



NEWS RELEASE

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"BREAKING THE CYCLE" **A Conference on Youth Homelessness**

St. John's -- The St. John's Housing and Homelessness Network kicked off its conference on youth homelessness today with the release of its first Community Report Card on the state of youth homelessness in St. John's.

"Breaking the Cycle" is a two-day gathering of community-based service providers, municipal, provincial and federal departments and agencies, and representatives of persons at risk of homelessness, who are committed to working collaboratively on issues related to homelessness and housing.

The conference (April 16-17) takes place at the Lantern in St. John's and includes guest speakers from Ontario, British Columbia and St. John's.

The conference and the Community Report Card focus on many key areas affecting street-entrenched youth including:

- Supportive and affordable housing
- Education and employment
- Outreach programs
- Drug use/addictions
- Sexual exploitation

"Having the community come together to share their thoughts, experiences and insights is very effective as we work toward solutions", stated Sheldon Pollett, Co-Chair, SJHNN. "We are stronger together as our strength lies in our collective efforts".

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For more information:

Contact: Dave Murphy
Coordinator
St. John's Housing and Homelessness Network
e-mail: dmurphy@choices.nf.net
Ph: (709) 691-7570