



**United Way  
of Quinte**

# It's **our** community

Date: April 12, 2010

For Immediate Release

**Belleville, ON:**

## **UNITED WAY LAUNCHES COMMUNITY ADJUSTMENT CENTRE**

United Way of Quinte announced today that it will launch a community-wide labour adjustment centre. Established as the Quinte Regional Adjustment Centre and funded by the Trillium Foundation, the centre will assist small groups of laid-off workers with mentorships, skills training and referrals. It will operate for 8 hours a week out of United Way of Quinte and space made available through the local teachers' unions.

“While labour adjustment (also known as Action Centres) is generally available to workers for large companies, that is not the case with workers from many small businesses,” says Bob Cottrell, Co-Director of Labour Community Services with United Way of Quinte.. “These workers have a long history with one employer and have not recently been in the job market searching for work. They have barriers such as age, little knowledge of local service providers or modern job-searching techniques.”

The result of this, according to Cottrell, is oftentimes long delays in getting started with a job search, inappropriate referrals or workers failing to get badly needed other community services.

United Way of Quinte currently funds agencies whose mandates are directly related to employment and labour adjustment support such as Quinte Adult Day School, Quinte Literacy Group and Quinte United Immigrant Services in addition to funding access to basic needs programs for housing, food, financial emergencies and credit counselling.

Cottrell also noted that the proposed Quinte Regional Community Adjustment Centre draws on many of the skills and experience the staff have acquired already through its involvement with the Workers Help Centre.

“We are already 'labour adjustment' ready, we've done EI presentations to groups of workers and made appropriate employment and community support referrals. We are confident that our skills, experience and knowledge will be invaluable to the work of our sister project, the Quinte Regional Community Adjustment Centre.”

A posting for the new position of co-ordinator for the Quinte Regional Adjustment Centre will appear on United Way of Quinte's website this week.

For more information, contact Bob Cottrell at 613-962-9531 x 27.

United Way of Quinte currently funds more than 75 programs in 49 health and social service agencies throughout Hastings & Prince Edward counties.