

NEWS RELEASE

FAITH GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS ONTARIO WANT POVERTY ERADICATION ON THE ELECTION AGENDA

September 12, 2011

Thousands of voters in communities across Ontario will be asking the Ontario provincial political parties to make ending poverty a priority in this autumn's election with an election "sign blitz" and media conferences on Thursday, September 15.

ISARC's Faith To End Poverty Campaign and the Social Planning Network of Ontario are partnering in the Poverty Free Ontario initiative. At media conferences held simultaneously in cities and towns across the province on the morning of September 15, faith groups and community leaders will launch an election-style sign blitz with one message: "*Let's Vote for a Poverty Free Ontario*".

In Toronto, a press conference with faith leaders from a variety of religious sects [name them] will be held on steps of St James Cathedral to outline their legislative requests: jobs and training strategies, financing for affordable housing, child care and income security, especially when more and more of our labour force is part time, temporary, and contract jobs.

Date:

Time:

Location:

This non-partisan message asks candidates from all political parties to make poverty elimination a priority concern in their election campaigns. The signs would be displayed on the local properties of participating faith communities.

Similar media conferences and sign blitz launches will be held in XX communities, north, south, east and west across the province.

The Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition is a provincial network of faith groups dedicated to faith-based approaches to public policy reform in the areas of social justice and poverty elimination. www.faithtoendpoverty.ca

Poverty Free Ontario is an initiative of the Social Planning Network of Ontario working with local community groups across the province www.povertyfreeontario.ca

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