

Attention News Editors:

MEDIA ADVISORY: Raising Expectations for Ontario's Poverty Reduction Plan

TORONTO, Jan. 24 – In anticipation of a special retreat of the Ontario Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction, community groups are calling on the government to deliver on bold targets, inclusive public consultations and a comprehensive anti-poverty policy strategy. A forum of over 200 anti-poverty advocates, experts and sectoral representatives will take place in Toronto to mobilize action on targets, consultations and policies that can lead to substantial progress against poverty.

“There are high expectations for the government’s Poverty Reduction Strategy. The upcoming Cabinet Committee’s retreat will be critical in starting the government off on the right foot. With a provincial budget and public consultations expected in the next few months, the time to build positive momentum and expectations starts right now,” said Jacquie Maund, Coordinator of Ontario Campaign 2000 and a member of the 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction.

Moving Forward on Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy: A 25 in 5 Network Forum

Date: Monday, January 28, 2008

Location: Metro Central YMCA, 2nd floor auditorium
20 Grosvenor Street, Toronto

Agenda: 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. Opening remarks (Joe Mihevc, Toronto Councillor & Pat Capponi, Voices from the Street)
9:45 -10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Priorities for an Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy
10:30 a.m. Panelists available for media interviews

Available for media comment:

Deena Ladd, Coordinator, Workers Action Centre
Marvyn Novick, Social Planning Network of Ontario
Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Professor, Ryerson University
Jacquie Maund, Coordinator, Ontario Campaign 2000
Cindy Wilkey, Income Security Advocacy Centre

The 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction is a multi-sectoral network comprised of 100 provincial and Toronto-based organizations and individuals working on eliminating poverty. The name reflects the call for a 25% reduction in poverty levels in Ontario over the next five years.

For more information contact:

Alissa Von Barga, Communications Officer, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto; office: 416-351-0095 x 214; cell: 647-230-9164