

City School Boards Advisory Committee

February 11, 2016

TS3.6

TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy
Schools and Collective Impact approach for:

- **Community Engagement**
- **Intergovernmental Partnerships**
- **Strategic Alignments**

Presented by:

Catherine Soplet, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group



About this presentation: Poverty Reduction 1/2

**Transmittal from City Council advises of role in
TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy
Schools and Collective Impact approach for:**

- **Community Engagement**
- **Intergovernmental Partnerships**
- **Strategic Alignments**

Canada's context of poverty and global refugees

- **200 years since 1816: Common Schools Act**

**Deputations in support of TO Prosperity –
Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy: Summary**



About this presentation: Collective Impact 2/2

What is Collective Impact ?

Five ASKs of this presentation

Presented by:

**Catherine Soplet, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group**



Transmittal from City Council advises of role in TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy

City-School Boards Advisory Committee consideration on February 11, 2016

TS3.6	ACTION			Ward:All
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TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy

Origin

(November 23, 2015) Letter from City Council

TS3.6



TRANSMITTAL FROM
CITY COUNCIL

TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy

Date:	November 23, 2015
To:	City-School Boards Advisory Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All Wards

City Council Decision

City Council on November 3 and 4, 2015, adopted Item EX9.5 on TO Prosperity – Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy.

City Council has forwarded TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy as outlined in Attachment A to the report (October 9, 2015) from the City Manager, the Deputy City Manager Cluster A, the Deputy City Manager Cluster B, and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, to the City-School Boards Advisory Committee for its consideration.



Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy: Distributed

City School Boards Advisory Committee

8. City Council forward TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy as outlined in Attachment A to the report (October 9, 2015) from the City Manager, the Deputy City Manager Cluster A, the Deputy City Manager Cluster B, and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, to the City-School Boards Advisory Committee, and the Board of Health, Toronto Library Board, Toronto Transit Commission Board, Toronto Police Services Board, and Toronto Community Housing Corporation Board for their consideration.

Ministries of Government of Ontario

10. City Council forward TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy to the Premier of Ontario; President of the Treasury Board and Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy; the Minister of Children and Youth Services; the Minister of Community and Social Services; the Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure; the Minister of Education; the Minister of Finance; the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; the Minister of Labour; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities; and the Minister of Transportation for consideration on program and funding alignments.

Ministries of Government of Canada

11. City Council forward TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy to the Prime Minister of Canada; the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada; the Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada; the Minister of Finance; the Minister of Industry; the Minister of State (Social Development); and the Minister of Health for consideration on program and funding alignments.



Canada's context of poverty and global refugees

- 200 years since 1816: Common Schools Act



**United Empire Loyalists'
Association of Canada**

The United Empire Loyalists were the first political refugees to come to the province we now call Ontario. They came with little in the way of material goods but with a strong resolve to settle where they could enjoy the law, order and good government they desired. Our province was built on these ideals.

**EGERTON RYERSON AND Education in Upper
Canada [copyright 1912, William Briggs]
J. HAROLD PUTMAN, B.A., D.Paed.,
Inspector of Public Schools, Ottawa, Ont.**

The Common or Parish Schools ... were the result of the legislation of 1816, a red-letter year in school affairs because it saw the first attempts in Upper Canada to give schools under public control to the common people.



Canada's context of poverty and global refugees

- Syrian refugee crisis today

The Economic Club Presents Syrian Refugee Resettlement: A Panel Discussion



Opening remarks by
Councillor Joe Mihevc



Joe Mihevc
@joemihevc



Following

Pleased to be sitting on this panel. #Refugee policy = migration and resettlement. What can we be doing better?

The Economic Club @ECofCanada

Friday: Our #refugee policy panel with @JohnMcCallumLPC @Michael_KC_Chan @joemihevc all proceeds go to @LifelineSyria tinyurl.com/j7nf3b7

RETWEETS

3

LIKES

2

11:43 AM - 10 Feb 2016



Canada's context of poverty for new immigrants: Axed funding widens gap to get jobs and credentials

June 2015

Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés
Canadian Council for Refugees

Home About Us Media Room The Issues Take Action Youth Network Donate Members

Letter concerning CIC settlement funding cuts

23 June 2015

The Honourable Chris Alexander P.C., M.P.
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
345 Laurier Street West
Ottawa, Ontario, N6A 1S1

Dear Minister:

I am writing on behalf of the many settlement sector member organizations regarding the recent communication and implementation for 2015-16.

While we understand that allocations will fluctuate by year and you can and should manage the allocations in a manner that is respectful towards and sensitive to the impact on the recipients served. Unfortunately, many of our members report being given little or no budget cuts, and being expected to implement these cuts within a received up to a year's notice, underlining marked inconsistencies.

We are particularly disappointed about the negative experiences of many organizations because of the Department's recent promises of improved communication and more meaningful partnership with the sector.

Some Ontario members reported that there was no advance communication, let alone consultation, about cuts ranging up to 25%. Some were required to close LINC classes for the summer, or to completely terminate certain CIC funded settlement programs. Colleagues in the Atlantic were left scrambling when they were given less than a month to implement a 17% budget reduction.

The last minute announcements in and left organizations feeling that affected staff, and especially client collaboration with the sector, and left disappointed. In this regard, we report on Grant and Contribution public purpose.

Some Ontario members reported that there was no advance communication, let alone consultation, about cuts ranging up to 25%. Some were required to close LINC classes for the summer, or to completely terminate certain CIC funded settlement programs. Colleagues in the Atlantic were left scrambling when they were given less than a month to implement a 17% budget reduction.

The last minute announcements indicated a lack of understanding of the realities of running an agency, and especially clients. The way the cuts were administered contradicts CIC's message of collaboration with the sector, and many organizations that consider themselves government partners felt disregarded. In this regard, we note the recommendation to government of the 2006 Blue Ribbon report on Grant and Contribution programs to: "Respect the recipients—they are partners in a shared public purpose."

Practically speaking, the lack of timely communication prevents organizations from planning, and creates crises with respect to human resources and the organization's legal and financial obligations. A last minute announcement of cuts makes it extremely difficult to ensure that staff severance, leases and other legal obligations can be met.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Lily Risk
President

CC: Colette Prince St-Amand, Director General, Integration Branch, CIC



thestar.com
GTA

News / GTA

Funding axed for Toronto immigrant agencies

At least 10 Greater Toronto immigrant service agencies are losing federal funding, and 35 others across Ontario face significant cuts.

Read this!

December 2010



ANDREW WALLACE / TORONTO STAR Order this photo
Staff at the South Asia Women's Centre at pose at their Landsdown Avenue office on Dec. 22, 2010. At least 10 Greater Toronto immigrant service agencies have been told by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, with up to 35 others

May 2014

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014

OTTAWA CITIZEN ESTABLISHED IN 1848

Literacy funding outrage

The federal government is abandoning us, groups across Canada say

MATTHEW PEARSON
OTTAWA — 2014

The federal government is being accused of quietly dismantling what literacy and essential skills training by cancelling some funding to community organizations providing literacy programs.

Ontario says the move risks destabilizing Canadian literacy while literacy skills and confidence.

The Conservative government is highlighting the need for better skills training, but appears to be abandoning the sector. The people least likely to find a job are those who need the most help to enter the job market.

Employment and Social Development Canada has new targets in being part of a new Canadian network aimed at improving the labour market outcomes of Canadians. The new network would have a wide range of investments and programs — and would reach all regions of the country, in both English and French.

The move by the new network would also represent a threat to program specific funding.

LITERACY IN AB

NEWS
POLITICS
RCMP probe into Colman; Inbook Harper, book says 43

TELEVISION
Ken Warren looks at 4 likely teams 131

BURGER TAKEOUT
3 new menus

CONTEXT

May 2014

Canada's context of poverty for youth in cities: Toronto moves to repair 2012 Summer of the Gun Youth Action Plan 2012-2013

Toronto Youth Equity Framework

Tracking Status

- This item was considered by [Community Development and Recreation Committee](#) on June 26, 2013 and was adopted with amendments. It will be considered by City Council on July 16, 2013.

Community Development and Recreation Committee consideration on June 26, 2013

CD22.8	ACTION	Amended		Ward:All
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Toronto Youth Equity Framework

Committee Recommendations

The Community Development and Recreation Committee recommends that:

- City Council approve the Framework for the development of a Toronto Youth Equity Strategy contained in Appendix 1 to the report (June 12, 2013) from the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration.
- City Council request the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, in consultation with the Chief of Police, the Medical Officer of Health,

2013



Toronto School Boards Task Force

Tracking Status

- This item was considered by [Executive Committee](#) on July 3, 2013. It is being forwarded to City Council without recommendations. It will be considered by City Council on July 16, 2013.

