



News from the Council



Toronto Community Housing VOTES

The Community Social Planning Council of Toronto has partnered with Toronto Community Housing Corporation to create a comprehensive, innovative web-based guide to voting that focuses on encouraging voter turnout in the 2007 Ontario provincial election.

We asked TCH residents what issues matter to them the most to help us produce this site. On it, you'll find information on the voting process, fact sheets on the issues, information on the referendum question, links to other resources, and more, in several languages.

Visit www.socialplanningtoronto.org and click on Toronto Community Housing VOTES! to access this great resource.

CSPC-T Supports A Fair Deal for Our City!

The CSPC-T has joined with a number of community, environmental, labour and social justice groups to demand a fair deal for our city and its residents. Each year, billions in taxes flow from Toronto to Queen's Park and Ottawa, yet Toronto only gets six cents per tax dollar to deliver its services. Between now and October 10, the coalition will be demanding that every candidate for provincial election commit to immediately resolving this unjust and unsustainable reality, not only for Toronto, but for every city in Ontario. Demand A Fair Deal For Our City!

Welcome Navjeet Sidhu

The CSPC-T is pleased to welcome Navjeet Sidhu to its staff. Nav will be continuing his work with the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto as a Researcher with the Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC) project on a one-year contract.

Originally from Montreal, Nav is a CEGEP graduate and is bilingual in English and French. He is also a recent graduate of Ryerson University's Bachelor of Social Work program where he completed research and direct service placements with the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto and the Fort York Food Bank. Over the past year, Nav has made important contributions to the work of the Council as a social work intern and summer contract Research Coordinator. During his placement, Nav developed the Toronto Community Resource Guide for non-status immigrants. A joint project of CSPC-T and Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre, the guide is a unique

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Please note the deadline to submit information for the next e-Newsletter is August 23, 2007. Submissions can be e-mailed to avonbargen@cspc.toronto.on.ca.

multilingual paper and online resource for Toronto residents who face considerable barriers to accessing community and public services. He has also contributed to research evaluation and policy work at the Council, as a research team member for the St. Clair West Services for Seniors MAPP evaluation project and contributor to the Council's submission to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women. As a Research Coordinator, Nav led the Access to Education project where he worked with non-status immigrant families to document their experiences with Toronto's public school system and develop recommendations aimed at ensuring access to education for children and youth without immigration status.

West Hill Community Health Project – Welcome Fatemeh Akdari

The Community Social Planning Council of Toronto (CSPC-T) is pleased to announce a new partnership initiative between the Council and West Hill Community Services, aimed at identifying community health needs in five priority neighbourhoods in Scarborough.

CSPC-T will carry out a one-year project on behalf of West Hill Community Services, to support the expansion and enhancement of community health services in these neighbourhoods. Activities will include: gathering data on perceived health needs in these areas of the city, identifying related community assets, building supportive networks and linkages, and engaging residents in planning and decision-making as possible service-enhancement options are being considered. Related goals are to increase resident leadership and engagement and to strengthen lines of communication between satellite health centres and local community groups and organizations.

On-the-ground co-ordination of this initiative will be done by a community planner, who will also work closely with staff from West Hill Community Services. The person selected for this role is Fatemeh Akdari, who brings to the task many years of experience in community development. The Council welcomes Fatemeh to our staff team and wishes her great success in her new position.

Fatemeh Akdari comes to CSPC-T with eighteen years of community and social work experience including twelve years in immigration and settlement services. She has extensive exposure and training in community development, diversity, anti-racism, and issues affecting low-income and marginalized communities. Fatemeh has worked in various projects over the years, involving community outreach, needs assessment, program development and evaluation. In her most recent assignment, she developed outreach programs for seniors in three under-serviced immigrant communities in York Region.

Fatemeh has also been involved in various volunteer initiatives including: Inclusivity Action Plan for York Region, (working on organizational development and volunteer leadership), Richmond Hill Intercultural Committee, Maytree Foundation's abc GTA project and "School 4 Civics" project, and the Iranian Women Organization of Ontario.

Fatemeh is fluent in Farsi, Turkish and Dari. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, sewing, listening to jazz music and traveling.

ANC – Mt. Dennis news

The ANC team in Mt. Dennis recently hired 11 animators/outreach workers. These are individuals who either live or work in the Mt. Dennis community and represent the diversity of the population in the area. They will be working to engage residents.

