



## Family Services à la famille Ottawa

### POSITION ON INCOME SECURITY<sup>1</sup>

Family Services à la famille Ottawa believes that all families have the right to a secure source of income to meet their basic needs. Therefore, consistent with our values of humanity, accessibility, relevance and social justice, we will:

- Create and maintain partnerships and linkages with organizations working towards income security for all members of society.
- Through our advocacy workshops, educate community members to advocate for self and others.
- Continue to provide counselling to families living under the stress of poverty.
- Provide leadership to the Child Poverty Action Group.
- Persist in lobbying levels of government to change policies that have a negative impact on financial security such as the clawback of the National Child Benefit for those on social assistance.
- Assist people to increase their sense of dignity so they can participate more fully in society.

#### Background:

- When individuals lack the income to meet their basic needs, they are less able to meet their counselling goals.
- Lower-income families are more likely to experience unexpected challenges like layoffs, health problems, unforeseen expenses, and family break ups<sup>2</sup>.
- In eastern Ontario, 1 in 10 households with children under 12 reported that at least once that year they had run out of money to buy food<sup>3</sup>.
- A Canadian study found that 54 % of households experiencing hunger reported that their main source of income was from employment<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined by the Market Basket Measure of Ontario: <http://www.napo-onap.ca/en/issues/Market%20Basket%20Measure.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Stats Canada, Canadian Social Trends, Winter 2002, (No. 67)

<sup>3</sup> Middle Childhood Matters, A Framework to Promote Healthy Development of Children 6 to 12

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

- Parent reports suggest that over 10 % of children 4 to 11 years behave in a way consistent with hyperactivity or an emotional disorder. However, because of inaccessibility and a lack of appropriate services, children are often unable to access the health and social service systems needed to address these issues<sup>5</sup>.

Family Services à la famille Ottawa seeks to build a safe, just and healthy society, where each person can thrive and contribute; enriched by their families; supported by friends, neighbours and communities; and served by dedicated community organizations. To this purpose we commit our resources, skills, creativity, and passion. The Family Services à la famille Ottawa Social Justice Framework states that, A family's ability and capacity to care for its individual members is central to building a strong community. We need to promote environments where families can care for themselves, and where there are external services available to help families. Family Services à la famille Ottawa is committed to promoting an inclusive and responsive society that acknowledges the unique face of each family and welcomes them into the community.

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<sup>5</sup> Middle Childhood Matters, A Framework to Promote Healthy Development of Children 6 to 12