

COUNCIL CLIPS

THE SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF CAMBRIDGE AND NORTH DUMFRIES



Making ends meet in our communities: Town hall meetings reveal struggles

There are too many people in our community who do not have enough income to make ends meet. In Cambridge alone, there are over 15,000 people living in poverty. Over the last month, the Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries (SPC) has met with people in diverse locations throughout the community to ask about some of the challenges people face trying to make ends meet. The SPC has been asking local residents for ideas on how the government and community leaders could improve things. Once the small meetings have been completed (in early March), the stories and data gathered from these small meetings will be compiled. Once the information is compiled, there will be a large town hall meeting on April 3, 2008. Come to this town hall meeting to hear what our community members have been saying. Come to share from your

experience and your ideas to improve the lives of our residents. Local politicians will be part of a panel and will be given the opportunity to respond to the issues and information presented.

This town hall meeting entitled "Making Ends Meet—how do people do it?" is being planned to coincide with Opportunities Waterloo Region's Making Ends Meet event from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Cambridge Newfoundland Club on Dunbar Road. The afternoon event is a drop-in that is open to the public where there will be door prizes, information displays and presentations on services and programs that can assist people living on a low income to make ends meet. Please plan to come early and stay for the town hall meeting at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact the Social Planning Council at 519-623-1713.

We actively and impartially participate in building and strengthening our communities through social change, innovation, research, analysis and facilitation

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Directions Day including Poverty Symposium is set for June 12

Directions Day has now become an annual event creating an opportunity to rally around the SPC and its core work. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, June 12, 2008.**

As in past years, the outline for the day includes the SPC Annual General Meeting, 2008 Community Trends Report release and the Poverty Symposium.

We are excited to announce that this year's keynote speakers for the Poverty Symposium are two representatives from the Province of Newfoundland and

Labrador. In 2005 Newfoundland and Labrador's government made a commitment to transform their province from one with the most poverty to one with the least over a ten-year period. This will be an exciting opportunity to learn from that province's lessons learned and best practices.

One of the speakers is Peggy Matchim, from the Community Services Council of Newfoundland and Labrador. Peggy has been very involved with the Vibrant Communities (St. John's) project and will be speaking

about the role of advocacy in poverty reduction. Joining Peggy will be Aisling Gogin, Director of the Poverty Reduction Strategy for Newfoundland and Labrador, who will be speaking about the process of poverty reduction from the perspective of the provincial government.

After lunch, those in attendance will be able to join small group discussions and training sessions.

Watch for more details on Directions Day and the Poverty Symposium soon.

SPC

MEMBERSHIPS

One of the best ways that you can show your ongoing support for the work that the SPC does is through membership. If you are interested in becoming a member and would like more information, please contact our office at 519-623-1713 and check out our website at www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org

For returning members, payment of membership fees is now due.

Faith based practice and community development inter-faith dialogue is planned for April

Local agencies and faith based organizations are invited to attend an upcoming community event. The session will highlight the following: 1. community needs and priorities – the Social Planning Council will share information on

demographic trends and its Sign Posts document 2. community development practice – Sue Peterson will provide an overview of community development strategies and 3. a local success story –

Chris Hayhoe from Hespeler's Popcorn House and Future Vision Ministries will share her experience.

The evening will also include an opportunity for small group discussion to share lessons learned, ideas

and inter-faith perspectives.

Come join us for conversation on **April 16, 2008, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Islamic Centre of Cambridge.**

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives releases Alternative Federal Budget (AFB)

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) released the 2008 Alternative Federal Budget (AFB) on February 25, 2008. The CCPA collaborates with a wide variety of civil society organizations to create the AFB. The budget information is found on the CCPA website at: www.policyalternatives.ca

The following is a synopsis from the news release sent by the CCPA. The AFB

suggests that the Stephen Harper government needs to give up its tax cut addiction and invest in solutions to more urgent problems facing Canadians. The AFB tackles climate change and financial insecurity for Canadians and addresses things that the government chooses to ignore according to the CCPA.

