

The Time for Adequate Rates is Now

Increase Ontario Works for Single Adults by \$245 per Month

Current rates are inadequate

The purpose of Ontario Works is to provide temporary assistance and support to meet basic needs and shelter costs until such time as other sources of income are obtained.

However, to meet these necessities, Ontario Works would need to be increased immediately by:

\$245



There may be better models of income assistance but until these are implemented, Ontario Works rates need to be made adequate.

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

The time is now!



Annual increases have varied significantly from 1-3%. Regardless of these increases, social assistance rates have not kept pace with inflation, nor have they returned to early 1990s levels.

- Increased rates should not be paid through cuts to existing social assistance supports presently in place, such as work-related benefits.
- Increased rates are the first step. An ongoing exploration of sustained adequate rates and annual increases is also needed.
- Low income isn't the only cause of homelessness, but it is a significant factor.
- People experience poverty differently, such as women with children.

Developed and Endorsed by:

London Homeless Coalition
OW/ODSP Community 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 December 2016 are:

Basic Needs	\$330
Shelter Allowance	\$376
Ontario Trillium Benefit ¹	\$54
G/HST Credit	\$23

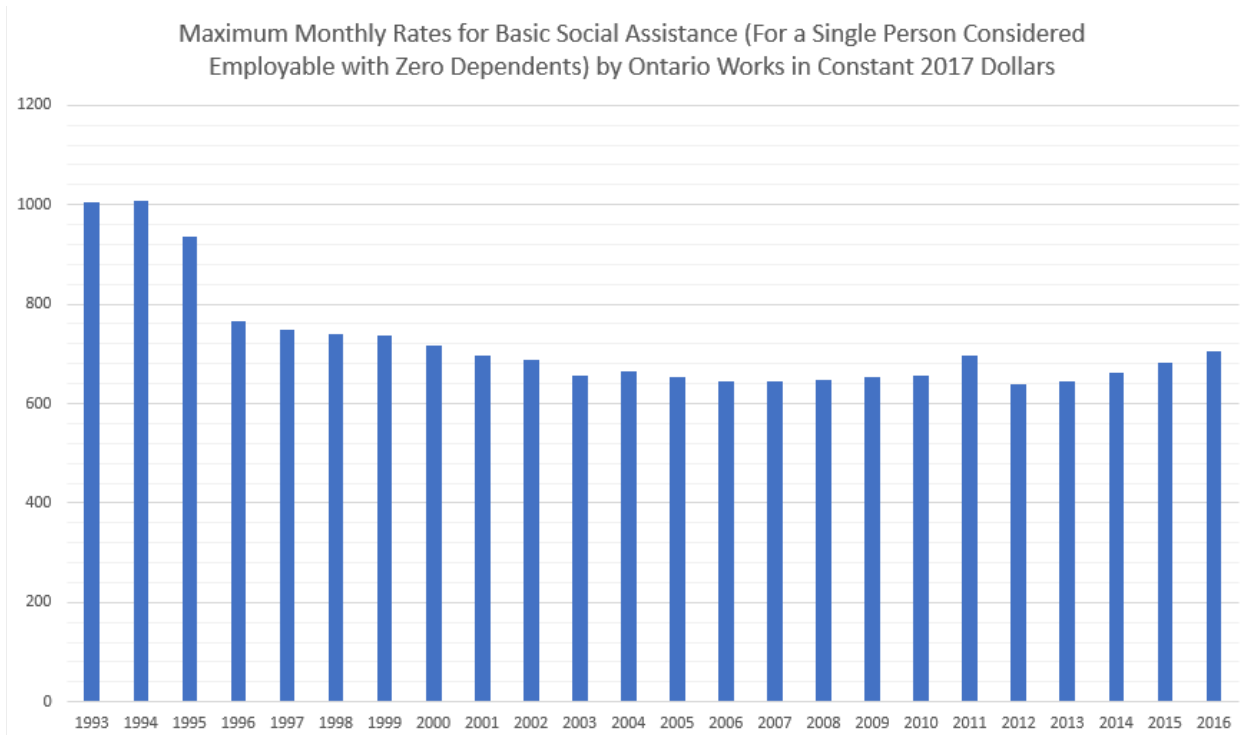
Real Costs

Housing: Bachelor – One Bedroom ¹	\$621 - \$802
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To meet real costs of minimal shelter in London (\$621) current shelter allowance (\$376) would need to be increased by a minimum **\$245.00**

¹ - Average market rent for London, Ontario. *Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.*

Historically Low Rates



Returning rates to their pre-1995 levels would require an increase of **\$299.00**