

Community Services Niagara Prosperity Initiative Path Forward

Public Health and Social Services Committee
October 12, 2021

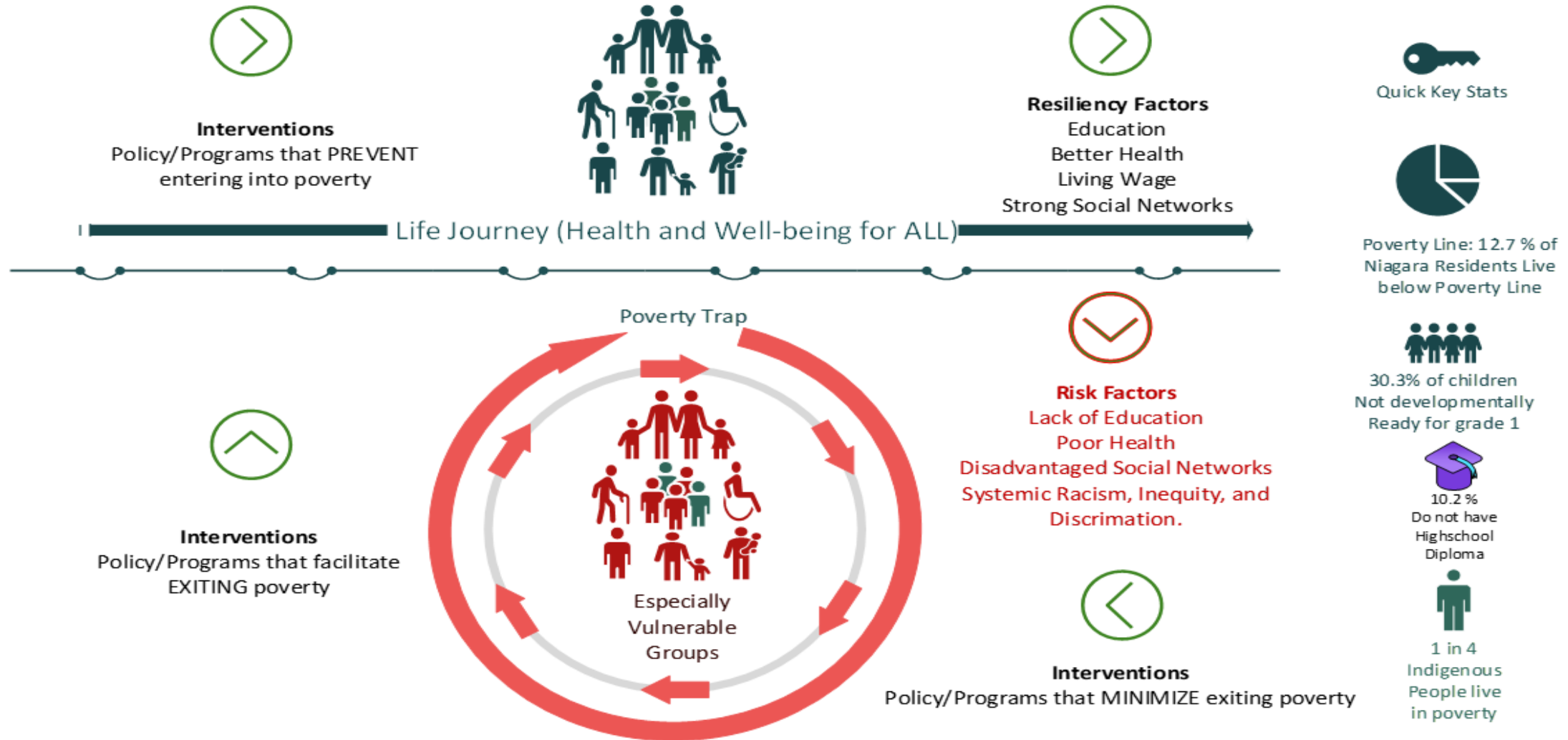
Lori Watson

Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

Marc Todd

Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

A Journey In/Out of Poverty



