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News Release

NEW TOOLKIT TO HELP COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS TACKLE ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY

OTTAWA, June 11, 2008 – Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) today launched a new online resource for community foundations and other organizations interested in tackling the root causes of complex social issues like poverty.

From Good Causes to Root Causes (www.cfc-fcc.ca/poverty) is a practical resource designed to help funders better understand and address poverty in Canadian communities.

“Our movement is exploring ways to move beyond alleviating the symptoms of poverty; we want to reduce and prevent it,” said CFC President and CEO Monica Patten. “Many community foundations are asking ‘How can we act on the big issues facing our community?’ This toolkit provides some answers.”

From Good Causes to Root Causes helps funders prepare, implement and evaluate a strategy to respond to poverty in their community. Background information, discussion questions, and lessons learned all figure prominently.

The toolkit was funded by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program and developed with CFC members that are at various stages of their own work on poverty, including:

- Hamilton Community Foundation
- The Winnipeg Foundation
- The Calgary Foundation
- Vancouver Foundation
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- The Foundation of Greater Montreal

“Tackling the big issues takes more than dollars, it’s about bringing everything you have to the table: your experience, your expertise, your relationships,” said Martin Garber-Conrad, CEO of the Edmonton Community Foundation. “This toolkit will help us leverage those resources to take on a more active role in poverty reduction.”

Community Foundations & Social Justice

Community Foundations of Canada began to explore the role community foundations could play in advancing social justice issues in 2001.

Since then, with support from the Ford Foundation, the Atkinson Foundation and other funders, CFC has released a series of web resources including:

- "Addressing Our Toughest Challenges: A Social Justice Discussion Guide for Community Foundations"
- "Strategies for Social Justice: Place, People and Policy" by Judith Maxwell for CFC
- "Vital Signs 2007 National Report" by Community Foundations of Canada and local Vital Signs reports

About Community Foundations

Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) is the national membership organization for the more than 160 community foundations found in cities, towns and rural areas across the country.

With more than \$2.7-billion in assets, the community foundation movement is one of Canada's largest grantmakers, providing more than \$137-million in grants last year to thousands of charities.

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