



# POVERTY REDUCTION IN ONTARIO: What actions can you take?

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## Where we are now:

- Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy announced Dec '08 with target to cut child poverty rate by 25% between 2008 and 2013. Includes increase to Ontario Child Benefit; a review of social assistance in 2009; public consultation to develop an Affordable Housing Strategy; new protections for temp agency workers; and a new Community Opportunities Fund.
- **New Poverty Reduction Act 2009** ensures annual reporting on progress, public consultation and updates to Strategy every 5 years.
- **Budget 2009 included:** funding for Ontario Child Benefit increase & social housing construction/retrofit. But no new funding for child care, no \$100/month Healthy Food Supplement for social assistance recipients and only 2% increase to rates.
- **Economic downturn means now, more than ever**, we need government action to prevent more people from falling into poverty, and lift those struggling on low incomes out of poverty.

## What can YOU do to keep up the pressure?

### ➤ Affordable Housing

-Public consultation now underway. Provide your input on what's needed in a Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy by going to [www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page6395.aspx](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page6395.aspx)

--Check [www.stableandaffordable.com](http://www.stableandaffordable.com) for updates. Endorse the Housing Network of Ontario Declaration.

### ➤ Social Assistance

- No progress on the promised Social Assistance Review.

-Go to [www.25in5.ca](http://www.25in5.ca) to send an email to the Premier, Ministers Meilleur & Broten urging them to meet their commitment

-Check [www.dothemath.thestop.org](http://www.dothemath.thestop.org) to support the "Put Food in the Budget" campaign, get and sign postcards to Premier.

### ➤ Child Care

-Call for provincial funding for child care to secure threatened subsidized spaces.

-Send a message to your MPP via [www.waitingforchildcare.ca](http://www.waitingforchildcare.ca)

➤ **EI:** Sign petition & get info at [www.goodjobscoalition.ca](http://www.goodjobscoalition.ca)

➤ **Join the 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction** and get updates at [www.25in5.ca](http://www.25in5.ca)