



## Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition

"Faith Communities In Action Against Poverty"

### News Release – March 16, 2009

#### **Also praying for Food on the Table**

Continuing this week, Ontario's faith communities – Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and others – will be praying that the poor may have enough food and safe places to eat. Our prayers are also for the courage, integrity and spiritual strength of the Members of the Provincial Parliament (MPPs).

Because we do not want the poor to be forgotten or abandoned during this time of recession, ISARC Prayer Vigils are being held under a prayer canopy in front of the provincial legislature from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., throughout March, Mondays to Thursdays. Each day at noon, a religious leader guides participants in prayer and reflection.

***On Wednesday, March 18 we will also pray that food is part of the upcoming Provincial Budget.***

Joining us as will be Dr. David McKeown, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, the Stop Community Food Centre, Foodshare, the Social Planning Network of Ontario, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies and many other partners in the 25in5 Network for Poverty Reduction as we come together to call for a Healthy Food Supplement for all adults on social assistance. The supplement will be one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month per adult on Ontario Works (OW) or on Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

Soup will be served. The Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) believes that when people eat and pray together, there can be peace and justice. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, a diverse group will eat and pray together. MPPs are invited to join us.

ISARC has provided a religious voice for Ontario's marginalized people for 23 years. These vigils are being held as a public witness to the collective concern of faith communities about the swelling ranks of the poor during Ontario's deepening recession and the need for a strong response. Food hampers and "Out of the Cold" are not sufficient solutions to Ontario's poverty.

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#### **For more information, contact:**

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**Website:** [www.isarc.ca](http://www.isarc.ca)

**More information on the Put Food in the Budget campaign is available at:**  
[www.povertywatchontario.ca](http://www.povertywatchontario.ca) and [www.25in5.ca](http://www.25in5.ca).