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# The London Free Press

## IN TUESDAY'S PAPER

Campaign coverage! Look for the results of a new SES-Sun Media poll to find out who's got the edge as the Ontario horse race continues to unfold

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Tuesday, 25 September, 2007

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## NEWS LOCAL

### Growing poor don't register on agenda

Tue, September 18, 2007

By **KATHY RUMLESKI**, FREE PRESS REPORTER



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Daily, Jacqueline Thompson says she sees struggling ends me

The executive director Spin, a anti-pov agency, like to see parties in Ontario address of people poverty.

"There are people on paycheque

An SES thinks people years. In and 35 per cent when th

Only nine per cent poverty during that time and 15 per cent were not sure.

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"Instinctively, Ontarians don't think life has become better for those living below the poverty line," said Nik Nanos of of SES Research.

Ontario's poverty rolls have grown during the past four years. Welfare loads topped 200,000 cases this year and are up by 7,650 cases plus family members. A support program for disabled people who can't work has risen by 32,712 cases, plus dependents, since 2003.

While poverty hasn't been a major campaign issue, anti-poverty activists and the New Democrats warn more Ontarians will slip into poverty, and there will be more crime and social problems, unless the issues are addressed.

"You're going to see people falling further and further behind," said New Democrat Leader Howard Hampton, who blames Liberal policies.

The Liberals continue to "claw back" \$1,500 a year in national child benefits from low-income families and hit the poor with a "regressive" health-care tax, he said.

Political scientist Cameron Anderson of the University of Western Ontario said the poll results may underline economic uncertainty in Ontario.

"Clearly there's been a lot about loss of manufacturing jobs in the media," he said, noting the high Canadian dollar has been a contributor.

Anderson said when the Liberals took office, Ontario's unemployment rate was 6.9 per cent. It fell to 6.3 per cent last year but 2007 figures show it edging up to 6.6 per cent.

## News Headlines

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Student body shrinks again  
Western Fair looking skyward  
Premier goes on offensive  
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