

Voice of the Poor - Advocacy Committee



Proclaiming the Christian Response to Injustice

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Ontario Regional Council

This Newsletter serves to keep our Social Justice Reps and interested Vincentians up to date regarding advocacy issues. It suggests specific actions individual Vincentians can take to help our neighbours in need achieve a better life.

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

GOOD NEWS: FAIR WORKPLACES BILL 148 – providing for a \$15 minimum wage by 2019 and other improvements for Ontario workers is now passed by the legislature. Important to note that **advocacy efforts** removed amendments that would have weakened the fair scheduling and equal pay for equal work provisions. [See the highlights.](#)

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2018

Tell the government you expect the Ontario budget to contain the following:

1. Substantive measures to engage with municipalities and the federal government to build affordable housing as outlined in the National Housing Strategy.
2. Measures to begin implementing the recommendations contained in the [Income Security Reform Working group report “Income Security: A Roadmap for Change”](#).

[ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE 2018 BUDGET DISCUSSION AT](#)

<https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/consultations/prebud/>

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The recent announcement promises \$11B in direct spending (up to \$40B if other levels of government participate) to cut homelessness in half over 10 years. Many housing advocates have commented that this is a rather timid response lacking in details and is stretched over too long a period of time.

The upcoming year will see both provincial and municipal election campaigns in Ontario. It is important that we press all candidates to make a commitment to work with the other levels of government to **make the National Housing Strategy a reality.**

2017 IMPROVEMENTS TO SOCIAL ASSISTANCE – ADVOCACY IN ACTION

[See the document from the Ministry of Community and Social Services Ontario highlighting changes to social Assistance in 2017](#) – very instructive and a reminder that advocacy does result in positive change.

~ Danny Bourne, Advocacy / Voice of the Poor Committee

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