Executive Committee consideration on July 3, 2013

EX33.16	ACTION	Without Recs		Ward:All
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Establishment of a City of Toronto - Toronto School Boards Task Force

Committee Recommendations

The Executive Committee submits the item to City Council without recommendation.

Origin

(June 14, 2013) Report from the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

Summary

This report is an update on work towards the establishment of a City of Toronto - Toronto School Boards working group, as requested in Member Motion MM23.3. This report recommends establishment of a City of Toronto - Toronto School Boards Task Force composed of City of Toronto Councillors and Toronto-area School Boards Trustees

Transcript <http://ow.ly/n0Auf>
Parents Reaching Out Grants
TDSB - MSIC



Deputations and submissions in support of TO Prosperity – Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy

October 20, 2015

Catherine Soplet
@Soplet

Oct 20: @ReducePovertyTO deputation
ow.ly/TXAus
1 Keep #onted #PROgrant
2 Petition feds on 'lost' report

Catherine Soplet

A petition to fix #childpoverty via #elxn42
facebook.com/CitizenApprent...
#Campaign2000 #cdnimm #onpoli #topoli
#cdnpoli

Executive Committee consideration on October 20, 2015

EX9.5	ACTION			WORLD
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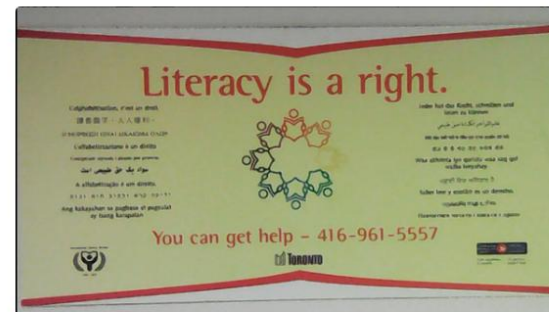
TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy

3:42 PM - 1 Nov 2015

February 9, 2016

Catherine Soplet
@Soplet

@JohnTory: #ONpoli+ #CDNpoli have a role in #TOprosperity
ASK is in: ow.ly/Ya1hy
#TObudget2016 #literacy



RETWEET
1

January 13, 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Budget Subcommittee - Etobicoke, North York and York Civic Centres Consultation	Minutes Published
Council Chamber, North York Civic Centre	Received
BW7.1 Public Presentations on the 2016 Capital and Operating Budgets at North York Civic Centre, January 13, 2016 - 3:00 p.m.	Received

Catherine Soplet, Resident of Mississauga
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods


Transcript of Deputation, from Video Recording: t= 43:20 - 47:30
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/video.do?id=11137//>
YouTube <https://youtu.be/yNEPOBv3lec>
TIMMS - Minutes: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.d?function=getMinutesReport&meetingId=11137>

Documents provided
to City Clerk Office




Inside: Submission to Ontario pre-budget sessions ASKs for #PROgrants, #SWIS and a youth tutor pilot

February 9, 2016

 **Catherine Soplet**
@Soplet

@JohnTory: #ONpoli+ #CDNpoli have a role in #TOprosperity
ASK is in: ow.ly/Ya1hy
#TObudget2016 #literacy




RETWEET
1

9:16 AM - 10 Feb 2016

Documents provided
to City Clerk Office




January 22, 2016

 **Catherine Soplet**
@Soplet

#BudgetTalks notes ow.ly/XBx8e presented
Jan 22'16 to @SousaCharles @MPPIndiraNH
#PROgrant #SDoH #cdnimm

#BudgetTalks 2016:
ASKs of @Ongov @OntMinFinance @OntarioEDU


1. Keep #PROgrant funded at existing levels.
Look to increase funding levels of #PROgrant.
2. Resource high-needs public schools to
Enable parent equity to access #PROgrant.
3. Fund \$75,000 to ignite Citizen Apprenticeship
youth tutor hub pilot in a public library, for 2017
4. Get increased funding from federal government
for Settlement Workers in schools and libraries, to
deliver #PMJTs tenet of building 'mainstream'
diversity and inclusion via public education. 

RETWEETS
3


3:28 PM - 27 Jan 2016

Inside: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau signals his federal views on the role of schools in diversity

February 9, 2016


 **Catherine Soplet**
@Soplet

@JohnTory: #ONpoli+ #CDNpoli have a role in #TOprosperity
ASK is in: ow.ly/Ya1hy
#TObudget2016 #literacy



Literacy is a right.

يمكن أن تحصل على المساعدة - 416-961-5557



January 21, 2016

 **Catherine Soplet**
@Soplet

@WEF: .@JustinTrudeau on the role of #publiced to promote #diversity and #inclusion
a.msn.com/09/en-ca/BBoxh...
#cdnimm



00:41 "The range of [cultural] experiences becomes the mainstream in Canada, and for me, that happens within our public schools."

Justin Trudeau on the role of education in promoting diversity

The prime minister says schools can help promote multiculturalism by making aspects of different cultures "mainstream." Justin Trudeau was responding to questions from young people at the World Economic Forum's...



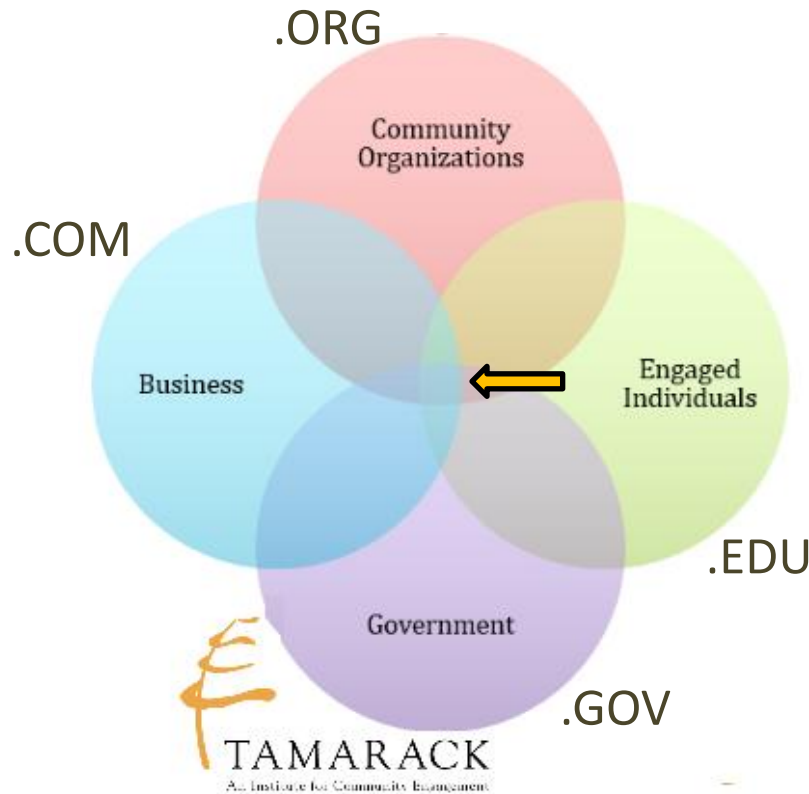

Documents provided to City Clerk Office

What is Collective Impact ?

