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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Maryam Monsef

Member of Parliament
Peterborough-Kawartha

Greetings,

I am pleased to present this report on the first annual Rural Women's Summit which was held in Buckhorn, Ontario on March 2, 2018. I was grateful to see a group of nearly 100 women and men from rural communities throughout Peterborough—Kawartha and neighbouring ridings, along with urban dwellers interested in the issues. These individuals shared their experiences and challenges, and provided recommendations on priorities the federal government, and indeed all orders of government, should consider to empower rural women and girls, and to build equality across genders and regions.

The Summit was launched by an expert panel who described their experiences as rural women. I was particularly moved by the honest and deeply felt comments shared by the panelists and the participants over the course of the afternoon, and by the open and respectful interactions among those in attendance. It was wonderful to see conversations across generations to mutual benefit. I was also impressed with musicians Mary and Martha Colton, who performed beautifully during the break along with the talented Melissa Payne.

At the end of the day, I came away with a better understanding of rural life for women and girls, and the distinct needs of indigenous women. I felt well equipped to bring these experiences to the United Nations Commission of the Status of Women on the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls. I was reminded of the importance of highlighting the impact of women in rural communities who are role models for us all. So it was also an opportune time to launch our Women of Peterborough-Kawartha Community Service Award nominations, with award winners to be celebrated during Women's History Month in October.

Participants offered insights and concrete recommendations that are detailed in the pages that follow. A very special thank you to the Organizing Committee, the Buckhorn Community Centre, and to everyone who attended. This conversation will go on to inform my work as MP for Peterborough-Kawartha and as Minister of the Status of Women.

Truly, 

Maryam Monsef, P.C., M.P.
Peterborough—Kawartha

Summit Goals

On Friday March 2, 2018 MP Maryam Monsef held her first Rural Women’s Summit from 2pm to 7pm at the Buckhorn Community Centre. The Summit was held the week before MP Monsef led the Canadian delegation to the UN in her capacity as Minister of the Status of Women, and it also offered an opportunity to mark International Women’s Day.

Goals:

- To share experiences of rural women and girls in Peterborough—Kawartha
- To identify some of the challenges, and also the opportunities, that exist in terms of gender equality and empowerment of rural women and girls
- To identify action steps for Peterborough—Kawartha
- To offer ideas, suggestions and recommendations based on participants’ experience that will inform Maryam’s work in Ottawa, and at the upcoming UN Commission on the Status of Women Conference on Rural Women and Girls.

Summary – Key Action Steps & Priorities

The overarching recommendation from the Summit participants was that all levels of government need to work together to address the needs of rural residents and communities.

The priorities for action in Peterborough—Kawartha that had broad support by the participants were:

- Better Rural Public Transit Infrastructure, such as regular bus transportation, to connect residents to services and communities across the riding;
- Community Hubs – offering a range of services closer to home, including training & education, health care, counselling, that also enable a certain level of confidentiality for those accessing services;
- Youth Mentorship Programs that connect younger women with more experienced women particularly in the area of entrepreneurship;
- More opportunities for women to convene, through annual events or organizations such as the Women’s Institute.

Other notable recommendations from the small group discussions included:

- Ensuring widespread and affordable broadband access for business, personal and safety purposes;
- Supporting and funding opportunities in sustainable employment and rural enterprise;
- Maintaining rural schools for children.

Overview of the Planning Process

The Summit was organized with the assistance of a planning team of 11 rural women who are based in different communities in the riding: Janet Clarkson, Ellen Dumas, Beryl Harris, Karen Jopling, Kassie Graham, Barb Jinkerson, Clara Leahy, Lorri Rork, Stephanie Bolton, Carolyn Amyotte, Amanda Gray; with additional input from MPP Jeff Leal and his staff.

With the framework and guidance of MP Monsef and her staff, the volunteers decided on the format of the day, recommended panelists, assisted with promotion and publicity, and were responsible for the logistics on the day of the event. This group was key to the success of the event.

