



October 14, 2016

For Immediate Release

## **Niagara Region – Chew on This! Events Call for a Rights-Based Approach to the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy**

On Monday, October 17, the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network will be participating in Chew on This!, part of *Dignity for All: The Campaign for a Poverty Free Canada*. Volunteers in over 30 communities across Canada, including six in Niagara, will be raising awareness of poverty and hunger issues and asking citizens to join a strong call for a rights-based federal action plan on poverty. The initiative is being co-organized nationally by two groups – Citizens for Public Justice and Canada Without Poverty.

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

- Fort Erie: Joe's Valu-mart, 311 Gorham Rd, 10:00am – 6:00pm
- Grimsby: Grimsby Affordable Housing Partnership, 61 Main St E, 12:00-1:00pm
- Niagara Falls: MacBain Community Centre foyer, 7150 Montrose Rd, 7:30-10:30am
- Port Colborne: Bridges Community Health Centre, 177 King St, 9:00-10:00am and Port Cares Reach Out Food Centre, 61 Nickel St., 11:30am-3:30pm
- St. Catharines: 150 King St, outside of the MTO Building, 11:30am-1:00pm
- Welland: Seaway Mall Centre Court, 11:00am-1:00pm

Event volunteers won't be asking for donations, but rather, will be handing out Chew on This! bags, containing post cards, magnets, and chewing gum to raise awareness of the issues of poverty and hunger in Canada, as well as calling for the forthcoming Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy to be based on human rights and to ensure the voices of people who live in poverty are respected and heard.

Niagara Poverty Reduction Network Chair, Glen Walker, states, "A human rights-based approach to reducing poverty would ensure an inclusive process from development through to implementation and would address issues including income security, affordable housing, quality jobs and employment, early childhood education and care, and more."

"This is the third consecutive year the Network is participating in Chew on This!", says Walker. "The event aligns well with our advocacy work that is focused on addressing the systemic causes of poverty. With the recent release of the discussion paper 'Towards a Poverty Reduction Strategy', as well as a commitment to start Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy consultations in 2017, we feel the federal government is taking the right steps forward. However, a human-rights based approach must be an underpinning of this process."

For more information on the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network and its work, please visit [www.wipeoutpoverty.ca](http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca). You can also follow the Network on Facebook and Twitter.

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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.

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