

ISARC

Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition

"Faith Communities In Action Against Poverty"

News Release – May 31, 2010

Religious Leaders' Forum – 2010 ISARC Social Audit

a provincial gathering to hear and discuss the initial findings from community hearings on poverty
Wednesday, June 2 in Toronto, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Representatives of Ontario' multifaith communities and people who experience poverty will be meeting to share initial findings from ISARC's Social Audit. All Members of the Provincial Parliament (MPPs) have been invited to attend.

Using a dynamic grassroots process, ISARC involved hundreds of people in 25 community hearings on poverty across Ontario from February to May. Bishops and other religious leaders, along with service providers and people in poverty took part. To learn about the location and dates go to <http://www.isarc.ca/socialaudit2010.html#hearings>.

The social audits provided a "listening ear" to people living in poverty and faith communities, local service organizations, and municipal politicians working to eliminate poverty. The Social Audit assessed the current Ontario government's policies to reduce poverty. As people in poverty told their stories of living on low incomes, they also provided ISARC and the government with their hopes for change at the political level.

"We are now coming together as representatives from around the province to compare stories, learn from each other, do some theological reflection, and discern what we will bring forward to our politicians and our faith communities", explained Brice Balmer, ISARC Director.

ISARC's June 2 Religious Leaders' Forum will take place from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. at Sam Sorbara Auditorium in Brennan Hall, University of St. Michael's College, In The University of Toronto, 81 St.Mary Street.

ISARC (www.isarc.ca) has provided a religious voice for Ontario's marginalized people for 24 years.

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To read about ISARC's 2010 Social Audit go to: <http://isarc.ca/socialaudit2010.html>.

To read about The Social Audit in the Media go to: <http://www.isarc.ca/socialaudit2010.html#media>.