



**A Project of the Labour Council  
in Partnership with the United Way**

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Community Development and Recreation Committee  
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Poverty in Toronto is an undeniable reality and must be addressed in a manner that is comprehensive and inclusive. For several years Labour Community Services, a project of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, has been a contributing member of Alliance for a Poverty-free Toronto (APT).

In November 2013 APT released its report "Toward a Poverty Elimination Strategy for the City of Toronto", which was distributed to the mayor and all city councilors. The report calls for municipal level action on poverty and lays out realistic, comprehensive and inclusive approaches for action by the city of Toronto and other stakeholder including labour.

Labour Community Services applauds the request of the chair and members of the Community Development and Recreation Committee for city council to develop a strategy to address poverty. We urge council to approve this request and set in motion real actions that will benefit Torontonians who are confronted with making choices that sometimes pit keeping a roof over head against putting food on the table.

Speaking in London, England on February 3, 2005 at a Make Poverty History event; Nelson Mandela said: "Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings." As city councilors we implore you to act in the best interest of those in your wards who are most vulnerable to the impact of poverty and approve the motion before you.

Sharon Simpson

Special Projects  
Labour Community Services

Faduma Mohamed

Executive Director  
Labour Community Services