Emma Feltes, CSPC-T summer intern finished her internship with the ANC team. She worked on some important projects including working with the school board for the school permit, the Arts workshops and the safety audit. We wish her well as she returns to King's College at Dalhousie University to complete her degree in International Development.

The ANC team in collaboration with the Mt. Dennis Community Association facilitated the summer program of arts workshops in the local Dennis Ave School. The space was secured through the Open Doors Program of TDSB which is designed to facilitate free community use of schools during summer. Visit http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org/ANC_summerart.html for full program descriptions.

Upcoming Events

Conference on Gun Violence – August 5

The Canadian Dawah Association presents, Conference on Gun Violence at Toronto Centre for the Arts, George Weston Recital Hall, 5040 Yonge Street, on the TTC Yonge subway line, (North York Centre or Sheppard stops) minutes away from Highway 401 and Yonge Street.

Confirmed Speakers: Abdurraheem Green, William "Abdullah" Chappelle, Omar Regan Neelain Muhammad, Amir Sulaiman. Tickets can be purchased by phone: 416-870-8000 Online: www.ticketmaster.ca In person: Toronto Centre For the Arts Box Office. For more info: www.cdadawah.com

Homelessness Website - Call for focus group participants – August 8 & 10

A new Canadian based homelessness website is looking for focus group participants. This website would contain relevant research in Canada about homelessness and would be categorized to include areas such as: housing, health, youth, newcomers, substance use, pathways out of homelessness, etc. In addition, we are hoping that there would be information available on funders and a section collecting stories/videos/art of persons experiencing homelessness and of service providers. Please join one of two focus groups organized by Birgit Armstrong to get your input on the design of this website.

Meeting dates:

Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at 2:30 to 4:00 pm

Friday, August 10, 2007 at 9 to 10:30 am

Place: 2nd Floor - Classroom West Section

Sherbourne Health Centre

333 Sherbourne St

(Between Gerrard and Carleton St, East side of Sherbourne St - there is either parking on site or across the street there is street parking)

Please contact Birgit via email birgit_armstrong@hotmail.com or phone her at her office: 416-233-1142 to let her know which of the meetings you will be attending.

Edmond Yu Safe House Boat Cruise – August 15

Get your tickets now for the Edmond Yu Safe House Boat Cruise, aboard the Harlequin Cruises "River Gambler," on Wednesday, August 15, 2007, from 6 – 11 p.m. Tickets are \$75. Ticket MUST be presented at gate. Includes: 5-Hour Cruise, Buffet Dinner, Live Entertainment & DJ.

The Edmond Yu Safe House project operated a fundraising Boat Cruise over the past 5 years. This year's event is present by PARC, with proceeds going to Edmond Place. Because we actually have a housing project in development, raising funds through the Boat Cruise event is more pertinent now than ever before. Please contact us if you wish to sell tickets as well.

Tickets/ Information: 416-537-2262, ext. 194

Email: edmondplace@parc.on.ca

Or Visit us at 1499 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor

Bill 7 Award – Application Deadline August 17

The Bill 7 Award is a registered charitable trust that gives out bursaries to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer and 2-spirit students in financial need in any post-secondary institution in Ontario.

Completed application forms may be mailed to SOY (address below), or emailed to info@bill7award.ca. Head to www.bill7award.ca for more details and to download an application form. And don't delay: The deadline for these applications is Friday, August 17, 2007.

Today We March! Tomorrow We Vote! – August 18

Rally at Queen's Park on Saturday, August 18 to demand action from the McGuinty government:

- 1) Tenants Rights / Rent Freeze / Rent Control!
- 2) \$10 Minimum Wage Now!
- 3) Reign in Payday Lending!
- 4) Public Social Housing, Not Private!
- 5) \$1.9 Billion for Affordable Housing Now!
- 6) Recognize International Credentials!
- 7) Community Access to Public Schools!
- 8) Increase Social Assistance Rates By 40%!

Call ACORN for more information -- 416-461-9233 -- 1324 Danforth Ave M4J 1M9

JOIN ACORN AND FIGHT FOR JUSTICE!

<http://www.canada.acorn.org>

Social Justice Summer Retreat: August 23-26

Theme for 2007: Empowering Movements to Transform the World: Canada, Just or Just Us?