The Summit was planned to achieve the goals through several interconnected approaches:

- 1) The event was divided into two sessions – afternoon and evening – to offer flexibility for individuals to participate. Each session was designed to include both information through presentations, and opportunities for participant engagement.
- 2) It was important to offer a childcare option to enable more women to participate. The Organizing Team reached out to *Compass Early Learning and Care* who generously offered staff and resources, and the *Fleming College Early Childhood Education Program* promoted the opportunity to student volunteers, so that on-site childcare could be available during the afternoon session.
- 3) A panel of rural women with diverse backgrounds: Deborah Jacobs (Councillor, Curve Lake First Nation); Clara Leahy (Student, Douro-Dummer), Courtney Mader (XR Farms, Lakehurst), Lorri Rork (Coordinator, Community Care), Mary Smith (Mayor, Selwyn Township) presented a range of experiences and ideas to initiate participant discussion.
- 4) MP Maryam Monsef moderated the discussion. She was able to reflect on the federal government initiatives and discussions that were relevant to the panelists' comments.
- 5) Participants had the opportunity to share their own experiences and delve deeper into the issues through a series of three questions which guided the small group discussion towards concrete actions. Panelists and members of the Organizing Committee joined these discussion groups.
- 6) Information and Resource tables with materials were accessible throughout the day (see Appendix for participating organizations). The representatives and information provided an additional opportunity for participants to gain practical information of services and activities available to rural women and girls.
- 7) MP Monsef delivered a keynote address in her roles as both MP and Minister of the Status of Women. Her interactive presentation further informed the participants of the federal government's activities and offered opportunities to learn more about her work as a Cabinet Minister and representative of the people of Peterborough—Kawartha.



Afternoon Panel (l to r): Deborah Jacobs, Courtney Mader, Lorri Rork, Clara Leahy, Mary Smith, Maryam Monsef.

Summit Agenda & Program

The Summit took place in a rural setting at the Buckhorn Community Centre in the Municipality of Trent Lakes. Judy McWhirter, from the Buckhorn Community Centre ensured that the venue was prepared, and Trent Lakes Mayor Bev Matthews gave a brief welcome to the Buckhorn community.

We were honoured that Elder Susie Taylor and Hand Drummer Mary Alice Taylor from Curve Lake First Nation were in attendance and thankful for their welcome to the Territory with an opening prayer and song.

AGENDA

2:00pm Welcome and Opening

2:15pm Panel Discussion: *Empowering Rural Women & Girls: Challenges & Opportunities*

3:30pm Break

4:00pm Participant Dialogue and Report Back

5:00pm Refreshments, Networking & Music

6:00pm Keynote Presentation: The Hon. Maryam Monsef

7:00pm Wrap Up & Informal Networking

During the afternoon session, on-site childcare was available through Compass Early Learning & Care (Jill Wickins, Samantha Monteith-Damario, Kelly Saltern) and Fleming College Early Childhood Education student volunteers (Cheryl Herder, Program Coordinator).

A total of 82 participants attended from North Kawartha, Selwyn, Trent Lakes, Curve Lake, City of Peterborough and Havelock-Belmont-Methuen. There were also a few participants from the neighbouring ridings of Hastings-Lennox & Addington, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, and Northumberland-Peterborough South.

Round Table Discussions

Responses gathered from participants are grouped by theme and selected suggestions are available below. Please refer to Appendix for all comments.

Question 1:

What Does Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls Mean to Me?

- 1) **Confidence & Strength among women:** listening to unique voices of women; nurturing women's confidence to go into politics; women speaking up and being heard with respect; embracing the strengths of women rather than women taking on "masculine" traits; having choices.
- 2) **Succeeding within the culture of a male-dominated workplace:** women excelling in non-traditional roles and careers; women leading in business; women sitting on Boards of Directors and not as a token woman; mentoring women to step into non-traditional careers; opportunities for more women in trades (safe places for women to work); valuing women's jobs/roles.
- 3) **Access to services & opportunities:** equal opportunity in arts, culture, jobs, sports; education that breaks the isolation; programs for re-entry in the workforce or maintaining skills in the workplace; more education and economic opportunities with equal pay for work of equal value.
- 4) **Importance of Family and Supporting the Next Generation:** universal childcare (more choice and recognition of different child care choices); supporting the whole family; supporting men to support in the home; mentors for young people; creating a bright future for our children and grandchildren.



MP Monsef moderates the conversation.

Question 2:

If We Could Change One Thing In Peterborough—Kawartha To Make Things Better For Rural Women And Girls, What Would That Be?

