



Agenda
Hamilton Civic League
Working Group Meeting 1 – Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Our Vision

All eligible Hamiltonians will vote in the next municipal election as informed, empowered and engaged citizens in order to bring about positive change to our city.

Our Mission

Our mission is to develop an all-inclusive, non-partisan civic league representing Hamilton community stakeholders to encourage and inspire our community to become informed about local issues, to raise community involvement in local democracy, and to promote accountability, accessibility and transparency in our municipal government.

Our Plan

Partners

Structure of the Hamilton Civic League

Working Groups' Purpose

Process – how best to engage people and increase accountability?

What can you do?

Brainstorming

- Why does civic apathy exist in Hamilton?
- How do we encourage diversity (cultural, political, geographical) in our membership?
- How can we encourage diversity (political, business, viewpoints) in our partners?



<http://www.hamiltoncivicleague.org>

Our Focus

1. Large Working Group

- Develop a general outreach plan for all Wards
- Identify existing communication channels
- Attend and/or host community events
- Set up town hall meetings
- Identify reasons people do not vote
 - How do we counter each of those factors to increase voter turnout?
- What are other ways to increase voter turnout?
- How can we best prepare people to vote?
- How do we keep people engaged between elections?
- Identify potential partner organizations
 - *Hamilton Community Foundation*
 - *Poverty Groups*
 - *Transit Groups*
 - *Hamiltonians for Progressive Development*
 - *Chamber of Commerce*
 - *Board(s) of Education*
 - *McMaster University and Mohawk College*
 - *Tourism*
 - *Unions*

- *Farmers*
- *Utility Companies*
- *Media Partners*
- *PR Firms*
- *BIAs*
- *Faith-Based Organizations*
- *Neighbourhood Associations*
- *Service Clubs*
- *Volunteer Hamilton*
- *City of Hamilton*

2. Politics 101

- How to vote
- Who's on the voting list?
- Who runs the polling stations?
- What happens to the ballots?
- How to become a candidate
- What are the rules for politicians?

3. Accountability, Transparency, and Accessibility

- What models exist? What can we implement? (e.g. Report Card – Guelph)
- What can we expect from our elected officials?
- If elected officials don't perform well, what recourse do the people have?

Our Timeline

October 2009: Detailed plan, budgets, initial funding applications, starting to build our membership and partnership base

November 2009-March 2010: Stakeholder and partnership development, identifying the issues, priorities and values that are important to the community, develop a long-term vision for the community.

Host town-hall style meetings. Define accountability, transparency and accessibility and come up with a system that could be implemented for our municipal government. Tie into existing communication channels.

March-June 2010: Community outreach, importance of voting as an informed, empowered and engaged residents, how to become a politician, possible survey, rallies, special events, door to door canvassing

July-August 2010: Review what we have learned and create a report, continued outreach to the community

September 2010: Release the survey results

September to November 2010: Initiate town-hall type discussions, encourage people to take an interest and help them to become informed to make their votes really count

November 2010: Election

