

# Nova Scotia Participates in New Guinness World Record

by Merlin Watt, MPH Halifax Coalition Chair  
**Local Groups Stand Up with Over 173 Million Worldwide to Make Poverty History – A New & Historical World Record for the Single Largest Co-ordinated Mobilisation of People**

In Halifax and throughout Nova Scotia, hundreds Stood Up to be counted this past weekend as part of a global Guinness World Record attempt. In an unprecedented historical mobilization, it was announced today Guinness has certified that more



with National Housing and Poverty Reduction Strategies.

The Halifax Make Poverty History Rally on October 17<sup>th</sup> (The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty) was one of a handful of events around the world mentioned in the announcement of global results. The local event drew the formal participation of more than a dozen organizations representing the diversity of groups and volunteers engaged in related local and international poverty issues. Represented

than **173 Million** people Stood Up at over 3,000 events in more than 100 countries to support the United Nations Millennium Development Goals – specific United Nations targets to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015. In Canada, a variety of events called for the Canadian government to take action and close the gap in meeting our commitments to these goals. They urged Canadian parliament to act now in key areas - including increasing Canada's comparatively low international aid levels to the UN standard of 0.7% of GDP, while also demanding action to eliminate poverty in Canada. Calls to Ottawa on domestic policy included moving forward quickly



organizations included Oxfam, Canadian Crossroads International, CUSO/VSO, Katimavik, Art of Living, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Just Us Fair Trade Development Association, Salvation Army, Stepping Stone, Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Association, St. Mary's WUSC, FEED Nova Scotia, Council of Canadians, Halifax Coalition Against Poverty and others. Speakers at the rally and following community organization fair included Brian O'Neill (Oxfam), Joan Campbell (Canadian Crossroads International), Merlin Watt (Make Poverty History Halifax) and Halifax MP Megan Leslie (NDP). Non-perishable food items were collected and contributed to FEED Nova Scotia's holiday food drive. Several dozen attendees signed their copy of the Stand Up Pledge, which will be sent to PM Stephen Harper's attention with a letter reiterating today's announced results.

In addition to the October 17<sup>th</sup> event, several local high schools and faith groups marked the global action by participating in the Stand Up Take Action pledge and Guinness Record at school on Friday or during Sunday worship services.

"Stand Up and Take Action" is a world wide event co-ordinated by the Millennium Now in its fourth year, this year's event aimed to break last year's Guinness World Record of 116 million people for the largest single coordinated mobilization

of people in history and smashed that record with 173 million participants.

"Stand Up and Take Action" is coordinated in Canada by Make Poverty History. Make Poverty History is part of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), the world's largest anti-poverty coalition, made up of national campaigns in over 100 countries. In Canada, over a quarter of a million people have signed on to the campaign.

For more information, please visit [www.makepovertyhistory.ca](http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca)



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