- 1) **Improve transportation options to access services, address isolation.** The participants noted that there is a significant need for accessible, safe, predictable transportation options from rural and remote communities and locations. For seniors, youth, women, those living with disabilities, or simply those who do not have cars or do not drive, there must be options to travel from one location to another safely and predictably. There are pilot projects in rural bussing in nearby ridings and even within this riding that could be evaluated and further extended to incorporate a broader range of communities.
- 2) **Bring opportunities to rural areas – education, jobs, healthcare, recreation, accessible housing – “Place-Based Community Design and funding”.** Participants want to be able to enjoy a good quality of life in a rural community, therefore planning for the future needs to ensure that services are available “in place”, in the communities where people live, work or go to school. Travel time should be minimized and accessibility to services maximized, so that, for example, a 30 minute doctor’s appointment does not require 2 hours of driving; or children don’t need to be bussed for several hours each day to go to school. Participants also noted that these opportunities need to be sustainable, such as permanent rather than seasonal jobs, medical practitioners who decide to stay in the community, and so on.
- 3) **Increase opportunities for networking, gathering together as women and girls.** The participants at the Summit had overwhelmingly positive feedback on the event as a much-needed forum to gather together and share experiences and ideas. There was a particular interest in the Women’s Institute model as an option that could address the interests and needs of women to come together, and work collaboratively on practical projects or on civic engagement and advocacy. Whether through discrete events or ongoing meetings and gatherings, the participants expressed the importance of combatting social isolation through face-to-face interactions, and building relationships across rural communities and between urban and rural residents.
- 4) **Offer mentoring to younger women and girls – especially around entrepreneurship.** Participants were pleased that the Summit included women of all ages, and they noted that these efforts could be future enhanced by reaching out specifically to younger women to become more actively involved. There was also interest in seeing more women entrepreneurs participating in these gatherings. Entrepreneurship was highlighted as a key area where mentorship of young women and girls could create new opportunities for women to be successful and address the concerns of succession and sustainability of rural communities.

Question 3:

What Concrete Steps Can We Take To Move Towards Goals From Question 2?

With all levels of government working together to address the needs of rural residents and communities:

- Establish or improve Rural Public Transit Infrastructure, such as regular bus transportation, to connect residents to services and communities across the riding;
- Create or further develop Community Hubs – offering a range of services closer to home, including training & education, health care, counselling, that also enable a certain level of confidentiality for those accessing services;
- Initiate Youth Mentorship Programs, matching younger women with more experienced women in areas such as entrepreneurship;
- Offer more opportunities to network among women, through special events and organizations such as the Women’s Institute.

Other notable recommendations included:

- Ensure widespread and affordable broadband access for business, personal and safety purposes;
- Support and fund opportunities in sustainable employment and rural enterprise;
- Maintain rural schools for children in communities across the riding.



Organizing Committee members (l to r) Stephanie Bolton, Karen Jopling, Janet Clarkson, Barb Jinkerson prepare to make the promotional video.

From the Poster Board, Rural Women’s Summit 2018

I AM A PROUD RURAL WOMAN BECAUSE...

I know and appreciate the power of rural communities.

You don’t need to move to the big city to have a career! I’m here to represent the talent we have in our rural communities.

I have survived 20 years in the rural area as a single parent, business owner. I know I am a strong woman!

I am part of a strong community!

Next Steps

The Rural Women's Summit had two key purposes: (1) to offer insights to MP Monsef that would inform her in her roles as MP for the riding of Peterborough-Kawartha and Minister of the Status of Women; and (2) to identify action steps towards empowering rural women and girls in Peterborough-Kawartha.

During the week of March 12 to 16, **MP Monsef will lead the Canadian delegation** to the UN Commission on the Status of Women Conference in New York. The experiences, challenges and priorities expressed by the Summit participants will be integrated into her discussions and presentations during the conference which focused on Empowering Rural Women and Girls.

Within the Riding of Peterborough—Kawartha, **the Summit Report will be emailed to all participants** as well as municipal and provincial government representatives in an effort to move forward on the action priorities.

