



Mr. Michael Parsa  
Parliamentary Assistant to the **Minister of Finance**  
c/o Budget Secretariat  
[submissions@ontario.ca](mailto:submissions@ontario.ca)

9 February 2022

**Re: 2022 Ontario Budget Consultations with Rural Ontario**

Dear Honourable Michael Parsa,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to Ontario Budget 2022 consultations and share our perspective from rural Ontario.

The [Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force](#) is made up of over 52 organizations, research institutions, community voices and government partners. We are focused on upstream interventions that address complex community health challenges, such as access to safe and clean menstrual products in our community.

We support the work that **It's Personal Period** is doing in our community. [It's Personal Period](#) is a grassroots, not-for-profit organization based serving Grey County and Bruce County. Their mission is to advance menstrual equity in Bruce Grey by addressing the impact period poverty has on the dignity and health of those who menstruate.

Menstrual products are a necessity, not a luxury. We know that we can't continue to rely on community food programs such as food banks to supply people with low income with menstrual products. We need to ensure equity to menstrual products, clean water and safe spaces. Reducing the awareness and reducing stigma is a critical health equity issue in our communities.

In a 2021, [Its Personal Period](#) carried out a local survey and found:

- 1 in 2 people included in the survey experienced period poverty in Grey Bruce
- 52% surveyed people struggled to access products
- 73% (3 in 4 people) missed work or school due to menstruation
- 40% were not informed of proper menstrual health

The provinces of British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have mandated free menstrual products in all public school bathrooms.

We thank the government for its commitment to provide 6 million menstrual products per year to school boards for the next 3 years. However, the number of promised pads does not meet the demand. It breaks down to only 10 pads per student per year. (Source: Period Purse, [CBC article](#), Oct 2021)

**We encourage the province to mandate free menstrual products** in all public school bathrooms.

**We encourage the province to support municipalities and cities to mandate free menstrual products** in all public washrooms.

**We encourage the province to mandate free menstrual products** in all work places.

We need to do more to encourage girls and women to participate in schools and the workplace; and remove all barriers related to menstrual health to ensure that.

Yours Sincerely,

Jill Umbach  
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