

# Community Environment Alliance

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March 29, 2005 -- **For Immediate Release**

## **Program aims to place 1500 computers into the homes of disadvantaged children and families**

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Community Environment Alliance of Peel's (CEA) Share IT: Computers for Community (Share IT: CFC) is an initiative to provide low-income and disadvantaged families with refurbished personal computers (PCs) and IT skills. Over the next two years CEA targets to place 1500 refurbished PCs in the homes of underprivileged children and less-fortunate families in the community. CEA hopes to receive active support from businesses and the community to help them meet the goal. "The need in the community is immense" says Ranjana Mitra, the Executive Director of CEA. "We plan to continue this mission with the aim to equipping the underprivileged and less-fortunate with practical IT skills relevant for work and in learning. No one should be deprived of the use of a computer" she added.

The Share IT: CFC program involves collection of used PCs from the government, businesses and members of the public. Apart from hosting Neighbourhood Collection events in the summer for residents to donate their used systems, the agency accepts individual and business donations of used or surplus computer systems at their Brampton location. Businesses can also donate at special collection events aimed for them.

Once the collected PCs are wiped cleaned of drive data, they are refurbished by skilled volunteer technicians. Thanks to Microsoft Canada, every PC distributed through the Share IT: CFC program receives a licensed operating system. The program also serves community-based non-profit organizations, charities and qualified self employed with refurbished equipments. There is an eligibility requirement and formal application process. The program also provides co-op opportunity for new immigrants and students wanting to pursue a career in IT.

Since its launch in August 2004, Share IT: CFC helped divert more than 8.9 tonnes of electronic waste away from landfill. Computers and electronic gadgets commonly contain toxic materials, including lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic, which pose the risk of contaminating ground water when disposed of in landfills. Since March 15 2005, CEA administers Share IT program from its new location in Brampton. "The program has grown since its inception and the new facility will allow us to better serve our client and the community" says Ranjana. The Share IT: CFC is designed to provide holistic benefit to the society, the environment and the regional economy - imperative to building sustainable community and Peel.

CEA is a registered non-profit community-based organization dedicated to creating safe, healthy, sustainable community by improving the quality of life of people and protecting the environment. CEA extends its sincerest thanks to every donor and supporter of Share IT: CFC program.

Share IT: CFC is made possible through generous financial assistance from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

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