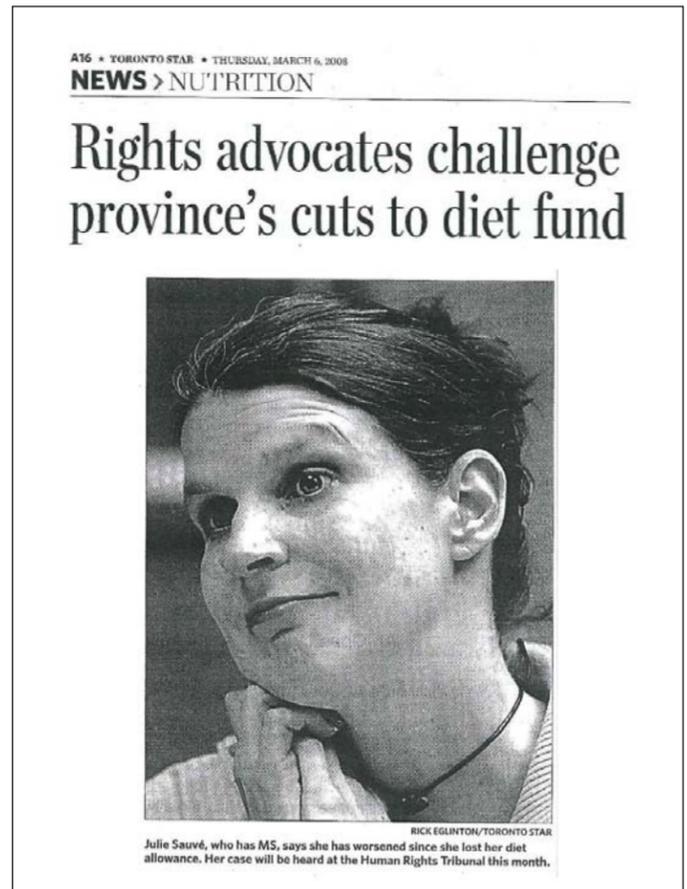


2008

Special Diet Allowance: Human Rights Complaints

When more than 180 human rights complaints against the Special Diet Allowance program are referred to the Human Rights Tribunal, ISAC steps up to coordinate how these cases are heard. Working with the Clinic Resource Office Barrister, ISAC proposes a lead case strategy and designs the procedure.

With the CRO Barrister, ISAC represents clinics around the province at the HRTTO on four lead complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the design of the program.



“Why does the government deduct child support from my social assistance cheque? It’s not fair to me or my kids.”

“I was told (by my ODSP worker) that if I had marks high enough to get an educational scholarship then I was likely not disabled enough to need ODSP.”

“Canadian companies won’t give me a chance of a job because I don’t have Canadian work experience.”

Ending Poverty Project

With provincial consultations on the Poverty Reduction Strategy looming, ISAC and Campaign 2000 embark on a two-year project that transforms how we organize. Over five months, we hold meetings with 290 low-income people in Windsor, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste Marie and Owen Sound, Scarborough, Rexdale, and Toronto. People with lived experience of poverty share their ideas for ending poverty, decide what changes are needed most in their communities, and work to push for action from all levels of government and communities.

The report from those discussions, *Solutions Start With Us*, is submitted to the provincial government’s Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction in December.

Poverty Reduction Strategy

ISAC’s work with partners in 25 in 5 culminates in the release of Ontario’s first-ever Poverty Reduction Strategy in December.

Through the efforts of anti-poverty activists and social policy experts, government commits to undertake a review of Ontario’s social assistance programs.

The Strategy focuses on children and claims that progress depends on “a strong federal partner and a growing economy”. But the PRS is roundly hailed as a critical first step toward reducing and eradicating poverty in Ontario.



INCOME SECURITY ADVOCACY CENTRE
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