- Shared Learning for Shared Wellbeing
- Term first used by Mark Kramer and John Kania in 2011 essay published in the Stanford Social Innovation Review
- Four sectors are depicted.
- **Aim is to solve large complex problems, such as poverty.**



Insight: Collective Impact = Prosperity Cluster

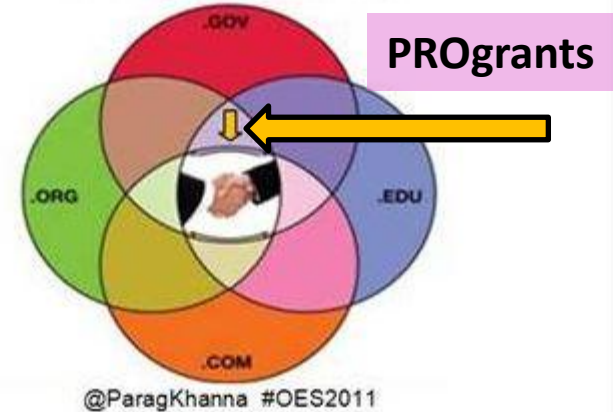


The "Prosperity Sweet Spot" sets in the intersection of

Business .COM	Civil Society .ORG	Government .GOV	Human Capital .EDU
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Note the gold arrow which represents the current partnership to place parent grants in public schools:

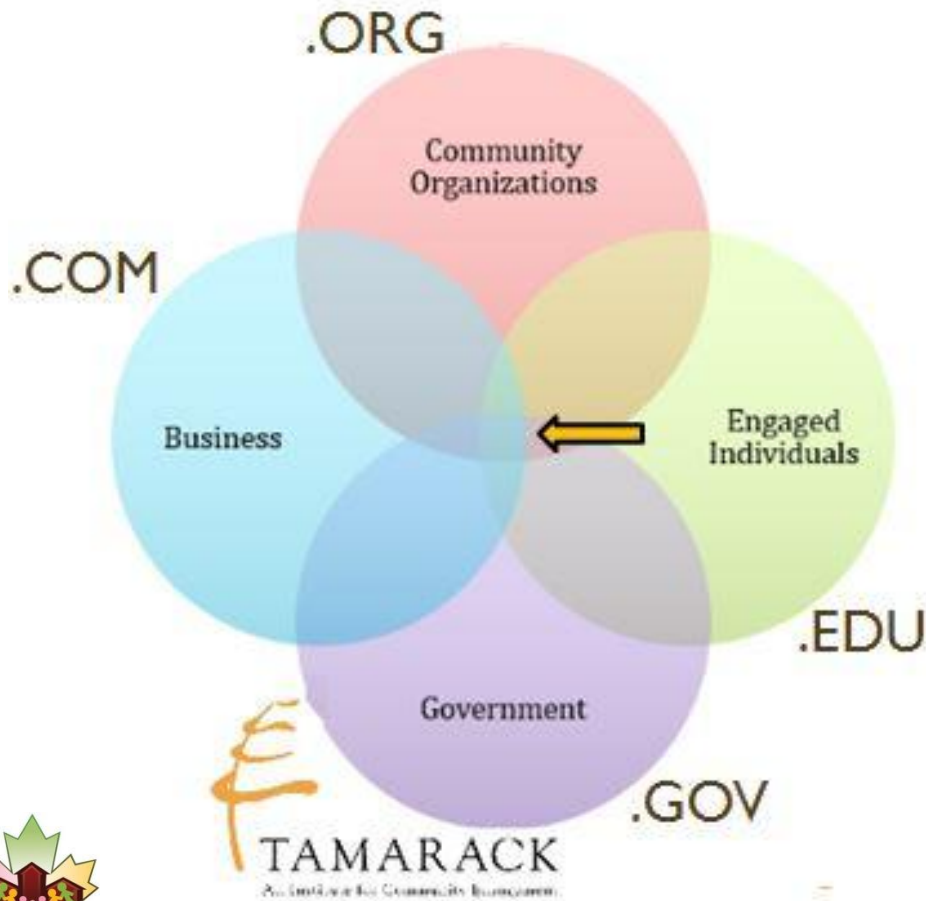
.GOV policy + .ORG parent volunteers + .EDU human capital
Success Hinges on Inclusive Partnerships



Observation: Parent grants in schools with linkage to business will move all partners into the Prosperity sweet spot.



Insight: Collective Impact = City-School Board Advisory Committee



About this presentation: Poverty Reduction framed to use a Collective Impact approach

Transmittal from City Council advises of role in TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy Schools and Collective Impact approach for:

- **Community Engagement**
- **Intergovernmental Partnerships**
- **Strategic Alignments**

Canada's context of poverty and global refugees

- **200 years since 1816: Common Schools Act**



About this presentation: Collective Impact

Schools are sites for Collective Impact framework:

Community Engagement

Parents Reaching Out grants

Intergovernmental Partnerships

Settlement Workers in School

- Federal
- Provincial
- Local Governments

Strategic Alignments

Poverty Reduction Strategies

- Canada
- Ontario
- Toronto



ASKs of this presentation: via Deputation Referred from EX9.5 on October 20, 2015.



Catherine Soplet
@Soplet

Oct 20: @ReducePovertyTO deputation
ow.ly/TXAus
1 Keep #onted #PROgrant
2 Petition feds on 'lost' report



Catherine Soplet
@Soplet

A petition to fix #childpoverty via #elxn42
[facebook.com/CitizenApprent...](https://www.facebook.com/CitizenApprentice)
#Campaign2000 #cdnimm #onpoli #topoli
#cdnpoli



Executive Committee consideration on October 20, 2015				
EX9.5	ACTION			Ward: All
TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy				



12:53 PM - 15 Oct 2015

3:42 PM - 1 Nov 2015



ASKs of this presentation: from September 2015

- 1. For 2016 budget, ASK Ontario Ministry of Education to continue funding of eligible Parents Reaching Out grants (2013)**
- 2. City of Toronto and School Boards collaborate to support parent councils in public schools so that parent learning projects continue to be funded by Parents Reaching Out grants program. (2014) ref. 2015 'Wilson Report'**
- 3. City of Toronto and School Boards to advocate for continued funding of settlement services, in schools and also in municipal public libraries, with a view to support youth tutor models. (2014 and 2015)**



ASKs of this presentation: embodied September 2015

4. **ASK the Ministry of Education, in partnership with other Ministries, to conduct and publish a compendium research on Parents Reaching Out grants, for public release.**

The research would test observations seen to be delivered where Parents Reaching Out grants establish in schools:

- **better student achievement and school success**
- **a co-incident reduction in reported crime rates**
- **the role of Settlement Workers in Schools as trusted technical and protocol liaisons between educator teams and parents**



ASKs of this presentation:

- 5. Endorse the Petition to House of Commons to reopen the 2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan.**
 - Chair to sign the Petition on behalf of the City-School Boards Advisory Committee**
 - Refer Petition to constituent School Boards and ASK them to endorse and sign the Petition**

Peel District School Board endorsed the Petition at its Regular Meeting held December 8, 2015, and the Chair of the Board signed the Petition.



Thank you.



Five Steps to Achieving Collective Impact

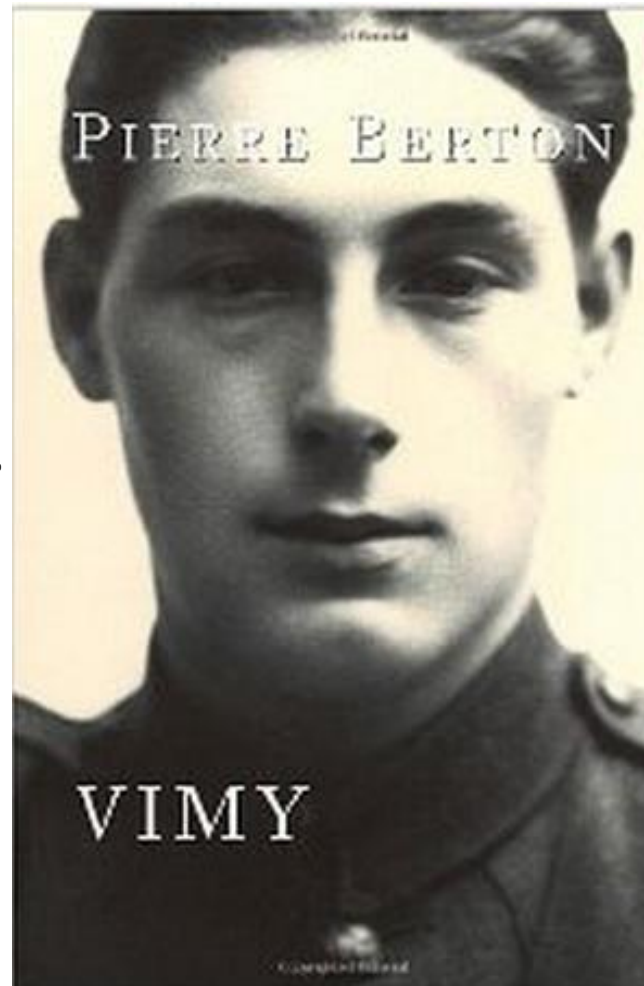


Source: <http://www.collaborationforimpact.com/collective-impact/>
Design: John Kania and Mark Kramer



Building Up Our Neighbourhoods initiative is inspired by Canadian innovation at Vimy.

