



CANADIAN SOCIAL FORUM

Calgary, Alberta – May 2009

Homelessness. Affordable housing. Food security. Neighbourhoods under stress. A growing gap between the rich and poor. Poverty.

While Canada's economy has been thriving for over a decade, daunting social challenges persist and too many Canadians are being left behind. Why do these social problems continue in the midst of such prosperity – and what is being done to make meaningful change in these areas?

Get the answers to these and many other social development questions at the **Canadian Social Forum 2009**.

Be part of the chemistry that happens when more than 700 decision and policy makers, researchers, and community representatives get together at the inaugural Canadian Social Forum from **May 19 to 22, 2009 in Calgary**. You'll also be joined by people working in law enforcement, public health and business – a combination that can create renewed energy to tackle some of the challenges you face in your work.

Presenters and workshop topics are being chosen for their ability to get to the core of promising practices, organizational obstacles and the realities of social and political issues. You'll meet social development partners from a wide variety of organizations and sectors that have rarely come together before.

You'll also hear about **promising work** being done in every region of Canada. We'll discuss **what is – and isn't – working** in the field of social development, **create new connections** with people from every part of the country, and **build momentum** for further action and collaboration for social change.

Highlights of the Canadian Social Forum will include:

- **Inspiring speakers**
- **Workshops, roundtables and plenary sessions** on social development trends, best practices and innovations in the sector, coalitions and collaboration, marketing your organization to foundations, and much more.
- The **Canadian Social Forum Video Initiative**, where senior broadcast students from Canadian journalism schools will team up with professional television producers to chronicle the three-day Forum and document the ideas, messages and inspiration of participants, for sharing during the Forum and later in communities across Canada.

Several plenary sessions will start with **short documentaries** to help kick-start dialogue and debate. Organizers recently started production of the first of these in Alberta and Quebec.

Early-bird registration for the Canadian Social Forum starts in **September 2008**. Check our website at www.ccsd.ca for updates. To find out more about the Canadian Social Forum, or share your ideas and input about what you'd like to see at the Forum, send us an e-mail at forum@ccsd.ca. You call also the CCSD at (613) 236-5868, ext. 226 or visit us on-line at www.ccsd.ca.