

For Immediate Release:

25 in 5 poverty reduction movement on the rise

TORONTO, Apr. 14 - Nearly 500 anti-poverty activists from across Ontario are galvanized to push for at least a 25 per cent reduction in poverty in five years after a forum on Monday.

The 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction unveiled its planks for a poverty reduction platform, and united low-income people, community workers, and advocates in the call for the province to set hard targets and timelines in its 2009 poverty reduction strategy.

“The door has been opened on a poverty reduction strategy for Ontario and we intend to make sure we all walk through it together with a bold, comprehensive plan,” said Nick Saul, of The Stop Community Food Centre, and a member of 25 in 5.

The 25 in 5 principles for a strong poverty reduction strategy are:

- Good, sustaining jobs that lift working Ontarians out of poverty.
- Liveable incomes, that include those unable to work.
- Strong and supportive communities. That means affordable housing, child care, public education and community programs that help people connect.

“We need real solutions now, and we have to work together to achieve them,” said Pat Capponi, a low-income advocate with Voices from the Street, and a 25 in 5 member.

The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Child and Youth Services, and Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction, spoke at the forum on the Ontario government’s progress.

“We’re happy to hear from Minister Matthews that progress is being made on the public consultations for poverty reduction,” said John Campey, executive director of the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto, and a 25 in 5 member.

“But we need to keep pushing the government to aim high.”

The 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction is a multi-sector coalition of over 100 provincial and community-based organizations working towards the elimination of poverty in Ontario.

For more information, visit www.25in5.ca.

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