

## ISAC Response from Ontario's NDP

Ontario families are struggling more than ever to make ends meet. But instead of targeting poverty and reducing it, the McGuinty Liberals have a legacy of broken promises and patchwork public relations exercises. It's time for McGuinty to keep his promises to Ontario's most vulnerable citizens.

The Ontario NDP believes reducing poverty in a measurable way means taking concrete actions to make life fairer and more affordable for hardworking Ontario families. But the McGuinty government's record is one of broken promises and piecemeal services:

- While families are on waiting lists for an affordable place to call home, the McGuinty Liberals are sitting on millions of dollars worth of unspent federal money for affordable housing. The NDP will invest in affordable housing.
- While millions of Ontario workers struggle to get by working multiple jobs at low wages, the McGuinty Liberals refuse to raise the minimum wage to \$10 an hour now. The NDP will raise the minimum wage NOW, not three years from now.
- While 1 in 6 Ontario children is poor, and hundreds of thousands of child food bank users come from working families, the McGuinty Liberals refuse to end the clawback of the National Child Benefit Supplement now. Instead, they are mailing parents one-time pre-election cheques of \$250 to buy votes. The NDP will end the clawback immediately.
- While only 1 in 10 Ontario children has access to a child care space, and fees can cost tens of thousands of dollars a year, the McGuinty Liberals broke their promise to invest \$300 million of new provincial money in child care. The NDP would invest in child care for the families who need it.
- While 60% of Ontarians lack access to private dental insurance, the McGuinty Liberals have no plan to make dental care affordable for hardworking families. The NDP's Ontario Smiles plan will make free dental care available to children and Ontarians who don't have private dental insurance.
- While disabled Ontarians on government support can't afford to pay the rent and feed the kids, and are worse off financially than they were under Mike Harris, the McGuinty Liberals broke their promise to raise social assistance rates by the rate of inflation each year. The NDP would make sure Ontarians have enough to live on.
- Dalton McGuinty's Liberals have let down Ontario families on every major health care issue – from delisting services and building private money for-profit hospitals, to breaking their promise on hiring new nurses and shortening wait times. Howard Hampton and the NDP would return fairness for hard-working families to our public health care system.

Howard Hampton and the NDP say it's time for fairness for Ontario families. The income gap is growing – it's time for the McGuinty Liberals to keep their promises to Ontario's most vulnerable people. We need a strategic approach to measuring and reducing poverty for all Ontarians – an approach that would tackle the related issues of child care, housing, education, and wages to make life fairer for families of modest means.