

PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2007

Questions for candidates

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.

Social assistance rates

- i) Will your party, within six months of taking office, establish an expert panel, including low-income people, policy experts and advocates, to determine just and rational criteria for setting the rates for Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program, with the goal of ensuring everyone has a decent standard of living?
- ii) How do you define a just and rational criteria is for establishing OW and ODSP rates?

Poverty reduction strategy

- i) Do you think Ontario needs a poverty reduction strategy?
- ii) What do you think reasonable goals of an Ontario poverty reduction strategy might be?
- iii) Will your party commit to work with low-income people and policy experts to develop and implement a poverty reduction strategy with clear goals timelines?

Ontario Child Benefit

- i) Will your party maintain the Ontario Child Benefit announced in the 2007 provincial budget?
- ii) Will your party commit to speeding up the implementation of the Ontario Child Benefit?

Energy poverty

- i) Will your party commit to developing a low-income energy strategy that includes special energy rates for low income consumers, emergency financial assistance and fully-funded energy conservation programs that result in deep energy savings?

Workers' rights

- i) Will your party commit to raising the minimum wage to \$10/hour immediately upon taking office and establishing yearly increases to reflect the cost of living?
- ii) Will your party commit to updating the *Employment Standards Act* to protect non-standard workers such as contract and temporary workers?