

CFUW Toronto Caucus

To Toronto area MPs

We offer our congratulations on your recent election as a Member of Parliament.

I am writing on behalf of the Toronto Caucus of the Canadian Federation of University Women [CFUW] to express our concern regarding the state of Employment Insurance benefits for Toronto residents. The mandate of the Toronto Caucus of CFUW this year is poverty in the City of Toronto. We are examining several initiatives that we may explore to positively enhance the lives of citizens living in poverty. We have had some contact with the Federal Human Resources Department regarding the eligibility for such benefits. However, we strongly believe that the situation in Toronto has changed drastically since the existing formula was established. Employment opportunities in this city have drastically altered in the last few years.

According to a study completed by Monica Townsend, women in Toronto are especially deprived of benefits including access to training programs. As women head the great majority of single parent families, we would like to urge you and your MP colleagues across the City of Toronto to come together to provide support to Premier McGuinty in his quest for a fairer deal for families in this city and indeed the Province of Ontario.

The Toronto Caucus represents approximately 1000 members of CFUW who live in Toronto and are members of the six clubs in the city. Founded in 1919, CFUW is a voluntary, non-partisan, non-profit, self-funded organization of university women graduates affiliated with the International Federation of University Women. We are active in public affairs and work to raise the social, economic, educational and legal status of women and girls.

We are sending this letter to each of the Members of Parliament who represent a riding in the City of Toronto. We urge you to work with your colleagues to address the unfairness of the Employment Insurance benefits which your fellow Torontonians are enduring.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret J. McGovern
Chair, Toronto Caucus