advisory decides what is needed and what we create in order to meet desired outcomes. We are beginning with a set of possible engagement tools and action items to work with based on research
- Coordinator (Siobhan Bonisteel) facilitates group and conducts research per group’s directives
- Partner organizations and community is drawn on to inform direction & decision making process
- Possible survey & semi-structured interviews with target demographic

## CREATION OF FRAMEWORK

- Framework Charter & other terms of engagement
- Methodology (possible participatory & iterative process)



## FEEDBACK

- Go back to the community for feedback
- Member organizations are potentially asked to review the framework and come back with feedback
- Advisory group reviews & applies relevant feedback to framework
- Test/utilize framework

POSSIBLE  
FRAMEWORK CHARTER  
(rough draft idea)



Terms of reference, Mission, Vision. What is the purpose/objectives of the framework? How will it be applied and once applied what are the perceived measurable benefits?  
What is the approach (such as an intersectional approach to framework design)?  
Rooted in DCEC Priority Pillars

Methodology: Define the high-level frame work scope. What does it contain (TOC) and how were the contents gathered?  
\*Find links to DCEC 3 community priorities  
\*Lived Experience Leadership Team sets the direction

Details of stakeholders/partners/service receivers – who the framework is for and why

What are the potential barriers of application? What are the potential draw backs of the framework? How can they be mitigated in the future once applied?  
Research: Comparative Study

Framework budget, future funding prep, sustainability of the work (iterative process – how often is the framework evaluated once embedded within a program?)

# Participatory Research

What is the ***Change Agenda?*** Identifies what is happening that needs to change? Identifies the systems change & community-level change that is specific to the catchment area.

**How will the framework be based in participatory research?**

- 1. Rooted in the literature**
- 2. Built with PWLE advisory team**
- 3. Community feedback**



To impact policy, inclusion of the system actors in participatory modeling is essential. Model development must answer the questions posed by stakeholders to be relevant to those individuals who use the system and interact with it “in reality” (Prell et al., 2007).



# WHO IS AT THE TABLE?

PWLE

Advisory/Consult  
Team + Members

- PWLE work group made up of people with lived experience who represent the diversity of people impacted. WHO IS AT THE TABLE? (representing people impacted such as a gender focus and be representative of people of colour, Indigenous people, precariously housed, living/working on the streets, single moms/children, etc.)
- Member organizations get a chance to come back with feedback.
- Survey – for targeted demographic.
- Semi-Structured Interviews.
- <https://www.dufferinchange.ca/> DLEC – Dufferin Lived Experience Collaborative. Including leaders in our community already doing this important work



# timeline

PLANNING

**September/October 2022**

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CREATION OF  
ADVISORY  
COUNCIL

**End of October/November**

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IDENTIFY

**Identify elements needed for our engagement framework - November**

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DESIGN

**Building out the elements of the framework – December/January**

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FEEDBACK

**DCEC + partner consultation, framework review, framework final,  
future plan – February/March**

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# Summary

- ❖ We want to work together to develop better ways to serve
- ❖ We need Partners With Lived Experience to lead the way
- ❖ We have the coordinator and the funds to develop a vision/framework to improve how we do our work which has been wanted for some time now. ***We are so excited to move forward!***
- ❖ We have until the end of March to create something impactful and meaningful together – with the intention to apply what we know after March, and to extend the project if possible

**JOIN US!**



## NEXT STEPS

- ❖ Reach back to Siobhan to have a conversation about individuals who are a good fit – **REFERRALS!** Do you have existing lived experience networks & individuals to connect with us?
- ❖ Solidify our PWLE Leadership Team
- ❖ Begin working together towards a shared vision





DUFFERIN  
COUNTY  
EQUITY  
COLLABORATIVE



PARTNERS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

thank you

[livedexperience@dcmoves.org](mailto:livedexperience@dcmoves.org)

[sbonisteel@yahoo.ca](mailto:sbonisteel@yahoo.ca)





# Report to the Community

## NEXT STEPS

Building our 2022 Report to Community

- Work group input to be collected by Elaine  
Emails will follow

Next Check in to be announced

