

For Immediate Release

Reducing poverty in Greater Sudbury

February 22, 2008 (Sudbury) – Reducing poverty makes good economic sense. Research shows that as the poverty level drops so do the costs to health care, social services and criminal justice systems. The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce acknowledges the need for a strategy to reduce poverty in Greater Sudbury.

“Poverty is not just about having a certain level of income, it’s about employment and working conditions, food security, health services, housing, unemployment and education” says Cynthia MacKenzie, Chair of the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce. “The choice between paying the rent and buying food is one we do not want citizens of our community to have to make”.

The Social Planning Council of Greater Sudbury (SPC) was commissioned by Human Resource Development Canada to develop a poverty reduction strategy for the City of Greater Sudbury. Some of the recommendations in the report include giving poverty reduction the same importance as economic development by investing in social infrastructures and to establish a human services planning and policy development agency to foster collaboration between the private, voluntary and public sectors as well as the general public and individuals affected by or living in poverty.

The focus of the strategy will be on income, employment and training, affordable housing, food security and transportation by aligning local efforts with provincial and national strategies.

As its meeting this week, the chamber’s Board of Directors offered its support in principle to the SPC’s Community Strategy to Reduce Poverty and directed the chamber’s Advocacy Committee to determine what role the chamber can fulfill in facilitating the recommendations in the strategy.

The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business, advocating for business and community prosperity and represent over 950 businesses locally.

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