



Town of Ingersoll

Poverty negatively impacts our ability to create a healthy, vibrant community. The fact that some people in Oxford County cannot afford basic needs, including nutritious and sufficient food is a real concern. In Oxford County, based on the 2010 after tax Low Income Measure, 12.3% of families live in low income.

On September 17, 2014, all Town of Ingersoll Candidates were contacted via email and provided an introduction to, and a link to the following survey. The survey questions provide an opportunity for voters to start a discussion with candidates about poverty reduction. Our hope is that this survey serves as a starting point to an ongoing conversation about poverty in Oxford County.

Participation in the survey was voluntary. Responses provided by the candidates that completed the survey are posted and have not been changed in any way. The Oxford Poverty Action Coalition and Social Planning Council Oxford would like to thank those candidates who have completed the survey.

The following candidates from Ingersoll did not submit a completed survey:

Candidate	Position
Ted Comiskey	Mayor
John Fortner	Deputy Mayor
Fred Freeman	Deputy Mayor
Michael Bowman	Councillor
Broderick Carey	Councillor
Dave Cripps	Councillor
Rick Eus	Councillor
Steve McSwiggan	Councillor
Cathy Mott	Councillor
Brian Petrie	Councillor
Kristine Van Kooten-Bossence	Councillor

Question One

How would you best define poverty? Please select all that apply:

- Lacking the resources to meet one's physical needs for survival (e.g. lacking shelter, food, and clothing)
- Lacking the resources to fully participate in social and recreational opportunities in the community
- Lacking enough resources to be self-sufficient
- I don't know
- Other

Candidate	Position	Lacking the resources to meet one's physical needs for survival	Lacking the resources to fully participate in social and recreational opportunities in the community	Lacking enough resources to be self-sufficient	I don't know	Other
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	X	X	X		
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	X	X			
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	X	X	X		

Question Two

Local groups are coming together across Canada to develop comprehensive approaches to poverty reduction and help guide community efforts. These groups (sometimes called coalitions or committees) are usually composed of diverse sectors, including business, government, voluntary organizations, and people living in poverty. At least 14 municipalities in Ontario have poverty reduction coalitions, including: Halton, Hamilton, Huron County, Kingston, Leeds and Grenville, London, Niagara, Oxford County, Peel, Peterborough, Simcoe County, Thunder Bay, Waterloo, and Windsor-Essex County.

Do you think Oxford County needs a poverty action coalition?

- Yes
- No

Candidate	Position	Response
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	Yes
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	Yes
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	Yes

Question Three

Often one of the first priorities of poverty reduction coalitions is to develop a local poverty reduction strategy to help shape local priorities and provide measurable objectives. At least 10 municipalities in Ontario have local poverty reduction strategies, including: Halton, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Niagara, Peel, Peterborough, Thunder Bay, Waterloo, and Windsor-Essex County.

Did you know Oxford County does not have a *poverty reduction strategy*?

- Yes
- No

Candidate	Position	Response
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	No
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	Yes
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	No

Question Four

Do you think Oxford County needs a *poverty reduction strategy*?

- Yes
- No

Candidate	Position	Response
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	Yes
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	Yes
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	Yes

Question Five

There are a number of key roles municipal government could play in overall poverty reduction. Read each of the statements below and tell us whether or not you think Oxford County should be playing that role.

I think that the municipality should be a connector of organizations and partners from various sectors to allow them to work together on poverty reduction:

Candidate	Position	Response
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Tim Lobzun	Mayor	Yes
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	Yes
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	Yes

I think that the municipality should be an exemplary employer, including implementing employment practices that reduce poverty and providing a living wage to internal staff and outsourced services:

Candidate	Position	Response
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	Uncertain
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	Uncertain
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	Yes

I think that the municipality should be an investor in community programs and processes that support poverty reduction:

Candidate	Position	Response
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	Yes
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	Yes
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	Yes

I think that the municipality should be a leader and champion for community based poverty reduction initiatives, including raising community awareness about poverty and advocating to the federal and provincial levels of government:

Candidate	Position	Response
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	Yes
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	Yes
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	Yes

I think that the municipality should be a provider of services that reduce poverty, such as child care, social assistance, arts and recreation, etc:

Candidate	Position	Response
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	Yes
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	Uncertain
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	Yes

Question Six

Municipal governments across Canada are taking steps to assist in poverty reduction in a variety of ways. **If elected, would you support the implementation of any of these public policies and programs in Oxford County?**

Affordable housing strategy: *Affordable housing strategies identify the ways in which the municipality will assist with housing affordability*

Affordable transit programs and services: *Affordable transit programs and services increase people's ability to participate in employment, attend important medical and other appointments, and participate fully in community life*

Food charter: *Food charters are statements of values, principles, and priorities that guide municipal food related planning, policy, and programs*

Food policy council: *Food policy councils support a variety of community food initiatives and promote a healthy sustainable and accessible food system for all*

Housing first policy: *Housing first policy is an approach to ending homelessness that involves giving people direct access to permanent housing, along with the services they need and want to maintain it*

Candidate	Position	Affordable Housing	Affordable Transit	Food Charter	Food Policy Council	Housing First Policy
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	Uncertain	Yes	Yes	Uncertain	Uncertain
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Uncertain
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Question Six Continued

