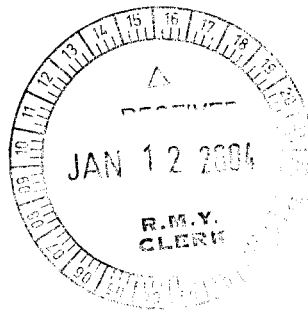




REGION OF YORK
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Fax Transmission

YORK REGION FOOD NETWORK

194 Eagle Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 1J6
Phone: 905-967-0428
Fax: 905-967-0097

To: Denis Kelly

Date: Jan. 12, 2004

Fax: 905-895-3031

Pages: 2, including cover

From: Lisa DiSera

Subject: York Region Pay the Rent and Feed the Kids Coalition

Mr. Kelly,

Please include the following letter addressed to Mayor Tom Taylor, Past Chair of the Community Services and Housing Committee in the January 14th report of the Community Services and Housing Committee to York Region Council. I have also e-mailed a copy of this correspondence to ensure that you receive it. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



York Region Pay the Rent & Feed the Kids Campaign
C/O York Region Food Network
194 Eagle Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 1J6

Mayor Tom Taylor, Past Chair
Community Services and Housing Committee
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mayor Taylor,

Monday January 12, 2004

Re: York Region Pay the Rent and Feed the Kids Campaign

Although disappointed that York Region Council chose not to endorse the Pay the Rent and Feed the Kids Campaign, we appreciate the response to our September 10, 2003 deputation in the October 8th report to the Community Services and Housing Committee by the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing.

In that report, York Region Pay the Rent and Feed the Kids Coalition was pleased to see the Community Services and Housing Department **confirm their support of initiatives aimed at increasing the availability of affordable housing and increases to the number of Rent-Geared-to-Income units**. This was a key recommendation of the Pay the Rent and Feed the Kids campaign. We were also pleased that the Region **committed to reviewing and recommending ways to support OW and ODSP participants in meeting their needs and the needs of their children**. Although not a full endorsement of our recommendations, this is a step in the right direction, and shows the Region's commitment to the most vulnerable residents in our community.

We would also like to thank the Community Services and Housing Committee for drawing our attention to the report of August 28, 1995 from the Director of Social Services, entitled, "Social Assistance Rate Reductions: General Welfare Assistance Program Changes, Social Services Division". This report detailed the potential impact of the 1995 social assistance rate reduction of 21.6%. It is interesting to note that at the time, research indicated that rate reductions would potentially save the Region up to \$2 million in 1996. However the report clearly states, *"While cost savings may be realized in the short term, long term costs may overshadow the savings in terms of the fall-out from poverty."*

This 1995 report anticipated that community agencies such as counseling services, child care services and food banks would see increased demand for their services which were at that time, already strained to capacity. It should come as no great surprise that agencies in York Region continue to struggle to meet the needs of poor families in our community. These agencies see first hand the devastating impact that years of inadequate income have had on their clients – ill health, depression, malnutrition and substandard shelter are only the most visible results.

On behalf of the clients we serve, and the York Region residents that you represent, we urge York Region Council to remain accountable to your commitments and stay true to your vision to "support a safe, caring and healthy community and promote a high quality of life."

Respectfully,

Lisa DiSera, Executive Director, YRFN

on behalf of York Region Pay the Rent and Feed the Kids Coalition