

# Health Providers Against Poverty

Fall Digest 2015



HPAP members supporting the Fight for \$15 and Fairness

## HPAP Annual General Meeting

This spring, HPAP hosted our AGM. It was an exciting evening that saw over 30 new and existing members alike come together to celebrate HPAP's 10 year anniversary! The meeting opened with 3 inspiring speakers: HPAP founding member, Dr. Gary Bloch, spoke passionately about the evolution of HPAP over the years; John Clarke, of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, spoke about OCAP's activist campaigns, and the joint efforts and opportunities for HPAP to infuse a health perspective to the anti-poverty movement; then, Karen Cocq and Amelia White of the Worker's Action Centre shared their expertise about the rights of workers, highlighting a newer partnership with HPAP and how we can add to the important dialogue on the *Fight for \$15* (see below for more details). We then discussed activities for the coming year, which included the formalization of a steering committee and bylaws, and some targeted activities for the year ahead. It's amazing to see so many health providers against poverty!

## Action Alerts!

HPAP has been actively involved in the following campaigns. Check them out, share with your networks—and spread the word!



### Fight for \$15 and Fairness

Did you know Ontario's minimum wage is still well below the poverty line? The [Fight for \\$15 and Fairness](#) is a province-wide campaign (with movements and momentum in the US, BC and Nova Scotia), intent on improving conditions for workers. Demands include: a \$15 minimum wage; decent hours; paid sick days; respect at work; and rules that protect everyone. HPAP endorses this campaign and has been outspoken on the health impacts of precarious work, and how access to decent work is a health promoting intervention. HPAP has deputed at the [Changing Workplaces Review](#), furthering the messaging of the negative health impacts of precarious work.

HPAP will be circulating an update shortly on a specific action to galvanize health providers around the Fight for \$15 and paid sick days. Stay tuned!



**ODSP Reviews**—HPAP has been vocal in our concern of the ODSP Medical Review process, and together with allies, were successful in securing [a stay to the additional reviews](#). HPAP members continue to monitor this situation.

The ODSP Action Coalition has also been staging [monthly actions](#) towards reinstating, and raising related ODSP benefits, including the Work Related Benefit.



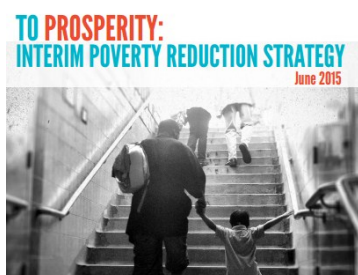
### Campaign for National Drug Coverage

HPAP endorses the Campaign for National Drug Coverage. Visit their [website](#) to see how you can support this important campaign and raise awareness of the need for national drug coverage. An action kit is available on the site.

[#nationaldrugcoverage](#)

### Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy

This summer, Toronto released its interim [Poverty Reduction Strategy](#). While supportive of the need for poverty eradication in Canada's largest city, HPAP made both in-person and written submissions, stressing the health impacts of poverty, and advocating firm targets and funding commitments. See our op-ed [here](#).



### Update from the Homeless Hub

As the Federal election looms, the [Homeless Hub](#) and the [Canadian Health Coalition](#) have prepared election guides. The Homeless Hub also discusses how to help patients and clients who are [lacking ID](#) to optimize their access to vote.



**Basic Income Canada Network**  
Réseau canadien pour le revenu garanti

Join the many signatories for the [Basic Income Guarantee](#)! To learn more about the evidence behind a basic guaranteed income, read of the foundational [MINCOME](#) study.

## HPAP—Membership update

Welcome [HPAP—Nova Scotia](#)!

As HPAP's membership continues to grow, we plan to circulate a survey to our near 400 members to learn more about you, and how we can continue our efforts, particularly how to engage areas outside of Toronto.

## HPAP—Monthly Meetings

The Steering Committee meets the 1st Thursday of each month, at 6:30pm, in Toronto. Details are circulated in advance. *New members are always welcome!*

For more frequent updates, connect with HPAP online:



[@HPAP\\_Ontario](#)



[Health Providers Against Poverty](#)



[hpagainstopoverty@gmail.com](mailto:hpagainstopoverty@gmail.com)

Check out our [new](#) website for op-eds, current actions, clinical tools and more!

[www.healthprovidersagainstopoverty.ca](http://www.healthprovidersagainstopoverty.ca)

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