

*An obligation of every Muslim is to be concerned about the plight of those less fortunate. They are always in our prayers.*

- Imam Shafiq Hudda, Islamic Humanitarian Service, Kitchener

*In these challenging economic times our government leaders are called to make difficult decisions that impact different sectors of the province both positively and negatively. The church prays weekly for our leaders in the decisions they make and particularly that they do not neglect the poor and vulnerable. Working in partnership, church and government can make a real difference.*

- Bishop Philip Poole, Anglican Diocese of Toronto

*This prayer vigil embodies the spirit of Psalm 102: 'A prayer for the poor when he is faint and pours forth his plea.' This is a prayer in which all Ontarians of faith and conscience should get involved.*

- Rabbi Aaron Levy, Toronto



### **Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition**

The Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC), representing Ontario's major faith communities, provides a strong religious voice of conscience on behalf of more than one million Ontarians who struggle with poverty. ISARC is redoubling its witness against poverty as the economic slump worsens.

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# ISARC

Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition

"Faith Communities In Action Against Poverty"

**Join us at the  
Interfaith Prayer Vigil  
*for the poor and our MPPs***

**March 2009**



## **Praying for justice for the poor and our MPPs**

As Ontario faces a deepening recession, people of faith are turning to prayer in their efforts to counter poverty and to care for Members of the Provincial Parliament. All people of faith are invited to join us.

Starting Tuesday, March 3 and continuing throughout March people from a range of religious traditions will be praying outside the Ontario Legislature for MPPs and for those hardest hit by the economic crisis. The vigil is organized by a coalition representing Ontario's faith communities called the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC).

The McGuinty government has committed itself to a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy. Yet recent statements by government leaders hint at tight purse strings as a long-awaited provincial budget draws near. The budget will be the litmus test of the government's commitment to the strategy.

Reflecting the compassion that guides people of faith, ISARC's Interfaith Prayer Vigil will take place each day from Monday through Thursday as a public witness to the commitment of people of faith to those hardest hit by a worsening economy. MPPs will also be remembered with prayers for their integrity, courage, and spiritual sustenance.

Two groups per day will come to Queen's Park where ISARC will have a prayer canopy in front of the legislative building. A morning shift will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and an afternoon shift from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. At noon, a religious leader will guide participants in prayer and reflection.

To participate, email ISARC at [isarc@rogers.com](mailto:isarc@rogers.com) or visit [www.isarc.ca](http://www.isarc.ca), and let us know which day you can come and whether you can do a morning or afternoon shift (or both). Let us know in advance when you are coming, so each day can be properly planned.

We welcome your participation – please bring a group from your congregation, synagogue, mosque or temple! Now is the time to come together to pray and remind ourselves, and our MPPs, of our responsibilities to the most vulnerable members of our society.



### **For more information please contact:**

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