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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Poverty Roundtable appoints Howard Elliott as new Chair, announces public call for new members

### Howard Elliott takes the reigns as Chair of the Hamilton Poverty Roundtable

Hamilton – The Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (HRPR) today announced the selection of Howard Elliott as the new Chair of the multi-sector collaborative body. He takes over from local business leader, Mark Chamberlain who led the organization since 2005.

Howard Elliott has been an editorial executive at The Hamilton Spectator for nearly 25 years. Howard is currently managing editor overseeing commentary and internet operations. He is passionate about Hamilton, where he was born and raised.

Active in the community, Howard was in an early graduating class of the Bay Area Leadership program, and sat on the board of the Bob Kemp Hospice Foundation. Howard was also a founding board member of Hamilton's Centre for Civic Inclusion, and co-chaired that organization in its formative years. He recently wrapped up a term on Hamilton's Immigration Partnership Council. Howard has been with the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction since its early days and more recently sat on the operational steering committee.

Having seen first-hand the collective effects of poverty on Hamilton, he is convinced the approach of the Roundtable is the right one. "The team which Mark has so ably led until now has accomplished a remarkable amount, and done so in a really collaborative way, which isn't always the easiest way to make things happen. A great deal of work remains in front of us, but I'm confident it'll happen, thanks in large part to the passion and determination of the people on the roundtable, our remarkable staff and the tremendous support we enjoy from our many community partners."

Howard has been happily married to Pearl Wolfe for more than 20 years. They are proud parents of a teacher-in-training, provide refuge for a crazy Australian Cattle Dog named Buddy. And Howard is a lifelong guitar fanatic who still enjoys playing in a band on weekends when he can manage it.

### Restructuring the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

In 2010 the Roundtable launched a new Action Plan focussed on strategic initiatives intended to reduce and eliminate poverty in Hamilton. These priorities included: making Hamilton a Living Wage community, developing a universal school nutrition program for children, reforming social assistance and continuing to shift attitudes about poverty at all levels of government through investments in poverty reduction initiatives.

The Roundtable is issuing a public call for fifteen new community members to join the table. Noted Roundtable director, Tom Cooper: "The first phase of the Roundtable's work has been completed. A new structure built around supporting our Action Plan provides the opportunity to reach out to others in the community who should be "at the table". Community members who wish to apply can find more details at [www.hamiltonpoverty.ca](http://www.hamiltonpoverty.ca)