

Halton welfare rolls are down 80 per cent

Five years after tough reforms came into effect, welfare rolls in Halton have fallen by almost 80 per cent.

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh says 5,605 Halton residents were collecting welfare payments in June, 1995. By the start of this month, that number dropped to 1,172.

The Halton numbers appear to be in sync with an Ontario-wide trend, which shows more than half a million people have left welfare rolls since 1995.


A booming economy and stringent social assistance reforms are responsible for moving people off assistance and into the workforce, said Mr. Chudleigh.

"Our welfare reforms and the strong Ontario economy continue to open doors for welfare recipients in Halton region," he said. "Through our programs, people are gaining the skills, experience and self-confidence they need to take advantage of job opportunities."

But there's still room for improvement, said Community and Social Services Minister John Baird. "Our government is not prepared to declare victory. Each and every welfare recipient deserves a chance to turn their life around by moving from welfare to work."

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