# Community Services Niagara Prosperity Initiative Path Forward

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## A Journey In/Out of Poverty



#### Interventions

Policy/Programs that PREVENT entering into poverty





#### **Resiliency Factors**

Education Better Health Living Wage Strong Social Networks





Poverty Line: 12.7 % of Niagara Residents Live below Poverty Line



30.3% of children Not developmentally Ready for grade 1



10.2 % Do not have Highschool Diploma



1 in 4 Indigenous People live in poverty

Life Journey (Health and Well-being for ALL)



#### Interventions

Policy/Programs that facilitate EXITING poverty





#### **Risk Factors**

Lack of Education Poor Health Disadvantaged Social Networks Systemic Racism, Inequity, and Discrimation.



#### Interventions

Policy/Programs that MINIMIZE exiting poverty



## Niagara Prosperity Initiative

- Established in 2008
- Supports poverty reduction and alleviation
- Over 90 organizations
- Over 400 neighbourhood-based projects
- Positively impacted families and individuals living in poverty





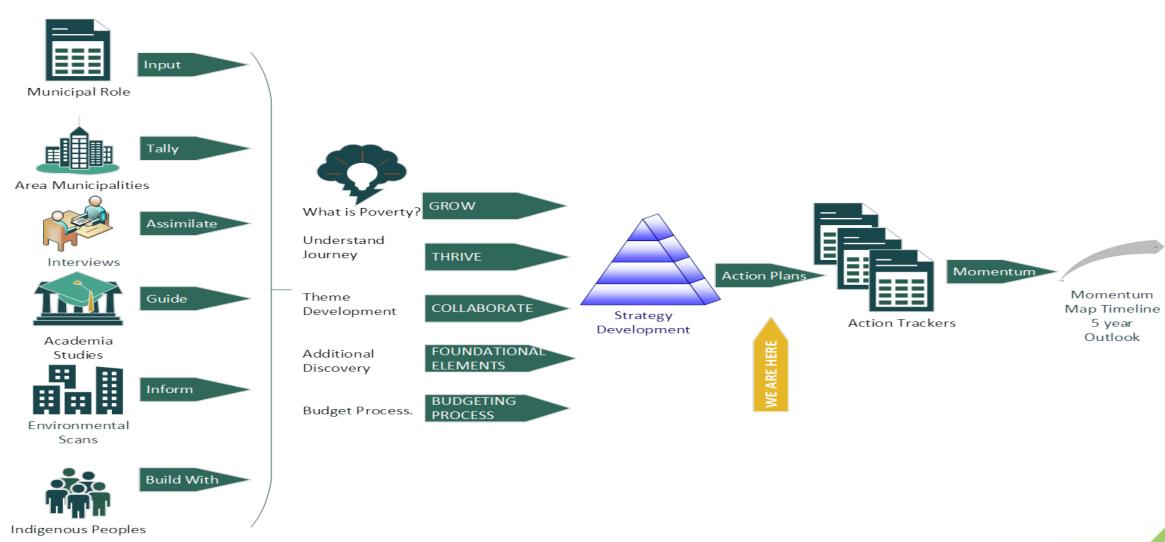
# Brock University proposed five recommendations to enhance Niagara Region's response to poverty:

- 1. Develop a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy
- 2. Increase investment
- 3. Offer longer term and more deliberate funding
- 4. Enhance research
- 5. Design services for social inclusion aligned with poverty reduction priorities.





## Strategic Development Methodology





# Path Forward to Building a Five Year Poverty Reduction Strategy – Actions #1 and #2



### Action #1

Develop a Niagara Region Poverty Reduction Strategy led by Niagara Region, Community Services, aligned with the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, and engage multiple stakeholders under a common agenda.

### Action #2

Establish a NPRS Steering Committee, including a Regional Councillor as Champion; also aligned with recommended actions in Niagara's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.



# Path Forward to Building a Five Year Poverty Reduction Strategy – Actions #3 and #4



### Action #3

Transition NPI in-house to Community Services to lead the development of a Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy informed by Brock University and Clarico Group Inc. recommendations.

### Action #4

Align the Request for Proposal Process with existing initiatives internal and external to the Region to make deliberate investments and provide longer funding terms.



# Path Forward to Building a Five Year Poverty Reduction Strategy – Action #5



### Action #5

To guide investments with enhanced research, and use data to inform decisions on poverty approach grounded in best practice.

## Thank You

