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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 17, 2011, Peterborough

Peterborough's First-Ever Poverty Report Card Released Today

New Tool Comparing Local and Provincial Poverty Indicators Designed to Hold Governments Accountable

To commemorate October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, the Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network together with the Peterborough Social Planning Council and Peterborough County-City Health Unit released Peterborough's first-ever Poverty Report Card.

"This important new tool provides both citizens and politicians with a way to track and evaluate poverty reduction efforts in our community," said Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health with the Health Unit. "By comparing local and provincial indicators we can determine how close we are to our 2008 goal of reducing poverty by 25% in five years."

The Poverty Report Card encapsulates local social, economic, educational and health indicators that collectively provide a snapshot of poverty in Peterborough City and County. The indicators were specifically chosen to match those used by the 2010 Annual Report of the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy, allowing for an easy comparison of local poverty statistics to those across the province.

"The release of this Report Card serves as a benchmark to hold us accountable and keep us focused on the specific ways we can break the cycle of poverty," said Brenda Dales, Executive Director of the Peterborough Social Planning Council. "One in ten residents in the City and County of Peterborough live in poverty, and the Report Card highlights key areas where policy changes and programs must be implemented to prevent the continuation of poverty instead of just responding to its effects."

Stephen Kylie, Chair of the Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network noted that just as the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy emphasizes indicators that impact children, so does Peterborough's Poverty Report Card. "This is important because it is by ending the deprivations faced by our youth that we can make a real difference in the future to eradicate poverty."

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NEWS RELEASE

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To download a copy of the Peterborough Poverty Report Card, visit www.pcchu.ca .

For more information about the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, visit <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/poverty/> .

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