The 2018 Federal Budget was the first gender-based budget tabled at the Federal level two days before the Rural Women's Summit, and several key directions dovetail closely with the recommendations of the Summit participants, namely:

- The establishment of the Apprentice Incentive Grant for Women, a pilot project offering 2-year, \$6,000 grants to women pursuing training in male-dominated Red Seal trades;
- Doubling the number of job placements funded under the Canada Summer Jobs Program and investments in the Youth Employment Strategy;
- \$500 million to help develop the next generation of rural broadband through the Strategic Innovation Fund. Reliable access to the internet is an essential tool to drive economic growth and greater safety in our rural communities;
- The new Women Entrepreneurship Strategy backed by over \$1.65 billion in new financing for women-led businesses through the Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada, and \$105 million in tailored support and mentorship for female entrepreneurs;
- Doubling funding to a \$200 million investment in women's organizations across Canada to support more projects that advance gender equality, address gender-based violence, engage youth and men and boys in solutions, address online child exploitation and teen dating violence, and assessing the remaining "unfounded" cases of sexual assault;
- Addressing the gender wage gap through legislation requiring equal pay for work of equal value in federally-regulated sectors; and
- A \$920 million renewal of base funding for Fed Dev Ontario, plus an additional \$149 million to the agency for Innovation and Skills Plan programming.

(Excerpts from MP Maryam Monsef E-newsletter, February 2018)

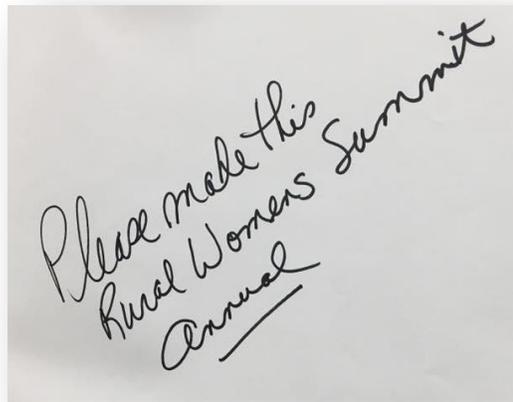
MP Monsef and her team will take the information gleaned from the Summit and **follow up with local stakeholders** and interested constituents to continue to advocate on behalf of rural women and girls in Peterborough—Kawartha. As a first step, a meeting will be convened to **work on improving transportation** avenues for rural communities in the riding.

Participant Feedback and Evaluation

Participants were asked to complete a brief evaluation survey prior to leaving the venue, which asked them to rate various aspects of the day along with providing an opportunity for general comments. 28 evaluations were collected. This feedback will be used to inform future Summits and Community Town Halls in Peterborough—Kawartha.

Specific Elements of the Summit (rated out of a possible 5 points each)

Agenda & Activities:	4.5
Pacing & Flow:	4.6
Facilitation:	4.7
Dialogue Questions:	4.6
Opportunities for Participation:	4.7
Q & A Period:	4.6
Facility/Space:	4.7



Selected Comments and Recommendations

- Had a great time. Wonderful conversations were had and connections made.
- Excellent mix of ages – great to see; great to include men.
- Maryam’s initiative to organize this event. And her honesty and active listening!! Commitment to future annual summits.
- Meeting and collaborating with women from different communities and organizations.
- Powerful bringing women together always leaves people feeling better equipped to participate in their communities.
- Conversation, great ideas, laughs.
- Try to get more young people. Appeal to high schools.
- Look forward to seeing potential movement, partnerships, that may have progressed across the year to the next Summit.
- Would like to see entrepreneurs, business large and small, labour.
- More time for sharing stories with others at the table.
- I would have enjoyed hearing more about the panelists or hearing their thoughts on specific issues.
- I really enjoyed the whole concept of the woman’s movement. How do we impact our communities, cities and the country as a whole.
- So great to have such a wonderful event close to home.
- I am inspired and in awe of Maryam’s humble, honest, candid and genuine commitment to young women in rural communities!
- So enjoyed my day – thank you!

