



lakehead
social planning
council



Visit us online at:

www.lspc.ca or www.211north.ca

NEWSFLASH

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211 NORTH CELEBRATES 3rd ANNIVERSARY

2-1-1, the information and referral service, used to find help in difficult periods, has answered the call over 50,000 times for callers in Thunder Bay, Algoma and Rainy River Districts, since Feb. 11th, 2008. On this day the 211 helpline was launched by the Lakehead Social Planning Council, in the City & District of Thunder Bay, followed by service to Algoma and Rainy River and currently serving a population of 300,000. During the last 3 years, residents in these areas have been able to call 211, any day – any time.

By combining the human touch of live-answer with modern phone and web technology, 211 North has been successfully providing callers with award-winning, high quality customer service. Complementing the phone service is: www.211north.ca - an on-line, easy to search, repository of comprehensive, up-to-date information of human service & government programs. For 211 North, future expansion includes launching the service in the following Districts: Kenora, Sudbury/ Manitoulin, Cochrane, Timiskaming & Nipissing with special considerations to accommodate our First Nations and Francophone neighbours. 211 is now on track to becoming a fully-integrated provincial system that will serve all Ontarians by the end of 2011. **Help starts with 211!**

SOCIAL PLANNING AWARDS

We are pleased to invite nominations for the **Twelfth Annual Lakehead Social Planning Council's Social Planning Awards**. The Awards presentation will be made at our Annual General Meeting.

Two awards are presented, one to an organization and one to an individual. Any resident and/or organization in Thunder Bay who has worked towards enhancing the quality of life in the city or the district of Thunder Bay for at least three years are eligible.

Last year's recipients of the LSPC Social Planning Awards were Gloria McKay (Individual) and Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre - Good Food Box Program (Organization).

Please visit our website at www.lspc.ca for the nomination form or call the office at 624-1720.

211 ANNUAL REPORT

Download the 211 Northern Region 2010 Statistical Report for a summary of activities, call volumes, trends and gaps in services at: www.lspc.ca

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX CLINIC

We are in the midst of Spring and dreading the quickly approaching deadline for income tax returns. For eligible individuals, the Lakehead Social Planning Council (LSPC) is again offering free income tax services. There are seven dedicated volunteers who are preparing income tax returns. As of March 31st, 859 returns have been completed of which 614 returns were E-filed and 245 were paper returns for a total of \$371,788.26 in refund monies. In 2010, six volunteers had completed 768 returns, 635 of which were E-filed and 133 were paper returns for a total of \$327,612.19 in refund monies.

We enjoy working with our LSPC hosts and our fellow volunteers. It's what keeps us coming back!

Mary Cernigoj and Sharon Corston, E-file Coordinators

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Victoria Inn, Regency A, 555 West Arthur Street

Guest Speaker: 2:00pm to 3:00pm

Community Dialogue 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Annual General Meeting: 4:00pm to 5:00pm

**Guest Speaker: Marvyn Novick, Community Activist
Social Planning Network of Ontario**



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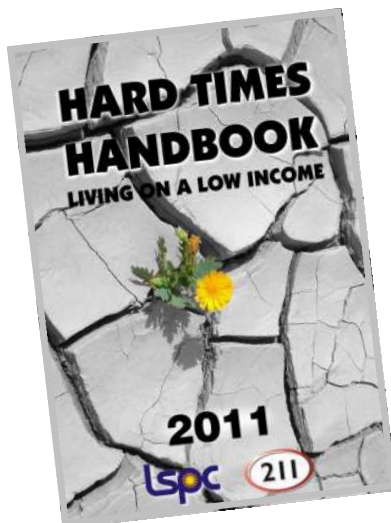
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POVERTY REDUCTION

The Lakehead Social Planning Council has been extremely active in moving the issue of poverty into political focus through our leadership within Poverty Free Thunder Bay. Recently, the Thunder Bay Mayor and certain Council Members have indicated their support for the development of a local Poverty Reduction Strategy. The support for a local strategy is unprecedented and demonstrates the culmination of the ongoing work of many dedicated members of our community. Poverty Free Thunder Bay will be working closely with City of Thunder Bay representatives to ensure that this strategy is realized and reflects the needs of our community. We have also been working with our colleagues throughout Ontario to once again make the plight of Ontario's poor an election issue this Fall. Through our partnership with the Social Planning Network of Ontario, we will be part of a cross-provincial initiative to put poverty on the public agenda.

HARD TIMES HANDBOOK

Official launch of the 2011 Hard Times Handbook at our Annual General Meeting on May 18, 2011 at the Victoria Inn.



COMMUNITY DATA CONSORTIUM

The Community Data Consortium provides an opportunity for municipalities and community based organizations to access data from Statistics Canada and other institutions in order to identify and better understand the social and economic trends within their individual communities. This initiative is led by the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD). The CCSD is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that develops and promotes progressive social policies inspired by social justice, equality, and the empowerment of individuals and communities through research, consultation, public education, and advocacy. The Community Data Consortium is a national consortium of 19 regional data user networks. There is a regional Community Data Consortium network in most big Canadian cities. Members include more than 50 municipalities and over 850 users, including local police, social planning councils, health and family service agencies, school boards United Ways and other organizations working on the ground for social development. Recently, representatives of the Lakehead Social Planning Council, the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board, the Crime Prevention Council and the City of Thunder Bay Planning Department met to discuss becoming a local Community Data Consortium. This partnership will increase the amount of data that is accessible to our community. Through this increase of information our social reporting and understanding of trends in our community will increase exponentially. If any individual or organization is interesting in becoming a partner in this exciting new project, please contact me as soon as possible.

Aaron Park, Social Planner and Researcher

Email: apark@lspc.ca

GOOD FOOD BOX

\$12 for Individual and \$20 for Family

Pay on the first Thursday of the month and pick-up on the second-last Thursday of the month.

Already in 2011 the Lakehead Social Planning Council has provided 157 Good Food Boxes to local individuals and families.

