

What Else Can I Do About Poverty?

Get Involved!

If you are among the enthusiastic people who believe that we can make a difference both as individuals and by working together, please consider some of the opportunities for civic engagement listed below and pick the ones which interest you the most!

Social Assistance Review

In December 4 2008, the Ontario government made a commitment to “undertake a review of social assistance” as part of the province’s poverty reduction strategy. That commitment has not yet been translated into action so now is a great time to contact our elected representatives to urge action.

An easy way to send an email to our provincial politicians is through the Income Security Advocacy Centre’s social assistance website:

<http://sareview.ca/take-action/contacting-provincial-politicians/send-an-e-mail-now/>

The Social Assistance Review website has other great ideas on how you can tell your story to politicians, decision-makers, and the local media at their website <http://sareview.ca/take-action/>

Do the Math Campaign

As a down payment towards addressing the gap between dangerously low social assistance rates and nutritional requirements, RNAO supports the introduction of a \$100 per month Health Food Supplement for adults receiving social assistance.

Do the Math campaign is a call to action. Check out the <http://dothemath.thestop.org> website where you can take a survey and see for yourself how your life would change if you had to rely on social assistance. You can also contact our provincial politicians through this website at <http://dothemath.thestop.org/beheard.php>

Provincial Housing Consultation

The Government of Ontario is currently developing a Long-term Affordable Housing Strategy so now is an excellent time to let the government know what you think. Between now and December 31, 2009, you can invited to fill in an online questionnaire at

<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page6395.aspx>

The Housing Network of Ontario has many excellent resources on their website, including a Declaration that you can sign. “We believe everyone in Ontario has the right to live poverty-free and with dignity in housing that is stable, adequate, equitably accessible and affordable.” For the full text of the Declaration and other resources, check out <http://www.stableandaffordable.com/>

Provincial Coalitions Working for a Poverty-Free Ontario include:

25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction

<http://25in5.ca/>

Campaign 2000

<http://www.campaign2000.ca/takeaction.html>

Media Tools for Community Engagement

Here are two media projects that might be helpful as starting points of discussion and action:

Home Safe Toronto *by the Sky Works Foundation*

This documentary is the second in a series of documentaries that looks at how Canadian families are living with the threat and experience of homelessness. More information may be found at:

<http://www.skyworksfoundation.org/documentaries/about.cfm?id=16>

Poor No More *by the Centre for Social Justice*

This almost completed documentary follows several ordinary Canadians who go to Ireland and Sweden and find out how other countries have helped people like themselves. To view a clip from the film and read more about the project, please go to: <http://www.poornomore.ca/>

Need Help with Advocacy?

If you would like more information, have ideas that you would like to share, or need assistance with your advocacy on working towards a poverty-free Ontario, you are welcome to contact Kayla Scott at RNAO’s policy department at 1-800-268-7199 ext 214 or by email at kscott@rnao.org