

Restore the Tory 21.6% Cut to Welfare.

Full Compensation for Ten Long Years with no Cost of Living Increase.

A 40% Increase for welfare and disability NOW.

RAISE THE RATES

A single parent on assistance gets \$950 a month while the average rent for a two bedroom apartment is \$1,050. A single person gets \$520 a month while the rent he or she would be asked to pay for a one bedroom is \$800. Social assistance rates are now at levels that deny the basic necessities of life to hundreds of thousands in Ontario. A social emergency exists - yet the McGuinty Liberals are not interested in responding to it or dealing with the poverty and misery which they are now complicit in dragging on.

OCAP is taking up a fight to win back all that has been taken from those on welfare and ODSP since 1995 when Harris came to power. No one should have to choose between eating properly and paying the rent or lie awake at night and wonder how to tell their kids they can't have the things other families take for granted. The right to decent income will have to be forced from the McGuinty Government and we are calling on people all across Ontario to join us in making this a reality.

Over the months ahead, we will take up a major struggle against the Liberals. Organizing must take

place community by community, food bank by food bank, welfare office by welfare office. What they won't provide, we will mobilize to take.

TTC stations will be opened up to provide free transportation for the poor. If people are

denied enough income to feed themselves decently, the big supermarket chains will be helped to meet our needs whether they want to or not. Welfare and ODSP offices across Ontario will be picketed and occupied. It's time to take the kind of action that the poverty crisis in Ontario calls for. It's time to make them understand that ignoring our right to a living income is simply not an option.

The Liberals never said they would restore welfare and ODSP rates to 1995 levels but they did campaign for election with a promise of a cost of living increase for poor people on assistance. Now they tell us they have no money to honour this pledge. They did, however, make every effort to increase their own fat paycheques by 2.7%! A planned salary hike for MPPs and Cabinet Ministers set for April 1 was only cancelled after its announcement sparked public outrage. Still, even with this 'austerity measure' it's hard to feel too sorry for the plight of Social Services Minister, Sandra Pupatello, who presides over the lives of poor people on assistance. She rakes in a base salary of \$121,297 and this is bolstered by, among other things, a special housing allowance of \$17,500.

With this tidy little sum, Pupatello has been able to set herself up (at public expense) in one of the luxury condos above the Sutton Place Hotel at Bay and