

## ALPHA RESOLUTION A08-10

**TITLE: Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy**

**SPONSOR: Board of Directors of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies**

WHEREAS strong associations between poverty and risks to health, including low birth weight, infant mortality, respiratory conditions, obesity, oral health, developmental outcomes, and a range of chronic diseases have been repeatedly demonstrated; and

WHEREAS almost one in every six Ontario children is growing up in poverty and 132,000 of our children rely on food banks every month<sup>1</sup>, despite Ontario's status as one of the most prosperous jurisdictions in the world; and

WHEREAS there is clear evidence that a strong economy alone is not enough to significantly reduce overall poverty rates; and

WHEREAS there has been no change in child poverty rates in Canada since a 1989 all-party House of Commons resolution to end child poverty in Canada by the year 2000 was passed; and

WHEREAS the November 2007 Liberal Throne Speech contained a pledge to establish government targets for reducing poverty within the next 12 months; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Government has responded by establishing the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction, tasked with developing "poverty indicators and targets, and a focused strategy on reducing child poverty and lifting more families out of poverty; and

WHEREAS successful poverty reduction strategies have been implemented in the United Kingdom and Ireland that have reduced child poverty by 25% between 1999 and 2004 in the former and the overall poverty rate to less than 5% in the latter;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) call for a government commitment to implement a coordinated, long-term poverty strategy with targets, timelines, a dedicated budget and ongoing evaluation in order to achieve sustained results, including meeting a target of reducing 2005 poverty rates by 25% by 2012 and 50% by 2017.

**AND FURTHER THAT** alPHa endorse the content and recommendations of the Campaign 2000 discussion paper, *A Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario*.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE:

Moved: V. Sterling (Toronto)  
Seconded: R. Pellizzari (Peterborough)

**Resolution CARRIED**

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<sup>1</sup> Campaign 2000, A Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario