

Dear Chief and Council

Please see information below from CMHC for community members that require financial assistance to pay for Hydroelectricity this winter. It is important to act quickly as funds are available now until depleted.

LEAP

What: The Ontario Energy Board implemented the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) to assist customers with limited financial resources. The program is administered by a variety of agencies throughout Ontario. Hydro One works with the lead agency who administers the program directly to customers.

Note: Customers must apply for the LEAP program directly through the United Way.

There are 3 Programs to help Low-Income Consumers:

1. Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) - starting January 2016

- A new program is starting in 2016 that provides low-income consumers with a monthly on-bill credit to reduce their electricity bill.
- You can begin applying for the program in mid-October 2015. On-bill credits will begin for electricity used starting January 2016. The amount of the monthly credit will depend on how many people live in your home and your combined household income

<http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/oeb/Consumers/Consumer%20Protection/Help%20for%20Low-Income%20Energy%20Consumers/Ontario%20Electricity%20Support%20Program%20%28OESP%29>

2. Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)

- Emergency financial assistance – This program provides a one-time grant towards your electricity or natural gas bill if you are temporarily unable to make ends meet in an emergency situation.
- Low-income customers can get up to \$500 in emergency assistance for your electricity bills (\$600 if your home is heated electrically) and \$500 for gas bills.
- The assistance is only available if you are behind on your bill – or in arrears – and may face having your service shut off (disconnected). It is for emergency situations only and is not meant to provide you with ongoing help to pay your bills. (You cannot receive more money than you owe on your bill)
- Utility - Social Agency Partnerships for the Delivery of LEAP Emergency Financial Assistance can be found in the PDF attachment below:

3. Energy Conservation

- Utilities offer programs that can help you reduce your energy use and lower your overall household costs.
- Electricity and natural gas utilities have free conservation programs that can help. These programs offer energy savings kits and/or equipment that can be installed to help improve energy efficiency, which can result in ongoing savings for households
- Visit the saveONenergy website (<https://www.saveonenergy.ca>) and enter your postal code to see what programs are offered in your area.

Next Steps/Process:

The Lead Agency is the United Way of Greater Simcoe County. Please call them at 1-855-487-5327 (1-855-its-leap) and an agency representative will guide you. The agency has the expertise and knowledge to assess individual needs and coordinate access to the most appropriate support programs.

Note: The 2015 LEAP program is open and accepting applications for grants. The program will be available until the amount of the fund has been depleted.

Sincerely

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