



## Town of Tillsonburg

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 Tillsonburg 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 Tillsonburg did not submit a completed survey:

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Position</b>
Dave Beres	Deputy Mayor
Mel Getty	Deputy Mayor
Richard Miggins	Councillor
Chris Rosehart	Councillor
Brian Stephenson	Councillor
Jim Van Rybroeck	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
Marty Klein	Mayor	X	X	X		
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	X	X	X		
Mark Renaud	Mayor	X				
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	X	X			
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	X	X	X		
Jim Hayes	Councillor	X	X	X		
Roderick Van Riesen	Councillor			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

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Response</b>
Marty Klein	Mayor	Yes
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	Yes
Mark Renaud	Mayor	Yes
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Yes
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	Yes
Jim Hayes	Councillor	Yes
Roderick Van Riessen	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
Marty Klein	Mayor	Yes
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	Yes
Mark Renaud	Mayor	No
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Yes
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	No
Jim Hayes	Councillor	No
Roderick Van Riessen	Councillor	No

## Question Four

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

- Yes
- No

Candidate	Position	Response
Marty Klein	Mayor	Yes
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	Yes
Mark Renaud	Mayor	Yes
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Yes
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	Yes
Jim Hayes	Councillor	Yes
Roderick Van Riessen	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
Marty Klein	Mayor	Yes
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	Yes
Mark Renaud	Mayor	Yes
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Uncertain
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	Yes
Jim Hayes	Councillor	Yes
Roderick Van Riessen	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
Marty Klein	Mayor	Yes
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	Yes
Mark Renaud	Mayor	Yes
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Yes
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	Yes
Jim Hayes	Councillor	Uncertain
Roderick Van Riessen	Councillor	Uncertain

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

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Response</b>
Marty Klein	Mayor	Yes
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	Yes
Mark Renaud	Mayor	Yes
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Yes
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	Yes
Jim Hayes	Councillor	Yes
Roderick Van Riessen	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:**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Response</b>
Marty Klein	Mayor	Yes
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	Yes
Mark Renaud	Mayor	Yes
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Uncertain
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	Uncertain
Jim Hayes	Councillor	Yes
Roderick Van Riessen	Councillor	Uncertain

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

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Response</b>
Marty Klein	Mayor	Yes
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	Yes
Mark Renaud	Mayor	Uncertain
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Yes
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	Yes
Jim Hayes	Councillor	Yes
Roderick Van Riessen	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
Marty Klein	Mayor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mark Renaud	Mayor	Yes	Yes	Uncertain	Uncertain	Yes
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Uncertain
Jim Hayes	Councillor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roderick Van Riessen	Councillor	Yes	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain

## 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
Marty Klein	Mayor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Uncertain
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mark Renaud	Mayor	Yes	Uncertain	Yes	Yes	Uncertain
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Uncertain	Uncertain
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	Uncertain	Yes	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Jim Hayes	Councillor	Yes	Uncertain	Uncertain	Yes	Uncertain
Roderick Van Riessen	Councillor	Uncertain	Uncertain	Yes	Uncertain	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
Marty Klein	Mayor	No response
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	"A comprehensive program would need to start with awareness and accessibility. Awareness of current benchmarks and identifying the barriers to a healthy diet. Accessibility would enable equitable access to nutritional foods through the priorities adopted by Food Secure Oxford. This would act as a catalyst for current and future programs to provide full access to foods necessary for a healthy diet."
Mark Renaud	Mayor	"First and foremost, ensure that we have a permanent, year-round farmer's market providing local food options at affordable prices."
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	"One idea that I've had is to utilize municipal land for the benefit of the community. Can we invite people to help grow crops that are nutritious and, in the end, consume the fruits of labour. We have an abundance of farm land in Oxford County. Furthermore, I cannot understand how we have an unemployment rate when we bring so many 1000s of off-shore workers to the Tri-County area. I think it's time we start looking back in time. Farmers pay a fair wage to workers, well above minimum (at least \$14 per hour)."
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	No response
Jim Hayes	Councillor	"Encourage more donated fresh farm produce to food banks."
Roderick Van Riessen	Councillor	No response

