

2006

Modernizing Income Security for Working Age Adults

The MISWAA project, initiated by the Toronto City Summit Alliance and St. Christopher House, brings a broad range of community and business stakeholders together to explore options for improving Ontario income security programs. ISAC is an active member of the Task Force and the Working Group.

The final report calls for a provincial child benefit and a provincial working income tax credit, among other important recommendations. ISAC supports the majority of recommendations, but also produces a minority report.

Time for a Fair Deal

Report of the Task Force on
Modernizing Income Security
for Working-Age Adults

May 2006



Income Security Advocacy Centre/
Centre d'action pour la sécurité du revenu



Submission to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Legislative Hearings on Bill 107
An Act to Amend the Ontario Human Rights Code
November 2006

Introduction to ISAC's position

The Income Security Advocacy Centre is a specialty legal clinic funded through Legal Aid Ontario. ISAC has a province-wide mandate to engage in law reform work on income security issues using community organizing, policy development and test case litigation. ISAC is an independent community based organization that is directed by a community board drawn from low-income people and social activists from across Ontario. It is part of Ontario's network of general service and specialty legal clinics that represent low-income communities.

Much of our work is carried out on behalf of Ontarians who are members of groups that are identified by a prohibited ground of discrimination under the *Human Rights Code*, including disability, race, place of origin, receipt of social assistance, sexual orientation, marital/family status, creed and citizenship - Ontarians who frequently experience discriminatory treatment.

Although ISAC legal staff have had extensive experience with the complaint and enforcement process under the Ontario Human Rights Code, ISAC has, in the 5 years since it opened its doors, made little use of that process. Why is that? It is not because low-income Ontarians lack issues that could and should be brought to the Ontario Human Rights Commission. The clients of the clinic system are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable Ontarians. Rather, our experience over many years of working in and with the human right system in Ontario has taught us that the current complaints process holds out little hope of satisfaction

Reforming Human Rights

Between 2004 and 2006, ISAC and partners, including the Association for Human Rights Lawyers and a clinic network, advocate for reform of Ontario's human rights system.

ISAC and ACTO help to organize a symposium in January 2005 that brings together experts in human rights to discuss needed structural reforms of the complaint system.

Bill 107 is introduced in April 2006. ISAC works with ACTO and partners to create educational materials and provide support to clinics and the ODSP Action Coalition to make submissions to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy.

In December, Bill 107 passes into law, incorporating many amendments proposed by 50 clinics and other advocates in a joint submission.

Advocating for Fairness in the Ontario Child Benefit

ISAC is a critical player in behind-the-scenes advocacy to ensure OW and ODSP recipients get additional financial benefit from a new Ontario Child Benefit.

Over several months, ISAC builds consensus with key groups and individuals, who send a joint letter to the Premier advocating including families on social assistance in the OCB design.

When the OCB is announced in the 2007

budget, a net benefit for families on OW and ODSP is included.



INCOME SECURITY ADVOCACY CENTRE
Centre d'action pour la sécurité du revenu

Hands off!



These guys don't think so!
Stop taking the National Child
Benefit Supplement from
families on social assistance!

ACT NOW! SUPPORT THE HANDS OFF! CAMPAIGN

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