



Poverty Free Ontario

Pulling poverty out by the roots

Peter Clutterbuck
SPNO/Poverty Free Ontario
276 Winona Drive
Toronto, ON
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January 29, 2013

The Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Premier-Designate of Ontario
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Premier-designate Wynne:

We wish to congratulate you on your election by the Liberal Party to assume the role of Party Leader and to become the 25th Premier of Ontario. This message comes from unanimous agreement of anti-poverty advocates representing groups and organizations in more than 20 communities across the province who participated in one of our regular tele-conference calls on Tuesday, January 29. We work together for the goal of achieving a Poverty Free Ontario within this decade.

We were most encouraged to see you express to the Toronto Star editorial board prior to your election the wish to be known as Ontario's "social justice" Premier. We believe that your track record in both community and government indicates that you can fulfill that commitment. We know that you are familiar with the research that shows that poverty eradication must be a priority not only for ending human hardship and suffering but also for the health of our economy and financial stability.

We look forward to a throne speech that asserts explicitly how social justice will be a key priority of your new administration.

Given your own background in community advocacy, we also know that you understand the struggle for community and social justice groups like ours to be heard among the larger more institutional and corporate voices that arise, especially in a time of political change such as now.

As you assume the responsibilities of Premier and the provincial parliament resumes sitting, we have committed ourselves to our own assembly in the next three-four weeks in order to review our hopes and expectations of the Ontario Government under your leadership and to frame a vision of social justice for Ontario, especially for low income people across this province, both those on social assistance and the working poor.

When we gather to review, strategize, and plan, we are more than 100 representing 25 to 30 communities and their anti-poverty groups and organizations across all regions of Ontario.

Following our deliberations, perhaps at a breakfast meeting the next day, we would like to invite you to sit with our group and its designated spokespeople to hear and discuss our proposals for a socially just Ontario.

Please advise whether this request can be accommodated and which times and dates would be suitable to your schedule. Thanks very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter Clutterbuck
Social Planning Network of Ontario

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The mission of Poverty Free Ontario is to eliminate divided communities in which too many adults and children live in chronic states of material hardship, poor health and social exclusion. An Ontario free of poverty will be reflected in healthy, inclusive communities with a place of dignity for everyone and the essential conditions of well-being for all.

The following partners in Poverty Free Ontario met by tele-conference call on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 to approve this letter:

Rene Adams (Christian Resource Centre/Put Food in the Budget/Alliance for Poverty Free Toronto)

Trudy Beaulne (SPC of Kitchener-Waterloo/Poverty Free Kitchener-Waterloo)

Mary Beth Anger (Welland Community Legal Services)

Naomi Berlyne (Houselink/ODSP Action Coalition)

Tami Boudreau (District of Parry Sound Poverty Reduction Network)

Jeffrey Brown (Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition)

John Campey (Social Planning Toronto)

Precious Cedolia (Sault Ste. Marie/Algoma District)

Brenda Dales (Peterborough SPC)

Alex de Wit (Social Development Council of Cornwall and Area)

Diane Dyson (Alliance for a Poverty Free Toronto)

Ben Earle (Community Development Council Durham)

Joey Edwardh (Community Development Halton/Poverty Free Halton)

Randalin Ellery (Task Force on Poverty Elimination of Guelph-Wellington)

Janet Gasparini (SPC of Sudbury)

Ted Glover (ISARC-Durham)

Ruth Ingersoll (Community Development Council of Quinte)

Gracia Janes (Social Assistance Reform Network of Niagara)

Yvonne Kelly (York Region Freedom 90)

Marie Klassen (Lakehead SPC)

Poverty Free Ontario is an initiative of the Social Planning Network of Ontario.

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Lori Kleinsmith (Bridges Community Health Centre, Port Colborne)
Murray MacAdam (The Anglican Diocese of Toronto)
Marijana Matovic (Social Issues Networking Group, Kingston)
Bill Mous (The Anglican Diocese of Niagara)
Marvyn Novick (Social Planning Network of Ontario)
Deirdre Pike (SPRC Hamilton/Hamilton Organizing for Poverty Elimination)
Jannie Mills (Fairlawn Avenue United Church, Toronto)
Jamie Swift (Sisters of Providence Social Justice/ISARC)
Colleen Sym, (Halton Community Legal Services/ Voices for Change Halton)
Pat Taylor (Social Planning Council of York Region)
Linda Terry (SPC of Cambridge & North Dumfries/Poverty Free Waterloo Region/SPNO)
Adam Vasey (Pathway to Potential, Windsor)
Catherine Whiting (Anti-Poverty Activist, North Bay)
Mark Woodnutt (The Stop Community Food Centre, Toronto)

