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## ISAC UPDATE

The new year has started with a flurry of activity at the Income Security Advocacy Centre. Here's the first of several updates of ISAC's lobbying and advocacy work that will follow in the next few weeks:

### **ISAC Ontario Pre-Budget Submission**

ISAC attended two sets of consultations in January on the upcoming Ontario budget.

One was held by the Minister of Finance, and the other by the Legislature's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

Our consultation documents call on the government to ensure that social assistance recipients are not forgotten in this budget, or in the creation of a Poverty Reduction Strategy for all low-income people.

A meaningful increase in rates, inflation indexing, better Ontario Child Benefit provisions, specific funding for the Poverty Reduction Strategy consultations, increases to the minimum wage, and a variety of other issues are raised in ISAC's submission.

You can view ISAC's written submission on our website at:

[http://www.incomesecurity.org/documents/Pre-budgetsubmission2008-FINAL\\_001.pdf](http://www.incomesecurity.org/documents/Pre-budgetsubmission2008-FINAL_001.pdf)

### **Federal Budget Consultations**

It's not too late to tell the federal government that Canada needs a national Poverty Reduction Strategy!

The federal government's on-line consultations end tonight, February 11, at midnight.

Go to [http://www.fin.gc.ca/activty/consult/prebud08\\_e.html](http://www.fin.gc.ca/activty/consult/prebud08_e.html) and click at the bottom of the page on "Join the Consultation".

Rank "Other" as your number one priority. Then, on the next page, type in the box beside the "Other" category your thoughts on why the federal government should enact a Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Many other jurisdictions around the world – like the U.K. and Ireland – have instituted Poverty Reduction Strategies, and they are making a positive difference for low-income people. Quebec has one. Newfoundland and Labrador has one. Ontario is working towards one. Canada should have one too.