



ChewOnThis! Events a Call to Action on Poverty and Hunger

In recognition of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on **Friday, October 17**, the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network will be participating in ChewOnThis!, part of *Dignity for All: The Campaign for a Poverty Free Canada*. Volunteers in over 25 communities across Canada, including six in Niagara, will be simultaneously raising awareness of poverty and hunger issues and asking citizens to join a strong call for a federal plan to address poverty. The initiative is being co-organized by two national groups – Citizens for Public Justice and Canada Without Poverty.

In Niagara, ChewOnThis! events will be taking place in the following locations –

- Fort Erie: No Frills and Sobeys on Garrison Rd, Boggio Edwards Pharmacy in Ridgeway, 10:30am-12:30pm and 3:30-5:30pm
- Grimsby: Grimsby Affordable Housing Partnership, 61 Main St E, 11:00am-1:00pm
- Niagara Falls: MacBain Community Centre foyer, 7150 Montrose Rd, 8:30-11:30am
- Port Colborne: Downtown Farmer's Market, 8:00am-12:00pm
- St. Catharines: 150 King St and 301 St Paul St, outside of the MTO Building, 11:00am-1:00pm
- Welland: Seaway Mall, Centre Court, 11:30am-1:30pm

At each event, volunteers will be handing out ChewOnThis! Bags containing a local apple, fridge magnet, and a ChewOnThis! postcard. To show support for the call for a federal anti-poverty plan, people can sign a petition, mail in the postcard, or simply go to www.chewonthis.ca and sign on.

Citizens for Public Justice Executive Director Joe Gunn, states that, "When the federal government makes it a priority, poverty can be reduced. We need a comprehensive poverty plan for Canada. The House of Commons has called for one, the Senate has called for one, and the United Nations has called for one, but we haven't seen any action."

Elisabeth Zimmermann, Chair of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network, is looking forward to the event. "This is the first year the Network is participating in ChewOnThis!", says Zimmermann. "The event aligns well with our advocacy work that is focused on addressing the systemic causes of poverty. We are looking forward to meeting with our federal MP's post-event to press the importance of a national anti-poverty strategy."

We hope you will drop by one of our locations and show support for ChewOnThis – please share widely with your contacts! For more information on the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network and its work, please visit www.wipeoutpoverty.ca. You can also follow the Network on Facebook and Twitter.

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network is a collective of over 30 agencies and individuals working collectively to wipe out poverty in Niagara through information sharing, changing attitudes, and compelling Niagara citizens to get involved and take action.