

For Immediate Release

From: The United Way of Perth County
32 Erie Street, Stratford ON N5A 2M4
519-271-7730 – phone 519-273-9350 – fax

Photo Opportunity
All Media Invited

(Stratford, ON):

Perth County Social Research & Planning Council releases valuable research on the socio-economic impact on the current recession and elder abuse.

The first report 'Facing the Future: The Socio-economic impact of the Global Recession on Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County' identifies the strain of the recession on individuals, social services and organizations in Perth County and highlights recommendations to help bridge the gaps in services and supports throughout the community. These include:

- more funding for locally based training opportunities for emergent employment sectors
- municipal action to attract and accommodate more businesses tied to the new economy
- a proactive regional strategy for socio-economic development and new job creation which seeks additional resources to approach local issues and gaps

The second report 'Breaking the Silence: A Report on Elder Abuse in Perth County' is significant due to the fact that Perth County has the highest per capita of seniors and in the province and estimated 4 and 10 percent incidence of elder abuse province wide. Specifically recommending:

- wide spread elder abuse campaigns among the general public and professional organizations such as banks and long term care facilities
- establishment of a Perth County elder abuse response team led by Perth County OPP
- a stakeholders meeting scheduled for June 2010 to bring awareness of Elder Abuse Awareness Day and to discuss action plans and evaluate the progress

Both reports are available free-of-charge from the United Centre at 32 Erie Street in Stratford and from the Perth County Social Research & Planning Council website at: www.socialresearchandplanning.ca. And also available at local libraries.

The reports will undoubtedly be valuable tools in unmasking the invisible struggles of our friends and neighbours, stimulating community discussion and guiding social actions and expenditures in Perth County.

Residents are invited to provide their input on topics for future research requiring a local perspective and third party review at: info@socialresearchandplanning.ca.

For more information, please call The United Way of Perth County 519-271-7730.

