



The Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries is a non-profit organization that actively participates in building and strengthening our community through research, analysis, facilitation and education, fostering innovation and positive social change

[www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org](http://www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org)

## Pulling Together, Building Trust, Shaping the Future

The aim of the **Cultural Engagement Project** is to strengthen individual capabilities, encourage civic participation and promote intercultural understanding among residents living within the catchment areas of the Alison Neighbourhood Community Centre, Kinbridge Community Association, Greenway Chaplin Community Centre, and the Fiddlesticks Neighbourhood Association. Working alongside the neighbourhood organizations are 4 great Community Engagement Promoters who have been instrumental in organizing events and establishing stronger links between community residents, both those who have been living in the area and those who have recently moved here. Here are a few highlights of our activities over the past few months:

- Cross cultural communication skills training (July)
- Alison neighbourhood pre-Eid henna party (August)
- Eid celebration in Churchill Park (August)
- Kinbridge Children’s Bicycle Rodeo to promote fun and safety (September)
- Greenway Chaplin neighbourhood celebration (September)
- Alison neighbourhood Eid Al Fitr celebration (September)



Nearly 500 people have come out to events so far this year. Thank you to our funders, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Region of Waterloo, and congratulations to everyone who has worked hard to make this happen!

## Provincial All Candidates Meeting

The SPCCCND, YWCA Cambridge, and the Islamic Centre of Cambridge hosted a Provincial All Candidates Debate on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Islamic Club of Cambridge. Five of the six candidates in the Cambridge-North Dumfries riding participated in the event, with only the Progressive Conservative candidate not in attendance. Elizabeth Clarke, the executive director of YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo, moderated the event. Approximately 100 Cambridge residents attended the debate, which was filmed and broadcasted by Rogers TV.

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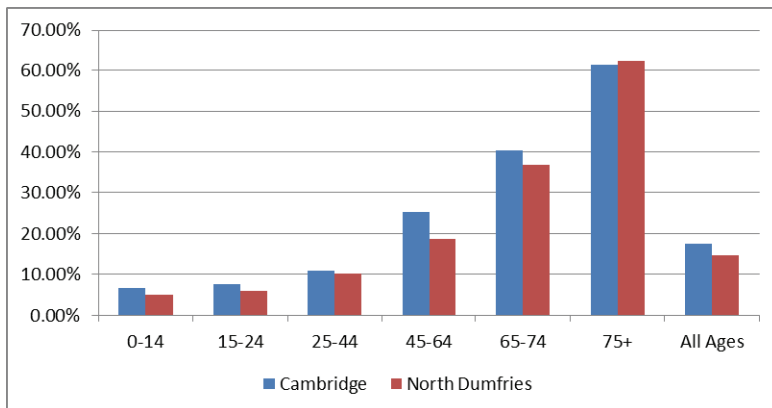
## Newest Publication Profiles the Prevalence of Disability in Cambridge and North Dumfries

Numbering around 650 million people, or approximately 10% of the world's population, people with disabilities have been referred to as the world's largest minority. With anticipated population growth, medical advances and the ageing process, this figure will only increase in the future (United Nations, 2006, Some Facts About Persons with Disabilities).

Based on 2006 Census data, the Social Planning Council's newest publication "A Profile of Disability in Cambridge and North Dumfries" presents information about the prevalence of disabilities locally. Some facts and figures:

- Nearly 18% of Cambridge residents and 15% of North Dumfries residents have disabilities.
- The likelihood of disability increases with age –more than half of all seniors in Cambridge and North Dumfries aged 75 or older have disabilities.
- The highest rate of disability is among older senior women.
- People with disabilities participate in the labour force at a lower rate.
- People with disabilities tend to work fewer hours.
- Adults with disabilities have a lower average total income.
- A greater percentage of residents with disabilities are living in a low-income situation than the population as a whole.

### Prevalence of Disability by Age and Gender



For a copy of the full report please visit our website at :

[www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org](http://www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org)

## Let's Vote for a Poverty Free Ontario!

On Thursday September 15th, communities throughout Ontario came together to support the Poverty Free Ontario initiative. At media conferences held simultaneously in cities and towns on the morning of September 15th, faith groups and community leaders launched a sign blitz with one message: "Let's Vote for a Poverty Free Ontario", and raise awareness of the issue of poverty on the provincial election agenda.

Representatives from all faith institutions and community organizations are welcome to come to the Social Planning Council office at [55 Dickson Street](#) to pick up a sign.

