



February 4th, 2019

For Immediate Release

Multi-sector Forum to Connect the UN Sustainable Development Goals with Local Initiatives

Peterborough ON: What do Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Reducing Poverty and Renewable Energy have in common? On Friday, Mar 1st politicians, academics, educators, business leaders, community organizations, faith groups and students are invited to explore how these Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – and 14 other goals established by the United Nations, connect with the lives and work of people in Peterborough County.

Unanimously adopted by world leaders at a historic UN summit in September 2015, the SDGs are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty must be aligned with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. Countries, including Canada have started to mobilize efforts to reach targets by 2030 by working in collaboration with the private sector, institutions and civil society.

The Mar 1 Community Forum is a unique opportunity for Peterborough and County to join the conversation and learn about the UN SDG’s and Canada’s commitments from different perspectives and to begin a process of determining local priorities and resources towards the 2030 Alliance. The forum will begin in a good way with an opening conversation with **Chief Phyllis Williams** from Curve Lake and **Larry McDermott**, executive director of Plenty Canada, who will speak to Indigenous Knowledge & Practices as the Original Sustainability. Panelists and speakers include **Julie Wright**, Executive Director of the Waterloo Global Science Initiative, **Steven S. J. Lee** from the UN Secretariat and founder of the 3% Project, and **Alison Sydney**, Manager, Strategic Initiatives, Community Foundations Canada. **Charles Hopkins**, UNESCO Chair will speak to the role of the Regional Centres for Expertise in localizing the SDGs. Panel moderator, Trent Professor **Haroon Akram Lodhi** will provide historical context through his work with the United Nations in developing the goals.

The afternoon is dedicated to networking and discovering how local initiatives connect to the UN SDGs and begin a process of determining priorities and resources to meet the targets by 2030.

A free opening reception will be held in conjunction with the Peterborough launch of the Transformations Photo Journalism Exhibit from 6:30-8:30pm at The Mount Community Centre, featuring local changemakers.

The forum is hosted by Kawartha World Issues Centre, Fleming College Office of Sustainability, GreenUP, the Regional Centre for Expertise, Trent University and the Ontario Council for International Cooperation, supported by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough and community sponsorships. Everyone is welcome. Registration is now open and requested for both events.

The Event	Understanding the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Canada’s Commitment and the Local Connections Community Forum
Date / Time	Thursday Feb 28 th 6:30-8:30pm Friday March 1 st 8:30am – 4pm Doors: 8 am
Location / Address	The Mount Community Centre, 1545 Monaghan Rd Peterborough ON K9J 5N3
Registration Details	Event Brite: SDG Forum

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