APPENDIX

Organizations providing information & resources

Age Friendly Peterborough	http://www.peterboroughcouncilonaging.com/
AGILEC/Trent Valley Literacy Association	https://agilec.ca/ http://www.tvla.ca/
Canadian Mental Health Association	http://cmhahkpr.ca/
Community Care	http://www.commcareptbo.org/
Community Counselling & Resource Centre	http://www.ccrcc-ptbo.com/
Compass Early Learning & Care	http://www.compasselc.com/
County of Peterborough	https://www.ptbocounty.ca/
Curve Lake First Nation	http://www.curvelakefirstnation.ca/
Family Health Network	http://www.peterboroughfht.com/
Farms at Work	www.farmsatwork.ca/
Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario	https://fwio.on.ca/
Fleming College	https://flemingcollege.ca/
Heart and Stroke	http://www.heartandstroke.ca/
Kawartha Chamber of Commerce	http://kawarthachamber.ca/
Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre	http://www.kawarthasexualassaultcentre.com/
Municipality of Trent Lakes	http://www.trentlakes.ca/
Ptbo Alternative Continuing Education & Adult Training Network (PACE-PCVS)	http://pace.kprdsb.ca/
Peterborough & Kawarthas Economic Dev't	http://peterboroughed.ca/
Selwyn Township	http://www.selwyntownship.ca/en/
Spinal Cord Injury Association	https://www.sciontario.org/
Township of Douro-Dummer	http://www.dourodummer.on.ca/
Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen	http://www.hbmtwp.ca/en/index.aspx
Township of North Kawartha	http://www.northkawartha.on.ca/en/index.asp
Trent University	www.trentu.ca
Women's Business Network	https://www.womensbusinessnetwork.net/
Worker's Action Centre/Labour Council	http://workersactioncentre.org/ http://ptbolabour.ca/
YWCA Peterborough-Haliburton	https://ywcapeterborough.org/

Speakers and Presenters

Opening Presenters: Elder Suzie V. Taylor; Hand Drummer Mary Alice Taylor; Mayor Bev Matthews.

Panelists: Lorri Rork (Community Development Coordinator, Community Care - Lakefield); Clara Leahy (Student, Douro-Dummer); Mary Smith (Mayor, Selwyn Township); Courtney Mader (XR Farms, Lakehurst), Deborah Jacobs (Councillor, Curve Lake First Nation).

Musicians: Mary Colton, Martha Colton, Melissa Payne.

Small Group Discussion Notes

Nine groups gathered at round tables to discuss three guiding questions. Each group recorded their discussions and then reported back on key ideas focused primarily on Question 2 and 3. The following are the written notes gathered from each group.

GROUP 1

WHAT DOES WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS MEAN TO ME?

- Focus on themselves, giving to them
- Self-care – burnout (need to prove yourself)
- Opportunity to be with family & work (balance – mom guilt)
- Stronger than we think
- Confidence & strength – goal
- To sit on a board and not be a token woman
- You're there because you deserve to be there
- Male-dominated career – how do we mentor women to step in; have men step into female dominated role
- Careers “labeled women” – PSW etc. historically these roles make less money
- Undervaluing the ‘stay at home’ mom
- Having youth taught finances in school – understand value

IF WE COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN PETERBOROUGH—KAWARTHA TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

1. Stop closing rural schools
2. Incentives for young families to move to rural communities
3. Better Community Design & Planning – school, bank, natural gas, broadband**
4. Keep rural schools open; banking/post office – innovative use of existing facilities, library; broadband, public Wi-Fi, municipality; natural gas – residential, agricultural, industry reduces cost
5. Transportation – access to support – need to be more innovative**
6. Accessibility for young and old; innovative partnerships (Community Care/Hamilton Bus lines); efficient/sustainable (driver's license for seniors like for youth)
7. Leveraging technology
8. Other: place-based economic development

WHAT CONCRETE STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO MOVE TOWARDS GOALS FROM QUESTION B?

- Place-Based Economic Development:
- Engage all levels of government with common vision
- Unified voice
- Community buy-in
- Place-based funding model eg. OFA

- Private-Public partnerships – more collaboration
- Engage all demographics

GROUP 2

WHAT DOES WOMEN’S EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS MEAN TO ME?

- Mentors
- Women speak up – mutual respect
- Women to graduate and be treated equally – not feel they are channeled into a teacher or nurse etc.
- Non-traditional jobs
- Women – ‘inheritance’ – women taking over the business
- Education – breaking the isolation

IF WE COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN PETERBOROUGH—KAWARTHA TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

- Transportation
- Bring opportunities to rural areas – recreation, healthcare, jobs/training
- Further support of initiatives

WHAT CONCRETE STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO MOVE TOWARDS GOALS FROM QUESTION B?

- 1) Transportation – City dedicate buses to rural area; municipally owned transportation; business sponsored.
- 2) Bring opportunities to rural areas – rural businesses/farms – mentor young people; buses go into city, also come out with people

GROUP 3

WHAT DOES WOMEN’S EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS MEAN TO ME?

