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December 29, 1993

Hon. Tony Silipo. M.P.P.
Minister of Community and Social Services
6th Floor Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Silipo:

Thank you kindly for your letter of December 24th in response to my letter of December 2nd and my Notes on "Socio-Economic Options in Real Time" of November 30th. Frankly, I had counted on a more detailed reply.

Indeed, we are vitally interested in the financial implications of the Government's social assistance reform proposals. It is one way of determining which principles actually guide your planned reforms, and whether they will really benefit all who are directly affected by the new program design and the forthcoming legislation.

When will Ontario public interest groups and social justice organizations such as Citizens for Public Justice be given a fair opportunity to review and comment on the proposed program design, the draft legislation, and the actual principles and goals shaping them? What will be the deadlines and the process?

Together with the other participants in the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition and other Ontario social action networks, Citizens for Public Justice is monitoring the Government's plans, researching possible alternatives, and developing joint actions in support of adequate, equitable social policies and programs that meet the legitimate, human needs of vulnerable neighbours dependent on social assistance.

Your further, specific responses to the fundamental questions I raised in my extensive Notes of November 30th, as well as the details of the financial implications of your proposed reforms, will enable us and others to determine just how comprehensive and fair the new programs and draft legislation will be and to what degree we can publicly support the Government's initiatives.

Accordingly, we welcome more detailed information and specific answers to our questions and concerns.

Sincerely yours,

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c.c.: The Rev. David Pfrimmer, Chair
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