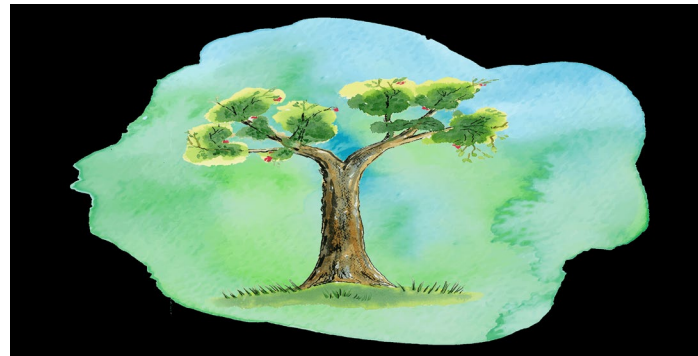
Niagara Prosperity Initiative

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

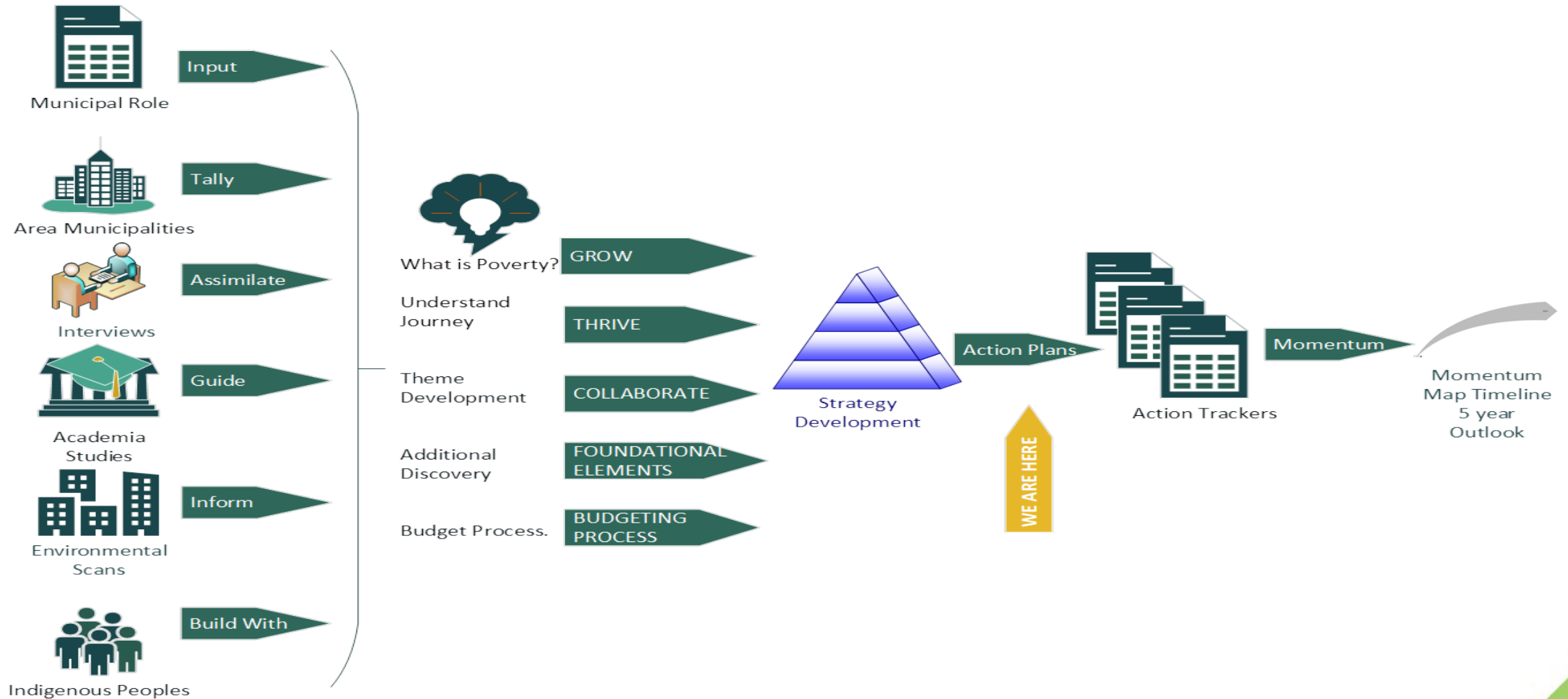


Brock University proposed five recommendations to enhance Niagara Region's response to poverty:

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