



SEND PREMIER DALTON MCGUINTY A MESSAGE ABOUT THE INADEQUATE ONE PER CENT INCREASE IN SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RATES

Background: The Put Food in the Budget Campaign and the ODSP Action Coalition are co-sponsoring a holiday greeting card to Premier Dalton McGuinty calling for an immediate \$100 increase to OW and ODSP as a down payment on social assistance rates that reflect the real cost of living.

The cards can be distributed and mailed to Premier McGuinty from now until January 6, 2012 – the 12th day of Christmas – or ‘Epiphany’ in the Christian calendar.

We hope that this card will help Premier McGuinty have his own ‘epiphany’ - which is defined as a sudden, intuitive insight into the reality or essential meaning of something. In this case we hope he will see the essential injustice of providing \$4 billion in tax breaks to corporations while saying there is only enough money to provide the people in Ontario with the lowest incomes with an increase of only twenty-three cents a day.

Action: Please consider any (or all) of the following actions

- E-mail copies of the holiday greeting ‘card’ in your network and ask people to complete and mail to Premier McGuinty.
- Print copies (picture on front – text on back), hand them out to people at meetings, holiday gatherings, drop-in centres and food banks, in waiting rooms in your community legal clinic, community health centre or other community service provider. Collect them and mail them in one envelope to Premier McGuinty.
- Invite the local press to a holiday event where you are asking people to complete the cards and interview you and others about why they are sending this card. (See attached press release and Backgrounder).

If you can – please send an email to Mike Balkwill mbalkwill@iasc.on.ca giving a brief description of your action and an estimate of the number of cards your group or community sends to Premier McGuinty.

Please forward links to Mike Balkwill of any local media coverage.

For more information go to www.putfoodinthebudget.org

You can download the holiday greeting card in English and French – as well as the Backgrounder and the press release.

Thank you for participating in this campaign of people in communities across Ontario working to

Put Food in the Budget!

Mike Balkwill

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Put Food in the Budget Campaign

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