

Resolution: #A00-9, Protection of the Health of Children and Families within a Zero Tolerance Policy for Welfare Fraud

The operative clause of this resolution requests the Minister of Community and Social Services that funding be given to an agency that will support or ensure appropriate support is available to children and families as a result of this policy.

January 9, 2004

Formal announcement of the end of lifetime ban and three / six month suspension policies made by Social Services Minister Sandra Pupatello. [Click here to read the news release.](#)

December 17, 2003

Social Services Minister Sandra Pupatello promises to abolish the lifetime ban from social assistance of anyone convicted of welfare fraud, as well as to raise social assistance rates, though no details are offered.

February 20, 2003 - present

Sudbury & District Board of Health and other northern health units endorsed a resolution calling on the province to lift its lifetime ban on welfare benefits for those convicted of welfare fraud and implement the recommendations of the coroner's jury in the investigation of Kimberly Roger's death.

February 3, 2003

Received a reply from Brenda Elliott, Minister of Community Family & Children's Services, to the August 5 letter, responding that zero tolerance of welfare fraud was implemented to preserve the integrity of the welfare system and that the policy applies only to those convicted of welfare fraud; family members in need continue to receive assistance. She also stated that the Ontario Works program has been successful in improving participants' employability and their ability to provide for basic needs and shelter.

December 19, 2002

Coroner's jury into the investigation of the death of Sudbury resident Kimberly Rogers, who was serving a conditional sentence for welfare fraud, recommended the province end its zero-tolerance policy toward welfare fraud.

September 5, 2000

Received a reply from Minister Baird who wrote policy applies only to those convicted of welfare fraud and if other family members are in need, they can continue receiving financial assistance; further, staff have the discretion of paying a third party on behalf of dependent children to ensure proper allocation of funds.