

# **May 22 Walk for a Healthy Workplace**



**ODSP clients suffer  
when our health suffers!**

## **Why are we Walking for a Healthy Workplace?**

A 2007 report paid for by the Ministry of Community and Social Services found that Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) workers suffer from high levels of stress, tension, ill health and high absentee rates caused by a caseload burden that's more severe than similar work in other provinces.

In Ontario today, an ODSP Income Support Specialist is responsible for an average of 530 cases. This compares with a national average closer to 250.

Our health is suffering because of unrealistic workloads. That means that our clients – more than 325,000 across Ontario, all of whom struggle to live on poverty incomes – aren't getting the public service they deserve.

***We're enjoying a healthy walk to help ease workplace stress and tension***



## Why doesn't the government act on this problem?

The McGuinty government says it's committed to reducing the level of poverty in Ontario. But when it comes to the public services that ODSP clients and their families deserve, the government is failing to deliver. That's because there are too few ODSP frontline service providers to meet growing demand.

The government's failure to address the understaffing crisis means the health of ODSP workers is suffering. The evidence is clear. Studies show staff can't keep pace because their health won't allow it.

The only way to resolve this crisis is by providing the disabled and the poor with a level of public service that will meet demand.

***Everyone knows there's a problem,  
let's act on it now.***



## What can the public do to help?

The McGuinty government knows it faces an understaffing crisis in the ODSP.

It knows the health of ODSP service providers is suffering because of caseload numbers that are at least twice the national average.

It knows that ODSP clients and their families aren't getting the public service they are rightfully entitled to.

You can help by demanding the McGuinty government treat the problem seriously by providing the resources that are needed to reduce poverty, while improving the health of ODSP workers.

Call or email your MPP today. It's easy!  
Visit [www.ontla.on.ca](http://www.ontla.on.ca) and follow the links to reach your MPP

**ODSP clients suffer when the health of ODSP workers suffer!**

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