

Minister of Energy
and Infrastructure

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SEP - 8 2009

Mr. Howard I. Wetston, QC

Chair

Ontario Energy Board

PO Box 2319

2300 Yonge Street

Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Mr. ^{Howard}Wetston:

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure is in the process of planning to implement a provincewide integrated program for low-income energy consumers as we move forward with the *Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009* (GEA).

As you may be aware, the ministry has commissioned the Canadian Council on Social Development to report on the profile of the low-income sector in Ontario and deliver recommendations regarding the implementation of a low-income program that aligns with the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the GEA. This report will provide useful background information to consider in the development of Ontario's new plans.

I am writing to ensure that the Ontario Energy Board is aware of these plans and request that matters related to new support programs for low-income energy consumers not be put in place in advance of a ministerial direction.

I am aware of and pleased with the thoroughness of the Board's own examination of the various issues pertaining to low-income energy consumers in Ontario, which has identified barriers to participation and delivery of low-income energy programs in the province and endeavoured to build consensus among stakeholders about how to move forward to overcome these barriers. I invite the Board to brief me on the Low-income Energy Assistance working groups' findings and have asked my staff to contact the Board to arrange this.

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It is my expectation that we will build on the work already completed through the low-income consultations the Board held in September 2008, as well as the work of the Low-income Energy Assistance working groups this summer. We will continue to consult with stakeholders including utilities, non-governmental organizations, municipalities and social service agencies to gather the perspectives needed to successfully implement the provincial program.

I look forward to working together on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Smitherman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

George Smitherman
Deputy Premier, Minister