

Back-to-school ... a time of great pressure for many low-income families and this year will be particularly hard



This September, some Ottawa children will go back to school without supplies

There are some local agencies and programs in Ottawa who collect and distribute school supplies and backpacks thanks to generous private donations and corporate partnerships.

But this year, there will be an increased demand and we need your help:

- Food prices have risen dramatically stretching family budgets to the limits
- Gas prices are making it more difficult for agencies to distribute the supplies
- Changes to social assistance rules mean families will no longer receive lump sum “back-to-school” and “winter clothing” allowances

Here’s how you can help:

- Donate cash or school supplies. Each donation makes a difference!
- Unions, businesses and charities can organize a drive or fundraiser to collect funds and school supplies and deliver them to participating agencies
- If you are already a donor, increase your support to help meet this year’s high demand
- Find ways to support these programs throughout the year. High school students in semester programs and many homework clubs need to replenish school supplies throughout the year

For more information on where to donate in your local community, Contact CAYFO (Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa) at (613) 244-3803

**18% of Canadian children live in low income families (Statistics Canada)
Every year, Ontarian parents spend an average of \$141.00 per child on school supplies**