

## SOCIAL AUDIT 2010:A FAITH COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF POVERTY IN ONTARIO

The following statistics are from the "Do the Math" Campaign

- The average total amount needed to live each month was estimated at \$1,430 (compared to the \$572 current rate for OW recipients)
- 83% of those surveyed believe that a single person in Ontario needs more than \$1,020 to live each month (the current single month rate for ODSP)
- Average cost of monthly shelter was estimated at \$624 (compared to the \$349 provided for OW recipients and \$445 for ODSP recipients)
- The average cost of food each month for a single person was estimated at \$260 (compared to the Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket data provided by public health agencies that estimates the average monthly amount needed to purchase healthy food each month is \$209.55)
- 69% of respondents indicated that having Internet access was a necessary expense
- 57% of respondents earned over \$30,000 per year
- 14% of respondents are on OW or ODSP

\*Results from an ongoing "Do the Math" survey. Check it out at [www.dothemath.thestop.org/](http://www.dothemath.thestop.org/)

Poverty is real in Ontario. *You can be part of the solution.* ISARC is holding a Social Audit to hear stories from people living in poverty about their experience. As members of the faith community, we invite you to join us in prayer for the upcoming events. Pray for the people who live in poverty, for the people holding the Audit, and for the politicians and leaders who will hear the stories.

**For more information contact ISARC at [www.isarc.ca](http://www.isarc.ca)**

### **Interfaith Prayer:**

Merciful and compassionate God, Your people and your planet call to you, for both are suffering. So many of your children cry out for shelter, food, and meaningful work. Make us partners, we pray, in your work of caring for all in need. So much of your Creation groans from the effects of poverty. Make us partners, we pray, in your work of healing the earth. Help us to create jobs that both honour the needs of your planet as well as those holy souls who have no work. Please give to those who lead a vision of the day when every person, created in your sacred image, has employment with a living wage. Give to us gathered here the courage to speak for those without voice, the strength to act on our convictions, the discernment to see the world as you want it to be, and the wisdom to respond together as persons of different faiths. In these moments with one another, may we feel your presence and together praise your holy name.

\*By Rabbi Steve Gutow, Rev. Larry Snyder, Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, and Dr. Sayyid Syeed.

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