



February 17, 2010

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Bldg.
Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur
Minister of Community and Social Services
Hepburn Block
6th Floor
80 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON
M7A 1E9

Dear Honourable McGuinty and Honourable Meilleur:

Subject: 2009 Nutritious Food Basket

At the Board of Health Meeting of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit held on January 21, 2010 the following motion was passed:

That: The report regarding the cost of a Nutritious Food Basket 2009 be received;

That: The Board of Health write to The Honourable Dalton McGuinty Premier of Ontario, and The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur Minister of Community and Social Services to request that the Province act on the following components of the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy 2009 as soon as possible:

- i) Introduce a \$100 Healthy Food Supplement for all Ontarians living on social assistance and funded solely by the province of Ontario;
- ii) Establish an independent committee including low-income people, policy experts and advocates to develop rationale and just criteria for determining Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates;

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iii) Implement OW and ODSP rates that reflect the real cost of living and are indexed annually to reflect inflation, including the findings of yearly Nutritious Food Basket surveys conducted by local Boards of Health based on protocols established by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long- Term Care;

That: The Board of Health request that all levels of government make significant investments in affordable housing;

And That: Copies of the resolution be forwarded to Linda Stewart, Executive Director Association of Local Public Health Agencies, The Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion, The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, The Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services, Bob Runciman MPP for Leeds and Grenville, Randy Hillier MPP for Lanark, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, Norm Sterling MPP for Carleton Mississippi Mills, Peter Clutterbuck, Social Planning Network of Ontario, Pat Vanini, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, CAO's of obligated municipalities and to Ontario Boards of Health for their information and possible support.

Motion Carried.

In 2009 the average cost of feeding a family of four in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark was \$166.51 per week or \$721.00 per month.

When housing costs and other basic living expenses are considered, many individuals and families with a limited income do not have adequate funds to purchase nutritious food on a consistent basis. This predisposes them to obesity and chronic diseases.

I ask that the Province act on the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy as soon as possible and look forward to hearing from you on this important issue.

Sincerely,
THE CORPORATION OF THE LEEDS, GRENVILLE
AND LANARK DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

Original Signed By

(Mr.) Jack Butt
Chair of the Board

c: Linda Stewart, Executive Director , Association of Local Public Health Agencies
The Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion
The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
The Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services
Bob Runciman MPP for Leeds and Grenville
Randy Hillier MPP for Lanark, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington
Norm Sterling MPP for Carleton Mississippi Mills,
Peter Clutterbuck, Social Planning Network of Ontario
Pat Vanini, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
CAO's of Obligated Municipalities
Ontario Boards of Health