

Presentation to COMPASS Planning Table in Maple

- **Intro to 25 in 5 Network to reduce poverty by 25%** in 5 years in Ontario – collection of anti-poverty organizations along with the Ontario Social Planning Network
 - Several Strategies are now being employed including a Social Assistance Review to determine the true cost of living in communities across Ontario
 - 25 in 5 in partnership with the ASSOC OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES launched a provincial campaign for a HEALTHY FOOD SUPPLEMENT - \$100 monthly supplement to the basic needs allowance for adults receiving SA.
- To broaden awareness about the disparity between what people on SA receive to live on and the actual costs of living, the STOP COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE in Toronto, an active member of the 25 in 5 network, developed the survey tool called DO THE MATH and that is what we wanted to talk to you about today.
- **DO THE MATH is budget** survey that you can do on-line, individually or in groups; essentially you estimate the costs of living as a single person on SA and then put that up against what people actually do receive.
- We've done this with 3 groups now and each time the majority of people are alarmed by the amount of money people are expected to live in versus what it costs for the most basic of needs
- So we'd like to do a quick group survey with you here today to give you an idea of how it works and also so you can take it back and do it with your own groups.
- 1) The goal is to have as many people in Ontario complete the survey on line as possible and submit their findings and their comments to the premier
- 2.) The second goal is to create more public awareness and hopefully support for PUTTING FOOD IN THE BUDGET.
- 3.) And thirdly, to approach local MPPs to have them do the math and hopefully gain their support for this initiative within their own parties.
- Ontario wide, communities are mobilizing to DO THE MATH, and York Region was chosen as one of the first 10 communities to work with the OSPN to develop their action plan around this. We met with Peter C. from OSPN for our initial working group meeting yesterday at our office and our next meeting to strategize how to create more media and public awareness in York Region as well as create teams to approach the MPPS in each area
- We'd like to invite any of you to join us for our next working team meeting on Tuesday July 14th at 1:30 at 510 Penrose in Newmarket; please sign our sheet if you'd like to be in attendance or be contacted about this ongoing initiative. We are looking for a broad cross section of people working and living in the community across a variety of sectors and ideally the teams that go to meet with local MPPS would have constituents from the individual ridings represented.
- For follow-up information on the progress being made Ontario wide on poverty reduction you can check out www.povertywatchontario.ca