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## PEEL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION NETWORK APPLAUDS REPORT'S RECOMMENDATION TO BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES

**BRAMPTON, ON (November 14, 2008)** – Today's release of the Province's Roots of Youth Violence Report was well-received by the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network because the report's recommendations clearly echo the work that this group has already initiated in the Peel community.

"We are pleased the Roots of Youth Violence report reflects the recommendations that came out of our own research and aligns nicely with our number one priority of creating a collaborative community approach to strong neighbourhoods," said Gael Miles, Chair, Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network Steering Committee.

Last April, members of the Network participated in the Roots of Youth Violence consultation process and presented four key recommendations to Dr. Alvin Curling. These included: the urgency to establish all schools as neighbourhood hubs that are open evenings and weekends; the need to develop a seamless support network; sustainable funding for community groups to expand programs and services that support youth; and, shared advocacy by all stakeholders and governments with the community. Peel already has many different community sectors actively participating in the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network and several specific neighbourhood initiatives underway.

"Our community is at the table and is ready to go," she said. "We have shown that now is the time to invest in human services and are looking forward to Premier McGuinty's government adopting these important recommendations and providing the necessary resources for communities to deal with the increase in violence among youth and in our schools," said Councillor Miles.

Established in 2007, the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network is one of the largest community anti-violence initiatives in Ontario involving youth, social, ethnic and religious groups as well as municipal government, police and school boards. The Peel community has rallied around its youth in order to give them a chance for a better, safer future and to help them define their generation in a positive way. The initiative addresses the root causes of violence through enhanced services and support resources for youth; empowering community development; working with families and the education system.

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