

Healthy Communities Declaration

HEALTH BEGINS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

All communities in Hastings and Prince Edward counties have the right to optimal health. Promoting and maintaining citizen health involves improving community health.

A healthy community is one where everyone has opportunities for health. A healthy community has a strong local food system, a clean environment and opportunities to be active. It offers strong social networks, options for transportation, housing, employment, education and health care. When decisions are made to improve these features, the health of the people who live there improves as well.

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

Health in All Policies is fundamental to building healthy communities. It is a collaborative approach to policy decision-making where:

- governments share responsibility and work across sectors to support the health of a community.
- community leaders, businesses, interest groups and residents place value on health for all.
- combined efforts create synergy for achieving mutual benefits.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The purpose of this declaration is to invite municipal councils, community organizations and citizens to endorse these principles of Health in All Policies.

Quality of Life: The wellbeing of all residents is a key element of health, social and economic growth.

Collaboration: All sectors (Education, Economic Development, Health, Social Services, Agriculture, etc.) can shape the health of a community and should work together to advance healthy policies.

Social Justice: Good health is a basic human right and physical, social and economic barriers must be removed to ensure equity in health for all.

Integration: Health is prioritized and integrated into community policies.

Sustainability: The wellbeing of a community depends on the long-term viability of the environment, economy and culture.

Vitality: A healthy community encourages social interaction, civic engagement and local economic prosperity.

Context: Each community is different. The circumstances, culture and traditions shape the policies that are needed to improve the health of a community.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION

We the undersigned pledge to work towards building a healthy community. We commit ourselves to:

- promote the principles of Health in All Policies in policy and program development; and
- build processes for collaborative actions that integrate health in current and future policies.

Signature: Virvan G. Bloom

Date: Sept 24, 2014

Municipality: Hastings Highlands