

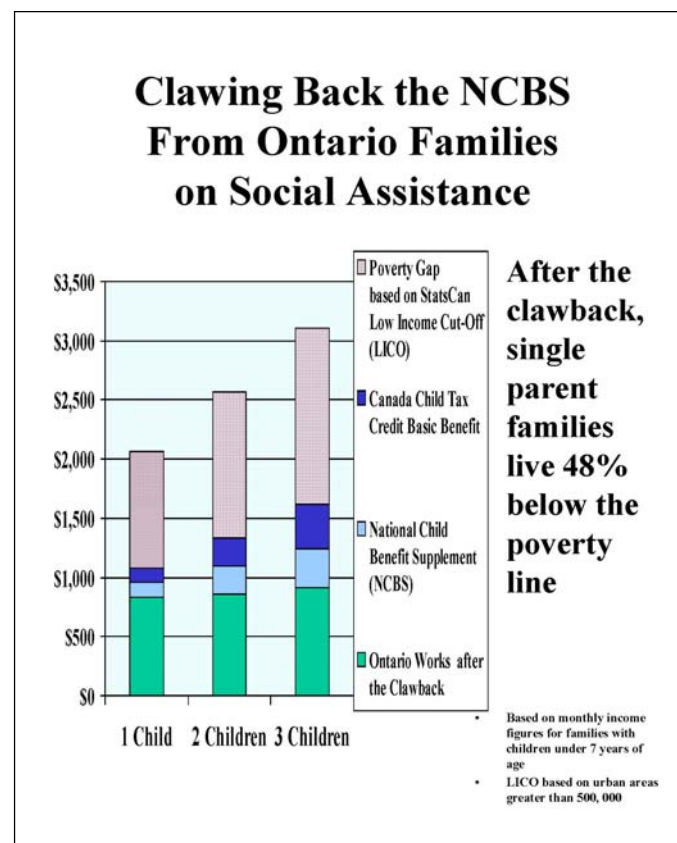
2004

NCBS Charter Challenge

In partnership with CERA and CCPI, ISAC launches a Charter challenge to the clawback of the National Child Benefit Supplement from families on social assistance. A press conference is held with a call on government to end the clawback.

The challenge supports four applicants from groups at high risk of poverty because of race, disability, aboriginal status, gender, or single parent status. Both the provincial and federal governments' role in the clawback are targeted.

The clawback frames much of ISAC's work through 2007, when the Ontario Child Benefit is announced.



Walk, Wheel & Ride for Dignity

Hundreds of people on OW and ODSP and their allies gather at Queen's Park in April to meet a determined group of Sarnia activists who had trekked 300 kilometres to protest inadequate social assistance rates. Together they raise a giant quarter, symbolizing the need for "Real Change, Not Spare Change".

ISAC coordinates media coverage, helps with accommodations and meals for the marchers, and partners with the Ontario Coalition for Social Justice to organize the rally.

The effort was part of a renewed, visible fight-back to end poverty that continues today.

Ostique v. Ontario Works

ISAC co-counsels with West Scarborough Legal Clinic to challenge the Ontario Works rule that parents must liquidate and spend down any money in their child's Registered Educational Savings Plan (RESP) in order to qualify for OW.

On the eve of a press conference planned by ISAC, the Minister announces the rule would be changed to exempt RESPs as assets.

