

Social Planning Network of Ontario



November 23, 2009

Re: Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change

Dear Pope Benedict,

The Social Planning Network of Ontario (Canada) includes more than 20 local planning and community development agencies who work at both a local and provincial level to affect social change. Our work is rooted in social justice and we believe in the primacy of community. The members of our organization (see below) have been working diligently with citizens, government officials, environmentalists, the labour movement, business people and faith groups to effect positive change in the province of Ontario for a long time.

We have seen much progress through our collective efforts both in terms of planning and organizing effective responses to hunger, homelessness and injustice at the community level. Most recently we were elated to be part of the making of an historical policy change with the recent introduction of provincial legislation to reduce poverty for the first time in Ontario's history.

We know through experience that by reaching across sectors, political interests, and cultural and religious divides to clasp the hand of the person beside us we become empowered to face and solve our common difficulties. The difficulties upon us now however, due to climate change, are so large and all encompassing that in some ways it makes all of our previous work look like mere practice for the main event.

If we are to get this next step in our human evolution right we must grasp the fact that there is a need to completely change our current direction. Now is the time for us to engage with partners across the spectrum and across the world. We must work at the local level to impact change while at the same time be connected on a global level.

It is in this spirit that we ask you Pope Benedict to sign on to the Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change and inspire the world to change.

Respectfully,

Janet Gasparini, Board Chair
Social Planning Network of Ontario (Canada)

About Us

The Social Planning Network of Ontario (SPNO) is a coalition of social planning councils (SPC's), community development councils (CDC), resource centres, and planning committees located in various communities throughout Ontario, Canada. The SPNO has existed since 1991 and our vision is to be a strong, effective catalyst for positive social change by promoting social planning throughout the province.

List of Members

1. Amhurstburg Community Services, Amhurstburg, Ontario, Canada
2. Community Development Council Durham, Ajax, Ontario, Canada
3. Community Development Council of Quinte, Belleville, Ontario, Canada
4. Community Development Halton, Burlington, Ontario, Canada
5. Community Social Planning Council Kingsville-Leamington, Kingsville Ontario
6. Lakehead Social Planning Council, Thunder Bay, Ontario
7. Lakeshore Community Services, Belle River, Ontario
8. North Bay Social Planning Council, North Bay, Ontario
9. North Durham Social Development Council,
10. Perth County Social Planning Council,
11. Peterborough Social Planning Council, Peterborough, Ontario
12. Social Planning Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
13. Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada
14. Social Planning Council of Cornwall and Area, Cornwall, Ontario, Canada
15. Social Planning Council of Kingston and Area, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
16. Social Planning Council of Kitchener, Waterloo, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
17. Social Planning Council of Ottawa/ Conseil de planification sociale d'Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
18. Social Planning Council of Peel, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
19. Social Planning Council of Sudbury, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada
20. Social Planning & Research Council of Hamilton, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
21. Brant Community Social Planning, Brantford, Ontario, Canada
22. Perth County Social Planning Council, Stratford, Ontario, Canada