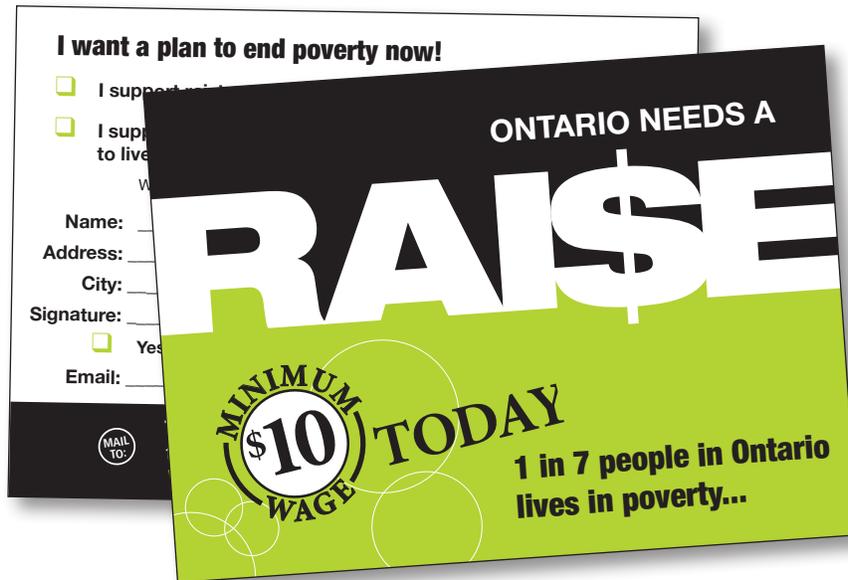




# OCSJ 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

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## MISSION AND ROLES

The OCSJ is a coalition of provincial and national groups, local social justice coalitions, non-governmental organizations, and labour unions promoting social justice.

**Coalition members agree that we shall:**

- a) Help build social justice coalitions in Ontario to work on issues of social justice.
- b) Help coordinate / publicize province-wide campaigns and support local organizing efforts.
- c) Help lobby politicians in Ontario on social justice issues.



The Vote Out Poverty event was held on October 1st, 2007 at Massey Hall.

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## OCSJ - ONTARIO NEEDS A RAISE CAMPAIGN

### 1. OCSJ ONTARIO NEEDS A RAISE CAMPAIGN

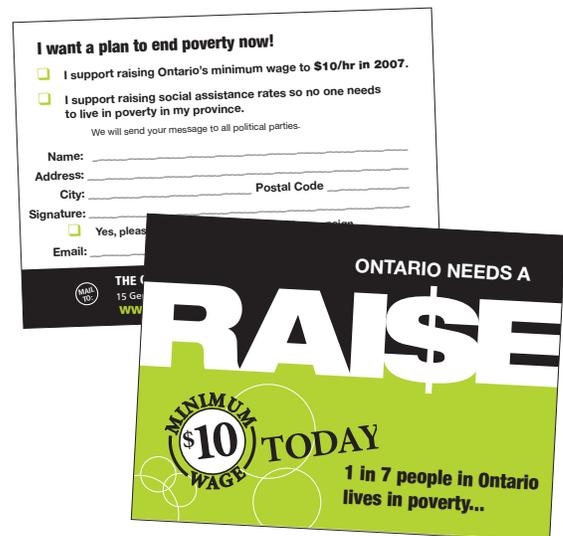
Before the 2003 provincial election, the OCSJ determined to oppose provincial Conservative government program cuts by adopting a campaign stating that: Ontario Needs a Raise (ONR).

#### a. OCSJ MESSAGE CARDS

For the 2007 provincial election, the OCSJ encouraged partners around the province to ask their members to sign cards urging that the minimum wage be raised to \$10 per hour in 2007, that social assistance and disability rates be increased also in 2007, and that they all be increased each year according to increases of the cost of living. By the election date, over 4,800 cards were delivered to the Premier.

#### b. POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

In letters to the 3 provincial political party leaders, the OCSJ urged that each party commit to the policy of adopting a poverty reduction strategy for Ontario, and also to establishing an independent committee to develop rational and just criteria for determining OW and ODSP rates. At a press conference on May 24 at the Legislature, the OCSJ publicized that 95 provincial and community groups and unions supported this goal, thereby increasing the pressure on the political parties before the election.



## COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS AROUND ONTARIO

### 1. LABOUR'S \$10 MINIMUM WAGE CAMPAIGN

City and district Labour Councils across the province called for the provincial government to increase the minimum wage to \$10 per hour immediately, and as the Toronto & District Labour Council stressed, Labour Councils urged that “we all should work to restore and strengthen the ‘social wage’ - social programs and services that make a huge difference to the quality of life of working families.

### 2. LOCAL MOBILIZING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### a. Kenora & Aboriginal Day of Action

“Cooking Up Change”. Members of Making Kenora Home wield their tools during the Week of Action Against Poverty (Feb. 11-17, 2007). An amazing 6.3% of the community participated in a wide range of events intended to raise the profile of local poverty issues.

#### b. Social Justice Activists in Ottawa

The Coalition of Community Health & Resource Centres of Ottawa took this photo of their cooperation with Make Poverty History supporters, including centres advocating the social determinants of health and the end of poverty, plus students and teachers who support social justice for everyone in the province, and indeed, across the country.



