



Meeting minutes

Approved

RE: *Emergency Financial Assistance Working Group - Meeting 2*

Date: July 7, 2009 Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: OEB Office, 2300 Yonge St., 27th floor

Attendees: **Emergency Financial Assistance Working Group (FAWG)**

- Julie Girvan, Consumers Council of Canada (CCC);
- Gord Eamer, Cornerstone Hydro Electric Concepts (CHEC);
- Jack Lenartowicz, Coalition of Large Distributors (CLD);
- Svetlana Diomin, Direct Energy;
- Lisa McCarney, Enbridge Gas Distribution (Enbridge);
- Mary Anne Rowlands, Housing Help of Ontario;
- Barb Allen, Hydro One Networks (Hydro One);
- Sarah Blackstock, Low Income Energy Network (LIEN);
- Jennifer Lopinski, Low Income Energy Network (LIEN);
- Chris Goethel, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MEI);
- Gladys Wong, Neighbourhood Information Post (NIP);
- David Whitehouse, Peterborough Distribution Inc. (PDI).
- Debra Johnston, Salvation Army Centre of Hope;
- Patricia Phillips, Union Gas (Union);
- Steve Lavery, United Way;
- William Harper, Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition/Energy Probe (VECC)

Board Staff

- Takis Plagiannakos,
- Guy Halpern,
- Rachel Anderson

IndEco Staff

- Judy Simon,
- Shona Adamson,
- Patti Campbell

Regrets:

- Chantelle Bramley, Direct Energy;
- Manny Sousa, Enbridge Gas Distribution (Enbridge);
- Jackie Callie, Union Gas (Union);
- Michael Buonaguro, Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition/Energy Probe (VECC)

Next scheduled meeting: July 21, 2009



Welcome - All

- Board staff welcomed the group to the second meeting of the emergency Financial Assistance Working Group (FAWG)
- Each participant provided a brief introduction

Review of the meeting agenda – Judy Simon, Facilitator

- Reviewed the meeting agenda to ensure that participants understood the information and activities taking place over the course of the day

Review and approval of meeting 1 minutes- Judy Simon, Facilitator

- Group adopted minutes of meeting 1 (June 30) subject to noted corrections

Coordination with CWG - Judy Simon, Facilitator

- Updated working group on the general agreement expressed by CWG regarding the two key emergency financial assistance eligibility criteria presented at the meeting

External presentations on Emergency Financial Assistance

- Presentation via conference call by Kevin Lockhart of the Ministry of Community and Social Services on the Emergency Energy Fund for low-income consumers

Adoption of guiding principles – Judy Simon, Facilitator

- Reviewed the revised guiding principles for the emergency financial assistance framework and held a detailed round table discussion on additional revisions to the guiding principles

Presentations from FAWG members on low-income emergency financial assistance programs, issues, and lessons learned

- Presentations from: Svetlana Diomin, Direct Energy; Jennifer Lopinski, LIEN; Mary Anne Rowlands, Housing Help Association of Ontario; Gladys Wong, Neighbourhood Information Post; David Whitehouse, PDI; Debra Johnston, Salvation Army Centre of Hope; Steve Lavery, United Way

Presentation of revised framework elements - Judy Simon, Facilitator

- Reviewed the elements of the framework
- Reviewed and agreed to the definition of the elements to be used in the development of the framework
- Advised members to include roles and responsibilities under each element of the framework
- There was continued discussion on the eligibility criteria. For a number of criteria either full or partial agreement was reached, while several criteria



require further discussion by the working group. The eligibility criteria will continue to be refined as the working group progresses through their analysis and recommendations

Action Items

The following actions were identified throughout the FAWG meeting:

- Board Staff to provide formal confirmation that funding for LEAP is coming from all ratepayers through cost allocation across all rate classes, and explain on what basis the cost allocation is being determined
- Board staff to undertake an analysis to provide information on which to base a determination by the working group on whether the eligibility criterion of LICO for an urban population of 500,000 is too high
- FAWG members to provide statistics that they consider to be most useful as indicators for determining the funding cap/emergency assistance for working group consideration at the next meeting
- Distribution utilities to provide information on their disconnection processes, average size of customer bill arrears, and the average level of funding paid out by Winter Warmth
- Board staff to investigate the number of low-income homeowners who participated in the Winter Warmth program and could have taken advantage of DSM low-income program measures