

The Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Rm 281, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A4
December 17, 2008

Dear Premier,

Re: Poverty Reduction Strategy

On behalf of the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women, I would like to commend you, the Hon. Deb Matthews, the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction and the Government of Ontario on the Poverty Reduction Strategy report, *Breaking the Cycle*.

We were very pleased to see that many of our requests over the years have become part of the Strategy, items that we still advocate for such as:

- support for public education
- support for post-secondary education, including technical training
- early learning and child care
- affordable housing
- support to communities and community organizations
- support to parents
- programmes for children, educational, recreational and physical, and
- the recognition of the special needs of abused women, seniors, people with disabilities, aboriginal communities

Like many other organizations, large and small, we endorsed the 25 in 5 Declaration, so we were very gratified to see your wholehearted support to this.

“...the best tool for breaking the (poverty) cycle is education....the other key components influencing the capacity for kids to reach their potential – adequate housing, good health and sufficient incomes for their families” (*Breaking the Cycle*, pg.35)

We wish you, the Government of Ontario and the people of Ontario much success in this very worthy cause.

Yours truly,

Myra Willis
President, Ontario Council
Canadian Federation of University Women