



CANADIAN SOCIAL FORUM
Organized by the Canadian Council on Social Development
TELUS Centre, Calgary, Alberta
May 19 – 22, 2009



The shift from decades of economic “prosperity” to an economic downturn has magnified social challenges in Canada. In spite of our resources, innovation, energy and commitment, poverty persists. **It is time for a rethink.**

That’s what the first **Canadian Social Forum** is all about.

The Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) is creating space for over 750 participants at the TELUS Centre in Calgary AB, **May 19-22, 2009**. Leaders from a variety of backgrounds and standpoints will collaborate to consider how individuals, governments, communities, employers, small agencies and large organizations can reduce poverty in Canada. Much of the program will highlight the innovative work on this issue that is starting to happen in communities across the country.

This integrated approach addresses the recent economic downturn, government deficits, rising unemployment, and the struggling community sector. The preliminary program already includes:

- Five plenary sessions, keynote speakers, & over 40 workshops
- Interactive poster sessions
- Working lunches
- Launch of the Senate Committee on Population Health final report on the social determinants of health and wellness

Comedian and activist **Mary Walsh** will be at the Forum to premiere her new documentary on poverty and discuss how to use popular media to make change. On the final day, a televised Town Hall moderated by **CBC National’s Mark Kelley** will highlight what Forum participants are thinking and doing.

Working with the next generation of journalists and videographers, the Social Forum **Video Initiative** will document the ideas, messages and inspiration of the participants. It will also honour the winner of the Social Forum’s Youth Video competition.

The preliminary program and registration for the Forum is posted on the CCSD website <http://www.ccsd.ca/csf/2009/>.