



## Fairlawn Avenue United Church

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Tel 416-481-6848 Fax 416-481-4109

[www.fairlawnavenueunited.ca](http://www.fairlawnavenueunited.ca)

November 9, 2011

Hon. Dalton McGuinty  
Premier  
Main Legislative Building, Room 281  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Sent by fax. Page 1 of 3. Fax: 416-325-3745

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Re: \$100 Healthy Food Supplement

Members of Fairlawn Avenue United Church have a long-standing commitment to speak up for social justice issues. Over the past seven years our church has invested more than \$2.1 million in the creation of affordable housing through 5 different projects across Toronto.

At our semi-annual meeting this past September, the members of Fairlawn United Church endorsed a motion to support an immediate \$100 Healthy Food Supplement for all adults on social assistance as a first step in addressing the true costs of living while the social assistance review is in progress. The motion is attached to this letter. This is an investment in the health of the individual and will go a long way to support local business. We know that long-term poverty diets reduce productivity in the workplace. If we want to get people back to work, then we must equip them with the proper tools to do so.

There are compelling reasons why Fairlawn believes this is an important step in the fight against poverty in Ontario. Thousands of families and single people continue to live in appalling states of poverty despite the immense wealth in Toronto. Many are still impacted by the combination of changes in the job market and the recent recession.

According to the Daily Bread Food Bank, record numbers are relying on their help each month. The inadequacy of social assistance rates also has a profound impact on the ability of recipients to meet their core housing needs and put food on the table. This is compounded by clawback policies when recipients are only able to obtain part-time employment. These policies keep recipients entrapped in a vicious cycle of poverty and run counter to successful integration into the job market and society.

On behalf of the congregation at Fairlawn I ask that you and your government support the needs of those who must rely on social assistance by including the \$100 Healthy Food Supplement investment in the next provincial budget.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Pryde, Chair  
Fairlawn Avenue United Church Social Justice Team  
Encl. - 1

c.c. Hon. Mike Colle, MPP, Eglinton-Lawrence  
Hon. Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance  
Hon. Deborah Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Hon. John Milloy, Minister of Community and Social Services



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A motion to endorse the immediate implementation of an increase to current social assistance benefits by a \$100 per month Healthy Food Supplement.

1. Whereas the basics of food and shelter are out of reach for most social assistance recipients based on current assistance levels; and
2. Whereas inadequate benefit levels can lead to chronic hunger among recipients, creating health consequences with both personal and economic costs to us all; and
3. Whereas fifteen years ago social assistance levels for individuals were reduced by 22% and the cost of nutritious eating has continued to increase every year since then; and
4. Whereas the existence of widespread food insecurity and chronic illness related to poor nutrition is the result of public policy choices, not the fault of people living on inadequate incomes; and
5. Whereas it is consistent with the theological principles of the United Church of Canada to do so;

The congregation of Fairlawn Avenue United Church urges the Government of Ontario to immediately introduce and fully fund a \$100 per month Healthy Food Supplement for all adults on social assistance as a first step toward meeting basic needs.

Carried

Semi-annual meeting of Fairlawn Avenue United Church  
 September 18, 2011