**Sgt. Tommy Ricketts, V.C., D.C.M., C. de. G.
Boy Soldier.
Adult Learner.
Pharmacist, via apprenticeship.**



EX12.2

ACTION

Ward:All

2016 Capital and Operating Budgets

**Catherine Sople, Resident of Mississauga
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group**

Attachments:

1. Deputation: January 13, 2016 to City of Toronto - Budget Subcommittee, York Civic Centre Consultation. Document on-line: <http://ow.ly/Y8W3L>
2. Submission: January 22, 2016 presented to Ministry of Finance Pre-Budget Consultation, convened in Mississauga by Minister of Finance Document on-line: <http://ow.ly/XBx8e>
Cover, Submission filed with Standing Committee for Finance and Economic Affairs <http://ow.ly/Y5Ls2>

This digital copy transcribes manuscript Cover Letter with document attachments submitted to City of Toronto - Executive Committee for February 9, 2016 - Agenda Item EX12.2.

As an anti-poverty advocate, I join with Commitment 2 Community anti-poverty network in advocacy for full funding of TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy.

In comments made in deliberation of Item EX12.2, City of Toronto Mayor, John Tory, correctly identifies that resources from other levels of government are required to help City of Toronto deliver Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

In advocacy for resources external to City of Toronto budget, which help to deliver objectives of the TO Prosperity Workplan in 2016, I attach two documents:

1. Deputation made January 13, 2016 to Toronto Budget Subcommittee hearings held at York Civic Centre.
2. Submission made January 22, 2016 to pre-budget consultations convened in Mississauga by Minister of Finance, Hon. Charles Sousa and MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris.

[The submission was subsequently filed February 2, 2016 with Standing Committee for Finance and Economic Affairs, with a manuscript Cover.]

Both documents draw attention to Ontario Ministry of Education - Parents Reaching Out grants, which is a parent engagement and parenting literacy program for public schools.

- Toronto School Board Advisory Committee received a presentation on the Parents Reaching Out grant program. [TS.New.TS2.2.1 - September 25, 2015](#)
- Where Parents Reaching Out grants program is established, there is a proven record to boost student achievement, to see over time an upward trend in standardized testing scores and to see stronger high school graduation rates. [August 2012, Ministry of Education](#)

- In 2015-2016, Ontario Ministry of Education approved \$4.2million to fund more than 2,200 projects, Ontario-wide.
- In Toronto identified Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, more than 97% of Toronto District School Board - Model Schools for Inner City now routinely organize grant projects since 2012-2013.

Both pre-budget documents draw attention to the role of federally-funded Settlement Workers in Schools as trusted technical and protocol liaisons between parents and their educator teams.

Both pre-Budget documents call for advocacy by the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario, to urge the federal government to restore funding axed from the settlement sector since 2010.

- Targeting funding for Settlement Workers in schools provides for low-barrier, low-budget, contextual and time-sensitive settlement integration in public schools. The effect will reduce pressure and costs of City of Toronto to deliver policing and social supports.

Each pre-budget document spotlights a signal from newly-elected Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on a federal role to support public education. Settlement Workers in Schools program is the available jurisdictional tool. Vibrant, safe schools are a lead attractive factor for global talent in the knowledge economy.

- In a February 22, 2014 keynote to the federal Liberal biennial convention, Justin Trudeau said: "The federal government has a role to play to support success in public education, even though education is a constitutional jurisdiction of the provincial governments." [Link to speech, Page 3](#)
- In January 22, 2016 comments to youth at World Economic Forum, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke of the role of public education to promote diversity. Prime Minister Trudeau said, "The range of [cultural] experience become the mainstream in Canada, and for me, that happens within our public schools." [t=0.41 Link to newsclip](#)

The Motto of the City of Toronto calls out to Diversity as its strength. Resources in its neighbourhood schools, funded by the provincial and federal government, are key to help it leverage results for TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy.

I urge Executive Committee to advocate for sustained and increased funding of Ministry of Education - Parents Reaching Out grants for its public schools.

I urge Executive Committee to advocate the federal government to restore funding to the settlement sector, with a focus to increase funding to Settlement Workers in Schools program.



Catherine Sople

Building Up Our Neighbourhoods

Member, Peel Poverty Action Group

**Budget Subcommittee - Etobicoke, North York and York Civic Centres Consultation
Council Chamber, North York Civic Centre**

Minutes Published

BW7.1	Public Presentations on the 2016 Capital and Operating Budgets at North York Civic Centre, January 13, 2016 - 3:00 p.m.	Received
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**Catherine Soplet, Resident of Mississauga
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods**

Transcript of Deputation, from Video Recording: t= 43:20 - 47:30

[//">http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/video.do?id=11137 //](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/video.do?id=11137)

YouTube <https://youtu.be/yNEPOBv3lec>

TIMMS - Minutes: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getMinutesReport&meetingId=11137>

In response to the Chair of the Subcommittee, Councillor John Campbell:

Good afternoon. Thank you very much.

I am Catherine Soplet, a Member of Peel Poverty Action Group. I am here today to:

- thank the Budget Committee for the public meetings, and
- to support the advocacy of Commitment 2 Community for full funding of the TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy.

The purpose for me to be here today is not to talk about the Toronto Budget, but rather to talk about:

- programs and resources available outside of the Toronto budget which would help the City of Toronto to leverage attainment of the objectives that are set out in the Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy.

On October 20, 2015 I made a deputation to the Executive Committee at the City of Toronto on Item EX9.5^{1,2} The resources external to the City of Toronto which help reduce poverty are:

1. Parents Reaching Out grants from the Ministry of Education, which deploy in public schools, and
2. a Petition to the House of Commons to reopen the 2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan as a way to influence discourse at the federal level on a Federal Poverty Reduction Plan.³

We know today that, with a change in government, subsequently, a Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy is now in the works.

1. The Parents Reaching Out grants boost literacy and student achievement, and help parents to settle.

In the context, after the federal election, of spikes of refugee settlement with the welcoming of the Syrian refugees, we know that Settlement Workers In Schools [SWIS] who help the deployment of Parents Reaching Out grants in schools -- will see their workload increased.

So then **the third request [with respect to advocacy for Parents Reaching Out grants] is to petition the federal government to restore levels of settlement sector funding, with a focus to fund the Settlement Workers in Schools, who also work in the libraries.** In this way, people will be able to bridge their language [fluency] and their credentials to participate more fully in the market.

Nothing is a faster fix to poverty than a job.

The viewpoint [on public education] of the new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was expressed February 22, 2014 when he addressed the federal Liberal biennial convention. He said there was a role for the federal government to support public education, without impinging upon the jurisdiction of the constitutionality of public education residing with the provinces.⁴

- With Settlement Workers in Schools being federally funded to deploy provincial Parents Reaching Out grants [in public schools] we satisfy the supports that are required [for student achievement] and respect the jurisdictions.

On June 23, 2015, the effects of negative impacts to slashes in funding to the settlement sector were set out in a letter from the Canadian Council for Refugees. It was a letter to then Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to say: You have slashed so much, you are now hitting the bone.⁵

2. The second ASK of the deputation of October 20 was to sign the petition to the federal government. I just want you to know that subsequently, Peel District School Board was approached [via Public Question] and it was notified of the presentation made to the City of Toronto.

- Peel District School Board has signed the petition.⁶
- The matter is minuted in its records, and the documents are provided here for the Clerk.⁷

I shall send a digital document for filing with the Clerk after this meeting.


Thank you.



Catherine Soplek
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods

Attached: Schedule of Documents referenced in the deputation,
provided to the Committee Administrator

**SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS, PROVIDED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR
Catherine Soplet, Resident of Mississauga: Building Up Our Neighbourhoods and
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group**

Item	Document	Description
1	Press Release via Twitter: Item EX9.5 - October 20, 2015 Link: https://twitter.com/Soplet/status/660919947078578176	
2	Deputation acknowledged as received by Administrative Clerk for City of Toronto- Executive Committee: Item EX9.5 - October 20, 2015 Link: http://ow.ly/TXAus	The deputation drew attention to resources external to the City of Toronto which help the City of Toronto to achieve objectives set out in TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy. 1) Boost literacy in public schools with proven results from Ministry of Education grants, and 2) Draw attention to a Toronto anti-poverty Town Hall report omitted from federal standing committee hearings into poverty reduction.
3	Notes dated November 5, 2015: "...as a first order of constituency business..." Link: http://ow.ly/UnRT6	The relevance is explained of a petition to the House of Commons to reopen the 2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan to Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy.
4	Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau: Excerpt from keynote to federal Liberal Biennial Convention on February 22, 2014 Link: https://twitter.com/nabrHubs/status/455645132516122625	Core Canadian values expressed by Trudeau: 1) Equity of opportunity, reward for hard work. 2) The federal government has a role to play to support success in public education, even though public education is a constitutional jurisdiction of the provincial governments.
5	Letter of Concern from Canadian Council for Refugees, dated June 23, 2015 Link: http://ccrweb.ca/en/letter-concerning-cic-settlement-funding-cuts	Since axing to settlement sector funding was first seen in 2010, great hardships have been endured by newcomer clients, sector workers and agencies who deliver the services.
6	Janet McDougald, Chair of Peel District School Board, signs the Petition to House of Commons, to reopen the 2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan, on behalf of the Board. Link: https://twitter.com/Soplet/status/674593145959632897	Endorsement of the petition by Peel District School Board draws attention to a Citizen Apprenticeship youth tutor model suggested on page 19 of the Report which is the subject of the Petition.
7	Minutes of Regular Meeting of Peel District School Board, November 23, 2015: Link: http://www.peelschools.org/Documents/December%208,%202015.pdf see pp75-80	Documents to substantiate a Public Question of Peel District School Board to sign the Petition to the House of Commons, to reopen the 2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan reference deputations made to City of Toronto.