Program:

This year we hope to strengthen links with grassroots and community-based social justice organizations from the Global South. We are expecting several international guests that are at the forefront of social movements in their region of the world. We will be discussing Canada's role in regards to the mining industry, environmental sustainability, the War on Terror, Global Warming, as well as alternative banking and food security - among other topics. There will be a Youth Leadership Program available for teenagers between the ages of 13-18. Please visit our site at <http://socialjustice.org> for program details.

If you plan on attending the Retreat consider facilitating a workshop. There are still a few slots available. Workshops should be related to the theme and fit into one of the three streams: roundtable discussion, skill building or personal development workshops. To submit a proposal, email a short description of your workshop to cerda@socialjustice.org and we will get back to you.

Please contact the Retreat Coordinator (Ewa Cerda) if you have any questions at retreat@socialjustice.org or call 416-927-0777 (toll free 1-888-803-8881).

Debate on Poverty and Health – September 25

The Liberal, New Democratic, and Progressive Conservative Parties will be participating in a debate on poverty and health, moderated by Carol Goar of Toronto Star at InnisTown Hall, NW corner of St. George Street and Sussex Avenue, just south of Bloor Street on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by Health Providers Against Poverty, Income Security Advocacy Centre, and Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.

The Metcalf Foundation – Community Program Grant Opportunities

The Metcalf Community Program seeks to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of people and organizations working together to address the root causes of poverty. There are three different initiatives that support advancing these efforts – Communities in Action, Innovation Fellowships and Renewal Fellowships. Please go to <http://www.metcalffoundation.com> to view details about each initiative and application deadlines for early this fall.

News from our partners

New Arts Pass Available from Toronto Public Libraries

Toronto Mayor David Miller and Toronto Public Library City Librarian Jo Bryant announced inauguration of a new Museum and Arts Pass program. The Pass can be borrowed by Toronto Public Library card holders, much the way someone might borrow a book or a CD from the collection. The Pass provides full admission to a family of up to two adults and five children to the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Bata Shoe Museum, the Gardiner Museum, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Textile Museum of Canada and the City of Toronto's Historic Museums, and more.

The Passes are initially being made available for borrowing through the 24 branches of the Library that serve Toronto's 13 priority neighbourhoods as identified by the City. Families choose one of the museums and galleries participating in the program each time they borrow the card.

Go to: http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/spe_ser_museum_arts_pass.jsp for full details.

Maytree Foundation Programs – Various deadlines

Apply now to Fundraising 101

Fundraising 101: A Strategic Approach to Building Financial Sustainability is designed to increase resource development capacity resulting in enhanced financial sustainability for your organization. The program will run from September 2007 to May 2008 and will include nine fundraising training sessions. The application deadline is Friday, August 17, 2007.

[Learn more about Fundraising 101 and apply now >>](#)

Apply now to Leaders for Change

Leaders for Change (LFC), a leadership development program for social justice activists is being offered this fall with a focus on action-based poverty reduction initiatives. LFC takes place from October 2007 to June 2008 and includes a variety of learning opportunities, including retreats, training and self-directed action projects. The application deadline is Friday, September 14, 2007.

[Learn more about LFC and apply now >>](#)

Apply now to Maytree Public Policy Training Institute

The Maytree Public Policy Training Institute (PPTI) is designed for individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest and engagement in public policy. The program is specifically aimed at participants who can articulate an issue where policy change could have a significant progressive impact. The program will run over a six-month period from November 2007 to May 2008 and will include a series of 5 modules with leading public policy experts. The application deadline is Monday, October 1, 2007.

[Learn more about PPTI and apply now >>](#)

Conferences and Calls

“New Voices in Labour Studies” Call for Participants – Deadline August 6

A Labour Studies Workshop at McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario
October 19 – 20, 2007.

This workshop will explore these new developments within the field of labour studies, and provide the “new voices” of labour studies an opportunity to present their research and work. During a series of panels and presentations, scholars receiving their PhD within the last 5 years, along with post-doctoral fellows, and senior PhD students will be provided with an informal venue in which to present their research.

If you are interested in participating in the workshop as a panelist or discussant, please email a short (250 word maximum) outline of what you would like to contribute to the workshop. The deadline for submitting an intent to participate is August 6, 2007. More info at <http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/labourstudies/MainPDFs/conferencecall.pdf>

For More Information and to Submit a Proposal, Please Contact:

Dr. Charlotte Yates.

