



Niagara Research and Planning Council

CALL TO ACTION FOR A BETTER NIAGARA

## News Release

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### **Living in Niagara - 2008 takes pulse of community**

**NIAGARA, ON – Living in Niagara – 2008**, a 200-page comprehensive report serves as a community check-up that measures the quality of life and vitality of Niagara. Released today, the collaborative community planning report identifies significant trends, and reports on how we compare to provincial and national trends in 11 areas critical to quality of life.

“For many years, community leaders across all sectors have searched for a valid and reliable means to assess the quality of life and living in Niagara. The report provides a broad assessment that is easily readable and highly accessible to the general public. I am extremely proud of everyone who contributed to the development of this milestone report and the efforts that will flow from the report,” said Catherine Mindorff, a leading community volunteer and Chair of the Niagara Research and Planning Council (NRPC).

Ms. Mindorff presided over the official release of the ***Living in Niagara – 2008*** report at the MacBain Community Centre in Niagara Falls. Community leaders and residents of Niagara, including children from James Morden Public School and members of the Niagara Mayors’ Youth Advisory Councils joined Chair Mindorff and the NRPC committee in the launch of the report.

The integrated social planning model will provide a community-based planning approach and framework for addressing issues in an informed, comprehensive and action-orientated manner.

The NRPC was formed in 2005 as concerned citizens felt the need to examine the assets and the challenges of living in Niagara, how they affect our citizens and communities and how we build on these assets and meet these challenges more successfully.

Ms. Mindorff noted "Today marks a milestone in our work to create a better future in Niagara. The work we're sharing today represents a comprehensive and community-involved approach to examine Niagara's strengths and challenges. Equally as important to the future is the vehicle we have developed that will enable leaders to identify and address our community's challenges and to build community capacity for all of Niagara for years to come."

The role of the public is to provide comments, insights and questions on issues identified in the report and to become involved by participating in the areas they feel strongly about. "Discussion and debate plays a critical role in shaping our environment here in Niagara and as stakeholders in our community, this report will provide a vehicle to address and measure our achievements while looking to improve areas of concern," adds Ms. Mindorff.

**Living in Niagara - 2008** is financially supported by a collaboration of Niagara funders, including the Niagara Community Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Bridges Community Health Centre, Opportunities Niagara, United Way of St. Catharines and District and the Niagara Region. Spritz Creative donated part of the costs for the production of the website and report planning. Material in the report was prepared by Dr. Heather Lee Kilty of the Leadership Institute and Brock University

The report can be accessed at the following link:  
<http://www.livinginniagarareport.com/> and at your local library.

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attached: Fact Sheet