



## **ANGLICAN DIOCESE AND GATINEAU PUBLIC SCHOOL LAUNCH \$10,000 PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE SCHOOL LUNCHES**

-The Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, the Western Quebec School Board, and Greater Gatineau Elementary School have recently established a new community partnership to improve knowledge of healthy lunches among the school's 350 students.

-Building on a pilot project that began last spring, the Anglican Diocese will be providing \$10,000 in new funding to support a weekly program that teaches students of all ages how to make their own healthy school lunches. With the help of community volunteers and a nutritionist, the program sees classes of students make regular trips to a local grocery store during school hours where they learn how to shop for healthy, cost-effective food. The students then return to the school with the food they've gathered where volunteers assist them in making a wide variety of healthy lunch recipes.

-The new partnership, known as *The Daily Bread Project*, will allow the Gatineau school's shopping and cooking program to run from October 2011 to June 2012. The diocese and school board may expand the project to other elementary schools in West Quebec should the initial partnership in Gatineau prove successful.

-Funding for the partnership stems from the Anglican Diocese's *Bishop's Child Poverty Initiative*, a \$300,000 five-year campaign that aims to reduce the number of children living in poverty in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec through a variety of community specific programs. It is hoped that by teaching all students at the school how to make a cost-effective, healthy lunch, those students who are living in economically disadvantaged situations will develop critical skill-sets, namely how to shop for cost-effective healthy food and make a nutritious lunch, which in turn will assist them to defeat the poverty cycle in the long-run

-The catchment area served by Greater Gatineau Elementary School is ranked by the Province of Quebec's Ministry of Education as an socio-economic level 7 on its 1 to 10 ranking scale, 1 denoting a wealthy community, 10 a economically challenged community.

-Greater Gatineau Elementary School was selected by the Anglican Diocese and Western Quebec School Board to be the site of this new pilot partnership because the school has consistently demonstrated itself to be an innovative community leader in the delivery of elementary education despite economic challenges present within its catchment area.

Further Background Information: [http://www.ottawa.anglican.ca/child\\_poverty.html](http://www.ottawa.anglican.ca/child_poverty.html)