

Prosperity for all is attainable if the community works together

News Sep 22, 2017 by [Victoria Gray \(/brantfordbrant-author/victoria-gray/e4d2bf5a-67a5-44f4-9817-d41a7797cf17/\)](/brantfordbrant-author/victoria-gray/e4d2bf5a-67a5-44f4-9817-d41a7797cf17/) [✉ \(mailto:vgray@metroland.com\)](mailto:vgray@metroland.com) Brant News

The Grand River Healthy Communities committee believes every family in Brantford and County of Brant can prosper.

“We want to show the community we care. We want to try to improve the city and make it place that all families can thrive,” Christina Rajsic, the director of health promotion at the Brant County Health Unit said.

The committee held a Prosperity Forum on Friday at the TB Costain Community Centre to formulate a plan and put it into action with community members and agencies.

It's the third in a series of forums aimed at making the community a better, more inclusive place to live and to help spur economic development and population growth.

The forum focused on affordable housing, income security and a safe living environment as keys to prosperity.

“There are so many variables and everything intersects. Prosperity is a huge topic and people can fall into, what we call, a vicious cycle,” she said.

Rajsic said that this cycle could apply to a child, who grows up in a stressful or unsafe environment, may not finish high school or obtain a GED, leading to low-paying work, which can lead to a lack of food and an unsafe living environment for themselves and their children, which perpetuates the cycle.

Anca Gaston, A health promoter at the BCHU, said Brantford is below the provincial average in many areas that help create prosperity, like, wages and incomes.

Wages have gone down for most jobs between 2007 and 2014. The average income is just over \$30,000 in Brantford and more than \$35,000 across the province.

In Brantford 44 per cent of renters spend more than the average 30 per cent of their household income on shelter and 68 per cent of people are living below the poverty line are single female parents.

The teen pregnancy rate in Brantford is almost three times that of the provincial average.

Heather Vanner, from the Community Resource Centre said one way to help people gain more prosperity it for organizations to work together to help families and individuals access all of the services they need.

“Not everyone knows about all of the services available and maybe they don't need to; maybe we do. If someone goes to a literacy program, but needs more, that program should be able to send them to employment services and so on and so forth,” she said.

Rajsic hopes to have organizations spearhead some initiatives to help create a prosperous community and to get real results.

“We held a Food Forum and from that we have seen the creation of pop-up markets in food deserts. We hope other organizations will, with our support, continue to go forward,” she said.

Prosperity for all is attainable if the community works together

The Grand River Healthy Communities committee held a Prosperity Forum to discuss how

News Sep 22, 2017 by [Victoria Gray \(/brantfordbrant-author/victoria-gray/e4d2bf5a-67a5-44f4-9817-d41a7797cf17/\)](/brantfordbrant-author/victoria-gray/e4d2bf5a-67a5-44f4-9817-d41a7797cf17/) [✉ \(mailto:vgray@metroland.com\)](mailto:vgray@metroland.com) Brant News

The Grand River Healthy Communities committee believes every family in Brantford and County of Brant can prosper.

"We want to show the community we care. We want to try to improve the city and make it place that all families can thrive," Christina Rajsic, the director of health promotion at the Brant County Health Unit said.

The committee held a Prosperity Forum on Friday at the TB Costain Community Centre to formulate a plan and put it into action with community members and agencies.

It's the third in a series of forums aimed at making the community a better, more inclusive place to live and to help spur economic development and population growth.

The forum focused on affordable housing, income security and a safe living environment as keys to prosperity.

"There are so many variables and everything intersects. Prosperity is a huge topic and people can fall into, what we call, a vicious cycle," she said.

Rajsic said that this cycle could apply to a child, who grows up in a stressful or unsafe environment, may not finish high school or obtain a GED, leading to low-paying work, which can lead to a lack of food and an unsafe living environment for themselves and their children, which perpetuates the cycle.

Anca Gaston, a health promoter at the BCHU, said Brantford is below the provincial average in many areas that help create prosperity, like, wages and incomes.

Wages have gone down for most jobs between 2007 and 2014. The average income is just over \$30,000 in Brantford and more than \$35,000 across the province.

In Brantford 44 per cent of renters spend more than the average 30 per cent of their household income on shelter and 68 per cent of people are living below the poverty line are single female parents.

The teen pregnancy rate in Brantford is almost three times that of the provincial average.

