



**Ontario Energy Board**  
Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

# Ontario Low-Income Statistics

Analysis of StatsCan 2006 census data

## Data Sources

- Analysis performed on 2006 census data.
  - Responses are grouped based on a custom geography of LDC service territories.
  - Information regarding utility payments from long-form census.
    - Long-form census completed by 20% of population.
- LDC revenues and customer counts for electricity distributors taken from 2009 OEB yearbook.
  - 2009 data to be publicly released in September 2010.
- Data for gas distributors from 2008 OEB yearbook.



## Ontario: The big picture

- There are currently approximately 733,000 low-income (LI) households (HH) in Ontario.
  - Represents 16% of Ontario households (~4.5 million).
- Approximately 50% of those LI HHs pay for electricity directly and 9% pay for gas directly.



## Ontario: The big picture

	<b>Electricity</b>	<b>Gas</b>
<b>Distribution Revenue</b>	\$2.9 billion	\$1.75 billion
<b>Total Customers</b>	4.75 million	3.18 million
<b>Residential Customers</b>	4.26 million	2.9 million
<b>0.12% of Distribution Revenue</b>	\$3.5 million	\$2.1 million

**NOTE:** Gas industry data from 2008 OEB yearbook and electricity data from 2009 OEB yearbook



## Which LDCs have the greatest need for low-income assistance?

- The StatsCan data has provided estimated counts of the number of LI HHs in each LDC service territory.
- Size of service territory and number of customers varies widely between LDCs.
  - In addition, the percentage of customers paying bills varies between LDCs.
- Who has the largest low-income funding need?
  - Utilities with most LI HHs in their territory?
  - Utilities whose customer base is made up primarily of LI HHs?



# Which LDCs have the most LI HHs?

## Most Total LI HHs in Ontario

LDC Name	# of LI HH
Toronto Hydro	86,445
Hydro One Networks	53,630
Horizon Utilities	30,645
PowerStream	25,605
Enersource	15,215
London Hydro	12,410
Hydro One Brampton	10,015
EnWin Utilities	8,365
Veridian Connections	7,085
Kitchener-Wilmot	5,475

## Largest % of LI customers per LDC

LDC Name	LI HH as %
Kingston Elec. Distr.	19.37%
Horizon Utilities Inc.	16.72%
Toronto Hydro-Electric	15.82%
Hydro Hawkesbury	15.72%
Hydro 2000	14.97%
Ottawa River Power	14.35%
North Bay Hydro	13.54%
Renfrew Hydro	13.20%
Parry Sound	13.06%
Peterborough	13.00%



# Percentage of Low-Income Households paying an electricity utility bill

## Most LI HHs paying utils.

LDC Name	% LI HH
Innisfil Hydro	90.82%
Grimsby Power	85.00%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	83.93%
Wasaga Distribution	80.65%
Haldimand County	80.27%
COLLUS Power	78.02%
Algoma Power	77.33%
Norfolk Power	76.63%
Atikokan Hydro	74.42%
Clinton Power Corp	74.36%

## Fewest LI HHs paying utils.

LDC Name	% LI HH
Toronto Hydro	34.80%
Greater Sudbury Hydro	39.56%
Chapleau Publ. Util.	42.31%
PUC Distribution	42.47%
Hearst Power Distribution	42.47%
Hydro Hawkesbury	42.86%
Northern Ontario Wires	43.72%
Enersource Hydro	44.28%
Kingston Elec. Distrib.	44.65%
Espanola Regional Hydro	44.74%



## Available funds per LI customer under LEAP (using 0.12% of distribution revenue)

- Under LEAP, 0.12% of distribution revenue to be collected by each distributor for financial assistance programs.
- Ontario has many varied distributors and service territories.
- By calculating the available funds (under LEAP) and dividing by the total number of low-income customers for each utility we can see which utilities may have the most demand for funds.





# Available funds per LI customer under LEAP (using 0.12% of distribution revenue)

## LDCs with most available funds

LDC Name	\$/LI HH
Algoma Power	\$36.29
Sioux Lookout	\$34.53
Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro	\$23.90
Hydro One Net.	\$23.66
Milton Hydro	\$21.16
Brant County	\$19.88
Halton Hills	\$16.01
Chapleau Publ. Util.	\$15.05
West Perth	\$14.75
Haldimand County	\$13.67

## LDCs with least available funds

LDC Name	\$/LI HH
Hydro Hawkesbury	\$3.00
Horizon Utilities	\$3.48
Kingston Elec. Distrib.	\$3.94
Welland Hydro	\$4.23
Ottawa River Power	\$4.87
Hydro 2000 Inc.	\$5.06
Renfrew Hydro	\$5.18
Peterborough Distr.	\$5.32
North Bay Hydro	\$5.38
Chatham-Kent Hydro	\$5.50



## Gas utility low-income statistics

<b>Gas Utility</b>	<b>Enbridge</b>	<b>Union</b>
<b>Residential Cust. (2008 Yearbook)</b>	1,748,000	1,152,665
<b>HHs paying bills*</b>	1,758,025	1,350,775
<b>LI HHs w/ bills</b>	163,550	104,270
<b>% LI HHs with access to LEAP funds</b>	33.31%	40.24%
<b>% of utility customers that are LI</b>	9.30%	7.72%
<b>% of service territory population that is LI</b>	17.57%	13.78%
<b>LEAP \$/LI HH</b>	\$7.75	\$7.99

\* Includes oil, gas, coal, wood or other fuels



## Can we improve our estimates of gas utility low-income statistics?

- StatsCan totals include other sources of heating fuel and result in counts greater than utility reported customer counts.
- Filter data to exclude homes built before 1961.
  - Less likely to have gas.
- Enbridge estimated approximately 104,000 LI HHs with gas bills in previous consultation.



## Gas utility low-income statistics (using period of construction from 1961-present)

<b>Gas Utility</b>	<b>Enbridge</b>	<b>Union</b>
<b>Residential Cust. (2008 Yearbook)</b>	1,748,000	1,152,665
<b>HHs paying bills</b>	1,247,365	864,690
<b>LI HHs w/ bills</b>	105,895	56,485
<b>% LI HHs with access to LEAP funds</b>	29.95%	35.20%
<b>% of utility customers that are LI</b>	8.49%	6.53%
<b>% of service territory population that is LI</b>	17.38%	12.93%
<b>LEAP \$/LI HH</b>	\$11.96	\$14.74

