



## **Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN)**

Working collectively to wipe out poverty in Niagara through information sharing, changing attitudes, and compelling Niagara citizens to get involved and take action.

### **NPRN Transportation Position Statement**

An integrated Regional Transit system is critical to the health and well-being of Niagara residents and our future economic growth and prosperity.

### **Regional Transit Background**

Niagara is made-up of urban and rural communities spread out over a large geographical area with the majority of employment and post-secondary education opportunities and other services located predominantly in Niagara's urban centres. The need for connectivity across our urban and rural communities is long recognized. In 2011, Niagara Region piloted a Regional Transit service which successfully established important transportation linkages across 5 of Niagara's 12 municipalities. Moving forward, we need a permanent, fully integrated regional transit system servicing and connecting all 12 of Niagara's municipalities.

### **Benefits of an Integrated Regional Transit System for Niagara**

- Niagara's economic growth and prosperity will improve
- Increases our competitiveness for attracting and retaining youth, students and new business
- Key component of GO Transit expansion to Niagara
- Access to opportunities to work, live, play and learn in Niagara is a vital service link and important to an individual's quality of life
- Bridges the gap between urban and rural communities
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and makes for safer roads
- Builds resilience against the effects of rising fuel costs



### **Resources**

Canadian Urban Transit Association. (2014). Measuring Success: The Economic Impact of Transit Investment in Canada. Issue paper 35.

Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce Report. Presentation link:

<http://www.greaterniagarachamber.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=bDNCQPY0HwI%3d&tabid=243>

J. Sinclair and Associates. (2013). Regional Transits Impact on Quality of Life.

Canadian Labour Congress. (2011). Moving Toward Canada's "Green" Economy: Investing in Public

Transit and Intercity Rail. Retrieved from <http://www.canadianlabour.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/researchpaper-en.pdf>