

Appeal for Financial Donation



Every day, CUPE and OCAP members work hard to make our communities stronger, healthier and more inclusive. Many of us know there is a fine line between making ends meet – and seeing the ends start to fray.

Outgoing Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty has kept social assistance rates low, causing poverty to rise to unprecedented levels. Since the cuts by the Mike Harris government, people receiving assistance through Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program have seen their income levels drop by almost 60 percent.



This is why our union is working in solidarity with the [Ontario Coalition Against Poverty](#) (OCAP) and other labour partners and community groups to **Raise the Rates** of social assistance in our province. Together, we are working with local anti-poverty groups to organize a series of events across Ontario in the coming weeks to stave off further cuts to social assistance.

OCAP has a **long history of fighting to win**. For more than two decades, OCAP has been mobilizing communities under attack – poor and marginalized people whom politicians tend to ignore when they're not attacking them! But OCAP makes it very hard to ignore those living in poverty. Through their spirited demonstrations, marches, occupations, housing takeovers and other actions, OCAP brings a powerful voice – and empowered people – to challenge the prevailing winds of austerity, inequality and indifference.



those living in poverty. Through their spirited demonstrations, marches, occupations, housing takeovers and other actions, OCAP brings a powerful voice – and empowered people – to challenge the prevailing winds of austerity, inequality and indifference.



OCAP doesn't just mobilize on the broad issues facing the poor. They also defend thousands of individuals and families being denied their basic rights and entitlements. OCAP's brand of "direct action casework" has made unflinching bureaucracies flinch many times over the years.

But OCAP scrapes by on a very modest budget, with two organizers, the operation of a downtown Toronto office, and a multitude of campaign expenses.

This is why we are writing to you today. We'd like to encourage you or your local to become an "OCAP sustainer" by making a regular, monthly donation. Monthly donations makes it a lot easier for OCAP to plan its activities and keep doing the casework and organizing that helps those living in poverty.

To become a monthly sustainer, send a cheque marked "VOID" with the amount and date of the month you'd like it to be processed.

Mail to: OCAP, 157 Carlton Street, Unit 206, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 2K3.

To send a one-time donation, please send a cheque payable to "Ontario Coalition Against Poverty" to the address above. For more information, please get in touch! Call OCAP at 416-925-6939 or email ocap@tao.ca

And thank you. Thank you for your support, solidarity and generosity. Any gift is most appreciated – it helps move OCAP's work forward and lifts the spirits of those facing the indignity of poverty in one of the richest countries in the world. Let's make sure more folks can make ends meet – and thrive. **Thank you for supporting the fight against poverty in Ontario.**

In solidarity,

Carrie Lynn Poole-Cotnam
Chair, Social Services
Workers Coordinating
Committee
CUPE Ontario

Liisa Schofield
Organizer, OCAP

John Clarke
Organizer, OCAP

