



November 7th, 2007

The Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Toronto ON. M7A 1A4

Dear Premier McGuinty,

On behalf of the 5700 members of the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW OC), I would like to congratulate you on your re-election as Premier of Ontario and MPP for the riding of Ottawa South.

On October 10th, the citizens of this province gave your government an impressive mandate to govern Ontarians responsibly over the next 4 years. But this majority leaves your government with an even greater responsibility to invest the expertise and funds in finding solutions to the social problems that prevent many disadvantaged citizens from breaking away from the cycle of dependency.

Members of CFUW Ontario Council surveyed last May at our Annual General Meeting, listed poverty as the key issue for our provincial government to address and solve. We are encouraged to learn that you have pledged to dramatically reduce poverty rates in Ontario with the creation of an anti-poverty committee whose first job will be to develop a comprehensive poverty-reduction strategy. The Minister of Children and Youth Services, Deb Matthews, instrumental in helping to bring into effect the Ontario Child Benefit and whom you have appointed as chair of this committee, leaves us with the assurance that your commitment to this strategy is not just rhetoric.

You will be interested to know that the CFUW Toronto Caucus Clubs will focus on the issue of poverty during this year. The Caucus is a group of representatives from the seven Toronto Clubs, who act in concert and undertake a few select initiatives that are specific to the city of Toronto. At their recent meeting, they will continue with the issue of the working poor, a follow up to a public forum organized by our North York Club on the *Modernizing Income Security for Working Age Adults* Report (MISWAA).

Our best wishes to you as you begin this new term. We will be particularly interested in the actions your government decides to take in solving the challenging social issues facing many Ontario citizens.

CFUW Ontario Council members live in all regions of Ontario, from Windsor to Ottawa and from Niagara Falls to Thunder Bay. Our organization is non-partisan, non-sectarian and totally member-funded. We put our skills and education at the service of our communities to promote public education, improve the status of women and girls, protect human rights, and safeguard the ecological integrity of the environment. We are a part of the Canadian Federation of University Women(CFUW) and have links with the International Federation of University Women(IFUW).

Yours truly,

Linda MacGregor
President, CFUW Ontario Council