



**Prairie Region Office  
207 - 115 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1  
Ph 306 242 4097  
Fax 306 665 2128**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**City of Saskatoon will work with Oxfam Canada to fight sweatshops.**

SASKATOON: June 16, 2003: In a meeting this morning, the City of Saskatoon's Administration and Finance Committee committed to working with Oxfam Canada on a one-year pilot implementation of a No Sweat purchasing policy.

The No Sweat policy requires that all garments purchased by the City come from suppliers who do not use sweatshops. Oxfam Canada campaigned for the past year to encourage the City to adopt a No Sweat policy.

"We congratulate the City on agreeing to this collaborative relationship with us," said Don Kossick, Oxfam Canada volunteer and representative at the meeting. "The working group will also include labour and citizen's groups who have been engaged in this issue, demonstrating a real commitment on the part of the City to work in partnership with its constituents."

The City would work with these groups over the next year to develop the most effective implementation model for a No Sweat policy, taking into consideration the issues of sources, suppliers, contracts, and cost.

The City of Saskatoon is the first Canadian city to actively begin developing an implementation process for a No Sweat policy. Winnipeg and Toronto have passed No Sweat resolutions, but have yet to implement the policy.

"This decision is far-sighted and we believe indicates the seriousness of the City in approaching this issue," said Michelle Beveridge, Oxfam Canada Prairie Region Programme Co-ordinator. "This could serve as a model for other municipalities to follow."

- 30 -

**For more information, please contact:**

Michelle Beveridge, Oxfam Canada Prairie Region Programme Co-ordinator  
Cell phone 306 229 2230  
Presently in Ottawa: 613 237 5236 ext 291