**February 2, 2016: Submission to Standing Committee for Finance and Economic Affairs, filed at Ontario government public hearings held in Toronto:
Pre-Budget Consultations 2016
Committee Room 151
Ontario Legislative Building, Queen's Park**

Text of the Cover Page of the Submission

February 2, 2016

To: Standing Committee for Finance and Economic Affairs

From: Catherine Soplet
Building Up our Neighbourhoods
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group

This document is a hard copy of a submission presented January 22, 2016 to a pre-budget consultation convened in Mississauga by Minister of Finance, Hon. Charles Sousa and MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris.

The submission and its presentation to the pre-budget consultation was encouraged by the Mississauga Ward 2 Councillor on January 20, 2016 in comments made following a deputation made January 20 to City Council of Mississauga.

This top page is the graphic "Press Release" tweets.

The topmost tweet provides a summary of the pre-budget submission and provides a link to the on-line documents: <http://ow.ly/SBx8e>

The bottom tweet [<http://ow.ly/XQiiC>] is explained in the submission.

Catherine Soplet
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods

<http://ow.ly/XQhGg>
<https://twitter.com/Soplet/status/69244059848282112>

Catherine Soplet
#BudgetTalks notes ow.ly/SBx8e presented Jan 22'16 to @SousaCharles @MPPIndiraNH #PROgrant #SDoH #cdnimm

#BudgetTalks 2016:
ASKs of @Ongov @OntMinFinance @OntarioEDU

1. Keep #PROgrant funded at existing levels. Look to increase funding levels of #PROgrant.
2. Resource high-needs public schools to Enable parent equity to access #PROgrant.
3. Fund \$75,000 to ignite Citizen Apprenticeship youth tutor hub pilot in a public library, for 2017
4. Get increased funding from federal government for Settlement Workers in schools and libraries, to deliver #PMJ's tenet of building 'mainstream' diversity and inclusion via public education.

February 2, 2016
To: Standing Committee for Finance and Economic Affairs
From: Catherine Soplet
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group

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Catherine Soplet
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods

<http://ow.ly/XQiiC>
<https://twitter.com/Soplet/status/690514812095348736>
@WEF: @JustinTrudeau on the role of #public to promote #diversity and #inclusion
<http://a.msn.com/09/en-ca/BBoxh0z?ocid=st>
#cdnimm <https://pic.twitter.com/4VUQD9CHta>

09:41 "The range of [cultural] experiences becomes the mainstream in Canada, and for me, that happens within our public schools."

Justin Trudeau on the role of education in promoting diversity

Tweet graphics on this cover page are enlarged and explained, on the next page [inside cover].

Document hard copies which were attachments to the cover page, filed with the Standing Committee:

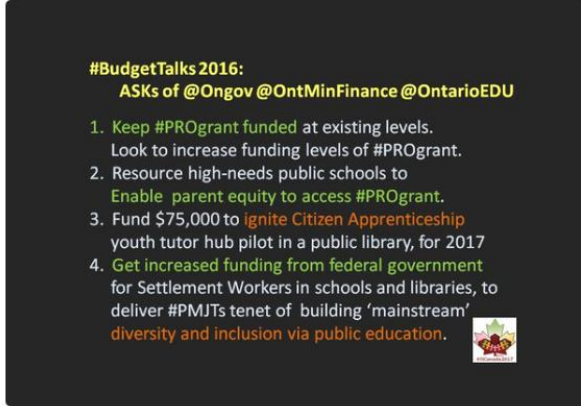
- Hard copy of submission document, presented January 22, 2016 in Mississauga to pre-budget consultation convened by Minister of Finance, Hon. Charles Sousa and MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris.
- Attachments to the submission:
 - Open Letter (Executive Summary) dated January 1, 2016 to Representatives of residents in Region of Peel, from Catherine Soplet, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods
 - Open Letter dated January 1, 2016 (full text)
 - Newspaper literature dated December 24, 2015 released by United Way of Peel Region
 - Open Letter dated June 23, 2015 to Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada from Canadian Council for Refugees, concerning CIC settlement funding uts.

<http://ow.ly/XQhGg>



Catherine Soplet
@Soplet

#BudgetTalks notes ow.ly/XBx8e presented Jan 22'16 to @SousaCharles @MPPIndiraNH #PROgrant #SDoH #cdnimm



RETWEETS

2



<https://twitter.com/Soplet/status/692444059848282112>

@Soplet tweets 'Press Release' of submission presented to January 22, 2016 pre-budget consultations convened by Minister of Finance, Hon. Charles Sousa and MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris.

@BudgetTalks notes ow.ly/SBx8e presented Jan22'16 to @SousaCharles @MPPIndiraNH #PROgrant #SDoH #cdnimm

The graphic summarizes the ASKs of the submission:

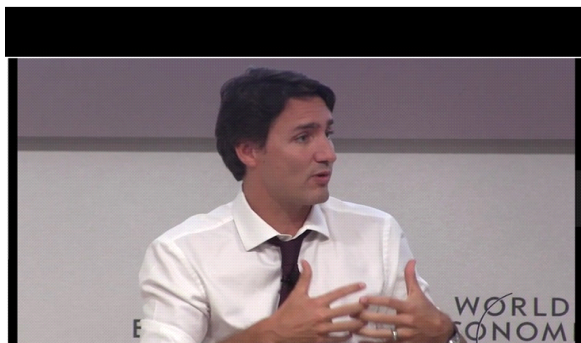
BudgetTalks 2016:

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1. Keep #PROgrant funded at existing levels. Look to increase funding levels of #PROgrant.
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<http://ow.ly/XQiiC>

@WEF: [.@JustinTrudeau](https://www.facebook.com/JustinTrudeau) on the role of #publiced to promote #diversity and #inclusion <http://a.msn.com/09/en-ca/BBoxh0z?ocid=st> #cdnimm



t=00:41 **"The range of [cultural] experiences becomes the mainstream in Canada, and for me, that happens within our public schools."**

Justin Trudeau on the role of education in promoting diversity

Canadian Press - Question: 02:02 - 17 hrs ago
The prime minister says schools can help promote multiculturalism by making aspects of different cultures "mainstream." Justin Trudeau was responding to questions from young people at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland.

<https://twitter.com/Soplet/status/690514812095348736>

Tweet by @Soplet

On January 21, in a press engagement held at World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks to youth on the role of Canada's public education system to promote diversity and inclusion.

@WEF: [.@JustinTrudeau](https://www.facebook.com/JustinTrudeau) on the role of #publiced to promote #diversity and #inclusion <http://a.msn.com/09/en-ca/BBoxh0z?ocid=st> #cdnimm

The quote is pulled from the video newsclip, at t=00:41 "The range of [cultural] experiences becomes the mainstream in Canada, and for me, that happens within our public schools."

The quote was included to address Item 4 of the submission, for advocacy by Government of Ontario to federal government for increased funding to Settlement Workers in Schools.



