

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Poor seem to be forgotten

Sept. 21

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The leaders' debate left many in the anti-poverty community shaking their heads in disbelief. With 15 per cent of Ontarians living in poverty, including nearly 400,000 Ontario children, we should all be disappointed by the lack of political leadership on this issue.

While important progress has been made in recent years, the piecemeal approach to poverty that we're used to clearly isn't working. But the leaders haven't changed their approach. We need to hear more about what the parties plan to do to reduce poverty, and whether they intend to develop a comprehensive and integrated poverty-reduction strategy.

The Liberals are the only party to have included this commitment in their platform document, but it failed to come up during the debate. The NDP and the Tories have yet to make this commitment. Ontario needs a plan to reduce the depth and scope of poverty and to improve the lives of low-income people in our province.

When the candidates come to your door, ask them what their party intends to do about poverty.

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*Jennefer Laidley, Income Security Advocacy Centre, Toronto*