Social Assistance Reform Network of Niagara (SARNN) fonds


Brock University Archives

RG 593

Creator: The Social Assistance Reform Network of Niagara (SARNN)
Extent: 20 cm (1 box)
Abstract: Fonds contains material about the activities of the Social Assistance Reform Network of Niagara (SARNN), as well as its predecessors, the Social Assistance Reform Committee (SARC) and the Social Assistance Advisory Committee (SAAC).
Materials: Minutes, briefs, reports, correspondence, news articles.
Repository: Brock University Archives
Processed by: Chantal Cameron
Last updated: May 2017

Terms of use: The Social Assistance Reform Network of Niagara (SARNN) fonds is open for research.
Use restrictions: Current copyright applies. In some instances, researchers must obtain the written permission of the holder(s) of copyright and the Brock University Archives before publishing quotations from materials in the collection. Most papers may be copied in accordance with the Library's usual procedures unless otherwise specified.

Administrative history:
In 1988, the Social Assistance Reform Committee (SARC) was formed, comprised of several front line agencies, organizations, churches and individuals across Niagara, to monitor and support the progressive social welfare reforms of Judge George Thomson’s Social Assistance Review Commission. The Commission was introduced by the Liberal government of David Peterson, continued by the NDP government in the early 1990s, and then ended by the Conservative government in 1995. A conference on social welfare reforms sponsored by SARC in 1999 led to the formation of a task force to examine these reforms and assess progress in Niagara, in keeping with Judge Thomson’s work. The task force was called the Social Assistance Advisory Committee (SAAC) and was endorsed by the Commissioner of Community Services. The task force was composed of individuals who had direct involvement with low-income individuals and families and/or those who advocated on behalf of low-income households. Its mandate was to bring issues and concerns facing low-income individuals and families in Niagara to the Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division.

The Social Assistance Reform Committee (SARC) and the Social Assistance Advisory Committee (SAAC) merged in 2010 to save time and energy for their front-line agency members. The groups continued to keep their respective mandates and roles. The new group was named the Social Assistance Reform Network of Niagara (SARNN).

Scope and content:

Fonds contains material about the activities of the Social Assistance Reform Network of Niagara (SARNN), as well as its predecessors, the Social Assistance Reform Committee (SARC) and the Social Assistance Advisory Committee (SAAC). Most of the material consists of meeting minutes, briefs, reports, correspondence and news articles. Duplicate material was removed and discarded. Within folders, material is arranged chronologically.

Organization:

The records were arranged into three series:

Series I: Administrative, 2011-2017
   Sub-series A: Minutes
   Sub-series B: Correspondence

Series II: Activities, 1989-2015
   Sub-series A: Conferences & Forums
   Sub-series B: Briefs

Inventory:

**Series I: Administrative, 2011-2017**

**Sub-series A: Minutes, 2011-2017**

1.1 Minutes, 2011-2013. Contains agendas and meeting minutes of the Social Assistance Reform Network Niagara Committee from September 2011 to November 2013 (non-inclusive). Includes related news articles, reports, media releases and correspondence. Some of the topics covered include Niagara’s Homelessness Service System request for proposal; loss of community start-up and maintenance benefit (CSUMB) and new provincial homelessness program, Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI); Niagara’s 10-year community action plan to help people find and keep housing; prosperity projects funding update; and the Niagara Regional Housing Rent supplement program.

1.2 Minutes, 2014-2015. Contains agendas and meeting minutes of the SARNNN Committee from February 2014 to November 2015 (non-inclusive). Includes related news clippings, reports, and correspondence. Some of the topics covered include Campaign 2000 (raising the minimum wage); Niagara region nutritious food basket and resources; elimination of the Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB); an update on HOPE House emergency hostel transition strategy; Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program; Niagara Prosperity Initiative Projects; and Home for All, Niagara’s ten-year community action plan to help people find affordable housing.

1.3 Minutes, 2016-2017. Contains agendas and meeting minutes of SARNNN from January 2016 to April 2017 (non-inclusive). Includes related news articles, correspondence and reports. Most of the material concerns guaranteed basic income.

**Sub-series B: Correspondence, 2012-2016**

1.4 General correspondence, 2012-2016. Contains correspondence to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance, and letters to and from government officials and anti-poverty groups. Politicians include Dalton McGuinty (Premier), Gary Burroughs (Chair, Regional Municipality of Niagara), John Malloy (Minister of Community and Social Services), Soo Wong (MPP), Linda Jeffrey (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), Joe Oliver (Minister of Finance), Eric Hoskins (Minister of Health and Long Term Care), and Cindy Forster (MPP, Welland). Anti-poverty groups include the ODSP Action

Series II: Activities, 1989-2015

Sub-series A: Conferences & Forums, 1996-2011

1.5 Poverty Conference, 1996. Contains an agenda for the conference by the Niagara SARC Network Forum entitled The Impact, The Challenges, The Actions. Also contains biographical information about workshop leaders (Christel Haeck, Milica Kovachavich, Catherine Francis, Andrew Mitchell, and Margaret Jarell); a list of conference participants; and summaries of speakers presentations.