Heather Vanner, from the Community Resource Centre said one way to help people gain more prosperity is for organizations to work together to help families and individuals access all of the services they need.

"Not everyone knows about all of the services available and maybe they don't need to; maybe we do. If someone goes to a literacy program, but needs more, that program should be able to send them to employment services and so on and so forth," she said.

Rajsic hopes to have organizations spearhead some initiatives to help create a prosperous community and to get real results.

"We held a Food Forum and from that we have seen the creation of pop-up markets in food deserts. We hope other organizations will, with our support, continue to go forward," she said.



Prosperity for all is attainable if the community works together

The Grand River Healthy Communities committee held a Prosperity Forum to discuss how

News Sep 22, 2017 by [Victoria Gray \(/brantfordbrant-author/victoria-gray/e4d2bf5a-67a5-44f4-9817-d41a7797cf17/\)](/brantfordbrant-author/victoria-gray/e4d2bf5a-67a5-44f4-9817-d41a7797cf17/) [✉ \(mailto:vgray@metroland.com\)](mailto:vgray@metroland.com) Brant News



Tamara Kaattari, with Literacy Link (right), Sharon Rodoboaski and Samantha Russell with Community Employment Services, Alexandra Graham with the City of Brantford and Heather Vanner from the Community Resource Centre discussed how to improve access to services at the Grand River Healthy Communities Prosperity Forum on Friday at TB Costain Community Centre. - Victoria Gray/Metroland

The Grand River Healthy Communities committee believes every family in Brantford and County of Brant can prosper.

“We want to show the community we care. We want to try to improve the city and make it place that all families can thrive,” Christina Rajsic, the director of health promotion at the Brant County Health Unit said.

The committee held a Prosperity Forum on Friday at the TB Costain Community Centre to formulate a plan and put it into action with community members and agencies.

It's the third in a series of forums aimed at making the community a better, more inclusive place to live and to help spur economic development and population growth.

The forum focused on affordable housing, income security and a safe living environment as keys to prosperity.

“There are so many variables and everything intersects. Prosperity is a huge topic and people can fall into, what we call, a vicious cycle,” she said.

Rajsic said that this cycle could apply to a child, who grows up in a stressful or unsafe environment, may not finish high school or obtain a GED, leading to low-paying work, which can lead to a lack of food and an unsafe living environment for themselves and their children, which perpetuates the cycle.

Anca Gaston, a health promoter at the BCHU, said Brantford is below the provincial average in many areas that help create prosperity, like, wages and incomes.

Wages have gone down for most jobs between 2007 and 2014. The average income is just over \$30,000 in Brantford and more than \$35,000 across the province.

In Brantford 44 per cent of renters spend more than the average 30 per cent of their household income on shelter and 68 per cent of people are living below the poverty line are single female parents.

The teen pregnancy rate in Brantford is almost three times that of the provincial average.

Heather Vanner, from the Community Resource Centre said one way to help people gain more prosperity it for organizations to work together to help families and individuals access all of the services they need.

“Not everyone knows about all of the services available and maybe they don't need to; maybe we do. If someone goes to a literacy program, but needs more, that program should be able to send them to employment services and so on and so forth,” she said.

Rajsic hopes to have organizations spearhead some initiatives to help create a prosperous community and to get real results.

“We held a Food Forum and from that we have seen the creation of pop-up markets in food deserts. We hope other organizations will, with our support, continue to go forward,” she said.

by [Victoria Gray \(/brantfordbrant-author/Victoria-Gray/e4d2bf5a-67a5-44f4-9817-d41a7797cf17/\)](/brantfordbrant-author/Victoria-Gray/e4d2bf5a-67a5-44f4-9817-d41a7797cf17/)

Victoria Gray is a municipal affairs and general assignment reporter for Norfolk News. Contact Victoria at vgray@metroland.com (<mailto:vgray@metroland.com>). Follow The Norfolk News on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/TheNorfolkNews) (<https://twitter.com/TheNorfolkNews>), and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TheNorfolkNews) (<https://www.facebook.com/TheNorfolkNews>)

Email: vgray@metroland.com
(<mailto:vgray@metroland.com>) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TheNorfolkNews)
(<https://www.facebook.com/TheNorfolkNews>) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/TheNorfolkNews)
(<https://twitter.com/TheNorfolkNews>)