

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries Celebrates 20 Years of Social Planning, Justice and Innovation**

**DATE:** November 6, 2009  
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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries held its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Cambridge City Hall the evening of November 5, 2009. Although Mayor Doug Craig had a previous engagement he offered these words, "The Social Planning Council of Cambridge is the thermometer for the various social issues that need attention in our community. Their assistance, input and sound research have greatly improved council's ability to deal with emerging concerns in the city".

The theme for the evening was "Back to the Future – a 2020 Retrospective for a Poverty Free Cambridge". It was a festive affair as guests were asked to describe their visions for the year 2020. It is timely for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to be celebrated in the year 2009 stated Stephen Gross, Board President for the Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries, as this is also the year that United Nations has proclaimed February 20<sup>th</sup> to be World Day of Social Justice, another great milestone for all communities around the globe.

Greetings and certificates of congratulations were given by local, regional and provincial government officials expressing gratitude and warm wishes for the staff, board and volunteers of the organization. The speakers for the evening, Peter Clutterbuck, social planning consultant working with the Social Planning Network of Ontario, and Peter Donahue, Professor, School of Social Work, Renison University College, both spoke about advances in the social justice movement and how community engagement is being transformed through digital technology and social media. "The experiences and faces of poverty are much more visible within our community, said Donahue. "Through mediums such as digital storytelling, as demonstrated during one of the speeches, whole communities can tell their stories creating impressive messages that can be shared and heard around the world."

The Executive Director for the Social Planning Council, Linda Terry, offered words of praise and appreciation for its extensive network of partners and funders. In particular Terry highlighted the daily contributions of the front line workers who give so generously of their time, expertise and spirit to help the most vulnerable individuals, families and children in our community. Their work is an inspiration for us all and we commend their daily efforts and perseverance, especially during these times of increased demand for services and programs.

Attached to this press release is a copy of the Social Planning Council Cambridge and North Dumfries' 2009 `20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brochure – Looking Ahead to 2020. Also included with this press release are photos from the SPCCND 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event held November 5<sup>th</sup> 2009 at Cambridge City Hall.

The Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries is a community based non-profit organization that is committed to building and strengthening community capacity. Through various methods of research and data collection it gains an informed perspective of community assets and needs and acts by organizing and providing leadership for effective community-wide action.

Marking its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year in 2009, the Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries has held many events this year covering a wide range of topics informing social justice and poverty action - The Temp Agency Forum – exploring workers rights and experiences with temp agencies held April 16<sup>th</sup>; the fourth Annual Poverty Symposium held May 27<sup>th</sup> at Cambridge City Hall focusing on the experiences of new immigrants and refugees and how to build an inclusive community. The council was also host to the the Social Planning Network of Ontario's annual conference held November 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> and is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a special event being held the evening of November 5<sup>th</sup> – A 2020 Retrospective – *“Back to the Future – For a Poverty Free Ontario”*

For more information please visit [www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org](http://www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org)

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**Our New Location**

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