- Women’s work in traditionally male occupations is equally valued
- Traditionally women’s roles valued equally as men’s roles
- Equal pay for equal work
- Being heard with respect
- Embracing the strengths of being a woman rather than taking on masculine traits
- Issue of consent is taken seriously and expanded upon
- More choice and recognition for different child care choices
- Programs for work re-entry or maintaining skills

IF WE COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN PETERBOROUGH—KAWARTHA TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

- Networking opportunities, especially with transportation issues
- RE-instatement of women’s institutes

WHAT CONCRETE STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO MOVE TOWARDS GOALS FROM QUESTION B?

- Re-invigorate the Women's Institute. Support by women and for women in communities
- Programs for work re-entry and maintaining skills after childbirth
- Consent education in schools. Consent as a way of life starting from very young. Hugs, etc.
- Programs for work re-entry for parents who have chosen to stay home with kids – more choices, fewer hurdles
- Funding to support rural entrepreneurs – including farmers – and the organizations that support them eg. Farms at Work (includes mentoring of young farmers)

GROUP 4

WHAT DOES WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS MEAN TO ME?

- Opportunity – jobs, sports, etc.
- Systemic barriers in workplace – seen as equal not just treated as equal
- Communication barrier between generations

IF WE COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN PETERBOROUGH—KAWARTHA TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

- More economic and education opportunities
- Confidential access to services including transportation, internet and health and social services, including a hub or outreach
- Safe transportation to and from urban centres
- Safe houses
- Health outreach (mental and physical) – access and outreach; predictable and consistent; non-judgmental; confidential
- Accessible housing
- More economic and education opportunities with equal pay
- More social service programs

WHAT CONCRETE STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO MOVE TOWARDS GOALS FROM QUESTION B?

- Municipalities/wards need to encourage investment in industry/infrastructure to promote business – tax breaks? Education and training incentives, local investment, providing infrastructure to support
- Housing – supportive, affordable, accessible, safe

GROUP 5

WHAT DOES WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS MEAN TO ME?

- Equal pay for same thing a guy does
- Greater diversity of ideas and ultimately greater selections
- Equality in sports programs
- Equal education

- Encouragement of parents – whatever you want to be you will have to do it yourself
- Driver’s license is important, and then car!!

IF WE COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN PETERBOROUGH—KAWARTHA TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

- Employment – job opportunities to keep people living here
- Transportation to whatever opportunities available
- People need to be made aware of the advantages and disadvantages of living in the country
- Communication with groups of people that are active in the community
- Radio station
- Recreational facilities – splash pad, movie theatre, bank machine

WHAT CONCRETE STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO MOVE TOWARDS GOALS FROM QUESTION B?

- Junior achievement idea in high schools to encourage small business entrepreneurs
- Organize a new resident information sessions

GROUP 6

WHAT DOES WOMEN’S EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS MEAN TO ME?

- Having the right to choose what you want to do and where you want to go in your life
- The end result of empowering women raises everyone in the community
- Giving women the confidence to go into politics, the confidence that they will be voted for their position even if a woman. To be heard.
- Universal child care. Support for pregnant and mothers with young children. Community gatherings around each other’s families.
- Allowing men to support in the home (empowering)
- A woman has to have a voice
- Supporting of the whole family

IF WE COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN PETERBOROUGH—KAWARTHA TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

- Transportation for not just medical but groceries and banking
- Community hub of social service going to rural areas – same time every week
- Gathering to support social interactions between rural and urban before college/university

WHAT CONCRETE STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO MOVE TOWARDS GOALS FROM QUESTION B?

- Transportation; reinstate the ‘workers’ bus’
- All 3 levels of government support for rural transportation. Extending safe travels model into other communities.
- Possibility of looking into municipal or service clubs supporting the running of (weekly) buses

GROUP 7

WHAT DOES WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS MEAN TO ME?

- Future for our children and grandchildren
- Opportunities for more women in the trades – safe places for women to work
- Respect/recognize women's experiences to move to a safer world
- Listening to the unique voices of women's experiences
- Getting equal opportunities for arts, culture, education
- Don't value our jobs/or roles
- Exposure to opportunities in rural communities
- Ability to home school if you wish

IF WE COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN PETERBOROUGH—KAWARTHA TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

- Preservation of small community schools – important to character of the community; social link for parents and children
- Rural transportation – long distances make it difficult to access services
- Mentoring of girls and women within our communities
- Wi-Fi – gives you safety/opportunities/employment possibilities
- Youth club – rural women/girls connect with Women's Business network

WHAT CONCRETE STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO MOVE TOWARDS GOALS FROM QUESTION B?

