

STOP THE SPECIAL DIET CUT!

RAISE WELFARE/
ODSP RATES
NOW!

RALLY:

WEDNESDAY,
JULY 21

12 NOON

900 BAY ST
@ WELLESLEY

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

HELLO!
MY NAME IS
Dalton
AND I OWE YOU \$250+!



ONTARIO COALITION AGAINST POVERTY
WWW.OCAP.CA / 416-925-6939

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Rally and Action: Wednesday, July 21st

Every month in Ontario, hundreds of thousands of people receive welfare (OW) and disability (ODSP) cheques that are far too small to pay the rent and eat properly. People today are forced to try to survive on OW/ODSP rates that are at least 40 – 55% below where they were before the Harris cuts in 1995. Until recently there was a benefit called the 'Special Diet Allowance' that gave people up to \$250/month if a doctor, dietitian or nurse said they needed that money for food.

On March 25th the McGuinty Liberals announced they are eliminating the Special Diet. Since that time, people have been holding their breath and waiting month-to-month for news of when that money will be taken from their cheques. Many people have already been cut-off or denied access to the Special Diet or seen the amount they receive dwindled to almost nothing. We do know that it will only be a matter of months before this money is completely taken, and that this cut will create an even bigger crisis of poverty and poor health in this province.

WHAT THE SPECIAL DIET CUT MEANS:

- Poor people will lose \$200 million for food: this is a \$200 million CUT to Social Assistance, the entire Social Assistance program will be cut by 3% (in total loss of funding)
- Single people on welfare who get the full Special Diet will lose 30% of their income
- Single people on ODSP will lose 19%
- Dalton McGuinty has cut welfare for only the 3rd time in Ontario's history
- We will see a rapid increase in homelessness, hunger, illness, and desperation

The Liberals have said they will put in a new program. They have not told people what this will be, but we do know that it will be very difficult to access and less than the Special Diet amount if anything. We also know that this Government has done nothing since 2003 to reverse the brutal 22% Harris cut to welfare (that today is worth 55%). The time to negotiate with the Liberal Government has come to an end, the time to challenge them is now.

This Government needs to pay for their decision to cut benefits and services. They think that they can offload the deficit on to poor people by cutting funding to programs that we need: Social Assistance, Legal Aid, Childcare, and the Public Sector. At the same time that the Liberals are making these cuts, they are giving corporations a \$4.6 billion dollar tax break over the next two years! If we are not prepared to fight back, we can be sure that our situation is about to get even worse. We need to keep our Special Diets, and we need to force a raise in welfare and disability rates now so that people can live with health and dignity.

COME OUT JULY 21ST!

GET INVOLVED IN THE RAISE THE RATES CAMPAIGN!

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