



CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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City of Belleville

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July 23, 2025

Tyler Allsopp, MPP, Bay of Quinte
Via e-mail: tyler.allsopp@pc.ola.org

Ric Breese, MPP, Hastings-Lennox and Addington
Via email: ric.breese@pc.ola.org

Dear MPP Allsopp and MPP Breese:

RE: Belleville City Council Support for City of Pickering Resolution Raising Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) 8.c.2.b) Belleville City Council Meeting, July 14, 2025

This is to advise you that at the Council Meeting of July 14, 2025, the following resolution was approved.

That Information Item 8.c.2a) regarding the Resolution from City of Pickering re: Raising Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) be received and supported.

And That the City of Belleville forward correspondence including local statistics.

And that the City of Belleville request a response from MPP Tyler Allsopp, Bay of Quinte and MPP Ric Breese, Hastings-Lennox and Addington outlining actions being taken in the local ridings to address these issues.

The Gleaners Foodbank (Quinte) Inc. has seen a 106% increase in their quarterly hamper distribution compared to their pre-COVID dated from 2019, and from April to June 2025 they hit a record where they averaged over 1,000 hampers per month for the first time ever.

Gleaners Foodbank (Quinte) Inc. also reported a 45% increase, compared to pre-COVID usage, in the average quarterly number of hampers distributed to clients who report relying on Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). The average pre-COVID was 1,231 per quarter, while the average for 2025 year-to-date is 1,791. During the same period, hampers distributed to clients who report their primary source of income was employment has increased by 251%. The average pre-COVID was 88 hampers per quarter, compared to the 2025 average, so far, being 309. These numbers may be even higher as a number of clients choose not to disclose their source of income.

The Ontario Works rates have been the same since October 2018 with the caseload for Hastings in April 2025 being 2,401 Ontario Works cases with 3,765 beneficiaries and 253 Temporary Care Cases with 380 child beneficiaries.

The City of Belleville respectfully requests that you reflect on these insights as you advocate for policy measures at the provincial level.

Belleville City Council looks forward to your response regarding the actions being taken in your local ridings to address poverty and food insecurity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,



Doug Irwin
City Clerk

DI/nh

Attach.

Pc: S. Cassel, City Clerk, City of Pickering
S. Hunter, Ontario Works Manager, Hastings County
P. Kerr, Executive Director, Gleaners Food Bank (Quinte) Inc.
Councillor Kelly
Councillor Brown