

#### **The Corporation of the County of Northumberland** 555 Courthouse Road Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6



# Northumberland County Council Resolution

#### SENT VIA EMAIL

March 25, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario)
Hon. Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services)
Hon. Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Hon. Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health)
Hon. David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
All Ontario Municipalities

#### Re: Northumberland County Resolution – County of Prince Edward 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates'

At a meeting held on March 20, 2024 Northumberland County Council approved the following Council Resolution # 2024-03-20-190 adopting the below recommendation from the March 6, 2024 Social Services Committee meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Robert Crate Seconded by: Councillor Scott Jibb

**"That** the Social Services Committee, having considered the correspondence from the County of Prince Edward regarding 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services), the Honorable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health), the Honorable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and all Ontario municipalities."



#### **The Corporation of the County of Northumberland** 555 Courthouse Road

Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6

#### "Council Resolution # 2024-03-20-190

#### Carried

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at <u>matherm@northumberland.ca</u> or by telephone at 905-372-3329 ext. 2238.

Sincerely, Maddison Mather

Wather

Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk Northumberland County



## **Council Resolution**

Moved By	Crate
Seconded By	Tibb

Agenda Item 10 Resolution Number 2024-03-20-110

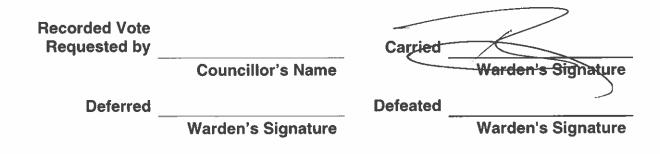
Council Date: March 20, 2024

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"That Council adopt all recommendations from the four Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held March 5 and 6)," with the exception of the following items (referenced from the Standing Committee Minutes), that will be held for discussion:

Committee Name	ltem #	Description	Held By

And Further That the items listed above and held for separate discussion each require a separate resolution."





### **Social Services Committee Resolution**

March 6, 2024
7.a
2024-03-06-159
O. Hankivsky
B. Ostrander
March 20, 2024

"That the Social Services Committee, having considered the correspondence from the County of Prince Edward regarding 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services), the Honorable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health), the Honorable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and all Ontario municipalities."

Carried Confinittee Chair's Signature

**Defeated** 

Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred

Committee Chair's Signature



February 16, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of February 13, 2024 the following resolution regarding support for a review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates was carried.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2024-81

DATE: February 13, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor Roberts

#### SECONDED BY: Councillor Hirsch

**WHEREAS** poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

**WHEREAS** the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

**WHEREAS** people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

**WHEREAS** Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

**WHEREAS** Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 per cent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month)

**WHEREAS** OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

**WHEREAS** the poverty risk profile for Prince Edward County created by Vital Signs states that 10.1% - 13.5% of County residents are living on low income;



**WHEREAS** designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

**WHEREAS** leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of Prince Edward County joins the Town of Orangeville to calls on the Provincial Government to urgently:

- At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by "Raise the Rates" campaign and the "Income Security Advocacy Centre";
- b) Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
- c) Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

**AND FURTHER THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Prince Edward Lennox and Addington Social Services, the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

#### CARRIED

Yours truly,

Cotaeró

Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK** 

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Hirsch, and Marcia Wallace, CAO