Catherine Soplet

1550 Springwell Avenue Mississauga, Ontario L5J 3H6
e-mail: soplet@sympatico.ca Text: (416) 275-9463

2

January 22, 2016

**Catherine Soplet, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group**

**Submission to Pre-Budget Consultations of Ministry of Finance, through its Budget Secretariat
at the Standing Committee of Finance and Economic Affairs**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Digital document sent via e-mail

Attachments: Schedule "A" - OPEN LETTER dated January 1, 2016 from Catherine Soplet
to Representatives serving residents of Peel Region
Schedule "B" - OPEN LETTER dated June 23, 2015 from Canadian Council for Refugees
to Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Hon. Chris Alexander

Thank you for the opportunity to present today, Finance Minister Sousa and MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris:

I am Catherine Soplet, founder of Building Up Our Neighbourhoods, a community development initiative that advocates to connect Ontario's residents to literacy and health. The key tools to boost literacy which improves student achievement is a stipend parent engagement grant available from Ministry of Education. Especially in schools serving high needs families, Ministry of Education has identified that Parents Reaching Out granted projects are seen to leverage improved student achievement and school climate.

In January 2014, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods presented to the Standing Committee of Finance and Economic Affairs on the outcomes seen in Ontario public education since the Parents Reaching Out grants were first established in 2006 [See Hansard](#), and their continuation through the Review into Government Services because of the value-added of nominal investments. [January 2012: Submission to Drummond Commission](#) For \$1000, an entire school can be tutored as untold volunteer hours and expertise are applied to focus on student achievement, parent empowerment and building pro-social relationships. [August 2012, Ministry of Education](#)

Ontario 's Budget in 2015 for the first time carried a line item for **Community Hubs Framework** [2015 Ontario Budget](#). The Framework was announced in March 2015 with the appointment of Karen Pitre by the Premier of Ontario, and the Advisory Group was populated in April 2015. A community hub can be a school, a neighbourhood centre or another **public space that offers co-located or integrated services such as education, health care and social services. Each hub is as unique as the community it serves.**

For Ontario's Budget in 2016, **Parents Reaching Out grants** continue to offer a low-barrier, low-budget and high-impact way to **respond to settlement integration in schools**. With a new federal government elected in 2015, and Ontario's political will to welcome and assimilate spikes of refugees from Syria, a slightly-modified model for regional grants application can provide nimble, responsive supports in Ontario's settlement schools.

The ASKs of the 2014 presentation are repeated today:

1. a) Sustain funding for Parents Reaching Out grants program at current levels, for both granted funds and for Ministry of Education administrative staff to manage the program.
- b) Consider increased funding for Parents Reaching Out grants program so that public schools that have been unable to develop a project will have access to the program.

2. Provide resources to public schools that have not yet been able to develop a project, that will be used to build capacity in the parent councils and educator teams so that the project application can be submitted, deployed and duly reported.
3. Provide seed funding for a pilot of a Citizen Apprenticeship youth tutor model.

For 2016, this prior ASK is updated with a budget number: \$75,000.

For Canada's 150th birthday, in 2017, a pilot model is developing for a public library in Mississauga. On January 20, 2016 a deputation was made to Mississauga City Council on benchmarks achieved in 2015. [Video and transcript of January 20, 2016 deputation](#) See Schedule "A": [OPEN LETTER is Basis of Deputation](#)

- The business model will be designed using emerging Collective Impact framework. Equity analytics such as Social Return on Investment and Social Determinants of Health can be designed and collected by Social Planning Council of Peel.

Citizen Apprenticeship envisions that students can learn and earn their way to higher education when volunteer tutor hours bank on the student report card to defray the future costs of post-secondary education.

Without impinging upon provincial jurisdiction for education and labour, Citizen Apprenticeship suggests an innovative way to deliver federal responsibilities for :

- Settlement integration
- Post-secondary awards, bursaries and financing
- Skills development which leads to employment

A fourth and additional ASK of the committee today addresses a low-barrier, low-budget, nimble and high-impact way to accommodate spikes of refugee settlement which is in addition to already high levels of routine settlement integration.

4. Obtain new funding from the federal government to support Settlement Workers in Schools in their key roles as:
 - anchor liaison between educator teams and parents, to create Parents Reaching Out grants projects and
 - trusted co-ordinator -- familiar with compliance parameters for privacy and protocol within schools, school boards and client family case management.

In an Open Letter ^{See Schedule "B"} dated June 23, 2015 [Read full text](#) the Canadian Council for Refugees itemized the axed funding to the settlement sector which was resulting in a constructive dismissal of immigrants to the job and education market. The hardship is seen as exacerbated downward spiralling of economic gap in Ontario's cities, which are the portals of settlement.

In a media engagement at World Economic Forum, Prime Minister Hon. Justin Trudeau made remarks punctuate the ongoing comments made at Peel Region – Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee [since April 2010] and in advocacy of TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy: [Deputation: October 20, 2015](#)

"The range of [cultural] experiences becomes the mainstream in Canada, and for me, that happens within our public schools." Right Hon. Justin Trudeau -- January 21, 2016 at World Economic Forum

<https://twitter.com/Soplet/status/690514812095348736>

@WEF: [@JustinTrudeau](#) on the role of #publiced to promote #diversity and #inclusion

<http://a.msn.com/09/en-ca/BBoxh0z?ocid=st>

#cdnimm



Settlement sector funding to equitably foster inclusiveness in Canada's diverse society – gets people able to participate in the market, into education and training pathways and lowers social costs for health, mental health dysfunction, policing and victims of crime.

The advocacy of Building Up Our Neighbourhoods continues in these directions:


- A push on Ontario government to sustain and increase Parents Reaching Out grants program is a low-budget, low-barrier, high impact way to get the diversity/ equity/ inclusion work done where people live in their neighbourhoods.
- A push on Canada's government to restore funding to the settlement sector, especially for Settlement Workers in Schools [and libraries] which strengthens the ability of public schools to equitably access and deploy Parent Reaching Out grants funded projects.

Thank you for this opportunity to present. I provide documents today, and will forward digital copies.

SCHEDULE "A"

Item 3: New seed funding of \$75,000 for a pilot of a Citizen Apprenticeship youth tutor model. The OPEN LETTER provides progress benchmarks in 2015 which are developing the pilot model for target implementation in 2017. The benchmarks form the basis of a Deputation made January 20, 2016 to Mississauga City Council.

- Read Executive Summary of OPEN LETTER dated January 1, 2016 online: <http://ow.ly/WCb14>
Read Full Text of OPEN LETTER dated January 1, 2016 [6 pages]: <https://1drv.ms/1UJgc9g>



Catherine Soplet
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods
Mississauga, Ontario soplet@sympatico.ca [@Soplet](https://twitter.com/Soplet)

January 1, 2016

Open Letter to Representatives serving Residents in the Region of Peel:

Members of Parliament	Peel District School Board
Members of Provincial Parliament	Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board
Region of Peel Council	Conseil scolaire Viamonde
Council for the City of Mississauga	Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud
Council for the City of Brampton	
Council for the Town of Caledon	

Happy New Year for 2016 !!

Thank you for your service to Residents of Peel, in 2015.

Because of your work, benchmarks were achieved to develop a 2017 pilot of a Citizen Apprenticeship youth tutor model.

In recent literature, United Way of Peel asks us to ask our Representatives:
What can you do to alleviate poverty in our neighbourhoods?

You are already being seen to take your role in a:

2016-2020: Five-Year, Five-Point Strategy

CALLS TO ACTION

- 2016, Common Schools for 200 years in Upper Canada
- 2017, Canada's 150th birthday
- 2018, Ontario's general provincial election
- 2019, Canada's general federal election
- 2020, Citizen Apprenticeship Youth Tutor Program

TASKS FOR ACTION

1. PILOT a CITIZEN APPRENTICESHIP MODEL for 2017
2. LOCATE BETA SITES for 2018
3. GIVE PROFILE and VISIBILITY in DIVERSE EVENTS
4. PETITION the HOUSE of COMMONS to reopen the 2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan
 - **Signed** - Peel Region - Poverty Reduction Strategy
 - **Deputed** - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy
 - **Delivered** - Mississauga-Lakeshore, Mississauga East-Cooksville, Mississauga-Centre
 - **Endorsed** - Peel District School Board
5. KEEP POVERTY -- and ITS REMEDY-- TOP of MIND.

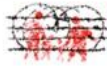
[Click here to read article](#)



SCHEDULE "B"

Item 4: Obtain new funding from the federal government to support Settlement Workers in Schools,

Read full text of OPEN LETTER dated June 23, 2015: <http://ccrweb.ca/en/letter-concerning-cic-settlement-funding-cuts>



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés
Canadian Council for Refugees

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Letter concerning CIC settlement funding cuts

23 June 2015

The Honourable Chris Alexander, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
365 Laurier Street West
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 1L1

Dear Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the many settlement sector member organizations regarding the recent communication and implementation for 2015-16.

