



United Way
Elgin Middlesex

LONDON FOR ALL

A ROADMAP TO END POVERTY



Changing Mindsets

1.6 Strengthen relationships and increase partnerships between municipal leaders, Indigenous peoples and community partners to create an Indigenous poverty strategy

London For All Summary of Actions:

March 2019

Luke Nicholas sent out an email to the following individuals requesting input in our work on LFA recommendation 1.6

Al Day, N'Amerind

Raymond Deleary, Atlohsa

Brian Dokis, SOAHAC

Bonnie Smith, SOAHAC

Jennifer Whiteye, Southern First Nations Secretariat

Dwayne Hill, LFA

Cherilyn Hill, Oneida Nation of the Thames

Chief Jason Henry, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation

Chief Jessica Hill, Oneida Nation of the Thames

Chief Mary Duckworth, Caldwell First Nation

Chief Roger Thomas, Munsee-Delaware Nation

Chief Myeengun Henry, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

April 2, 2019

Luke Nicholas hosted a conference call to discuss LFA recommendation 1.6

Luke Nicholas, Jennifer Whiteye, Al Day, Raymond Deleary, Bonnie Smith (on behalf of Brian Dokis), Roxanne Riddell

Discussion: What do we want to include in our presentation to municipal leaders:

- Current state of Indigenous poverty in the City of London
- Context – understand the effects of colonization and how it leads to the situation today
- Commitment to the Giwetashkad Project: Homelessness / Housing Plan
- Our Health Counts – SOAHAC

April 18, 2019

Roxanne presented on the work of LFA and specifically to recommendation 1.6 at the London District Chiefs Council and the Southern First Nations Secretariat Joint Board meeting

May 7, 2019

Luke Nicholas hosted a meeting at N'Amerind Friendship Centre (see notes attached)

June 25, 2019

Roxanne attended the London City Council meeting and requested Council representation to assist with LFA recommendation 1.6

June 26, 2019

Councillors Maureen Cassidy and Elizabeth Pelozza were appointed to participate in discussions on LFA recommendation 1.6

October 21, 2019

Meeting held at City Hall with Councillors Maureen Cassidy, Elizabeth Pelozza, Jennifer Whiteye and Roxanne (see notes attached)

October – December 2019

Requests sent to Adam Thompson, Manager, Government & External Relations, City of London (as per Councillors Cassidy & Pelozza's instructions) for information to proceed with a social gathering for members of London City Council and London & Area Indigenous Leaders.

December 31, 2019

City of London update received from Councillor Maureen Cassidy and shared with LFA recommendation 1.6 working group (see notes attached)

February 12, 2020

Meeting held at City Hall with Adam Thompson and Roxanne to discuss next steps on social gathering. Adam Thompson informed Roxanne that he was finalizing arrangements for Mayor Holder and members of City Council to meet with members of Chippewas of the Thames First Nation and Munsee-Delaware Nation and information would be provided. Adam did not yet have confirmation of Oneida Nation of the Thames representation.

We acknowledge that progress on this work has been quite slow. We continue to pursue our request for a social gathering.

Child Welfare's Journey Toward Reconciliation with Indigenous People

On July 6, 2017, the Ontario child welfare sector unanimously agreed to prioritize Reconciliation with Indigenous communities through eight key commitments.

Each Children's Aid Society has committed to:

- Reduce the number of Indigenous children in care.
- Reduce the number of legal files involving Indigenous children and families
- Increase the use of formal customary care agreements.
- Ensure Indigenous representation and involvement at the local Boards of Directors.
- Implement mandatory, regular Indigenous training for staff.
- Change the inter-agency protocol to include Jordan's Principle as a fundamental principle.
- In consultation with Indigenous communities, develop a unique agency-based plan to better address the needs of the children and families from those communities.
- Continue to develop relationships between their local agency and the local Indigenous communities.

The measuring and tracking of each of these commitments is being undertaken at a local and provincial level. Agencies are committed to reporting on outcomes in each of these areas.

The commitments made by the Ontario child welfare sector represent an acknowledgement that it must do better, be held accountable to results, and work in a framework that recognizes and supports Reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

These commitments are connected to the historical injustices perpetrated against First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities by the Canadian government and Provincial child welfare systems, including residential schools and the Sixties Scoop. These colonial legacies have resulted in community impairment, intergenerational trauma, and the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in child welfare.