Put Food in the Budget

Promote health and fight poverty

Endorsement

We support a clear and transparent process to set social assistance rates - rates that are based on the real costs of living a healthy, dignified life in Ontario.

We call on the government of Ontario to immediately introduce a $100/month Healthy Food Supplement for all adults on social assistance as a first step towards meeting basic needs.

We endorse a clear and transparent process for setting social assistance rates because:

- Arbitrarily setting rates does not ensure that people receive adequate incomes to meet the basic necessities of life.
- Inadequate benefit levels lead to monthly cycles of chronic hunger among recipients creating health consequences with both personal and economic costs to us all;
- It is important that there be accountability for providing or failing to provide adequate income supports for people who must be on social assistance.

We endorse an immediate increase of $100 per month in social assistance because:

- The basics of food and shelter are out of reach on current social assistance levels, forcing people on social assistance to make impossible choices between paying rent and buying food,
- The existence of widespread food insecurity and chronic illness related to poor nutrition is the result of public policy choices, not the responsibility of people living on inadequate incomes .
- The increasing number of people relying on social assistance and food banks has grown as a result of the current economic crisis.
- The purchasing power of social assistance benefits is now 60 per cent of what it was 15 years ago, when social assistance levels for individuals was reduced by 22% and virtually frozen at that level, The cost of nutritious eating has continued to increase every year since then.

Name _____

Organization _____

Contact Information_____