For more information see:

Poverty Free Ontario: [www.povertyfreeontario.ca](http://www.povertyfreeontario.ca)

Faith to End Poverty: [www.faithtoendpoverty.ca](http://www.faithtoendpoverty.ca)



## Local News

### North Dumfries Community Complex Officially Opens!

The Township of North Dumfries celebrated the grand opening of the NEW North Dumfries Community Complex on Saturday, August 27, 2011 at 2958 Greenfield Road in Ayr with entertainment for all ages, free public skating, and a fundraising BBQ.

The evening celebration closed with the biggest fireworks show North Dumfries Township has ever seen. Local businesses: Team Vincent, Ayr Home Hardware, Paquette, Travers and Deutschman, J & R Hall Transport and Drumb Transport donated money for the spectacular fireworks show, that was featured on CBC's Rick Mercer Report on Tuesday, September 20.

The North Dumfries Community Complex features an NHL size ice surface with seating for 1000, an indoor walking track, a 7,000 square foot health centre, Seniors Lounge, banquet hall, and various meeting rooms.

(Source: North Dumfries Township, [www.northdumfries.ca](http://www.northdumfries.ca))

### Waterloo Region Social Audit Report Released

What kind of changes are needed to end deep poverty and give people a real chance to get ahead? Some of the answers can be found in the [Waterloo Region Social Audit Report](#).

The Waterloo Region social audit was conducted in February 2010 as part of an Ontario-wide Social Audit organized by the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition ([ISARC](#)). This report is a companion to [Persistent Poverty: voices from the margins](#), which pulled together findings from the social audits conducted in twenty-six communities across the province.

The *Waterloo Region Social Audit Report* reflects what we heard from dozens of individuals across the region who spoke about their experience of living in poverty and the changes that would improve things. The report focuses on the changes that need to happen if we are to eradicate poverty and give people real opportunity to get ahead.

(Source: Poverty Free Waterloo Region, [www.pfwr.ca](http://www.pfwr.ca))

## Provincial & National News

### Inequality on the Rise

According to a recent report released by the Conference Board of Canada:

Of total world income, 42 per cent goes to those who make up the richest 10 per cent of the world's population, while just 1 per cent goes to those who make up the poorest 10 per cent. Income inequality among countries in the world rose sharply between the 1980s and the mid-1990s, before levelling off and then falling after 2000. Countries with very high inequality are clustered in South America and southern Africa. Countries with low inequality are mostly in Europe. Canada and the U.S. have medium income inequality. The increase in income inequality has been more rapid in Canada than in the U.S. since the mid-1990s.

(Source: Conference Board of Canada, [www.conferenceboard.ca](http://www.conferenceboard.ca))

### Newcomers Need Affordable housing and Transit to Succeed

The lack of affordable housing and access to efficient public transit and community services are significant barriers to the success of new immigrants and the Canadian economy, says the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in a report on Canada's immigration system.

"To keep its economy strong, Canada needs an immigration strategy that meets growing on-the-ground challenges and gives cities and communities a seat at the table," said FCM president Berry Urbanovic.

"Without a decent place to live, an affordable and reliable way to get to and from work, and access to front-line community services immigrants will continue to fall behind and Canada will not meet its economic and social objectives."

According to FCM's report, new immigrants are falling behind other Canadians in their income and job opportunities. Overcrowded road and public transit systems are crumbling and a growing shortage of affordable housing threatens to price more immigrants out of the regional labour markets where they are needed most. Ottawa's language and job-training programs are falling behind changing settlement patterns, leaving communities big and small without the resources to meet changing local needs.

(Source: The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, [www.fcm.ca](http://www.fcm.ca))

## Redesigned Website Launched!

The SPCCND is pleased to announce the release of our newly redesigned website:

[www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org](http://www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org)

**Watch for new  
Community Trends  
Factsheets this fall!**

**September:**  
*Food Security  
Community Supports*

**October:**  
*Employment and Income  
Arts, Culture and Recreation*

**November:**  
*Housing Stability  
Health*

**December:**  
*Transportation  
Community Safety*

## Information Cambridge and North Dumfries Update

Information CND updates are nearing completion, with fewer than 25 records left to be updated. Many new records have also been added at the request of Ontario 211. The SPCCND is now managing the Cambridge-based electronic records for Ontario 211, which can be accessed through the Information CND online database, or 211.ca.

### North Dumfries Connections Newsletter

The fall edition of this joint newsletter is out! Among the events that are highlighted, you will find information about the 2011 Provincial Election All Candidates Meeting, a concert featuring Dan Hill, as well as details about child, youth and seniors programs that will be starting soon.

### SPCCND *In the News*

Cambridge Times,  
"Making voters aware of poverty issue"

The Record,  
"Efforts to place poverty on election agenda  
face obstacles"

Cambridge Times, "Election race heats up"

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