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A Master's Report submitted to the School of Urban and Regional Planning in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Urban and Regional Planning

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The essence of City Beautiful has been a reoccurring issue for the planning profession and social activism (Clavel, 1994; Reece, 2018). Whether through City Beautiful, Urban Renewal or New Urbanism, many planning notions believe establishing an aesthetically sound environment will change inner city morals and challenges for the better. Davidoff (1965) firmly believed “a city is its people, their practices, and their political, social, cultural, and economic institutions” (Davidoff, pg., 336, 1965). In this sense, he believed that planners who focused solely on physical determinants and land occupancy should not be considered a *city* planner but rather only a *physical* planner (Davidoff, 1965). A professional planner should be responsible for ensuring that physical plans benefit and enhance the lives of those who live within and around it.

While there have been some attempts for social equity through planning, the traditional practices continues to largely focus on physical determinants. Establishing social equity through urban planning has served as a point of contention, largely because it was (and often still is) believed that social activism would jeopardize the professionalism and technical proficiency of urban planning (Reece, 2018). However, advocacy planning and similar movements question this notion, and believe planners should not be considered the sole experts of planning related matter and cities (Davidoff, 1965; Reece, 2018). An abundance of research continues to demonstrate how the environment and sense of place one resides in significantly influences life outcomes, such as health, education, and social well-being. Considering this, it is time “traditional planning” routinely incorporated social activism within physical determinism.

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The overall intention of this research is to contribute to the literature that examines the relationship between community inclusion and poverty stigmatization. This topic is important to study as it has been shown that increased knowledge of poverty-related issues can positively affect policy-making decisions that deal with bettering such issues (Lahat, 2018). By producing this research, more discussion and acknowledgement

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This study focuses on the relationship between poverty and social inclusion in the context of a small municipality. Port Hope is a municipality in Southern Ontario, and home to roughly 16,750 residents (Statistics Canada, 2016). It is located in the western end of Northumberland County and sits at the mouth of the Ganaraska River and Lake Ontario, approximately 100km east of Toronto, 150km west of Kingston, and 45km south of Peterborough.

Further, this report examines

The main purpose of this report is to answer the following research question: *how can planning for community inclusion help alleviate the stigmatization of poverty in the context of a small town in Southern Ontario?*

To help answer this question, this report set out to meet the following objectives:

1. Identify the complexity and essence of each theme individually: poverty, stigma and social inclusion;
2. Analyze the relationships among the three themes and to understand how social

Overall



account for child-care needs, providing flexible and multiple times of sessions, or using varying techniques such as online and in-person;

6"&+5")B\$5/,/\$%( A major difference between smaller communities and larger urban centres is the smaller scale and familiarity aspect. Take advantage of this by making yourself familiar and visible to the greater community, not just municipal staff. Try not to rely on community connectors, such as GWC, to develop relationships with marginalized populations. This is especially important for public figures of municipal council, such as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.



925\$0/C") 1"+>,"( Make small changes to your service's structural layout to encourage social inclusion and humanization. These can include taking names opposed to numbers, a seating area where service users can socialize rather than a line-up, and letting people choose their supplies rather than handing it to them. Lastly, be kind and remember that these are human beings just like everyone else.

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A community is comprised of a multitude of interest groups, cultures, income levels, and walks of life. While planning for every interest group may be challenging and tensions may arise, it is crucial that professional planners consider everyone that creates a community. Planning a visually attractive city or a well-functioned public space is important, but planning for social inclusion involves so much more. As planners, we need to consider how policies and practices may affect displacement and one's sense of place. Ultimately, treat people like people, not