



MOVING FORWARD THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

**Toronto, March 13, 2009 – 2:30 pm (2 minutes)**

**CTV NEWSNET anchor Jacqueline Milczarek discusses the impact of the economic crisis on Canadians and what distress centre volunteers are hearing and saying on the lines.**

In a live interview with DCO Executive Director, Elizabeth (Liz) Fisk, Milczarek quoted some of the statistic on rising numbers of calls to distress lines dealing with financial woes and job uncertainty. She was curious what callers were saying and how volunteers help.

Referencing the rising rates of unemployment in the province of Ontario, and increasing job loss statistics in other provinces, Fisk confirmed that distress lines are expecting more calls dealing with the social impacts of job losses as the spring and summer months progress.

In response to a question about distress lines' ability to keep up with the rising call volumes from individuals with financial woes, Fisk reiterated that distress line volunteers are very committed to their communities and the people they serve.

Many centres are reporting that some volunteers are filling more shifts in efforts to keep the lines available to callers 24/7. She also referred to an upcoming province-wide recruitment effort for volunteers.