



Institute for Health and Social Policy L'Institut des politiques sociales et de la santé

IHSP RESEARCH TO POLICY CONFERENCE
McGill Faculty Club, Montreal

**Global Strategies: Improving
Labour Conditions for the Working Poor**
May 1,2 2008



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Free space limited conference

What do we know about labour conditions among the working poor worldwide, how do those conditions affect broader public health and what can Canada and other governments do to improve conditions for the world's most disadvantaged workers?

On Thursday May 1st and Friday May 2nd, 2008, the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy (IHSP) will host *Global Strategies: Improving the Labour Conditions of the Working Poor*. This conference will gather leading academics and policy makers, including senior representatives of the government of Canada, labour and non-governmental organizations and international experts, to not only consider these issues but to propose effective policy solutions.

Keynote speakers:

- **Hon. Ken Dryden** is the current Member of Parliament for York Centre. During the previous government he served as Minister of Social Development and he now chairs the Liberal Caucus Committee on Social Development. Before entering federal politics, he served as President of the Toronto Maple Leafs. In January, Mr. Dryden toured Canada meeting with anti-poverty groups to discuss poverty and strategies to defeat it.
- **Hon. Hugh Segal** is a Canadian senator, political strategist, author, and commentator. He is Former Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of Canada. Senator Segal currently chairs the Policy Forum at Queen's School of Policy Studies. He is a long-time advocate of a Guaranteed Annual Income (GAI) in Canada and has recently introduced a motion for the Canadian Senate to study the GAI system.
- **Stephen Pursey** is Senior Adviser to the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, Director of the Policy Integration and Statistics Department and former Chief Economist of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.
- **John Frank** is Scientific Director, Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Institute of Population and Public Health, former Director of Research at the Institute for Work & Health and a Fellow with the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research Population Health Program.
- **Kathy Newman** is Director, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies and a prolific award winning author on meeting the needs of the working poor. Her awards include the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award and the Sidney Hillman Foundation Prize.
- **Pat Horn** is International Coordinator of StreetNet International in South Africa, an international federation that promotes and protects the rights of street vendors around the world. It has almost 200 000 members in 19 affiliated organizations in 17 countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Led by Jody Heymann and bringing together collaborations from across 7 faculties, the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy is a multidisciplinary research institute that studies the impact of social conditions on health and leads programs designed to translate research findings into effective national and global policies and programs to improve the social conditions of the worst off.

Among the IHSP's recent initiatives are:

- *Population Health: Moving from Evidence to Effective Policy.* This five-year project, launched in 2007, carries out in-depth studies of success stories to provide concrete examples of ways in which policies can have a positive impact on the health and well being of populations, through greater equity and improved labour conditions.
- *Global Social Policy Database:* The world's largest database on labour policies in 180 countries and all 13 Canadian provinces and territories to be launched within the next year to inform policy development in Canada, the United States and elsewhere.

For further information please contact:

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