

Media Release

No Place for Poverty Anti Poverty Recommendations Stress Cooperation and Inclusion

Yellowknife: Oct. 12, 2010: Social justice leaders participating in the *No Place for Poverty* Anti-Poverty Workshop say eliminating poverty must become governments' top priority and governments must involve everyone to make it happen.

The 80 participants from 20 communities want government, business, communities and non-government organizations to work in partnership from the community level. They called for a strategy based in legislation, to ensure long-term effort and accountability.

Representatives drawn from the 29 NWT organizations now calling for a strategy worked October 5 to 7 with NWT and national political leaders, service providers and anti-poverty advocates.

Other key recommendations included:

- There must be easier access to affordable public housing and home ownership, caps on rents and enough transitional housing to meet the needs of homeless people and families
- Programs must be flexible and aimed at helping people get out of debt
- Affordable, publicly-funded and delivered child care must be universally accessible, and should be modelled on the example of Quebec
- Communities must be empowered to create solutions to poverty that address local conditions

The priorities and recommendations will be summarized in a report for wide distribution and presentation to the up-coming session of the NWT Legislative Assembly.

"There is great passion and commitment to working together on actions to make the NWT a safe and welcoming place where every person is valued and included," says workshop organizer Aggie Brockman.

The *No Place for Poverty* Anti-Poverty Workshop was organized by Alternatives North and YWCA Yellowknife.

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Further information can be found at www.alternativesnorth.ca and www.ywcanwt.ca/events

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