



Elgin St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty

www.povertycoalition.ca

Info@povertycoalition.ca

March 8th, 2024

Sent Electronically

Attention:

Warden and Members of Council for Elgin County
CAO/Clerk Blaine Parkin

For Information

Re: Elgin St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty – 2023 Timeline of Success

The Elgin St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty has released its 2023 Timeline of Success. Yearly, the coalition collates successes that we have seen in our communities contributing to poverty prevention and elimination. We are sharing this timeline with you today in celebration of the hard work of all members, local groups, agencies, community volunteers, and municipalities working towards ending poverty.

Highlights this year include: an expansion of supportive housing, a successful '*Community Conversations*' event, a proclamation with the City of St. Thomas for the International Day to Irradicate Poverty, and the launch of '*A Place Called Home: A Community Plan for St. Thomas – Elgin to end Women Led Family Homelessness*', among others.

Please review the attached 'Timeline of Success' and consider sharing as appropriate with your staff and constituents.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions and support of this work. Municipalities are key partners in reducing poverty and its effects within our communities. We look forward to continuing this work in our local communities and celebrating successes in years to come.

At the coalition we strive to make sure we are including all areas of Elgin St. Thomas as well as local decision makers. If you are interested in joining the coalition, please contact info@povertycoalition.ca for more information.

Sincerely,

The Elgin St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty

Who are we?

The Elgin St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty is a dedicated group of local agencies and volunteers in Elgin and St. Thomas who are committed to ending poverty in our region. This work is largely focused around key priority areas including safe and affordable housing, adequate income and living wages, and food security.



Homelessness & Hope

A chance to meet and hear from people with lived experiences of homelessness and learn a bit about resources and local efforts for homelessness.

Gathered on World Homelessness Day

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Casa Station | 750 Talbot Street

12,515 people are living below the poverty line in our community. This number is more than the population of Aylmer, West Lorne, Port Stanley and Port Burwell combined.

POVERTY COALITION STRATEGY

Poverty to Possibility

VISION

No person in Elgin—St. Thomas will live in poverty

MISSION

To address the root causes of poverty

FOCUS



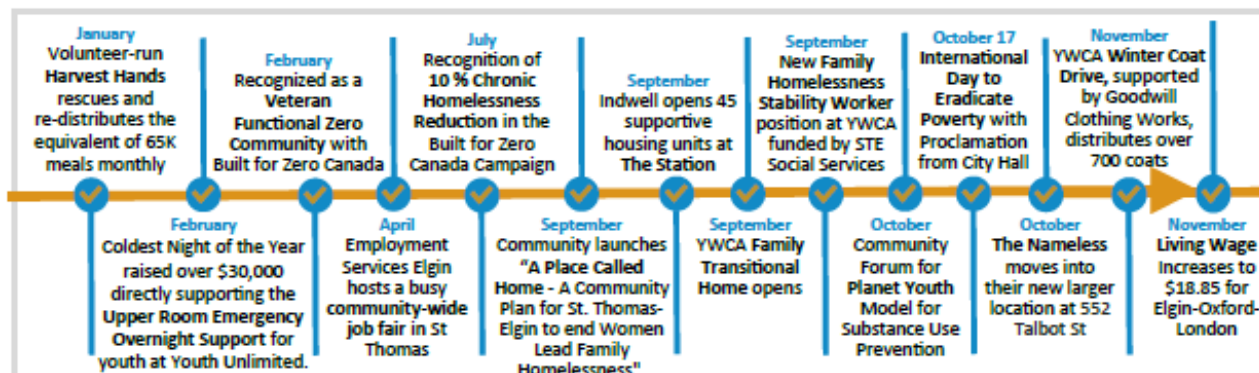
Housing Stability



Food Security



Income Security



Elgin—St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty

2023 Progress Timeline

WORKING TOGETHER

The Coalition to End Poverty is made up of Elgin St. Thomas citizens, agencies, businesses and government representatives. Our plans and projects align with the good work that's already being done in our community.

OUR FOCUS



Housing Stability

Everyone can find and maintain a safe and affordable place to call home.



Food Security

Everyone has access to accessible, affordable, sufficient and nutritious food.



Income Security

Everyone has access to a Living Wage and Employment Resources.

VISION



ADVOCATE



EDUCATE

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

This year [The Inn](#) through our community partnerships helped house over 50 individuals. We connected people to new income supports and job opportunities that helped them find strong financial stability.

On October 12, the [Community Action Network for Children and Youth Elgin \(CAN\)](#) hosted a forum to discuss the [Planet Youth Model](#) for substance prevention. The event was well attended by 72 community members from different social sectors including youth, municipal leaders, police, schools, business owners, parents, local doctors, etc. The goal of forum was to determine community investment in adopting this approach to substance prevention. Over 30 participants signed on to further the conversation and develop a plan for adoption. The momentum of our local work is supported by a Federal commitment to the approach of \$21M over the next 5 years.

As part of the declaration at City Hall, on [October 17 International Day to Eradicate Poverty](#) local media were in attendance. CTV's Brent Lale created a video piece highlighting the experience of poverty for one community member. To read the story or view the video, scan this QR code or [click here](#).



St. Thomas-Elgin Data Recording with Built for Zero Canada

Our community continues to learn, support, and adopt proven practices while utilizing real time data to inform system improvement.

We look forward to many more years of collective success and engagement with our St. Thomas Elgin community partners, leadership, and political and key stakeholders as we continue to provide resiliency, commitment, and hope.

In 2023, we saw more than 170 unique folx, including individuals and families, move out of homelessness into housing, comprising 58% of the 295 referred with the year.

Elgin—St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

For more information contact www.povertycoalition.ca