- Develop a rural youth mentorship programme – connect with WBN to show girls the pathway to careers and opportunities for them. Volunteer mentors can do it with great success (need to see examples)
- Preservation of small community schools & culture – help from all levels of government needed – it's not all about the money!
- Expand Wi-Fi

GROUP 8

WHAT DOES WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS MEAN TO ME?

- Women in non-traditional roles and careers
- Same opportunities
- Equal pay and access
- No barriers
- Safety
- Equal voice

IF WE COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN PETERBOROUGH—KAWARTHA TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

- Recognize Rural is broader than just agriculture

- Rural Transportation
- Rural internet/technology

WHAT CONCRETE STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO MOVE TOWARDS GOALS FROM QUESTION B?

- Funding for infrastructure. Transportation/technology
- Women step up and lobby
- Support women's organizations
- Bring back Women's Institutes!!
- Create young women/girls group in local twps, schools, community centres.

GROUP 9

WHAT DOES WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS MEAN TO ME?

- Platforms to share, ie. fashion "raise the girls" t's – making fashion/other business and parts of rural traditional skills being taught – crochet, kit, weaving etc. native arts for dress etc.
- Collaborating
- Access to finance, financial independence
- Available support – where is it? Access it?
- Education and job opportunities
- Proud of rural identity, space
- Mentors and accepting new people (ie. from the city) sharing knowledge
- Willingness to learn – being mindful
- Connecting to the environment
- Keeping value and principles and sharing with partners in other communities
- Sharing
- Ways/opportunities for women to gather to share, connect, learn – ceremonies, events, groups

IF WE COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN PETERBOROUGH—KAWARTHA TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

- Rural enterprise – traditional, culture, farming artisan: funding to support it eg. "Under one Sun"
- Improved women's communities – spiritually, culturally, historically, global issues "Harness the power of women": funding to promote, conduct ceremonies etc. --- social media, websites, marketing budgets (so women can find each other)
- Health services – mental health (grief too) – improved waiting lists = smaller lists; isolation; transportation; education to access and access funding

WHAT CONCRETE STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO MOVE TOWARDS GOALS FROM QUESTION B?

- 1) Communication among organizations/services/government – what funding is available? What services?
- 2) Funding – to the appropriate places

- 3) Action & Advocacy – from leaders; across generations; purpose (identify ways to work together); mentors
- 4) Accessibility

Participant Evaluations

28 evaluations submitted.

Postal Codes: KOL 1A0, K9H 4T1, K9L 0B3, KOL 2H0, K9J 6P9, K9J 0G9, KOL 1Y0, KOL 1J0, KOM 2A0, KOL 1S0, KOL 1R0, KOL 3A0, K9J 4S2, L4A 1X5, KOM 1A0, KOM 2B0, KOM 1K0

1. How did you find out about the Summit:

Email (13) Postcard (0) Facebook (5) Newspaper (2) Friend (9)

Other: Unspecified (1) Power Hour event (1) Phone call (1) My organization (1) My mom (1) Volunteer (1)

2. How would you rate the following aspects of today's event? (1 = *Unsatisfactory* | 3 = *Satisfactory* | 5 = *Excellent*)

Agenda & Activities	1	2	3 (1)	4 (11)	5 (15)	4.5
Pacing & Flow	1	2	3 (1)	4 (7)	5 (19)	4.6
Facilitation	1	2	3 (1)	4 (7)	5 (20)	4.7
Dialogue questions	1	2	3 (2)	4 (7)	5 (16)	4.6
Opportunities for Participation	1	2	3 (1)	4 (6)	5 (20)	4.7
Q & A Period	1	2	3 (1)	4 (8)	5 (17)	4.6
Facility/Space	1	2	3 (2)	4 (3)	5 (22)	4.7

3. Comments:

- Great food
- Great Synergy
- Great day – hope it is an annual event
- Always feel proud in the presence of Maryam as our Ptbo rep. Energized by young women doing what we were doing, are still doing.
- I shared my ideas at the table and learned a lot
- Well run and informative
- Very informative
- Missed the national anthem
- I would have enjoyed hearing more about the panelists or hearing their thoughts on specific issues.
- Great event.
- Well done
- Excellent and inspiring

