



A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN



For Immediate Release

Ontario budget disappoints YWCA Toronto

March 25, 2010 - Today's provincial budget makes minimal progress on poverty reduction in Ontario.

"Women in Ontario need stronger investments in poverty reduction in order to achieve their full potential and make meaningful contributions to their communities," said Heather McGregor, Chief Executive Officer of YWCA Toronto.

Despite acknowledging how important social assistance is in these difficult economic times, the McGuinty government has announced worrisome changes to a critical benefit for low-income people with special medical conditions, made only minimal changes to the maze of counter-productive and punitive rules governing social assistance and increased dangerously low social assistance rates by only 1%.

The good news in the budget is that the province has taken measures to protect existing childcare spots in Ontario by committing to filling permanently the funding gap of \$63.5 million.

"We are pleased the provincial government is going to protect childcare," says McGregor. "Women need childcare in order to do paid work and benefit from training and education."

The budget also reaffirmed the government's commitment to reviewing the social assistance system.

"YWCA Toronto knows how ineffective the current social assistance system is and how critically it needs to be restructured so that low-income women can have the support they need to achieve economic security and well-being for themselves and their families," said McGregor.

"As we focus on opening up Ontario, we need to make sure that specific attention is given to ensuring opportunities are opened up for the most marginalized in our communities," said McGregor.

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