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Anti-Poverty Success Key to Sustainability says Mayoral Candidate Slomka

(Kingston ON) Mayoral candidate Brenda Slomka is humbled by the faithful witness of the Sisters of Providence and friends. The sisters have held a silent vigil in front of City Hall every Friday at noon for 19 years to raise awareness about poverty in Kingston and other injustices.

“The Sisters expose the truth that poverty and homelessness burden the lives and limit the opportunities of too many children and adults in our community. We must overcome these complex and challenging issues together if we are to be Canada’s most sustainable city. The cooperation, creativity and compassion required to do so will mobilize us to reach our larger vision,” said Slomka.

Slomka is a member of Kingston’s Poverty Reduction Initiative Steering Committee and co-chairs the Community Support for Education working group funded by the City and the KFL&A United Way. She thanks the many volunteers, staff and councillors who have contributed to its current stage of development and vows to be pro-active in addressing poverty and homelessness.

Slomka’s campaign platform released last Thursday proposed the contract employment of a full-time specialized social worker (preferably with direct street life experience and understanding) to build and develop on-going relationships with and assistance for individuals close to becoming homeless or who are already homeless.

She believes that relationship-building with individuals struggling to meet basic needs is an essential complement to any community anti-poverty/anti-homelessness plan. This approach provides the rapid feedback and experiential knowledge required for adjusting these strategies to changing circumstances.

Slomka places a high priority on these issues and plans to fundraise for the proposed position through an annual State of Poverty and Homelessness Mayor’s Dinner. The event will provide

a regular occasion for Kingstonians to collectively celebrate success and critically evaluate progress.

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Media Contact(s):

Roxanne Leung

Campaign Manager

Brenda Slomka Campaign

info@brendaslomka.ca