“Cooking Up Change”. Members of Making Kenora Home wield their tools during the Week of Action Against Poverty (Feb. 11-17, 2007). An amazing 6.3% of the community participated in a wide range of events intended to raise the profile of local poverty issues. (photo courtesy of the Daily Miner & News)



The Coalition of Community Health & Resource Centres of Ottawa with Make Poverty History supporters (photo courtesy of the Coalition of Community Health & Resource Centres of Ottawa).

## VOTE OUT POVERTY - PRE-ELECTION EVENT

Close to 2,700 people filled Massey Hall on October 1st, to deliver a strong message from the OCSJ and allies to provincial political parties that voters were going to vote for the party most likely to reduce poverty in Ontario. Thousands of members of unions, and also of provincial and local organizations in Ontario sponsored and supported the event.

Popular support to vote out poverty in the October 10th election was unambiguous!

**Stephen Lewis** inspired everyone by highlighting the elementary legal and also moral responsibilities of governments to end poverty, and **Mary Walsh** goaded each politician to declare what the Ontario Government would do to end poverty following the election.



## VOTE OUT POVERTY EVENT

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

#### SPONSORS

Atkinson Charitable Foundation  
 The Big Carrot  
 Canadian Auto Workers Union  
 Canadian Union of Public Employees  
 Daily Bread Food Bank  
 Elementary Teachers of Toronto  
 Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario  
 International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees  
 Ontario Association of Food Banks  
 Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association  
 Ontario Federation of Labour  
 Ontario Public Service Employees Union  
 Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation  
 Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan,  
 Registered Nurses Association of Ontario  
 Service Employees International Union – Local 1

#### SUPPORTERS

ACORN Toronto  
 Association of Community Legal Clinics  
 Campaign 2000  
 Canadian Crossroads International  
 Canadian Federation of Students  
 Catholic Charities of Toronto  
 Centre for Social Justice  
 Centre for Equity Rights in Accommodation  
 Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada  
 The Colour of Poverty Campaign  
 Community Social Planning Council of Toronto  
 DisAbled Women's Network of Ontario  
 Family Services Association  
 Kairos  
 Meal Exchange  
 National Council of Welfare  
 Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care  
 Oxfam Canada  
 Toronto and York Region Labour Council  
 Workers Action Centre

## VICTORY: ONTARIO AGREES TO POVERTY REDUCTION

Promise in election - poverty reduction strategy within a year!

Nov. 29 budget - cabinet committee, albeit with limited focus!!! Yet, opportunity for submissions by labour & community groups.



## FINANCES

The following unions and federations supplied the OCSJ funding for 2007:

### OCSJ funding

Canadian Auto Workers (CAW)  
 Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)  
 Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)  
 Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO)  
 Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA)  
 Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL)  
 Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU)  
 Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF)  
 United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW)  
 United Steelworkers of America (USWA)

### TOTAL FINANCING

<b>Revenue:</b>	Labour Unions/Teacher Federations	\$ 51,650
	Campaign funding	\$ 22,231
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 73,881</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	Social justice campaigns	\$ 29,004
	Outreach	\$ 26,196
	Coalition support	\$ 16,696
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 71,903</b>

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### OCSJ Campaign funding

CAW, COPE 525 (Hamilton), CUPE Ont., EFTO, Houselink, ISAC, OPSEU, OSSTF, Peterborough Labour Council, Vote Out Poverty event, & individuals.



## THANKS

### ACTIVISTS

Each of the community groups, provincial associations, and labour unions which comprise the OCSJ depends upon the activism of individual members to inform the public at large, and also to persuade politicians to end poverty in Ontario. The coalition depends upon this dedicated commitment by people throughout the province.

### STEERING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

The representatives chosen at assemblies by groups in the three sectors of labour unions, provincial associations, and community groups devote their time through six meetings and two assemblies to direct the work of the OCSJ.

The labour representatives were **Fred Hahn / Judy Wilkings** (CUPE), **Naveen Mehta** (UFCW), **Barb Burkett / Hilda Watkins** (ETFO), **Elaine MacNeil / James Ryan** (OECTA), **Margaret MacPhail** (OSSTF), and **Steve Watson / Angelo DiCaro** (CAW).

[Note: 2 persons per union means that one person replaced the other during the year.]

The provincial representatives were **Elizabeth Ablett** (OCBCC), **James Beaton** (CFS), **Jo Grey** (LIFT), **David Langille** (CSJ), **John Rae** (AEBC), **Michael Rosenberg** (CATD), **Nancy Schular** (NAPO), and **Michael Shapcott** (WI).

The community representatives were **Joanne Bazak** (Peterborough Walk, Wheel, Ride for Dignity campaign), **Carolyn Hamlin** (Northumberland Coalition Against Poverty), **Peter Hutton** (Hamilton Social Justice Coalition), **Tara Kainer** (Justice & Peace office, Sisters of Providence in Kingston), **Linda Lalonde** (Ottawa Action on Poverty), **Linda Slavin** (Peterborough Coalition for Social Justice), and **Gil Warren** (London Coalition for Social Justice).

Additional thanks are due to **James Ryan**, **David Langille**, and **Linda Slavin** who served as co-chairs of the OCSJ in 2007.

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*Poverty bedevils everything. It's at the root of hunger and disease and sexual violence and conflict as people squabble over resources. It is possible to overcome poverty, but it will never happen without a grand coalition of governments, non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, and devoted community activists in country after country. Above all, the world needs political will.*

*The poor have been waiting – and dying – for an eternity.*

Stephen Lewis

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