



Interim Report on Status of MPP Visits to *Do the Math*

| Liberal MPPs | Completed <i>Do the Math</i> Survey | Monthly Cost Amount (Shortfall of OW monthly amount) | Conclusions/Comments | Issues Raised |
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| Sophia Aggelonitis Hamilton Mountain | ✓✓✓ | \$1090 (-- \$518) | After researching real costs in Hamilton, MPP Aggelonitis agreed that " \$100 per month is not a large enough increase for OW recipients. " She agreed to raise the issue with Minister Matthews. It would cost a lot but " in any case, it was not [the community's] problem to find the money; it was a problem for her and the government to solve. " | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found a cheap apartment (\$480/mo) but would never live there herself. • Shopped for a week spending only \$50 – it was "impossible". • Questioned whether Internet could not be accessed through library but was unaware of time restrictions in library use of Internet. |
| Michael Chan Markham Unionville | Visited but did not yet complete survey | (no data) | Willing to talk to Minister Meilleur about the survey and the request for a Healthy Food Supplement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty competed with other areas for government resources. |
| Vic Dhillon | Would not | (no data) | unable to comment on whether the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100/mo Healthy Food |

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| Brampton West | complete the survey | | <i>current social assistance rates are adequate for a life of health and dignity and unable to complete the survey because I am unfamiliar with the current market rates for food, clothing, transportation, shelter, toiletries, etc. as I do not make the household purchases in my household."</i> | Supplement is "throwing money at the problem" and may not be the best solution because "an extra \$100 per month would only feed the alcohol and/or drug habits of the kind of people I see outside my office." |
| John Gerretson Kingston & The Islands | ✓ | \$1350 (--\$778) | "The rates are low" but the government decided to support families with children first. An additional \$100/month for the Healthy Food Supplement "is not outrageous. I'm not suggesting for a moment that it's too much" and "there is no doubt about it, the health consequences are humongous." He would speak to Minister Matthews and his MPP colleagues about more money for food for social assistance recipients. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questioned the necessity of Internet expenses and entertainment. • Expressed concern about the cost of a Healthy Food Supplement. |
| Linda Jeffrey Brampton-Springdale | Not yet completed but agreed to do it by mid-September | (no data) | Re current rates "Do I think it's enough? No. At the end of the day, it's not enough to live on. It's hard to live with dignity." Re the Healthy Food Supplement, "hypothetically, I think it's a good idea . . . but it's not going to be put to a vote." | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One thing won't make the difference, need improvements in education, housing another areas as well as income. • Concerned about the cost of the Healthy Food Supplement given the recession. |

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| Ted McMeekin Ancaster-Dundas- Flamborough- Westdale, | Completed the survey but did not report the results | (no data) | MPP McMeekin agreed that “ \$100 a month was not enough to add to OW and ODSP ” but he could not sign onto the Healthy Food Supplement campaign until there had been a proper review of rates via the Social Assistance Review. | |
| Tony Ruprecht Davenport | ✓ | \$1260 (--\$688) | Mr. Ruprecht concluded that social assistance rates do not add up and that a single person living in Davenport in fact needs a minimum of \$1260 per month to live a healthy life and participate in with dignity in the community. | |
| Monique Smith Nippissing | ✓ | \$1221 (--\$649) | “ It’s no surprise. My calculation was a lot more than the allowances provided. ” Social assistance rates “ do not add up. ” Agreed to write a letter to Minister Meilleur voicing the groups; concern about inadequate social assistance rates and recommendations for improvement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not see access to the Internet as a necessity given. • Acknowledged that costs in the north are higher because of transportation. • Concerned about the cost of OW and ODSP increases given that they are open programs. |
| Liberal MPP Do the Math visits currently being scheduled | | | | |
| Laurel Broten Etobicoke-Lakeshore | | | | |
| David Caplan Don valley East | | | | |
| Leona Dombrowski Prince Edward- Hastings | | | | |

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|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Helena Jaczek Oak Ridges-Markham | | | | |
| Dave Levac Brant | | | | |
| Reza Moridi Richmond Hill | | | | |
| David Oraziatti Sault Ste. Marie | | | | |
| George Smitherman Toronto-Centre | | | | |
| Greg Sorbara Vaughan | | | | |

| Progressive Conservative MPPs | Completed <i>Do the Math</i> Survey | Monthly Cost Amount (Shortfall of OW monthly amount) | Conclusions/Comments | Issues Raised |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Ted Arnott Wellington-Halton Hills | Not yet completed but would | (np data) | Supported the need for a supplement that would be spent in local communities. | |
| Ernie Hardeman Oxford | Started the survey but did not conclude it when found that there was not enough money to live on. | (no data) | Could not support a \$100/mo. Healthy Food Supplement – no guarantee that would be used for healthy food choices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising OW to amount needed to live was not a solution – people on OW are able to manage by sharing housing or getting help from family and friends. |
| Frank Klees | Did not | (no data) | Acknowledged that people on social | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would prefer a food |

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| Newmarket Aurora | complete survey but said that he would | | assistance do not get a lot of income and noted that the cost of rent takes up most of their benefit. Agreed that people on social assistance have a right to eat healthily. | voucher system to make sure that people use the extra assistance on food. |
| Julia Munro York-Simcoe | Did not complete the survey | (no data) | MPP Munro did <i>“not have adequate cost information on the items on the survey to complete it.”</i> She acknowledged that <i>“nothing much had been done about social assistance rates since the mid-1990s and that things could always be improved.”</i> Supported a review of the social assistance system. | |
| PC MPP Do the Math visits currently being scheduled | | | | |
| Toby Barrett Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant | | | | |
| Tim Hudak Erie-Lincoln | | | | |
| Norm Miller Parry Sound-Muskoka | | | | |
| Peter Shurman Thornhill | | | | |

| NDP MPPs | Completed Do the Math Survey | Monthly Cost Amount (Shortfall of OW monthly | Conclusions/Comments | Issues Raised |
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| Paul Miller Hamilton East-Stoney Creek | ✓ | \$1418 (-- \$846) | Supports the Healthy Food Supplement. Strong advocate for an Ontario seniors pension – might “divert some from needing to be on OW.” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did question whether “those people couldn’t possibly afford to have a pet “. • Some unfortunate suggestions that people take advantage of food banks. |
| Michael Prue Beaches-East York | ✓ | \$1425 (--\$853) | <p>“After you fill out the amount for rent, there isn’t a lot left to give you much of a life.”</p> <p>\$100/mo Healthy Food Supplement is “only a stepping stone to what is really needed to bring equity to social assistance.”</p> <p>As NDP Poverty critic, he would ask the Party leader to ask a question in the House about the Food Supplement and rates.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After rent and food nothing left -- “no essentials like the internet, no pets, no personal grooming and hygiene costs and no room for any entertainment.” |
| Peter Tabuns Toronto-Danforth | Not yet completed but will do so | (no data) | <p>Indicated he did not complete survey because after allowing for rent “there would be very little left to allocate to other categories.”</p> <p>OW recipients could not be able to live a healthy, dignified life on current rates. Supported the Healthy Food Supplement but “it should be emphasized that the \$100 supplement is only a step in the right direction – it is not an adequate solution.”</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asserted health link referring to U of T medical policy research “which states that eliminating poverty would be the financial equivalent of eradicating cancer.” |

| NDP MPP <i>Do the Math</i> visits currently being scheduled | | | | |
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| Cheri DiNovo High Park-Parkdale | | | | |
| France Gélinas Nickel Belt | | | | |
| Andrea Horwath Hamilton Centre | | | | |
| Peter Kormos Welland | | | | |

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