

## KEY MESSAGES FOR LETTERS

In real dollars, people on social assistance have lost almost 40% of their purchasing power since because of the cuts to rates in 1995.

*Poverty is Making Us Sick: Lightman and Mitchell*

*An annual increase of \$1,000 in income to the poorest 20% of Canadians would lead to almost \$10,000 fewer chronic conditions and 6,600 fewer disability days every two weeks. This is a nutshell, could be achieved through the HFS at least for people on Social Assistance.*

**Cost of the HFS** - \$700 million this year due to higher numbers of adults on Social Assistance. It has been estimated that \$100 HFS for all adults on social assistance could be paid for if taxpayers paid only \$100 more this year to allow for everyone on SA to receive this moderate increase.

“Charity, not social justice, has become the primary social policy to address food insecurity in Canada.” While food banks were introduced in the 1980’s as short-term emergency measures, they have taken hold permanently, in the absence of federal or provincial commitment to income or food security.

Other investments the province is making in key initiatives such as early learning, mental health and addictions as well as a diabetes strategy, are clearly compromised and will not be realized when costs of living, poverty and inadequate social assistance rates continue to put individuals and families further back. Their investment strategy is not very well thought through.

## QUOTES

- Add quotes from MPPs from when they did the Do the Math survey
- Use their own words or the words of their colleagues
- Over 40 MPPs met with teams across Ontario to discuss the Healthy Food Supplement; approximately half completed the Math Survey (4 from York Region); the average arrived at monthly cost of basic living for the MPPs was \$1,314.

\*\* See attached **DOING THE MATH WITH ONTARIO MPPS – It Doesn’t Add up!**

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WITH GOOD INFORMATION**

**YR Alliance to End Homelessness Fact Sheet**

**York Region Fact Sheet – Why it is important to Do the Math in YR  
Hunger in the Midst of Prosperity – Current YRFN Hunger Report**

## **INFORMATION NECESSARY TO GET YOUR LETTERS OUT THERE**

\*\*Addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, etc.

\*\* See MPPs names and contact information for York Region below

**\*\*\* Also the Key Targets – Always cc these individuals when addressing your MPP**

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### **2.) Honorable Madeline Meilleur**

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**3.) Honorable Laurel Broten**

**Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Minister of Children and Youth Services**

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**4.) Honorable Deb Matthews**

**Minister of Health and Long-Term Care**

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**5.) Honorable Dwight Duncan**

**Minister of Finance, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet**

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