

VOICES

Of Lived Experience Dufferin



VOICES of Lived Experience Dufferin



focus areas, we have developed our internal structure and guidelines. We are ready to offer our voice to DCEC members, we are ready to engage DCEC working groups with a focus on homelessness (more to come!)

Meet Siobhan



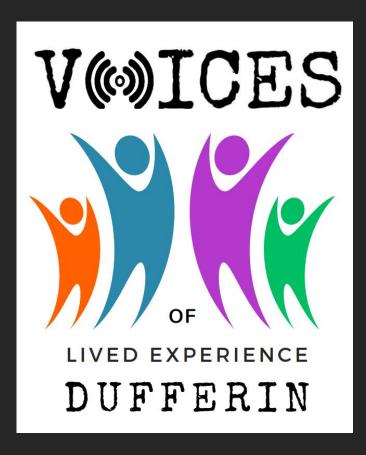
Siobhan Bonisteel has over a 15 years in the non-profit sector working on the grassroots level, in management, strategic visioning, and program development including managing a food bank and leading teams that have grown over 250,000 servings of food for those living in poverty.

Current PhD in Environmental Science at the University of Toronto. Siobhan has worked with many organizations and community groups to create meaningful community programming, strategic plans, and initiatives of all kinds with a goal to build community, end poverty, and support the environment.



SIOBHAN BONISTEEL

About

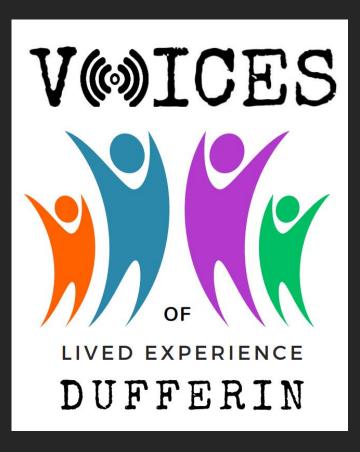


VOICES of Lived Experience Dufferin is an equity-based poverty advocacy group consisting of people with lived experience of poverty (PWLE).

It is supported by the DCEC and its members, as well as community partners including HCIA. In 2022, VOICES was established with the goal of increasing equity for people who live in poverty in Dufferin County by involving PWLE in community decision-making processes (Crawford et al., 2020; Staley & Abbey-Vital, 2019).

Research has shown that involving PWLE in such processes leads to more effective and relevant solutions to complex social problems (Raja, 2018), while also breaking down barriers and reducing stigma associated with poverty (Minkler, 2005).

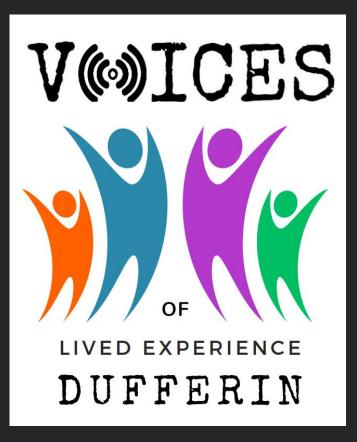
Areas of Focus



Our Current Focus:

- Group Health & Learning (we have participated in on-line workshops and diversity training to inform our work)
- **2. Consulting** Offering a Voice of Lived Experience
- 3. Development of a Framework of Tool Kit + Recommended Resources for organizations working with PWLE. This includes community survey for those experiencing homeless
- 4. Changing Perceptions of Poverty Community Learning & & Sharing Our Stories (Framework & Conversation Café)
- 5. Eventual sharing of our Internal Processes/Methodologies with Other PWLE Groups + Resources
- 6. **Support DCEC** Priority Pillars & Working Groups with consultations/collaborations

Connect



Consulting – Offering a Voice of Lived Experience

We work with our community of DCEC Members to provide feedback on initiatives, programs, organizational strategic planning, community issues, etc. that impact people who live in poverty in order to offer a lens of experience. Member organizations of DCEC can contact our coordinator with a request. Our coordinator brings the work to our group meetings, and we work to produce a report that answers your request. We act like an independent expert consultant group Organizations that we produce reports for are not obligated to apply feedback, although we hope our response is meaningful.

Approximately 12% of the population in Dufferin County lives in poverty, with rates highest in Orangeville and Shelburne, disproportionately impacting single-parent families, Indigenous peoples, and recent immigrants (Statistics Canada, 2016). Having meaningful feedback from this large percentage of the community is urgently needed to make a positive and lasting impact. We feel that our VOICES group is vital to the quality of programs and services for the vulnerable population of our community and is helping to lead the way for the community.

For consultation for VOICES you must by a member agency of DCEC.

Email questions and requests to: livedexperience@dcmoves.org