

November 8, 2023

Haldimand County Council
53 Thorburn Street South
Cayuga, ON N0A 1E0

Dear Haldimand County Council,


On behalf of Community Living Haldimand and the hundreds of local citizens who rely on the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) for their necessities of life, we're asking the County to consider an act of official support. Specifically, this would require Haldimand County Council to approve and pass a resolution asking the Province to increase monthly ODSP amounts to reflect the cost of living with continued annual increases based on the rate of inflation. As well, we are asking that Council share this resolution with the Premier, MPPs and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.


The enclosed resolution is based on a similar resolution recently passed by the City of Kitchener.

It is well understood that municipalities have no direct responsibility for ODSP payments, however, we believe that the support of Haldimand County Council, along with other Councils across Ontario will result in a positive outcome for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

We would be happy to meet with members of Council to discuss our request and the realities of living on an ODSP budget.

Sincerely,


Heather Furtney
President, Board of Directors
Community Living Haldimand


Bob Butella
CEO
Community Living Haldimand



- ♦ Community Integration
- ♦ Community Housing
- ♦ Host Family Services
- ♦ Supported Living
- ♦ Transition Services
- ♦ Governance Standards

In Support of People with an Intellectual Disability

ODSP rate increase advocacy:

WHEREAS the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) is meant for persons with a disability who are in financial need;

WHEREAS ODSP rates are below Canada's Official Poverty Line

WHEREAS a single person can receive up to \$1,308 a month on ODSP which is well below the average rent for a one bedroom apartment in Haldimand County;

WHEREAS rental rates in Haldimand, along with other communities, have risen dramatically in recent years, with average one-bedroom rental rates of \$1647 per month – based on the average ads posted for 1 bedroom apartments on October 10, 2023;

WHEREAS provincial programs for affordable housing are based on rent at 80% of market rates, a one bedroom apartment with "affordable rent" would be is \$1,317 locally;

WHEREAS Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation defines housing as "affordable" if it costs less than 30% of a household's before-tax income. Based on this definition, a single person on ODSP can afford rent of \$392.40 per month

WHEREAS a shelter allowance for an ODSP recipient living on their own is up to \$556 per month which is intended to cover rent/mortgage, utilities and other housing costs;

WHEREAS there are approximately 300 ODSP recipients* in Haldimand County and over 500,000 across the province;

WHEREAS ODSP has been indexed to increase with the inflation rate but is currently \$666.67 below the low income cut-off and \$1,259.07 below the disability-adjusted low income cut-off, so with the current model, it will consistently rest below the low income cut-off, with even affordable housing rental rates significantly out of reach.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- that the County of Haldimand call on the Provincial Government to increase ODSP rates to reflect the cost of living and to tie these rates to inflation.
- That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, all MPPs in Ontario and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for further consideration.

*estimate based on 2021 Census and Developmental Disability accepted prevalence rates