



North Hastings Community Integration



Counselling Services of  
Belleville and District



Community Living Prince Edward

## **For Immediate Release**

### **CONFERENCE SEEKS TO APPRECIATE DIVERSITY IN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES**

**BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO, October 4, 2005** – The public school board and four community agencies are partnering on a collaborative venture for the benefit of children. The organizations are hosting a one-day conference to share strategies for creating school communities that value each person's uniqueness.

The Building Inclusive School Community conference will offer participants a deeper understanding of what an inclusive school community means, build skills to create such a community in their local school, and become inspired to work together to eliminate barriers to meaningful inclusion for all children.

"Conference participants will leave with a better understanding of their own behaviour and how it can affect the lives of others," states John Klassen, Executive Director of Plainfield Community Homes. "Every day improvements are being made to eliminate barriers to meaningful inclusion for all children yet there is still room for improvement."

This conference is intended for parents, students, teachers and school board personnel, and community agencies involved with children and youth in Hastings and Prince Edward counties. The line-up includes keynote addresses from individuals who are specialists in their chosen field, roundtable discussions and facilitated group discussions.

By the end of the day, participants will:

- Think more deeply about what inclusive school community means and how it can evolve
- Be inspired by wanting to pursue an inclusive school community
- Have new skills in their toolbox
- Have a better understanding of their own behaviour

An inclusive school community embraces all students in a school as active and valued members of a diverse school community. All students are included and feel a sense of belonging among other students, teachers and support staff. Inclusive school communities share in the responsibility to create and nurture a safe, welcoming school community that supports learning, respects diversity, and values each person's uniqueness.

Host organizations include Community Living Prince Edward; Counselling Services of Belleville and District; Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board; North Hastings Community Integration; and Plainfield Community Homes.

**What: Conference on Building Inclusive School Community**

**When: Thursday, November 10**

**Where: The Banquet Centre, Belleville**

To register, contact: Patti Gillman at Plainfield Community Homes in Belleville (613-969-7407, Ext. 30) or Jane Mayberry at North Hastings Community Integration in Bancroft (613-332-2090).

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**For more information contact:**

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