

MOTION TO SUPPORT PUT FOOD IN THE BUDGET CAMPAIGN

Whereas arbitrarily setting social assistance rates does not ensure that people receive adequate incomes to meet the basic necessities of life; and

Whereas inadequate benefit levels lead to monthly cycles of chronic hunger among recipients creating health consequences with both personal and economic costs to us all; and

Whereas it is important that there be accountability for providing or failing to provide adequate income supports for people who must be on social assistance; and

Whereas the basics of food and shelter are out of reach on current assistance levels, forcing people who are on assistance to make impossible choices between paying rent and buying food; and

Whereas the purchasing power of social assistance benefits is now 60% of what it was 15 years ago, when social assistance levels for individuals was reduced by 22% and the cost of nutritious eating has continued to increase every year since then; and

Whereas the increasing number of people relying on social assistance and food banks has grown as a result of the current economic crisis; and

Whereas 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;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF **YOUR MUNICIPALITY HERE RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That **your municipality here** supports a clear and transparent process to set social assistance rates - rates that are set on the real cost of living a healthy, dignified life in Ontario; and
2. That **your municipality here** calls on the government of Ontario to immediately introduce and fully fund a \$100.00 per month Healthy Food Supplement for all adults on social assistance as a first step toward meeting basic needs; and
3. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, The Finance Minister, Dwight Duncan, The Minister of Community and Social Services, Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Health Deb Mathews; and
4. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to area municipalities as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, requesting their support and endorsement of the \$100 Healthy Food Supplement.