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**MEMORANDUM****COM-C 27-2021**

**Subject: Niagara Prosperity Initiative - Brock Report**  
**Date: September 14, 2021**  
**To: Public Health and Social Services Committee**  
**From: Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services**

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In 2018, Niagara Region's Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities (SAEO) division obtained funding of \$476,763 from the province's Local Poverty Reduction Fund (LPRF) for a three-year research project, focusing on a review of the Niagara Property Initiative (NPI). SAEO contracted with Brock University to complete the research.

Brock University completed their review of the Niagara Prosperity Initiative and the executive summary of the "Connecting the Pieces: An Evaluation of the Niagara Prosperity Initiative and Call for a Broader Poverty Reduction Strategy for Niagara" report was presented to the Public Health and Social Services Committee (PHSSC) in March 2021 ([COM 4-2021 Appendix A](#)).

A copy of the final "Connecting the Pieces: An Evaluation of the Niagara Prosperity Initiative and Call for a Broader Poverty Reduction Strategy for Niagara" can be found through this link, [Connecting the Pieces](#).

To support Niagara Region's future responses to poverty, SAEO staff are working with Clarico Group Inc. to use the results of the Brock study to:

- Gain an understanding of the Region's broader investments in poverty reduction;
- Propose an approach for the implementation of a broader poverty reduction strategy that would consider the investments into poverty reduction; and
- Propose to Council a new approach for NPI investments in the context of a broader poverty reduction strategy

Staff will present recommendations, including an approach for the future of NPI and a Niagara poverty reduction strategy to the Public Health and Social Services Committee

in October 2021, with the intent to implement Council-approved recommendations for NPI in 2022 ([COM 19-2021 Appendix 1](#)).

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Adrienne Jugley, MSW, RSW, CHE  
Commissioner