



Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition

"Faith Communities In Action Against Poverty"

News Release – March 26, 2009

Prayer Vigil Ends With Budget and Final Prayers

Having prayed four days per week at Queen's Park since March 3rd, the Interfaith Prayer Vigil will culminate on Thursday, March 26th, with a noon hour prayer service led by Lutheran Bishop Michael Pryse, a media conference at 4:15 pm, and a closing interfaith prayer service at 5:00 pm led by United Church of Canada Moderator Rt. Rev. David Giuliano. All events will occur in front of the legislative building as Members of the Provincial Parliament (MPPs) assemble, hear the 2009 provincial budget, and discuss laws and regulations to end poverty and the recession.

Each day multifaith participants pray for the integrity, courage and spiritual strength of MPPs. They pray for compassion and justice to be directed to the poor in the upcoming provincial budget.

With Ontario food banks reporting 20% increases over last year at this time, volunteers and faith groups are responding to the financial struggles of people throughout Ontario. Will the budget provide the resources so that individuals and families can pay the rent and provide nutritious foods, so they can work, go to school, keep healthy, and participate in community life? Faith communities are asking the government to provide sufficient income so that Ontarians are healthy and can maintain or restore their dignity.

Other religious leaders present will be Imam Mustafa Kaya, Rabbi Aaron Levy, Imam Mohammad Alnadiv, ISARC leaders, and others will be participating at noon and/or 5:00 pm.

According to ISARC secretary, Brice Balmer, "The vigil has provided times for different faiths to come together in prayers, conversations, and meditations at Queen's Park and in local communities. This has deepened their commitment to justice and solidarity with the poor. Those in prayer remember our politicians".

ISARC has stood with and advocated for Ontario's marginalized people for 23 years.

See web page for more information on vigil and participants over the past month.

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