

## Poverty Project Municipal Candidate Survey

This survey is part of a collaborative local and provincial project coordinated by the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health and administered by local partners, including the Middlesex-London Health Unit. The partners are working together to help raise awareness about poverty reduction and food access to help build and strengthen healthy, vibrant communities.

This survey is endorsed by the Poverty Research Centre, United Way London & Middlesex, and London Community Foundation.

**What is the purpose of the survey?** Poverty and decreased access to healthy foods are complex issues facing our community; there are many different possible solutions to help reduce the burden of poverty faced by many families, and we don't have all of the answers.

A review of the evidence was conducted by an independent consultant on municipal programs and policies related to poverty reduction. The purpose of this brief, 9-question survey is to provide you with an opportunity to share:

- Your opinions on the programs and policies identified in the review of the evidence;
- Your opinions on other programs and policies you feel would help reduce poverty and improve access to healthy foods in London; and
- Your thoughts and ideas with voters.

**How will findings be utilized?** Participation is voluntary. Your responses will be posted and shared with voters at [www.healthunit.com/hungry-for-action](http://www.healthunit.com/hungry-for-action). Your name will be attached to your responses without any commentary or analysis. If you choose not to complete the survey, your name will be listed with "no response".

If you are interested in additional information to inform your answers, we have posted the literature review background report, summary report and list of supplementary resources at [www.healthunit.com/hungry-for-action](http://www.healthunit.com/hungry-for-action).

Thank you for your participation.

## Survey Questions

1. How would you define poverty? Please select all that apply.

- Lacking the resources to meet one’s physical needs for survival (e.g., lacking shelter, food and clothing)
- Lacking the resources to fully participate in social and recreational opportunities in the community
- Lacking enough resources to be self-sufficient
- I don’t know
- Other (please specify):

2. What do you think are the 3 most important actions City Council can take to help reduce poverty in London?

3. In your opinion, rate each of the following on their responsibility to reduce poverty. Please select one response for each item below.

	No Responsibility	Some Responsibility	A Lot of Responsibility	Don't Know
Charitable Organizations and Not-for-Profits				
General Public <u>not</u> Living in Poverty				
General Public Living in Poverty				
Private Business				
Municipal Government				
Provincial Government				
Federal Government				

4. Based on the review of the evidence, there are a number of different roles municipal government could play in poverty reduction. Read each of the statements below and state whether or not you think London City Council should play that role.

Role of Municipal Government in Poverty Reduction	Yes	No	Don't Know
Attractor of new businesses to the City of London, including tax incentives and programs and policies that support new business growth			
Connector of organizations and partners from various sectors to work together on poverty reduction			
Exemplary employer, including implementing employment practices that reduce poverty and providing a living wage to internal staff and outsourced services			
Investor in community programs and processes that support poverty			

<b>Role of Municipal Government in Poverty Reduction</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
reduction			
Leader and champion for community based poverty reduction initiatives, including raising community awareness about poverty and advocating to the federal and provincial levels of government			
Provider of services that support local business development, job skills and training			
Provider of social services that help reduce poverty, such as child care, social assistance, arts and recreation			

5. Based on the review of the evidence, municipal governments across Canada are taking various steps to assist in poverty reduction including:

- **Affordable housing** strategies which identify the ways in which the municipality will assist with housing affordability
- **Affordable transit** programs and services to increase residents' ability to participate in employment, attend important medical and other appointments, and participate fully in community life
- **Affordable library** services to support literacy, skill building and access to technology
- **Food policy councils** to support a variety of community food initiatives and promote a healthy sustainable and accessible food system for all
- **Housing First Policy**, an approach to ending homelessness that involves giving people direct access to permanent housing, along with the services they need and want to maintain it
- **Sports, recreation and other leisure** activity access to promote inclusion and are associated with an enhanced quality of life through gaining new skills and improved physical and psychological well-being
- **Free income tax clinics** to help residents access the tax credits available to them

If elected, would you support the implementation of any of the following public policies and programs in London? Please select one response for each item below.

<b>Municipal Public Policies and Programs</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
Affordable housing strategy			
Affordable library services			
Affordable transit programs and services			
Food policy council			
Housing First Policy			
Discounted supplies for municipal recreation, arts and culture programs			
Discounted registration/admission for municipal recreation, arts and culture programs			

<b>Municipal Public Policies and Programs</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
Free income tax clinics			
Other (please specify):			
Other (please specify):			

6. London has an affordable housing reserve fund. The fund was developed to help create additional affordable housing units. How should the affordable housing reserve fund be used?
7. Nutrition-related diseases (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers) cost London and Ontario millions of dollars annually. Low income residents can't afford to eat a healthy diet, once housing and other essential bills are paid. What do you think London City Council could do to increase access to and availability of healthy foods?
8. Children in low-income families have significantly more psychosocial difficulties than other children, including more mental and physical health problems, academic troubles and behavioural issues. Quality early childhood interventions have been shown to improve performance in school, lessen the learning risks associated with low income and enhance parents' childrearing and coping skills.

If elected, would you support the implementation of any of the following initiatives in London? Please select one response for each item below.

