

NEW MEASURES TO TACKLE POVERTY, BUILD OPPORTUNITY*McGuinty Government Helps More Low-Income Families Get Ahead***NEWS**

March 17, 2008

Ontario's plan for a strong economy includes supporting low-income families so that everyone can have the opportunity to succeed in the 21st century economy.

The government will invest \$135 million over three years in a dental care plan for low-income families. Public health units, community health centres, dentists and dental hygienists will provide prevention and treatment services.

The Student Nutrition Program will be doubled with a three-year \$32-million investment to expand existing services. These programs currently provide healthy snacks and meals for 400,000 kids across Ontario.

Another \$100 million will be provided this year to assist with repairs to about 4,000 affordable housing units. Ontario municipalities will also now be able to get up to \$500 million in low-cost loans from Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Financing Authority (OSIFA) to repair affordable housing.

QUOTES

"Ontario is only at its best when all of us are working, building and dreaming together," said Premier McGuinty. "Supporting each other is not only the right thing to do, it is also the smart thing to do, and part of our plan for a stronger economy."

"We want everyone in Ontario to have the opportunity to succeed. Today we're taking another step to help low-income families get ahead," said Minister of Children and Youth Services Deb Matthews.

"Our greatest resource is our people," said Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Jim Watson. "Today's announcement means better quality affordable housing and more opportunity for Ontario families."

QUICK FACTS

- The Ontario Child Benefit rises to \$600 this year, up from \$250 last year.
- Minimum wage increases to \$8.75 on March 31, 2008 up from \$6.85 in 2003.

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Learn more about the [Ontario Child Benefit](#). Find out where to apply for [affordable housing](#).