

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.

OCAP has spent the last year successfully working with local shelters and women's organizations to pressure the City of Toronto to open more beds and spaces for homeless and marginally housed women. Safe spaces for women are averaging a capacity of 97%-meaning that each night women are being left alone on the streets to fend for themselves.



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. People receiving Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program have seen incomes drop almost 60% since the Harris government cut rates. Today, Kathleen Wynne is looking to merge OW and ODSP which will result in further decrease.

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.



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

