

## Petition to rescind the two year time limit on welfare benefits

Last updated: 1:32pm Tuesday, October 28th  
Started: Friday October 24, 2003

*To the Honourable Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia in Legislature assembled. The petition of the undersigned states that*

Whereas beginning on April 1, 2004 the provincial government is planning to deny or reduce welfare, regardless of need, to people who have been on assistance for more than two years out of five, and;

Whereas we believe that denying social assistance to a person in need violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, as well as international conventions that Canada is party to, and;

Whereas the official province-wide unemployment rate in British Columbia has risen to the highest level seen in a decade, and;

Whereas the time limits will impact some of the poorest people in the province, and those that are already struggling to deal with the impacts of other program and service cuts, and;

Whereas time limits effectively download provincial responsibility for people in need onto municipal governments as more hungry and homeless people are forced to seek food, shelter, and community support in our neighbourhoods, streets, and parks;

Therefore your petitioners respectfully request that the Honourable House rescind the law imposing a two year time limit on receiving income assistance benefits.

Sincerely, The Undersigned