

NEWS RELEASE

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

September 13, 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 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.

In York Region, the launch for the Campaign will be held at the INN FROM THE COLD Building at 510 Penrose St. Newmarket. Present will be faith groups, community organizations, community members – anyone interested in seeing poverty on the provincial election platform.

Date: Thursday September 15, 2011

Time: 10:30 am

Location: Inn From the Cold, 510 Penrose Street, Newmarket, Ontario

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, community organizations and the lawns of people who will be voting for a poverty free Ontario. Similar media conferences and sign blitz launches will be held in communities across the province on Thursday September 15th.

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 -30-

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