

A. Purpose

To identify, recognize and develop local capacity for education & advocacy as it relates to Child Poverty within the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa.

To develop contextual ministries addressing Child Poverty within the communities that the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa serves.

B. Goals and Objectives

1. Internal Scan :: Ascertain what we currently do in various communities throughout the diocese to address child poverty. We will do this in order to better-communicate about our response, and to encourage others in our diocese to address child poverty in their contexts.
2. External Scan :: Become aware of current responses to child poverty in our communities, in order to identify gaps and ways of working to address needs in cooperation with organizations already active in this area.
3. Develop an Annotated Bibliography of resources for parishes and individuals that address issues of child poverty
4. Determine the feasibility of a new ministry focused on child poverty that will take over the work of this task force.
5. Develop awareness throughout the organization (including parishes, ministries and Diocesan leaders) of real needs with regard to child poverty and how to access accurate information, so that the organization as a whole becomes credible and competent in this area.

C. Methods and Areas of Activity

1. Engaging with Parishes and Individuals

We will perform serious inquiry into what's already happening. We will develop a questionnaire that will help us to get a sense of what parishes are doing, or could be doing

We will develop a **Community of Concern** through the use of email, mail, social media. We will connect people interested in this area, and use these channels to access, engage and mobilize people directly.

2. Engaging with Other Players in the Area

We will find ways to learn from and work collaboratively with churches and community organizations that are already active in issues of child poverty.

i.e. Bishop Bays mentioned the United Church's "Putting a Roof on Poverty" Campaign

3. Advocacy

We will determine channels to enable us to advocate on behalf of children in poverty. This may involve collaboration with coalitions (i.e. Dignity for All, Ottawa ACORN, etc.), informing individuals of our church's stance, making advocacy toolkits available, and providing opportunities for individuals and parishes to communicate effectively with politicians and other key decision-makers.

D. Scope

1. Poverty manifests itself in varying contexts including rural centres, cities and all places in between. Our responses will vary in different contexts.
2. Our response should take place throughout the diocese, in all communities where poverty exists. When specific opportunities arise to address child poverty in a particular place (whether rural or urban), we will work together to address it.
3. Our ministry will be mindful of and responsive to the needs of aboriginal people in our communities.