Director, Labour Studies Program

yatesch@mcmaster.ca

KTH 717, McMaster University

1280 Main St W. Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4M4

Campaign 2000 National Forum on Living Wages, Toronto - September 18-19

Poverty among young families today is substantially higher than it was 20 years ago. One-third of all low income children live in families with at least one parent working full time, full year. A large part of the problem is that many jobs pay low wages. Based on the belief that a job should be a pathway out of poverty, this forum focuses on building support for a "Living Wage" –the income that a family would need to meet basic needs, maintain a healthy standard of living, and be able to save for future needs. Tuesday, September 18, 7 –9 pm: Public Forum in partnership with Community Social Planning Council of Toronto. Media invited. Location: Grenoble School, Flemingdon Park (tbc). Childcare available.

Wednesday Sept 19, 9 am - 4 pm: Full day forum, OFL building, 150 Gervais Drive.

For details or to register, contact Liyu Guo of Family Services Association of Toronto at liyugu@fsatoronto.com

Increasing Diversity in Canadian Cities – October 11-12

Poverty among young families today is substantially higher than it was 20 years ago. One-third of all low income children live in families with at least one parent working full time, full year. A large part of the problem is that many jobs pay low wages. Based on the belief that a job should be a pathway out of poverty, this forum focuses on building support for a "Living Wage" – the income that a family would need to meet basic needs, maintain a healthy standard of living, and be able to save for future needs. The Toronto Public Library is co-hosting a conference on Increasing Diversity in Canadian Cities that will explore the role that libraries play in the settlement and integration of newcomers to Canada. Participants from across Canada and from several European countries are attending, the keynote speaker is Adrienne Clarkson and there will be a discussion with a panel of Canadian mayors.

For more information please go to www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/culc/

Citizenship and Immigration Canada – Call for Proposals – Deadline August 24

Issued by: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Settlement and Intergovernmental Affairs Directorate, Ontario Region

The deadline for receipt of submissions by the Settlement Directorate is 4:00 pm (EST) on Friday, August 24, 2007.

1. LINC Programming for Youth across Ontario

The Settlement and Intergovernmental Affairs Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), Ontario Region, invites proposals to develop new LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) programs and services for newcomer youth. LINC guidelines state that a LINC learner must be of school-leaving age in Ontario. (Ontario's Bill 52 - The Education Amendment Act, Learning to Age 18, 2006 – states that learners must stay in school until they graduate or turn 18) For the purposes of this proposal, LINC classes must be focused on youth of school-leaving age to 24.

For details visit: http://atwork.settlement.org/downloads/atwork/CFP_Youth_LINC.pdf (eng)

http://etablissement.org/downloads/atwork/DP_Jeunes_CLIC.pdf (fr)

2. Host Programming for Youth across Ontario

The Settlement and Intergovernmental Affairs Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), Ontario Region, invites proposals to develop new Host programs and services for newcomer youth. For the purposes of this call for proposals (CFP), the main focus will be on youth aged 13-24. CIC is open to alternative delivery models of youth programming, and encourages creativity and innovation in the proposals.

For details visit: http://atwork.settlement.org/downloads/atwork/CFP_Youth_HOST.pdf (eng)
http://etablissement.org/downloads/atwork/DP_Jeunes_HOST.pdf (fr)

3. ISAP Programming for Youth across Ontario

The Settlement and Intergovernmental Affairs Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), Ontario Region, invites proposals to develop new programs and services for newcomer youth. For the purposes of this call for proposals (CFP), the main focus will be on youth aged 13-24. CIC is open to alternative delivery models of youth programming, and encourages creativity and innovation in the proposals.

For details visit: http://atwork.settlement.org/downloads/atwork/CFP_Youth_ISAP.pdf (eng)
http://etablissement.org/downloads/atwork/DP_Jeunes_PEAII.pdf (fr)

For more information: contact Kate Melino at kmelino@rnao.org or 416-408-5613

Community Sector Organizations - Call for Proposal – Deadline September 10

Human Resources and Social Development posted a Call for Proposals to deliver a total of nearly \$3 million in funding to the community non-profit sector.

The funding will be awarded through a competitive process and includes two components. The first is to provide further analysis of the Canada Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP), and the available funding is \$332,000. The second component is geared to fostering innovation in the community non-profit sector by funding projects that will enable the sector to share innovative practices, and the available funding is \$2.6 million.

For more information, visit

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/community_partnerships/sdpp/call/cos/index.shtml

Voices for Children: Call for Participants

Voices for Children, in partnership with Dr. Jean Clinton, child psychiatrist and researcher at the Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University, wants to ask parents, grandparents, and a whole variety of community members across Ontario about their hopes and dreams for Ontario's children and youth—and what they need to succeed. This information will help all of us to better understand how to engage citizens across Ontario to ensure successful outcomes for all our children.

