

**For Immediate Release**

**Dec 10, 2008**

**Opting Out of Christmas '08... No better time than this year!**

With a global financial crisis knocking on all our doors, many Canadians not only “*have to*” but actually “*want to*” opt out of Christmas this year. Linda Edgecombe, author, international speaker quotes: “The spending spree has gone on long enough and it’s time to re-focus on what really holds meaning to each of us.”

According to a recent Ipsos Reid poll, 77% of North Americans state that they don’t need anything this year for Christmas and a whopping 85% said they’d prefer to receive gifts that help others. Edgecombe urges Canadians with “more than they need” this Christmas season to consider helping those without hope.

So this year, Linda Edgecombe has partnered with the Inter-cultural Women’s Educational Network to launch the **One Scarf, One Book, One Girl – Give the Gift of Freedom Campaign**. For \$195, donors will receive a Nepalese scarf, the inspirational new book, *Shift...26 Simple Truths about Getting a Life* written by Edgecombe, as well as a charitable tax receipt for \$165.00. The proceeds of the campaign will go to freeing young girls in Nepal who are currently sold off for bonded labour. These girls will be given the gift of freedom and a chance at an education, helping to make their world, and ours, a better place. With less than the cost of the “it” toy this holiday season you can change the lives of these girls and women.

And YES, you can do this shopping on line. As the holiday shopping season approaches, a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Amazon.ca has revealed that many Canadians do not appear to be looking forward to hitting the crowded malls this year to complete their holiday shopping. In fact, eight in ten (79%) would rather shop online and avoid the parking lots and crowded stores. You can shop for scarves and books on Linda’s site at [www.lindedgecombe.com](http://www.lindedgecombe.com)

To find out more about the IWEN organization that rescues girls in Nepal and the details of the **One Scarf, One Book, One Girls – Give the Gift of Freedom Campaign** visit [www.iwencanada.com](http://www.iwencanada.com).

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