



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**50 - PEOPLE MEET TO DISCUSS ACTION
 FOR AN INCLUSIVE HAMILTON**

HCCI Engages Community with Focus Groups

Friday, November 24, 2006 – HAMILTON: The New Hamilton's Center for Civic Inclusion (HCCI) is holding a three-part focus group series to create active dialogue, partnerships and direct action for an inclusive Hamilton free of racism and hate. The Ethnic Communities Focus Group and Community Youth Focus Group have already been held with fifty people in attendance.

"We are inspired by this large group of community members who wanted to attend these focus groups," said **Madina Wasuge, Executive Director of HCCI**. "This overwhelming commitment and support shows that the people of Hamilton want an inclusive city."

Direct results of the focus groups include action for getting resources to the community events to promote tolerance, acceptance and understanding, and new opportunities for youth engagement and participation.

A third focus group of business and community leaders will create dialogue to foster inclusive working environments. It will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2006 at 11:30 at POWERGROUP Communications, 156 James St. South, Hamilton.

HCCI is committed to mobilizing all Hamiltonians by assisting the City, major institutions, businesses, service providers and others to initiate and sustain transformative processes to create racism-free and inclusive environments by building partnerships and working with these institutions.

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Background

HCCI is a grass-roots community-based initiative committed to working as a catalyst for anti-racist change across Hamilton. It addresses everyday racism of joblessness, poverty and the lack of access and equity within institutionalized health, education and other services by building partnerships and working with these institutions.

For more information or interviews contact:

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