



# Factsheet

A publication of  
Niagara Poverty Reduction Network

*“Working collectively to wipe out poverty in Niagara through information sharing, changing attitudes, and compelling Niagara citizens to get involved and take action.”*

## Four Things We Know About Poverty

### 1. Poverty is a complex problem with interlocking causes and effects. Solutions must also be interlocking, comprehensive, and preventive.

- There is not just one way into poverty and one way out of poverty
- As the demand for laborious jobs diminishes, there are fewer jobs for uneducated people, and many of those jobs do not pay a “living wage”
- Canada’s economy has produced “irregular jobs”, that is, jobs that are part-time, seasonal, or entirely insecure
- Parents cannot take jobs, seek work, or get education and training when they don’t have secure, affordable childcare
- Many public policy decisions negatively impact Canadians with the lowest income

### 2. We absolutely must address income to address poverty.

- Poverty isn’t only about income but it is always about income
- 78% of people in Niagara who live in poverty work full-time
- Single Ontario Works clients currently receive \$606 a month to cover shelter, food, and living costs. This is 66% below the poverty line

### 3. Poverty is an individual experience and the whole community’s problem.

- Poverty is a drain on hope, dignity, and possibility
- Poverty disproportionately affects certain populations including: lone female-led families, people with disabilities, visible minorities, new immigrants, Aboriginals, and unattached individuals
- The experience of poverty includes social exclusion, lack of power, stigma, less opportunity, high and constant stress, inadequate housing conditions, food insecurity, poor health
- “Poor bashing” is a form of discrimination against people living in poverty based on false stereotypes and derogatory terminology

### 4. Poverty comes with a price tag.

- The cost of the consequences of poverty in Niagara is estimated to be \$1.38 Billion per year
- This includes lost productivity, higher social costs, health care, and crime

*Adapted from “Four Things We Know About Poverty” Presentation by Alexa Briggs, Vibrant Communities, Calgary*

**For more information about the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network, go to [wipeoutpoverty.ca](http://wipeoutpoverty.ca)**