4. What did you enjoy about the Summit?

- Networking, meeting neighbours
- Had a great time. Wonderful conversations were had and connections made.
- Networking with other women. Realizing I am a rural woman and have a role in this
- Bringing together stakeholders from all levels of government, community providers, citizens
- Getting to hear challenges and experiences of others – getting new ideas to bring to N.K.
- Networking time
- Networking and vulnerability
- The Minister's speeches
- Excellent mix of ages – great to see; great to include men
- Hearing about everyone's background. What makes them interested in speaking up for women. Made you think anyone can stand up and speak up
- All the ideas and interaction between the attendees
- Being able to share ideas how rural areas are impacted by lack of transportation, jobs, equality
- Maryam's initiative to organize this event. And her honesty and active listening!! Commitment to future annual summits.
- We didn't end up looking at just each other (volunteer organizers). Fantastic turn out.
- Relaxed atmosphere. Welcoming.
- Panelists/table discussion
- Listening and learning
- Meeting and collaborating with women from different communities and organizations
- Powerful bringing women together always leaves people feeling better equipped to participate in their communities
- I had an amazing time. Thank you for letting me be part of the family today :)
- Joining women in engagement
- The opportunity to meet with enthusiastic like-minded women with action plans
- Conversation, great ideas, laughs
- Definitely
- You brought women together
- Connections made, ideas! Forward movement, identified challenges

5. What would you change for future gatherings?

- Involve local students (girls) – pull them out of school to attend
- Could have used more time for some of the discussions/activities BUT 5 hours is a little long
- Try to get more young people. Appeal to high schools.
- Look forward to seeing potential movement, partnerships, that may have progressed across the year to the next Summit – like to see entrepreneurs, business large and small, labour

- Engage an entrepreneurial rep as part of the conversation
- More time to discuss agriculture & women specific
- More time for sharing stories with others at the table
- Nothing
- Music was great (but at times overpowering); have at least one man on the panel or have a few men talk about how women (not their mothers) have been strong role models for them
- More publicity
- More information on why government departments don't work closer together on issue but after talking to Maryam she said they do that is great
- Nothing, well done! Maybe more time in table groups.
- I would have each of the contributing exhibitors take 2 minutes to tell of their participation.
- Can't think of anything.
- A session for young women specifically to learn and engage and bring a youth perspective
- More involvement from panelists
- Nothing
- Encourage more younger women
- Nothing.
- Fri night is a down night, usually for me although this is energizing
- Encourage original participants to bring a young woman with them to hear what younger women have to say

6. Overall, how would you rate your experience today? (1 = *Unsatisfactory* | 3 = *Satisfactory* | 5 = *Excellent*)

1	2	3	4 (5)	4.5 (2)	5 (18)	Avg. Score: 4.7
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7. Any additional comments or suggestions?

- Bring Rural Women's Summit to Apsley
- Come to North Kawartha next time!
- Thank you for using real dishes & glassware
- Feeling proud of both my county and my country today. Feels damn good. And Maryam, from an old sheep farmer... the "manure" helps things grow better.
- So enjoyed my day – thank you!
- Looking forward to another such gathering
- Way to go!
- I really enjoyed the whole concept of the woman's movement. How do we impact our communities, cities and the country as a whole.
- Amazing event! Glad I attended.
- So great to have such a wonderful event close to home.
- Very enjoyable. Gas tax should not be spent on roads.
- Really enjoyed the event – make it annual?
- Given the infrastructure issues in the riding, perhaps provide buses to attract a more diverse group.
- I am inspired and in awe of Maryam's humble, honest, candid and genuine commitment to young women in rural communities!

- Support for smaller initiatives “Women in Trees” “Women in Rocks” that help to support the empowerment of women.
- A dynamic afternoon and hope and pray that we as women will have the solutions for our rural communities

Poster Board at the Summit

HAVE YOUR SAY COMMENTS

Rural Recreational opportunities

Rural Transportation

Volunteering makes you stronger!

Great space to voice concerns

Amazing chance for women and girls to get together and drive positive change

Opportunities for indigenous and non-indigenous women to work

together, empower each other and partner – Miigwetch!