

Labour Market Planning Committee

Brian Hutchings

Brian Hutchings is the Commissioner of Community Services for the Niagara Region. Community Services performs the responsibilities of administrator of the provincial Ontario Works program, Systems Manager for Homelessness and the Hostel system, Systems Manager for Children's Services, operates eight Homes for the Aged, and a range of programs under the Seniors Community Programs umbrella. The department has an overall budget of approximately \$350 million and 1,400 staff. In his role as the Commissioner of Community Services, Brian also performs a senior management role on the Corporation's Management Team.

Brian speaks regularly to audiences in Niagara and beyond on topics including the work of his department, community development opportunities, poverty reduction strategies, the not-for-profit sector and the human services field. As well, Brian speaks to students at high schools and youth groups about steroids and drug use.

Brian is a Niagara native and a Ridley College graduate. He earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Saint Mary's University in 1988. In 1996, Brian received his Certified General Accountant's designation and in 1999, his Human Resources diploma.

Community participation plays a significant role in Brian's life and his volunteer efforts date back to his years as a professional football player in the Canadian Football League (CFL). Brian remains involved in charitable work as a member of the Hamilton Tiger Cat Alumni.

Brian was an active member of the Niagara Trillium Foundation Grant Review Team from 1999-2005, serving as Chair for the last two years. From 2005-2007, he served on the board of the St. Catharines and District United Way. He now sits on the Trillium Foundation Board and is the Chair of the Grants Review Committee.

Brian is the past-president of the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), is a board member of Opportunities Niagara, a poverty reduction organization and is the Treasurer of the Alzheimer Society of the Niagara Region.

He is also a keen supporter of youth athletics and is a member of the coaching staff of the Ridley College First Football team. Brian is also the President of the Lincoln Leaper Jump Rope Club and President of the Canadian Rope Skipping Federation.

In 2003, Brian was honoured as the Citizen of the Year by the Grimsby Chamber of Commerce. In June, 2008, Brian was presented with the Niagara Award from Niagara College in recognition of his contributions to the Niagara community.

He is married to Sue and has two daughters, Blair (14) and Paige (13).