We'd like to learn what a variety of individuals think—parents, grandparents and folks from across Ontario—anyone over the age of 18. (Young people will have a chance to participate in the next phase.) In the next few weeks we will hold a series of focus groups in various settings across Ontario. Each focus group will last about two hours, and individuals who participate in the sessions will each receive \$25.00 for their time.

If you are willing to host a session or if you know of individuals who may be interested in participating, please contact our research coordinator, Despina Papadopoulos at 647-378-1719 or Cathy Vine at 416-489-5485 as soon as possible.

StatsCan The Daily – July Highlights

July 12

Current economic conditions

Output levelled off in April, after three consecutive gains, hampered in part by labour disputes. Employment growth resumed in June, after a two-month pause, as gains in services outweighed more losses in manufacturing. The economy continued to be influenced by gains in commodity prices and the exchange rate. Food and energy prices continued their upward trend, while metals remained near their historic highs. Partly as a result, the Canadian dollar posted its second fastest quarterly increase ever, just under 7%, hovering near a 20-year high in May and June.

<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/070712/d070712c.htm>

July 10

Work injuries

By Kathryn Wilkins and Susan G. Mackenzie

In the years 2002 to 2004, acute injuries occurring on the job resulted in an average of 465 deaths annually, and close to 300,000 compensated time-loss claims. The consequences of occupational injuries can be appreciable: lost work time and income, medical expenses, compensation costs, possible long-term health problems or disability, and a burden on the family of the injured worker.

Complete article: [HTML version](#) [PDF version \(245K, 18 pages\)](#)

A Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario (PDF file - 425K, 14 pages) July 2007

By Jacquie Maund (Campaign 2000), Sarah Blackstock (Income Security Advocacy Centre), Greg deGroot-Maggetti (Citizens for Public Justice), Sara Farrell (Toronto Public Health), Elizabeth Ablett (Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care).

This report calls on all Ontario political parties to commit to a "Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario" as they finalize their party platforms for the October election.

<http://www.campaign2000.ca/on/pdf/OntarioPovertyReductionStrategy.pdf>

Gang Wars: The Failure of Enforcement Tactics and the Need for Effective Public Safety Strategies, July 2007

By Judith Greene and Kevin Pranis

This report attempts to clarify some of the persistent misconceptions about gangs and to assess the successes and failures of approaches that have been employed to respond to gangs.

http://www.justicepolicy.org/reports_jl/7-10-07_gangs/GangsExSummary.pdf

Enhancing GTA standard of living requires concerted effort: TD Economics (PDF file - 19K, 3 pages), July 2007

A report published by TD Economics states the relative decline of the Greater Toronto Area's standard of living against competing jurisdictions during the past five years poses a serious threat to the region's future prosperity (www.td.com/economics). Cohesive and coordinated action is required by all regional players, but future policies must be underpinned by efficiency and innovation rather than public money. Among the GTA's challenges, co-authors Don Drummond and Derek Burleton cite:

- The region's eroding competitive position due to economic forces such as the rising dollar;
- The limited flexibility of the City of Toronto due to its structural deficit; and
- The rising number of low-income families among newcomers and the self-perpetuating cycles of poverty.

Complete report:

An Update to TD Economics' 2002 Report on the Greater Toronto Area Economy (PDF file - 301K, 33 pages) http://www.td.com/economics/special/db0707_gta.pdf

Toronto Coalition of Youth Centres webpage now available

The Toronto Coalition of Youth Centres (TCYC) - a committee of six TNC members - has launched a mini-webpage with their latest campaign materials. TCYC is campaigning for better recognition and ultimately better resources for neighbourhood youth centres and neighbourhood youth programming in Ontario. Check it out at www.typs.com/tcyc . All TNC members are welcome and encouraged to print and use the flyer in any way that builds public awareness for youth centres. TCYC will be using the flyer as part of an election kit to raise awareness of this youth issue during the provincial election, but the flyer is designed to be used throughout 2007/2008.

The CSPC-T gratefully acknowledges the funding support of the United Way and the City of Toronto.

The CSPC-T reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. The comments and opinions contained herein are those of the authors, and not the CSPC-T. The CSPC-T cannot assume responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the submissions received.