The AFB 2008 delivers a socially and fiscally balanced budget which Cana-

dians can count on. It also focuses on poverty reduction. According to Armine Yalnizyan from CCPA, "In 1989 our federal Parliament unanimously agreed to wipe out child poverty by 2000. It is now 2008, and child poverty rates are the same as they were in 1989—yet we have tremendous fiscal capacity to do more. The AFB offers a doable, affordable poverty reduction strategy..."

Leadership perspectives from non-profits offer great insight into critical issues

Imagine Canada has published a new report called *Leadership Perspectives: Interviews with leaders of Canada's charities and nonprofit organizations*. In the report, thirty two leaders representing a broad range of types and sizes of organizations were asked about their organizational achievements, strengths and challenges as well as their

external concerns and interests. The interviews revealed seven broad themes that were interwoven in the responses to the questions. The themes which were of most concern were the following: 1. Human Capital and the Search for Talent 2. Responding to Changing or Inadequate Government Policies 3. The Value of Collaboration 4. Accomplishments in Organiza-

tional Development, Strategic Planning and Adaptation 5. Funding 6. Relationships with Businesses and the Potential Value of Business Models and 7. The Lack of Public Understanding of the Sector. To read the full report, go to: http://nonprofitscan.imaginecanada.ca/files/en/other_research/leadership_perspectives_080108.pdf.

IN SEARCH OF BOARD MEMBERS

The SPC is looking for Cambridge and North Dumfries residents who are interested in becoming board members. Join a dynamic and passionate group of people who are dedicated to helping our communities become even better places to live. For more info on the ways that you can make a difference, please call 519-623-1713. We need your input!

Operation
Clean
Sweep



Pitch-in Canada
Week

April 21-27, 2008

To participate, choose an environmentally friendly project like cleaning up your neighbourhood, planting trees or setting up a composting program. Register your group at www.pitch-in.ca and receive free materials to use in the campaign.

Grants and Scholarships to investigate and promote

Check out the following information on recently awarded grants and an opportunity for scholarship funds.

Charity leaders across Canada receive leadership grants

One hundred charity leaders from across Canada have each received a grant of up to \$2,500 from the **Price-waterhouseCoopers (PwC) Leadership Grants** program. As part of the **PwC Canada Foundation**, the program was established in 2006 to support the leadership and professional development of existing and emerging charity leaders. Recipients can apply the funding to a formal educational program or development opportunity of their choice. PwC conducted an internal poll inviting employees to choose the causes that mattered most to them. Children and youth, poverty, education, and the environment were selected as the top causes, and as a result, organizations in these categories received the majority of grants this year. For more information about the Leadership Grants program, visit: www.pwc.com/ca.

Scholarship for Protected Persons or Landed Immigrants who were Protected Persons

The Maytree Foundation needs your help with spreading the word about their scholarship program. Check out the website at www.maytree.com.

The scholarship program provides both economic and social support to students who will be attending university or community college in Toronto in the fall of 2008. To be eligible: students must be between the ages of 18 and 26, not living with parents and must be protected per-

sons or landed immigrants who were protected persons. The scholarship covers tuition, books, transportation, rent and a living allowance. Maytree states that the monthly meetings, as well as social activities throughout the year give their students an opportunity to develop relationships where they receive emotional support, build networks and have fun. They look for students who have a sense of civic responsibility and who possess a successful academic, work and/or service record. Applications are available online; the deadline is March 28, 2008.



Information Cambridge and North Dumfries is committed to providing accurate and timely information to our community members. For information on human and social services in Cambridge and North Dumfries please call:

(519) 740-3030

A Guide for good governance and ethical practice

The **Panel on the Non-profit Sector** recently released *Principles for Good Governance and Ethical Practice: A Guide for Charities and Foundations*. The publication outlines 33 practices designed to support board members and staff leaders of charitable organizations as they work to improve their own operations. The 33 principles are divided into four categories: legal compliance and public disclosure; effective governance; strong financial oversight; and responsible fundraising. For the full guide (PDF), visit the following website: www.nonprofitpanel.org



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The SPC promotes the "democratization of data" to build a healthy community with active citizens involved in multi-sector networks and accessible organizations that work together.

The role of the SPC is to collect, analyze and openly share data on: community trends; demographics (current and projections); and best practices (local and beyond).

The Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries is located in downtown Cambridge. Our office hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 4:00.

www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org