



## INTERFAITH SOCIAL ASSISTANCE REFORM COALITION

21 March 2010

Hon. Madeline Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services  
6th Floor, Hepburn Building  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9

Dear Hon. Meilleur:

The Special Diet Allowance (SDA) is very necessary to maintain an individual's health and well being. The Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) asks that the provincial government continue and improve this benefit for several reasons:

1. The Social Assistance Review is currently in process with the advisory committee working toward its report and then proceeding to the review process itself. This process will hopefully point to a better social assistance system for all Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program recipients, the government itself, and the people of Ontario. Adequate nutrition will hopefully be one of the guidelines for an adequate social assistance system.
2. The Ontario Human Rights Tribunal has ruled that Special Diets are necessary and appropriate for the people whose medical and dietary situations were reviewed.
3. Special Diets are a preventive health measure. With adequate nutrition, recipients will have less need to make additional physician visits, go to the hospital emergency rooms, or be admitted to a hospital. One visit or admittance into medical care is more money expended than a Special Diet Allowance supplement.
4. Our priority as government and as citizens is to keep Ontarians healthy and safe. People with physical and mental health issues do need to watch their nutritional balance in order to stay healthy and safe.

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ISARC strongly supports your government and ministry as it moves forward on the Social Assistance Review and asks that the Special Diet be continued and increased in this budget.

Compassion for those who suffer economically and physically is an indication of good ethics and good government.

Sincerely,

Brice Balmer, ISARC Director

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