## Question Eight

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

Candidate	Position	Response
Marty Klein	Mayor	Yes
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	Yes
Mark Renaud	Mayor	Yes
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Yes
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	Yes
Jim Hayes	Councillor	Yes
Roderick Van Riessen	Councillor	Yes

## 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
Marty Klein	Mayor	“Expand the F.A.R.E. (Fee Assisted Recreation Experience). Tillsonburg is in partnership with United Way Oxford to provide a recreation subsidy to County residents in need, but it is limited to Oxford residents. I would work with United Way in Elgin and Norfolk to make this program available to their residents which normally use Tillsonburg as their urban centre. Secondly there is a real need for transportation options within the County and surrounding area.”
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	“Formalize the efforts of the Oxford Poverty Action Coalition into a County-wide Poverty Reduction Strategy. Implement an affordable, efficient and sustainable transit system as part of a comprehensive transportation plan.”
Mark Renaud	Mayor	“Support coordination of all agencies towards poverty reduction – appoint a member of council to a board to oversee poverty reduction. Ensure that our town business plans, strategic plans and council business plans support poverty reduction.”
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	“I’d consider joining a poverty reduction committee. Propose the use of municipal lands to grow nutritious, affordable crops. Attempt to network/collaborate with farmers and generate local jobs.”
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	No response
Jim Hayes	Councillor	“Subsidized housing, transportation at reduced rates.”
Roderick Van Riessen	Councillor	“Support for non-profit, local charities (i.e. food bank, Salvation Army).”

## 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

## Question Ten Continued

Candidate	Position	Response
Marty Klein	Mayor	#1: Affordable public transit is available for all individuals #2: Extensive and affordable recreation programs are available for all individuals #3: People who are homeless get housed as quickly as possible
Stephen Molnar	Mayor	#1: Affordable public transit is available for all individuals #2: The overall health of our community improves #3: The number of people living in poverty is reduced
Mark Renaud	Mayor	#1: Affordable public transit is available for all individuals #2: People who are homeless get housed as quickly as possible #3: The number of people living in poverty is reduced
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	#1: The overall health of our community improves #2: Affordable public transit is available for all individuals #3: The number of people living in poverty is reduced
Penny Esseltine	Councillor	#1: Extensive and affordable library services are available #2: 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
Jim Hayes	Councillor	#1: Affordable child care is available for all families #1: Affordable public transit is available for all individuals #1: Extensive and affordable library services are available #1: Extensive and affordable recreation programs are available for all individuals #1: People who are homeless get housed as quickly as possible #1: The number of people living in poverty is reduced #1: The overall health of our community improves #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: Free income tax clinics are available to families who need them #2: People on low income have access to subsidies to live in private market rental properties #2: Portion of all new housing developments is dedicated to subsidized housing for those living on low income
Roderick Van Riessen	Councillor	#1: The overall health of our community improves #2: Extensive and affordable recreation programs are available for all individuals

## 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
Marty Klein	Mayor	Private business	General public not living in poverty General public living in poverty Municipal government Provincial government	Charitable organization and non-profits Federal government	
Stephen Molnar	Mayor		Charitable organization and non-profits General public not living in poverty General public living in poverty Private business	Municipal government Provincial government Federal government	

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>No Responsibility</b>	<b>Some Responsibility</b>	<b>A lot of Responsibility</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Mark Renaud	Mayor		Charitable organization and non-profits General public not living in poverty General public living in poverty Private business Municipal government	Provincial government Federal government	
Maxwell Adam	Councillor	Private business	Charitable organization and non-profits General public not living in poverty General public living in poverty Municipal government	Provincial government Federal government	
Penny Esseltine	Councillor		Charitable organization 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
Jim Hayes	Councillor		General public living in poverty  Private business	Charitable organization and non-profits  General public not living in poverty  Municipal government  Provincial government  Federal government	
Roderick Van Riessen	Councillor		Charitable organization and non-profits  General public not living in poverty  General public living in poverty  Private business  Municipal government  Provincial government  Federal government		