



Approved Meeting minutes

RE: *Emergency Financial Assistance Working Group - Meeting 4*

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

Location: OEB Office, 2300 Yonge St., 25th 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;
- Manny Sousa, 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);
- John Bagnall, Neighbourhood Information Post (NIP);
- David Whitehouse, Peterborough Distribution Inc. (PDI);
- Debra Johnston, Salvation Army Centre of Hope;
- Jackie Caille, Union Gas (Union);
- Michael Buonaguro, Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition/Energy Probe (VECC)

Board Staff

- Takis Plagiannakos,
- Alison Cazalet,
- Rachel Anderson,
- Guy Halpern

IndEco Staff

- Shona Adamson,
- Patti Campbell,
- Amy Snook

Regrets:

- Chantelle Bramley, Direct Energy;
- Patricia Phillips, Union Gas (Union);
- Steve Lavery, United Way;
- William Harper, Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition/Energy Probe (VECC)

Next scheduled meeting: August 18, 2009



Welcome, introductions, and logistics - Shona Adamson, Facilitator

- Facilitator welcomed the group to the fourth meeting of the emergency Financial Assistance Working Group (FAWG)

Review of the meeting agenda – Shona Adamson, 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 3 minutes- Shona Adamson, Facilitator

- Group adopted minutes of meeting 3 (July 21) subject to noted corrections
- Board staff confirmed that funding for LEAP is from all rate classes; however the Board has not made a decision on cost allocation

Presentations from Low Income Energy Network, Salvation Army Centre of Hope, Hydro One, Housing Help Association of Ontario/Neighbourhood Information Post, Direct Energy

- Groups presented their proposed framework for the emergency financial assistance program for low-income energy consumers.
- Roundtable discussion on additional suggestions from working group
- Reviewed elements of the framework common to the presentations

External presentation on low-income metrics – Xuelin Zhang, Statistics Canada

- Presentation via conference call by Xuelin Zhang, Senior Research Analyst, Income Statistics, Statistics Canada. Three low-income metrics were discussed: Low-Income Cut Off (LICO), Low-Income Measure (LIM), and Market Based Measure (MBM).

Presentation of utilities' franchise areas, electric utilities' service territories – Rachel Anderson Board staff

- Board staff presented a series of maps outlining the franchise and service territory distribution of the gas and electricity utilities as well as social service regions. Board staff also presented a suggested breakdown of the province into regions for the administration of the emergency financial assistance program.



Action Items

The following actions were identified throughout the FAWG meeting:

- Working group members to complete the framework template for August 10th and submit to IndEco
- IndEco to begin preparing draft report
- Board staff to review the type of data compiled by utilities on collection activities as required in the Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements and the collection activities in other jurisdictions