

Isaacs, Tamiko

From: Paula Rawlinson <001.paulamr@gmail.com>
Sent: January 22, 2020 5:36 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Subject: Ontario's 2020 Budget

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To Whom It May Concern

Dear Lady or Gentleman,

I would like to support the recommendations of the Income Security Advocacy Centre which provided a written submission to the Standing Committee's hearing with recommendations regarding Income Security Programs, Workers' Rights and Legal Aid.

Recommendation # 5 that states Make the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit available to social assistance recipients who are tenants, with any claw-back of OW or ODSP is something that I was not even away of.

There is too many people who do not live in geared to income housing, and if I were on such a restrictive income, and lived in Toronto, there would be a great temptation on my part to hide income, if I were on ODSP. That is because people already do not get enough income to live a healthy life, and that is especially true in more expensive locations like Toronto. Our health care system will only get more expensive not less if we do not help the most vulnerable people in our society, many of whom do not have the skills or ability to obtain the skills in order to participate in the every more brain driven workforce. I have already sent a personal letter in regards to my concern of proposed change in definition of disability(Recommendation #2.)

In the Workers' Rights section, I don't understand any of the changes that are made, and wonder what is going on? History has already taught us that companies will try to get away with as much as possible in regards to Health and Safety all in the pursuit of profit. This is why we need to have inspectors checking to make sure no violations occur (Recommendation #6.) As a human being would you not want to have the right to support a loved one who needs concrete help? Why have Personal Emergency Leave Days and seven days as paid leave been eliminated?

My own sister may have had run into the difficulty of possible going to jail without organizations such as Legal Aid. She has had cognitive difficulties all her life, and her children were all taken away from her. I do not know for sure if she had representation or not, as she probably wouldn't have been able to explain it to me at the time, but I feel it is very likely she did have so, otherwise she may have ended up in jail. I know so little of about her tragic life as she ran away from family very early on in life and has only more recently reconnected in a meaningful way. .Regardless if my sister was not helped by Legal Aid someone else like her has been. Legal Aid is already underfunded.

The system is governed by rules and funding formulas that keep people poor people poor, and until we fix that, we will never achieve a healthier society, because the inequalities experience by the most vulnerable affect all of use. Please reconsider your ill advised decisions.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Paula