

poverty: the condition of being poor; scarcity, deficiency; below minimum income level needed to get necessities of life.

reduction: the amount by which something is reduced or diminished.

plan: a specific project or definite purpose.

Three simple words.

Yet in Ontario, no political party has put these words together.

Ontario has no plan to reduce poverty.

We can reduce poverty in Ontario – it just takes leadership, commitment and a plan. Good ideas, good intentions—they're a good start but they aren't enough.

Poverty affects us all.

Though some of us carry more of the burden. For people with work-limiting disabilities; Aboriginal people; lone-parent families; new immigrants and racialized groups, **poverty is systemic and devastating.**

Despite a strong economy, close to 1.3 million people in Ontario are struggling to find their way out of poverty. Even more people fear they are only a pay cheque away...

What Ontario needs now is a Poverty Reduction Plan.

Our goal: reduce poverty.

Our target: a 25% reduction in poverty rates in 5 years.

25 in 5: now, that's a plan.

We are calling on all political leaders to tell Ontarians their plan to reduce poverty. We want to hear about goals, targets, time-frames and a way of measuring how we're doing.

It's time to put the words together: **Poverty. Reduction. Plan.**

We can't afford not to.

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Faduma Awow Mohamed, *Executive Director*, Labour Community Services

Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni and Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld, *Co-Chairs*, Campaign Against Child Poverty

Gail Nyberg, *Executive Director*, Daily Bread Food Bank

Deborah O'Connor, *Spokesperson*, Northumberland Coalition Against Poverty, Coburg

Most Rev. John Pazak, *Chair*, Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, Social Affairs Commission

Honorable Landon Pearson, *Director*, Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights, Carleton University

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