While we understand that allocations will fluctuate by year and by region and should manage the allocations in a manner that is respectful of services and sensitive to the impact on the newcomers served.

Unfortunately, many of our members report being given little or no advance notice about budget cuts, and being expected to implement these cuts within weeks. We received up to a year's notice, underlining marked inconsistencies.

We are particularly disappointed about the negative experiences of many organizations because of the Department's recent promises of improved communication and more meaningful partnership with the sector.

Some Ontario members reported that there was no advance communication, let alone consultation, about cuts ranging up to 25%. Some were required to close LINC classes for the summer, or to completely terminate certain CIC funded settlement programs. Colleagues in the Atlantic were left scrambling when they were given little notice.

The last minute announcements indicated a lack of understanding of the realities of running an agency, and left organizations feeling that there was no consideration for the impact on agency managers, affected staff, and especially clients. The way the cuts were administered contradicts CIC's message of collaboration with the sector, and many organizations that consider themselves government partners felt disrespected. In this regard, we report on Grant and Contribution programs to: "Respect the recipients—they are partners in a shared public purpose."

Practically speaking, the lack of timely communication prevents organizations from planning, and creates crises with respect to human resources and the organization's legal and financial obligations. A last minute announcement of cuts makes it extremely difficult to ensure that staff severance, leases and other legal obligations can be met.

Most importantly, the failure to provide adequate warning of impending budget cuts has significant impacts on newcomers. One organization reported receiving 30 days' notice to terminate service provision involving refugees with mental health needs.

We believe that service providers were not given adequate warning of impending budget cuts so they can plan responsibly for their clients.

The CCR recommends that CIC re-evaluate its practices in order to avoid such problems in the future.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Loly Rico
President

One organization reported receiving 30 days' notice that they would receive no more funding, and would need to terminate service provision, at a time when they had over 100 open cases, including many involving refugees with mental health needs.

Unfortunately, many of our members report being given little or no advance notice about significant budget cuts, and being expected to implement these cuts within weeks. Meanwhile, some others had received up to a year's notice, underlining marked inconsistencies.

We are particularly disappointed about the negative experiences of many organizations because of the Department's recent promises of improved communication and more meaningful partnership with the sector.

Some Ontario members reported that there was no advance communication, let alone consultation, about cuts ranging up to 25%. Some were required to close LINC classes for the summer, or to completely terminate certain CIC funded settlement programs. Colleagues in the Atlantic were left scrambling when they were given less than a month to implement a 17% budget reduction.

The last minute announcements indicated a lack of understanding of the realities of running an agency, and left organizations feeling that there was no consideration for the impact on agency managers, affected staff, and especially clients. The way the cuts were administered contradicts CIC's message of collaboration with the sector, and many organizations that consider themselves government partners felt disrespected. In this regard, we note the recommendation to government of the 2006 Blue Ribbon report on Grant and Contribution programs to: "Respect the recipients—they are partners in a shared public purpose."

Practically speaking, the lack of timely communication prevents organizations from planning, and creates crises with respect to human resources and the organization's legal and financial obligations. A last minute announcement of cuts makes it extremely difficult to ensure that staff severance, leases and other legal obligations can be met.

The United Empire Loyalists were the first political refugees to come to the province we now call Ontario. They came with little in the way of material goods but with a strong resolve to settle where they could enjoy the law, order and good government they desired. Our province was built on these ideals. To help teachers prepare the students for this important day, and to introduce the students to the study of Loyalists in Ontario, the United Empire Loyalists' Association has produced the following pages of information. We hope they will be of use to teachers and that they will stimulate research and interest.

Putnam: <http://www.gutenberg.ca/ebooks/putman-egertonryerson/putman-egertonryerson-00-h.html>

EGERTON RYERSON AND Education in Upper Canada [copyright 1912, William Briggs]

J. HAROLD PUTMAN, B.A., D.Paed.,

Inspector of Public Schools, Ottawa, Ont.

(Formerly in charge of the Departments in Psychology and English, Ottawa Normal School)

But it would be a serious mistake to infer that the educational machinery of Upper Canada previous to 1816 was limited to these eight District Grammar Schools. What the Government failed to provide, private enterprise secured. More than two hundred schools were certainly in operation in 1816. These schools were maintained partly by subscriptions from well-to-do people and partly by fees collected from the pupils. In many cases they were private ventures, conducted by teachers who depended wholly upon fees. In some cases these schools were of a high order, perhaps superior to the District Grammar Schools; in other cases, probably in the large majority of cases, they were very inefficient. The average fees paid by pupils in the elementary schools were about twelve shillings per quarter.

The Common or Parish Schools referred to in this letter were the result of **the legislation of 1816, a red-letter year in school affairs because it saw the first attempts in Upper Canada to give schools under public control to the common people.** The sum of \$24,000 a year was appropriated for four years to establish Common Schools. The law provided that the people of any village, town, or township might meet together and arrange to establish one or more schools, at each of which the attendance must be not less than twenty. Three suitable trustees were to be chosen to conduct the school, appoint teachers, and select textbooks from a list prescribed by a District Board of Education. The Legislature authorized payments to each of these schools of a sum not exceeding £100. The balance needed to maintain the school had to be made up by subscriptions.

In 1819 the Grammar School Act of 1807 received some slight amendments. The grant of £100 per school was reduced to £50 for new schools, except where the number of pupils exceeded ten. A new school was authorized for the new Gore District, at Hamilton. Trustee Boards were required to present annual reports to the Lieutenant-Governor and to conduct an annual public examination. But **the most important change was provision for the free education of ten poor children at each District Public School. These children were chosen by lot from names submitted by Trustee Boards of Common Schools.**

EX9.5	ACTION			Ward:All
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TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy

Catherine Soplet, Resident of Mississauga
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods

Thank you for the opportunity to present to Executive Committee today, upon the consideration of **EX9.5: TO Prosperity - Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy**.

I commend the City of Toronto for its Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy, and urge that it be adopted here, and endorsed for passage to City Council.

I am Catherine Soplet, a resident of Mississauga and a Member of Peel Poverty Action Group -- PPAG. Members of Peel Poverty Action Group comprise those who seek to remedy poverty. PPAG sits at the Peel Region - Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee.

A project in public education was reported to that table from 2010-2013. The work led to my receiving in 2013 an Award of Excellence from Ontario Public School Boards Association for pro bono advocacy to promote and establish Parents Reaching Out grants program of the Ontario Ministry of Education in public schools.

I wish to speak today to Recommendations 8 and 11 of Motion EX9.5 before Executive Committee.

My remarks suggest ways to leverage access to both provincial and federal involvement which helps to deliver the Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy.

With respect to Recommendation 8, the distribution of TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy to municipal and regional partners:

8. City Council forward TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy as outlined in Attachment A to the City-School Boards Advisory Committee, and the Board of Health, Toronto Library Board, Toronto Transit Commission Board, Toronto Police Board, and Toronto Community Housing Corporation Board for their consideration.

I draw attention to the presentations made June 4, 2014 to [Toronto School Boards Task Force \[TS2.2.1\]](#) and September 25, 2015 to [Toronto School Boards Advisory Committee \[New TS2.2.1\]](#), concerning the continuation of an existing program available via Ministry of Education: Parents Reaching Out grants for parent councils in public schools.

The presentations ASKed the Committees to advocate to the Ministry of Education that the Parents Reaching Out grants program be continued, and furthermore, that supports be found so parents can access the grants.

The grants engage parents in shared learning, in projects funded with stipend grants, and focus on how parents can help support their students to achieve better education levels in school. Parents Reaching Out grants program is identified on page 44 of [Stepping Up: Strategic Framework to Help Ontario's Youth Succeed](#), released in 2013 by Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

I advocated in 2012 for Parents Reaching Out grants to be included in the document. Where Parents Reaching Out grants establish, student outcomes improve and a trend is seen over time for improved EQAO scores. There is a coincident trend for police to experience a lower reported rate of crime.

Higher levels of literacy improves access to jobs, and thus grows the top line.

Lower rates of crime reduce policing and social costs.

Literacy thus grows the top line and reduces costs to help restore fiscal balance to municipal budgets.

With respect to Recommendation 11, the distribution of TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy to federal levels:

11. City Council forward TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy to the Prime Minister of Canada; the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada; the Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada; the Minister of Finance; the Minister of Industry; the Minister of State (Social Development); and, the Minister of Health for consideration on program and funding alignments.

