

# Let's make a difference and put **Health in All Policies**



All levels of government shape the health of a community through the design and delivery of policies, programs and services. All policies have a health impact, not just those in the health sector. A *Health in All Policies* approach takes into account the health implications of decisions and seeks ways to work together across sectors to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to live a healthy life.



# GREY BRUCE ISSUES AND FEDERAL ACTIONS FOR HEALTH

## Income and Employment Security

- Support a Basic Income Guarantee, as endorsed by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA).
- Support reliable local employment and business opportunities.

"I'd just like to have one job that pays a reasonable wage rather than working three that don't." *Grey Bruce Resident*<sup>1</sup>

According to a local cost analysis, a full time wage of \$16.76 an hour is required to meet basic needs for living in our region.

## Environment and Climate Change

- Adopt a nation-wide carbon pricing policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Require environmental impact and sustainability considerations in planning and development for economic growth.

"Let's celebrate our beaches, trees and natural environment. We need to keep our environment clean." <sup>1</sup>

## Healthy Housing

- Support a federal reinvestment in social housing to ensure affordability, capital repairs, and sustainability for low income households.
- Build on proven practice like "Housing First" that provides housing support and reduces homelessness.

"When I pay most of my income for rent, there is little left for food." <sup>1</sup>

The proportion of tenant occupied households spending 30% or more of household income on gross rent is 42% in Grey Bruce. Affordable housing leaves people with more disposable income to buy necessities.

<sup>1</sup>Grey Bruce resident quotes from the Community Conversations Grey Bruce Project

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Well nourished children are better able to reach their academic potential. Canada is the only G8 member country without a universal student nutrition program.

## Healthy Food Systems

- Fund a National Student Nutrition Program for all Canadian Schools.
- Develop and implement a National Food Strategy.

"On pizza days, I had to pull my kids from school so they wouldn't be embarrassed about not being able to afford lunch."<sup>1</sup>

## Healthy Transportation Networks

- Provide funding for coordinated, rural transportation systems that support vulnerable populations.
- Integrate Complete Streets concepts and Smart Growth policy reforms that encourage connected streets, mixed land use and various modes of transportation.

"We need safe places for walking and cycling. Shoulders need paving; it's very scary to ride a bike."<sup>1</sup>

Lack of transportation is a barrier to education, employment, health care and other services and can lead to social isolation. Vulnerable populations include youth and people living in under-resourced circumstances.

## Access to Recreation

Recreation contributes to the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals and the wellbeing of our communities. Opportunities with fewer barriers make it easier to be active and participate in our communities.

- Expand and enhance support for physically active recreation opportunities to promote active living.
- Fund programs and infrastructure that promote access to recreation facilities, outdoor spaces and the natural environment for all ages, abilities and economic situations.

"I want a small town that's interactive, invites all ages and has activities for all."<sup>1</sup>

# **Health in All Policies...**

- Contributes to overall economic productivity.
- Reduces costs to the healthcare system.
- Increases efficiency and cost effectiveness between Government Ministries and departments.
- Addresses the social factors known to impact population health. Healthier people lose fewer days of work and contribute to overall economic productivity.
- Improves collaboration across all sectors.
- Creates opportunities for health and wellbeing especially for individuals and populations who are under-resourced.

## **Moving to Action**

- Support and advocate for a *Health in All Policies* approach at the federal level;
- Consider the health impacts of all policies, and;
- Collaborate with stakeholders to apply a health lens to policies and decisions while building healthy communities together.

***...is good business***

For more information:

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