

For immediate release

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## Global Economic Crisis Casts Shadow on Prevention Efforts

### *World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse an Opportunity for Awareness*

OTTAWA - November 19 is *World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse* and CWLC is again highlighting this international event to acknowledge the importance of preventing child abuse and exploitation. In 2008, the implications of the current global economic crisis on vulnerable populations, in particular children and youth, cannot be underestimated. Economic stress on families, such as job losses or poverty, can create hazardous situations for children and youth within their home environments.

The economic downturn must not result in a reduction of services and prevention efforts but Canadians must ensure that children and youth remain Canada's first priority. Often, economic instability can increase the stress already encountered by vulnerable populations, so we must have services readily available and accessible for those who require them.

Investing in our social capital by ensuring adequate funding for services and substantial opportunities for youth remains a high priority issue for CWLC and its members. We will continue to be vigilant in 2009. CWLC is a proud partner in the global movement to raise awareness of these issues and *World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse* is a call to action for every Canadian.

*World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse* was established in 2001 by the Women's World Summit Federation to highlight the urgent need for effective prevention programs for this alarming universal problem. This year, 932 non-governmental organizations in 135 countries have indicated that they will mark this event through local or national activities. Supporters for this day include Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan; Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Prof. Jaap Doek, Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; and Prof. Paulo Pinheiro, Independent Expert for the *UN Study on Violence against Children*. More information can be found online at <http://www.woman.ch/children/1-introduction.php>.

CWLC is a membership-based national organization dedicated to promoting the well-being and protection of vulnerable young people. CWLC plays a significant role in promoting best practices among those in the field of child welfare, child rights, children and youth mental health and youth justice.