I ask that Executive Committee consider how it may support [a petition to the federal government](#) to recover the June 2009 Report of a Town Hall, "[A Poverty Reduction Plan for Canada](#)" which was [orphaned from the minutes of a June 2, 2009 hearing of the Federal Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities \[the HUMA Committee\]](#).

The petition document is provided with this presentation. [Overview of petition on [Facebook](#)]

The 2009 Report was prepared by Social Planning Council of Toronto with stakeholder anti-poverty partners Campaign 2000 and 25in5 Poverty Reduction Network.

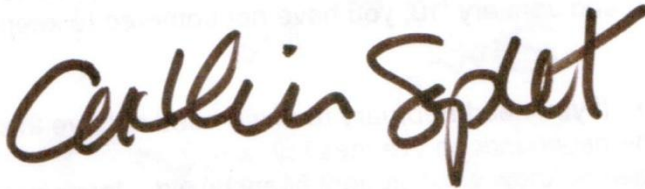
Supporting the petition to recover the orphaned 2009 Report "[A Poverty Reduction Plan for Canada](#)" could cause Parliament to append the Report to the [November 2010 HUMA study "Federal Poverty Reduction Plan: Working in Partnership Towards Reducing Poverty in Canada"](#) and thereby renew discussion of poverty, and its remedies from the voices of common people, in the House of Commons.

Duly completed petitions have been already provided to three federal Mississauga candidates during the campaign ahead of the October 19, 2015 elections.

- [Mississauga Lakeshore](#)
- [Mississauga Centre](#)
- [Mississauga East - Cooksville](#)

These candidates will convey the petitions to the newly-elected MPs for presentation to the next Parliament.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Catherine Soplet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Catherine Soplet
Member, Peel Poverty Action Group
Building Up Our Neighbourhoods

**PUBLIC QUESTION -- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
REGULAR MEETING OF PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
NOVEMBER 23, 2015
CATHERINE SOPLET, RESIDENT OF WARD 2**

QUESTION:

Will Peel District School Board sign a petition to the House of Commons to reopen the 2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan ? ¹

RATIONALE:

The effect of the Petition will be to open a discussion about a Citizen Apprenticeship youth tutor model, in the House of Commons.

- The initiative to pilot a Citizen Apprenticeship youth tutor model in a Mississauga public library was presented to Peel District School Board in June 2015.
- Peel District School Board provided a Letter of Support for the 2017 initiative to pilot a Citizen Apprenticeship youth tutor model in the preferred location of Sheridan Library Computer Resource Centre. ²

Notes dated November 5, 2015 about the Petition to reopen the 2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan were provided as information to the Parent Involvement Committee [PIC] at its November 17, 2015 meeting. ³

- PIC was informed about a two-part deputation made October 20, 2015 to City of Toronto - Executive Committee in support of Item 9.5: TO Prosperity -- Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy. ⁴
- The deputation drew attention of City of Toronto - Executive Committee to resources external to its budget which would help it to reach objectives of TO Prosperity -- Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy. The resources were:
 - Parents Reaching Out grants, from Ministry of Education, which made progress against education indicators of the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy.
 - A petition to reopen the 2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan, in order to append a recovered 2009 Report from a Toronto anti-poverty Town Hall to the 2010 study. The petition could thus refresh a discourse on a federal role in poverty reduction in the House of Commons which could lead to City of Toronto being able to access new resources.

When signed, the Petition to reopen the 2010 federal Poverty Reduction Plan will be sent to the new federal Minister for Families, Children and Social Development.

- The Minister is responsible to develop a Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy, in collaboration with the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, according to the Mandate Letter issued November 19, 2015 by the Prime Minister of Canada. ⁵

¹ Petition to the House of Commons in Parliament Assembled, which calls for the reopening of the 2010 study *Federal Poverty Reduction Plan: Working in Partnership Towards Reducing Poverty in Canada* <http://ow.ly/TnCns>

² Letter dated June 18, 2015: Peel District School Board responds to June 9, 2015 deputation on the initiative to pilot a Citizen Apprenticeship model in 2017, for Canada's 150th birthday <http://ow.ly/Sg84b>

³ Notes dated November 5, 2015 about the Petition's role in the TO Prosperity -- Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy. <http://ow.ly/UnRT6>

⁴ Read Item EX.New.EX9.5.29, submitted by Catherine Soplek <http://ow.ly/TXAus>

⁵ Government of Canada website: [Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Mandate Letter](#) and [Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Mandate Letter](#)

BACKGROUND:

The Petition draws attention to a Report from a June 1, 2009 Toronto anti-poverty Town Hall, entitled [A Poverty Reduction Plan for Canada](#). The Report was omitted from the record of federal standing committee hearings into a federal role in poverty reduction held June 2, 2009.

- In November 2010, the compiled evidence of the hearings and recommendations of the standing committee was tabled in the House of Commons in a study entitled [Federal Poverty Reduction Plan: Working in Partnership Towards Reducing Poverty in Canada](#).

However, after tabling of the 2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan, the omitted Town Hall Report was recovered in December 2010, by the Chair who presided at the June 2, 2009 federal standing committee hearing. The Town Hall Report was conveyed to the Minister responsible for the federal standing committee.⁶

In the December 3, 2010 transmittal letter to the Minister, attention was drawn to the testimony on page 19 of the Town Hall report for "an innovative idea entitled "Citizen Apprenticeship".

- The letter from the presiding Chair, MP Dean Allison to the Minister for Human Resources and Skills Development, Hon. Diane Finley, was provided to Peel District School Board via a Public Question at its Regular Meeting of the Board held December 14, 2010.

The initiative to pilot a Citizen Apprenticeship model in 2017, for Canada's 150th birthday, was deputed to Peel District School Board on June 9, 2015. Peel District School Board provided a Letter of Support for the Initiative.

Details from the Notes dated November 5, 2015:³

The Petition to reopen the *2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan* was created during the recent 2015 federal campaign by Catherine Soplet, as a member of Peel Poverty Action Group {PPAG}. PPAG advocates for people in need, through every level of government.⁷

Creating the petition coincided with the United Nations' International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, held every year on October 17.⁸

Presenting the signed petition to the House of Commons as a first order of constituency business was a public question asked of federal candidates on October 15 at public debates held in Port Credit.⁹

The Petition was included in a deputation made October 20, 2015 at City of Toronto - Executive Committee in support of Item EX9.5: TO Prosperity -- Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy.⁴

⁶ Letter dated December 3, 2010 to Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development <http://ow.ly/TnJi4>

⁷ Catherine Soplet, Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Soplet/status/6154776330219712512>

⁸ United Nations' International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, website page: <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/international-day-for-poverty-eradication>

⁹ @QEWSouthPost and Catherine Soplet, Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Soplet/status/654716812857241602>

On November 2, 2015 signed petitions were mailed to the House of Commons via Canada Post to offices of three newly-elected Mississauga MPs.

- The transmittal letter to MPs noted that the petition is signed by residents of Canada who are active in anti-poverty networks in Mississauga, Toronto, Brampton, Oakville, Markham and Milton.¹⁰
- The transmittal letter to MPs was copied to Social Planning Council of Toronto, 25in5 Network for Poverty Reduction, Campaign 2000, Commitment 2 Community Campaign {Toronto}, City of Toronto - Executive Committee and all participants and panellists recorded in the June 1, 2009 Report of a Town Hall entitled "*A Poverty Reduction Plan for Canada*".

Presentations of the Petition to reopen 2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Plan, subsequent to November 5:

On November 6, Catherine Soplet met with the Constituency Assistant of Hon. Charles Sousa, MPP for Mississauga-South. The meeting reviewed in detail the Petition, November 5 Notes and the relevant documents.

On November 12, Notes about the petition were provided to the regular meeting of Peel Poverty Action Group.

On November 13, the Petition to reopen the *2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Strategy* was drawn to the attention of the Refresh and Review Working Group of the Peel Region - Poverty Reduction Strategy.

On November 18 at the Faith Moving Mountains anti-poverty forum held at Queen's Park Legislature Buildings, the Petition to reopen *2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Strategy* was introduced in a breakout session and subsequently to the closing plenary. The Faith Moving Mountains forum was organized by ISARC, the Ontario network for Interfaith Social Assistance Review Coalition.

On November 20, the Petition to review the *2010 Federal Poverty Reduction Strategy* was drawn to the attention of members attending the regular meeting of Peel Region - Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee.

¹⁰ The transmittal letter to MPs is filed as CC.New.EX9.5.45 at City of Toronto <http://ow.ly/Ukcst>