



---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 15, 2008**

**Youth Emergency Shelter Named Provincial Success Story**

The Peterborough Youth Emergency Shelter has received provincial recognition in Ontario's new long term poverty reduction plan. Released on Dec. 4, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services reports lists the Y.E.S. as one of 12 success stories for child and youth services in the province. The report can be read online at [www.growingstronger.ca](http://www.growingstronger.ca).

The Poverty Reduction Strategy outlines the initiatives the Ontario government will take to reach its goal of reducing the number of children and youth living in poverty by 25 per cent over the next five years. The initiatives focus on improving opportunities for children, youth and families to break the cycle of poverty, as well as providing the support, tools and resources they need to get ahead.

It was the Youth Emergency Shelter's work in this area that earned it praise as a success story in the fight to reduce poverty. In addition to providing emergency housing to young people and families, the Youth Emergency Shelter provides access to key supports including education and skills training. Through a partnership with Peterborough Collegiate Vocational School, YES offers an alternative education program at its Carriage House site, situated behind the shelter. An innovative one-on-one transitional life skills program has recently been implemented to help young people in care make the transition to independent living. Also new is a food and nutrition program which includes breakfasts for Carriage House students, as well as nutrition workshops.

"It's very gratifying to be recognized by the province as a success story," said Y.E.S. executive director Walter Johnstone. "Being able to provide support services is critical to helping these kids overcome their challenges and reach their potential. We hope this recognition will enable us to attract additional funding, so that we can continue to offer these programs alongside our emergency housing services."

The shelter's long-standing woodshop and construction program has recently been put on hold due to lack of funding.

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Walter Johnstone  
Y.E.S. Executive Director  
(705) 748-3851  
[wjohnstone@yes-shelter.org](mailto:wjohnstone@yes-shelter.org)

---

**196 Brock St. Peterborough ON K9H 2P4**

**Tel: (705) 748-3851 Fax: (705) 748-6697**