1.7 Poverty Conference correspondence, 1999. Contains correspondence to and from conference participants, including George Thomson, Sue Cox, Andy Mitchell, Susan Eagle and Peter Clutterbuck.

1.8 SARNN Public Forums, 2008-2016. Contains material from SARNN’s spring community forums, including a presentation entitled Ontarians waiting for leadership on poverty reduction by Trish Henessy (2008); a summary of a forum on youth homelessness (2011); the Big Push for a guaranteed annual income (2014); Code Red, Steve Buist’s series on health outcomes (2015); and correspondence and promotional material about Michael Shapcott’s presentation addressing affordable housing and homelessness (2016). Also includes a list of SARNN’s spring community forums from 2011-2015 with a list of the group’s objectives and reporting relationships, members, and history from 1988-2015.

Sub-series B: Briefs, 1989-2015

1.10 Briefs, 1996-2004. Contains briefs to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs 1997, 2000; correspondence to John Baird (Minister of Community and Social Services), Brenda Elliott (Minister of Community, Family, and Children’s Services), Ernie Eves (Premier of Ontario) and Dalton McGuinty (Premier of Ontario); a brief entitled *Lack of Transportation in Niagara as a barrier to employment & access to social and community services*, 2003; a press release and summary of the “Lives in the balance—Ontario’s Social Audit”; and a letter to Prime Minister Paul Martin from the Campaign Against Child Poverty.

1.11 Briefs, 2005-2009. Contains briefs from the Niagara SARC network to the Standing Committee on Finance & Economic Affairs, 2005, 2008; a response to Ontario’s Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy discussion paper, submitted to Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing from SARNN, 2009; and a brief to the Provincial Standing Committee on Social Policy from SARC re: Bill 152, the Poverty Reduction Act, 2009.

1.12 Briefs, 2010-2015. Contains a brief to the Provincial Standing Committee on Finance & Economic Affairs from SARNN, 2010; correspondence to Premier Dalton McGuinty; a brief to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario, September 2011; a proposed resolution on the provincial cuts to the Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit for consideration by the Public Health and Social Services Committee, 2012; correspondence to Gary Burroughs (Chair of the Regional Municipality of Niagara), John Milloy, Minister of Community and Social Services, and Kathleen Wynne, Premier; and a brief to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, 2015 pre-budget consultations.


1.13 Publications, 2007-2013. Includes a report prepared for the Region of Niagara entitled *A Legacy of Poverty: addressing cycles of poverty & the impact on child health in Niagara Region* (2007); and a report by the Niagara Region entitled *Hungry for Health: understanding the connection between poverty and health in Niagara*; and news articles.

1.14 Publications, January-June 2014. Includes a report by the government of Ontario entitled *Realizing our potential: Ontario’s poverty reduction strategy, 2014-2019*; a Ministry of Community and Social Services question and answer sheet re: social assistance rate increase and extension of TCB repayment period; a dental
health report by Bridges Community Health Centre, June 2014; and news articles.


1.16 Publications, January-June 2015. Contains news items from e-mail subscriptions, including some from Workers’ Action Centre, Put Food in the Budget Campaign, Income Security Advisory Centre; and other news articles.


1.18 Publications, January-April 2016. Includes a paper entitled A wider lens: an analysis of Kesselman’s view of a basic income; news articles; a list of Niagara Prosperity Initiative Projects from 2013-2015 for Fort Erie, Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln, Port Colborne, St. Catharines, Thorold, Welland, and Niagara Falls; and a report entitled Calculating the Living Wage for Niagara Region, 2016 by the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network.

1.19 Publications, May-December 2016. Includes news articles; a discussion paper by the Government of Canada entitled Towards a Poverty Reduction Strategy; and a report published by the Mowat Centre entitled Working without a net: rethinking Canada’s social policy in the new age of work.


1.21 Publications, n.d. Includes speaking notes entitled Raising living standards for the working poor: issues and solutions by Andrew Jackson; excerpts from a report entitled Modernizing Income Security for Working-Age Adults; and
questions and answers re: social assistance rate increase and extension of TCB repayment period from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

1.22 Regional Municipality of Niagara Reports, 2001-2016, n.d. Includes reports on transportation needs, adequacy of social assistance rates, nutritious food baskets and resources, Niagara Prosperity Initiatives, community homelessness prevention initiative funding, and background on the Social Assistance Advisory Committee (SAAC).