PETITION: TO RAISE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RATES

To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

Whereas Ontario's social assistance rates are well below Canada's official *Market Basket Measure* Poverty Line and woefully inadequate to cover the basic costs of food and rent;

Whereas individuals on the *Ontario Works Program* receive just $733 per month and individuals on the *Ontario Disability Support Program* receive just $1169 per month, only 41% and 65% of the Poverty Line;

Whereas the Ontario Government has not increased social assistance rates since 2018, and Canada's inflation rate in January 2022 was 5.1%, the highest rate in 30 years;

Whereas the Government of Canada recognized through the *CERB Program* that a 'basic income' of $2,000 per month was the standard support required by individuals who lost their employment during the pandemic;

We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, petition the Legislative Assembly to increase social assistance rates to a base of $2,000 per month for those on Ontario Works and to increase other programs accordingly.

Name (printed)	**Address** (printed)	**Signature**

Please return to organizer, or mail to: Dr. Sally Palmer, McMaster Univ., KTH 319, 1280 Main St. W., Hamilton, ON L8S 4M4