

The Time for Adequate Rates is Now

Increase Ontario Works for Single Adults by \$100 per Month

Current rates are inadequate

An increase of \$100 per month for single adults receiving Ontario Works "is necessary at this time to redress the undeniable inadequacy of rates for single people receiving social assistance."

*Commission for the Review of
Social Assistance in Ontario, 2012*

\$100



*No person in Ontario should ever have to choose
between shelter, food or transportation.*

The time is now!



The province is creating the Basic Measure of Adequacy (BMA), which will be a target for future social assistance rates. However, we do not have to wait for the BMA to make the initial recommended increase of \$100.

- Increased rates should not be paid through cuts to existing social assistance supports presently in place, such as the Special Diet Allowance and work-related benefits.
- Increased rates are the first step. An ongoing exploration of sustained adequate rates is also needed.

Developed and Endorsed by:

London Homeless Coalition, United Way London and Middlesex, Child and Youth Network London, Middlesex-London Health Unit, OW/ODSP Advocates London

Inadequate Rates by the Numbers

A single adult in Ontario receiving Ontario Works does not even receive adequate income to afford the basics needs of shelter and food.

Income

For a single adult, the rates as of October 2013 are:

Basic Needs	\$250
Shelter Allowance	\$376
Ontario Trillium Benefit ¹	\$54
TOTAL	\$680

Expenses²

Housing: Bachelor – One Bedroom ³	\$575 - \$747
Nutritious Food Basket (range) ⁴	\$160 - \$243
London Transit Commission bus pass	\$81
TOTAL (based on low estimates)	\$816

Difference = -\$136.00

¹ Varies by household.

² Utilities, phone, cleaning supplies, personal care items, clothing, entertainment, internet, school supplies and other costs are not included.

³ Average market rent for London, Ontario as of 2013.

⁴ Middlesex-London Health Unit. (2013). *The real cost of eating well in Middlesex-London*.