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For Immediate Release

Niagara Region - ChewOnThis! Events Call for National Action Plan on Poverty and Hunger in Canada

On Tuesday, October 6th, 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 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 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, ChewOnThis! events will be taking place in the following locations:

- Fort Erie: No Frills, 1135 Thompson Rd, and Sobeys, 450 Garrison Rd, and Joe's Valu-mart, 311 Gorham Rd, all from 2:00-5:00pm
- Grimsby: Grimsby Affordable Housing Partnership, 61 Main St E, 12:00-1:00pm
- Niagara Falls: MacBain Community Centre foyer, 7150 Montrose Rd, 7:30-9:00am
- Port Colborne: Bridges Community Health Centre, 177 King St, 10:00am-12:00pm
- St. Catharines: 150 King St and 301 St Paul St, outside of the MTO Building, 11:30am-1:00pm
- Welland: Downtown Market Square, 8:00-9:00am

At each event volunteers won't be asking for donations, but rather will be handing out ChewOnThis! post cards and chewing gum to promote the need for Canada's federal to take the lead in creating a comprehensive national action plan on poverty that addresses issues including income security, affordable housing, quality jobs and employment, early childhood education and care, and more.

Niagara Poverty Reduction Network Advocacy Committee Chair, Lori Kleinsmith, states that, "If the federal government made it a priority, poverty could be significantly reduced. Canada needs a comprehensive national action plan on poverty, created in partnership with other levels of government and sectors. 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. It can be done - where there's a will, there's a way."

Elisabeth Zimmermann, Chair of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network, is looking forward to the event. "This is the second 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 raising awareness of the need for our federal government to show leadership on poverty by developing a national action plan, in partnership with other levels of government and stakeholders."

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.

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