Municipal governments across Canada are taking steps to assist in poverty reduction in a variety of ways. **If elected, would you support the implementation of any of these public policies and programs in Oxford County?**

Living wage campaign: *Living wage campaigns are community-based initiatives that calculate the amount a family needs to meet basic expenses, such as housing, child care, food, and transportation, and supports measures to ensure they can be met*

Municipal living wage policy: *Municipal living wage policy ensures that municipal workers, as well as contracted staff, are paid enough to meet basic family living expenses*

Discounted supplies for municipal recreation, arts and culture programs: *Sports, recreation and other leisure activity access promotes inclusion and are associated with an enhanced quality of life through gaining new skills and improved physical and psychological well-being*

Financial assistance to youth to cover the cost of non-municipal recreation program fees, equipment, and/or transportation: *Sports, recreation and other leisure activity access promotes inclusion and are associated with an enhanced quality of life through gaining new skills and improved physical and psychological well-being*

Free admission to municipal recreation facilities: *Sports, recreation and other leisure activity access promotes inclusion and are associated with an enhanced quality of life through gaining new skills and improved physical and psychological well-being*

Candidate	Position	Living Wage Campaign	Municipal Living Wage Policy	Discounted Supplies for Municipal Recreation	Financial Assistance to Youth for Non-Municipal Recreation	Free Admission to Municipal Recreation Facilities
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	Yes	Uncertain	Uncertain	Yes	Uncertain
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	Yes	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Uncertain

Question Seven

Nutrition-related diseases (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers) cost Oxford County and the province of Ontario millions annually. Low income residents can't afford to eat a healthy diet, once housing and other essential bills are paid.

What would you do, if elected, to help ensure that everyone in Oxford County is available to afford a healthy diet?

Candidate	Position	Response
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	"Part of my platform is to develop the conditions for a Food/Trade terminal in Oxford. This will bring jobs and lower the cost of food as well as create an opportunity for small grocery stores in rural areas where grocery deserts have formed."
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	"Have always supported our local food banks in any way that I can. Would continue to ask Oxford County to support local food banks."
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	"Work towards providing a living wage that is more inclusive of the current cost of healthier grocery choices."

Question Eight

If elected, would you support poverty reduction in Oxford County?

Candidate	Position	Response
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	Yes
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	Yes

Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	Yes
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Question Nine

If you would support poverty reduction in Oxford County, please provide at least two specific examples or actions of support you would take:

Candidate	Position	Response
Tim Lobzun	Mayor	“Rather than invent an Oxford solution I would look to see where we could enhance programs from the upper tier governments either with funding or facility support I would also push to have Oxford County libraries become proctor stations where folks that wish to better their education online could take their final College or University exams locally in a library.”
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	“Working with developers to build more affordable housing. Continuing to support food banks to provide good nutrition.”
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	“Affordable child care for everyone. Affordable healthy food choices for all.”

Question Ten

Please select up to three issues you would be committed to championing, if elected. Select #1 for your first choice, #2 for your second choice, and #3 for your third choice:

- Affordable child care is available for all families
- Affordable public transit is available for all individuals
- Extensive and affordable library services are available
- Extensive and affordable recreation programs are available for all individuals
- Free income tax clinics are available to families who need them
- People on low-income have access to subsidies to live in private market rental properties
- People who are homeless get housed as quickly as possible
- Portion of all new housing developments is dedicated to subsidized housing for those living on low income
- The number of people living in poverty is reduced
- The overall health of our community improves
- The right to live in a food secure community with dignified access to sufficient, affordable, healthy, safe, and culturally appropriate food is obtained by all

Candidate	Position	Response
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Tim Lobzun	Mayor	#1: The right to live in a food secure community with dignified access to sufficient, affordable, healthy, safe, and culturally appropriate food is obtained by all #2: The number of people living in poverty is reduced #3: The overall health of our community improves
Gordon Lesser	Councillor	#1: The overall health of our community improves #2: The number of people living in poverty is reduced #3: People on low income have access to subsidies to live in private market rental properties
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor	#1: The number of people living in poverty is reduced #2: Affordable child care is available for all families #3: The right to live in a food secure community with dignified access to sufficient, affordable, healthy, safe, and culturally appropriate food is obtained by all

Question Eleven

In your opinion, rate each of the following on their responsibility to reduce poverty as either: No responsibility, Some responsibility, A lot of responsibility, Don't Know.

- Charitable organizations and non-profits
- General public not living in poverty
- General public living in poverty
- Private business
- Municipal government
- Provincial government
- Federal government

Candidate	Position	No Responsibility	Some Responsibility	A lot of Responsibility	Don't know
Tim Lobzun	Mayor		Charitable organizations and non-profits General public not living in poverty General public living in poverty Private business Municipal government	Provincial government Federal government	
Gordon Lesser	Councillor		Charitable organizations and non-profits	Municipal government	

			General public not living in poverty	Provincial government	
			General public living in poverty	Federal government	
			Private business		
Regan Warnick-Franklin	Councillor		Charitable organizations and non-profits	Municipal government	
			General public not living in poverty	Provincial government	
			General public living in poverty	Federal government	
			Private business		