



**TOWN OF BLIND RIVER
Council Meeting**

Agenda Number: 11.1.

Resolution Number 24-074

Title: February 16, 2024. County of Prince Edward, RE:
Review the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support
Program Financial Assistance Rates

Date: March 4, 2024

MOVED BY: K. Whitlock

SECONDED BY: P. Summers

"WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted; AND WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation; AND WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined; AND WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month); AND WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 per cent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month); AND WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

AND WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the

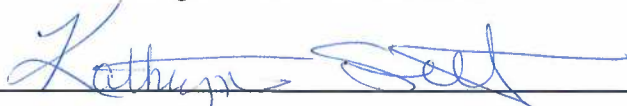
resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty;

AND WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Blind River joins Prince Edward County and the Town of Orangeville to call on the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by "Raise the Rates" campaign and the "Income Security Advocacy Centre";
- b) Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
- c) Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Algoma District Services Administration Board, Prince Edward County and the Town of Orangeville." **CARRIED**



CAO/CLERK