

February 24, 2009

Appointment of Tom Cooper, Manager, Community Engagement Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

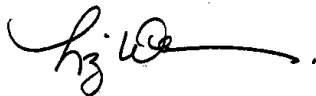
On behalf of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, we are very pleased to announce that Tom Cooper will be joining the staff team in the role of Manager, Community Engagement beginning March 2, 2009. Tom brings significant and valuable community experience to the position.

Tom will be taking a one-year leave of absence from McQuesten Community and Legal Services where he held the position of Community Development Coordinator. As the Community Development Coordinator, Tom was responsible for collaborating with community organizations and groups to develop initiatives around income maintenance, tenant protection, affordable housing and homelessness, workplace safety and insurance, as well as working with persons with disabilities around human rights issues.

Tom has a wealth of community volunteer experience including chair of the Fairness for Hamilton Committee, member of the Mayor's Task Force on Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy, and is a past board member for the Housing Help Centre. Tom has also been a member of the Roundtable since its inception in 2005 and was the volunteer chair of the Roundtable's Policy Working Group.

Tom is also a past member of The Hamilton Spectator Community Editorial Board and a current freelance columnist and commentator for various local media outlets.

Tom will be filling the role of Manager, Community Engagement with the Roundtable. The role will focus on targeted outreach with a variety of stakeholder groups including the business, faith and education sectors as well as continuing to engage youth, individuals living with low and limited incomes, and members of marginalized communities. Tom will also be leading the communications efforts for the Roundtable.



Liz Weaver
Director, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction