

PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2007

Getting poverty on the election agenda

No one deserves to live in poverty. And no one has to. With the right policies and programs in place, we could ensure everyone in Ontario has a decent standard of living.

The provincial election is a good opportunity to ask candidates what they will do to reduce poverty and improve the lives of low-income people in Ontario.

There is a lot politicians can do such as ensuring social assistance rates allow people to have a decent standard of living, that child benefits are sufficient and that wages are fair.

Getting promises to take action

The Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC) is urging political parties to make the following commitments:

- i) To establish an expert panel, including low-income people, policy experts and advocates, to determine just and rational criteria for setting Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program rates, with the goal of ensuring everyone has a decent standard of living;
- ii) To work with low-income people and policy experts to develop and implement a poverty reduction strategy with clear goals and timelines;
- iii) To speed up the implementation of the Ontario Child Benefit.

Getting started

In this election kit, you will find:

- Sample questions for candidates
- A backgrounder with information on social assistance rates
- A backgrounder on the Ontario Child Benefit
- A backgrounder on a poverty reduction strategy