

Five Principles for a New Nutritional Supplement Program

August 3, 2010

Access to nutritious food is essential for good health, especially for those facing the daunting realities of living with chronic health challenges with limited resources. When Ontario's 2010 Budget was revealed on March 25, 2010, it stated that the Special Diet Allowance Program would be replaced with a new nutritional supplement program to be administered by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care rather than the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The 25 Network for Poverty Reduction, ODSP Action Coalition, and the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario urge the provincial government to consider Five Principles for a New Nutritional Supplement Program. Explained in greater detail in the full document below, these principles may be viewed as guideposts for developing this essential program. These principles include having a clear policy objective; ensure genuine accessibility, adequacy, and equity; meeting the need with monetary support; fulfilling responsibilities for current recipients; and taking the time to get it right. In particular, the government must engage in a meaningful consultation process with key stakeholders including experts from the health and social sectors, advocates, municipalities, and people with lived experience.

Download a PDF version of **Five Principles for a New Nutritional Program** here.

http://www.rnao.org/Storage/71/6561_Five_Principles_Special_Diet_May_2010.pdf

Endorse the Five Principles for a New Nutritional Supplement (Organizations and Individual Endorsements welcome) at the 25 in 5 website

<http://25in5.ca/endorse-the-five-principles-for-a-new-nutritional-supplement-program/>

Take Action on the Five Principles: Send an email to the government, contact your MPP, tell or read about the impact of cuts to the Special Diet Allowance at

<http://25in5.ca/take-action/>

Resources

Hard to have dignity if you're hungry

Janet Gasparini, Doris Grinspun, and Adreanna Tetley

The Hamilton Spectator July 21, 2010

http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=3275&SiteNodeID=490&BL_ExpandID

25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction, ODSP Action Coalition, and Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. **Five Principles for a New Nutritional Supplement Program**. Toronto: Authors. May 2010.

http://www.rnao.org/Storage/71/6561_Five_Principles_Special_Diet_May_2010.pdf

Creek, M., Grinspun, D., & Vose, K. (2010). **Letter to Minister Deb Matthews**. Toronto: 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, and ODSP Action Coalition. May 25, 2010

http://www.rnao.org/Storage/71/6562_Letter-to-Matthews-on-Nutritional-Supplement.pdf

Toronto Public Health (2010) Update on Proposed Changes to the Special Diet Allowance, June 22, 2010

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-31677.pdf>

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-31678.pdf>



Take Action at the **25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction**

<http://25in5.ca/take-action/>

ODSP Action Coalition

<http://www.odspaction.ca/>

Income Security Advocacy Centre Special Diet Allowance Resources

<http://www.incomesecurity.org/specialdiet.htm>

Health Providers Against Poverty

<http://www.healthprovidersagainstopoverty.ca/>