

poverty reduction plan

Close to 1.3 million people in our province live in poverty and thousands more are simply one pay cheque away.

But, Ontario has no plan to reduce poverty—YET.

Good ideas, good intentions: they're a good start *but they aren't enough.*

What Ontario needs now is a **Poverty Reduction Plan** with a clear and achievable target. We say, let's plan to reduce poverty rates in the province by 25% in 5 years.

We are 25 in 5, and we invite you to join us in calling on our political leaders to tell us what their plan is to reduce poverty in Ontario.

What can you do?

Before you vote in the provincial election on October 10th, **ask the candidates in your community what their plans are to reduce poverty by 25% in 5 years:**

- **Attend** an all candidates meeting.
- **Speak** to candidates and canvassers at community events and at your front door.
- **Write** a letter or send an e-mail.

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

For more information on 25 in 5 and to view campaign documents, go to:
www.incomesecurity.org/campaigns/current.html

To identify your local candidates and/or to send a message to the party leaders, contact:

Green Party of Ontario:

tel: 416-977-7476 toll free: 1-888 647-3366
fax: 416-977-5476
e-mail: gpoadmin@magma.ca

Ontario NDP Headquarters:

tel: 416.591.8637 toll free: 1-866-390-6637
fax: 416.599.4820
e-mail: douellette@on.ndp.ca

Ontario Liberal Party:

tel: (416) 961-3800 toll free: 1-800-268-7250
fax: (416) 323-9425
e-mail: info@ontarioliberal.ca

Ontario PC Party:

tel: 416-861-0020 toll-free: 1-800-903-6453
fax: 416-861-9593
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A poverty reduction strategy for Ontario must have measurable targets and timelines and should be developed in consultation with low-income people and policy experts.

As of September 26th, 2007, where do these Parties stand on poverty reduction?

Green Party	Liberal Party	NDP	Progressive Conservatives
The Green Party has said that it believes Ontario needs a Poverty Reduction Strategy, but, it has not explicitly committed to instituting one.	The Liberals have committed to build a comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy around the Ontario Child Benefit, and to work with partners to develop indicators and targets to measure and address child poverty.	The Ontario NDP has not made a commitment to a Poverty Reduction Strategy. The federal NDP – via its Social Policy critic Tony Martin – has called on the federal government to enact a national Poverty Reduction Strategy.	The PCs have not made a commitment to a Poverty Reduction Strategy. At an all-party debate on poverty and disability in Toronto on Sept 18, the PC representative committed her party to instituting a poverty reduction strategy.

And, other commitments by these Parties to date?

Greens will raise shelter rates to CMHC average local rents, set social assistance rates to the LICO for major urban centres, and index rates to inflation.	The 2007 Liberal Budget provides for a 2% increase to rates in November 2007.	NDP will increase rates to cover daily cost of living, and will allow an independent panel to establish OW and ODSP rates.	PCs have made no commitments on social assistance rates.
End clawback.	Reduce the clawback on the National Child Benefit Supplement by \$50 in 2011.	End clawback immediately.	No commitments on clawback.
Maintain funding for the Ontario Child Benefit.	Created the Ontario Child Benefit, which will provide up to \$1,100 per child to low-income families by 2011.	Maintain funding for the Ontario Child Benefit.	Maintain funding for the Ontario Child Benefit.
Increase minimum wage until a person working 40 hours a week earns more than the poverty line, then index the minimum wage to inflation.	Committed to raising minimum wage to \$10.25/hour by 2010.	Increase minimum wage to \$10/hour immediately, with increases matched to inflation.	Set minimum wage through a schedule of increases determined after consultations with experts.
No commitments on housing.	Create a long-term strategy for affordable housing, with a mix of non-profit and cooperative housing.	Provide 10,000 new rent supplements at \$4,450 / unit, build 7,000 affordable units annually, including at least 1,500 co-op units, build 750 supportive housing units, and 500 units for seniors.	Give municipalities flexibility to use shelter funding for permanent housing for the homeless, and will leverage existing co-op assets to build new co-ops.
Provide \$300 million annually to child care, and will spend federally-designated \$97 million on childcare.	Institute a new full-day pre-school program, with a financial commitment of \$300 million.	Provide an additional \$800 million for a seamless day of child care and junior and senior kindergarten for four and five year olds.	Continue to invest in early childhood education, building on the success of the early learning centres.
No commitments on dental care for low-income people.	Provide \$45 million for dental services for low-income Ontario families. This is the first step in a Poverty Reduction Strategy.	Provide \$100 million (initial year's cost) for a four-year program for dental services for low-income families, with system savings resulting from preventive care.	No commitments on dental care for low-income people.

What Ontario needs is a **Poverty Reduction Plan** now. We say, let's plan to reduce poverty rates in the province by 25% in 5 years. **Ask the candidates** in your community what their plans are for a Poverty Reduction Plan for Ontario. **Ask them to commit to a plan to reduce poverty by 25% in 5 years. We can't afford not to.**

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