<b>Early Years Public Policies and Programs</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
Advocacy to the Provincial and Federal levels of government for the development of supportive public policy			
Educating parents/caregivers about available subsidies and programs (e.g., tax benefits, Canada Learning Bond)			
Financial assistance for child care			
Funding of community programs and services that support early child development			
Leading and/or participating in the development of a community plan for children and youth			
Providing centralized intake to licensed child care centres			
Other (please specify):			
Other (please specify):			

9. Is there anything else that you would like to add? Please provide any additional comments, opinions or ideas that you would like to share.

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- Your opinions on the programs and policies identified in the review of the evidence;
- Your opinions on other programs and policies you feel would help reduce poverty and improve access to healthy foods in Middlesex County; and
- Your thoughts and ideas with voters.

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  - Lacking the resources to fully participate in social and recreational opportunities in the community
  - Lacking enough resources to be self-sufficient
  - I don’t know
  - Other (please specify):
  
2. What do you think are the 3 most important actions County Council can take to help reduce poverty in Middlesex County?
  
3. In your opinion, rate each of the following on their responsibility to reduce poverty. Please select one response for each item below.

	No Responsibility	Some Responsibility	A Lot of Responsibility	Don't Know
Charitable Organizations and Not-for-Profits				
General Public <u>not</u> Living in Poverty				
General Public Living in Poverty				
Private Business				
Municipal Government				
Provincial Government				
Federal Government				

4. Based on the review of the evidence, there are a number of different roles municipal government could play in poverty reduction. Read each of the statements below and state whether or not you think Middlesex County Council should play that role.

Role of Municipal Government in Poverty Reduction	Yes	No	Don't Know
Attractor of new businesses to Middlesex County, including tax incentives and programs and policies that support new business growth			
Connector of organizations and partners from various sectors to work together on poverty reduction			
Exemplary employer, including implementing employment practices			

<b>Role of Municipal Government in Poverty Reduction</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
that reduce poverty and providing a living wage to internal staff and outsourced services			
Investor in community programs and processes that support poverty reduction			
Leader and champion for community based poverty reduction initiatives, including raising community awareness about poverty and advocating to the federal and provincial levels of government			
Provider of services that support local business development, job skills and training			
Provider of social services that help reduce poverty, such as child care, social assistance, arts and recreation			

5. Based on the review of the evidence, municipal governments across Canada are taking various steps to assist in poverty reduction including:

- **Affordable housing** strategies which identify the ways in which the municipality will assist with housing affordability
- **Affordable transit** programs and services to increase residents' ability to participate in employment, attend important medical and other appointments, and participate fully in community life
- **Affordable library** services to support literacy, skill building and access to technology
- **Food charters** to provide statements of values, principles, and priorities that guide municipal food related planning, policy, and programs
- **Food policy councils** to support a variety of community food initiatives and promote a healthy sustainable and accessible food system for all
- **Housing First Policy**, an approach to ending homelessness that involves giving people direct access to permanent housing, along with the services they need and want to maintain it
- **Sports, recreation and other leisure** activity access to promote inclusion and are associated with an enhanced quality of life through gaining new skills and improved physical and psychological well-being
- **Free income tax clinics** to help residents access the tax credits available to them

If elected, would you support the implementation of any of the following public policies and programs in Middlesex County? Please select one response for each item below.

<b>Municipal Public Policies and Programs</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
Affordable housing strategy			
Affordable library services			
Affordable transit programs and services			

<b>Municipal Public Policies and Programs</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
Food charter			
Food policy council			
Housing First Policy			
Discounted supplies for municipal recreation, arts and culture programs			
Discounted registration/admission for municipal recreation, arts and culture programs			
Free income tax clinics			
Other (please specify):			
Other (please specify):			

6. Investments in affordable housing can translate into long term savings because people may be healthier, more ready for employment and better able to handle other challenges in their lives. How do you think Middlesex County Council should support the development of affordable, supportive and/or co-operative housing?
  
7. Nutrition-related diseases (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers) cost Middlesex County and Ontario millions of dollars annually. Low income residents can't afford to eat a healthy diet, once housing and other essential bills are paid. What do you think Middlesex County Council could do to increase access to and availability of healthy foods?
  
8. Children in low-income families have significantly more psychosocial difficulties than other children, including more mental and physical health problems, academic troubles and behavioural issues. Quality early childhood interventions have been shown to improve performance in school, lessen the learning risks associated with low income and enhance parents' childrearing and coping skills.

If elected, would you support the implementation of any of the following initiatives in Middlesex County? Please select one response for each item below.

<b>Early Years Public Policies and Programs</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
Advocacy to the Provincial and Federal levels of government for the development of supportive public policy			
Educating parents/caregivers about available subsidies and programs (e.g., tax benefits, Canada Learning Bond)			



Early Years Public Policies and Programs	Yes	No	Don't Know
Financial assistance for child care			
Funding of community programs and services that support early child development			
Leading and/or participating in the development of a community plan for children and youth			
Providing centralized intake to licensed child care centres			
Other (please specify):			
Other (please specify):			

9. Is there anything else that you would like to add? Please provide any additional comments, opinions or ideas that you would like to share.