

The Town of Goderich  
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Goderich, Ontario  
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www.goderich.ca

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	April 10, 2024 9:54 am
Original To:	CIP
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Notes/Comments:	



Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Catalina Blumenberg  
Clerk  
Prince Edward County  
332 Picton Main Street  
Picton, Ontario  
K0K 2T0

SENT VIA EMAIL: [clerks@pecounty.on.ca](mailto:clerks@pecounty.on.ca)

RE: Town of Goderich Resolution – Review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates

Dear C. Blumenberg,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, March 18, 2024, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Segeren

Seconded By: Councillor Kelly

**WHEREAS** poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

**WHEREAS** the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

**WHEREAS** people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

**WHEREAS** Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

**WHEREAS** Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 percent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month);

**WHEREAS** OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

**WHEREAS** designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health-related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

**WHEREAS** leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Town of Goderich requests the Provincial Government to urgently:

1. At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by “Raise the Rates” campaign and the “Income Security Advocacy Centre”;
2. Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
3. Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

**AND FURTHER THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Huron County Social and Property Services, the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

**CARRIED**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-524-8344 ext. 210 or [afisher@goderich.ca](mailto:afisher@goderich.ca).

Yours truly,



Andrea Fisher

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Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
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cc. Premier Doug Ford [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)  
Hon. Paul Calandra [Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org](mailto:Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org)  
MPP Lisa Thompson, Huron–Bruce [lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org)  
Hon. Sylvia Jones [Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org](mailto:Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)  
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Huron County Social and Property Services  
Western Ontario Wardens Caucus  
Ontario Municipalities