

**Ministry of Community  
and Social Services**

Minister's Office

Hepburn Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1E9  
Tel.: (416) 325-5225  
Fax: (416) 325-3347

**Ministère des Services  
sociaux et communautaires**

Bureau de la ministre

Édifice Hepburn  
Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1E9  
Tél. : 416 325-5225  
Télééc. : 416 325-3347



**MAR 25 2010**

Mr. J. Ray Chenier  
Chair  
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board  
210 Mead Boulevard  
Espanola, Ontario  
P5E 1R9

Dear Mr. Chenier:

Thank you for your letters containing Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) resolutions regarding Territories without Municipal Organizations (TWOMO) elections funding and Ontario Works food and shelter adequacy. I appreciate the time you have taken to write and welcome the opportunity to respond.

As you may know, my ministry is currently reviewing the TWOMO election process, including the Election Resource Guide, which will be updated for the 2010 TWOMO elections. We anticipate that the 2010 Election Resource Guide will be released in Spring of 2010. Please note that we are also reviewing the funding structure for the 2010 TWOMO elections and the outcome of these reviews will be communicated in the near future. I would like to assure you that we will take the suggestions of your organization into consideration as we move forward with our review of the election guide and the election funding structure.

I would also like to take this opportunity to address the concerns raised regarding Ontario Works food and shelter adequacy. Our government is always looking for ways to improve our programs to more effectively support clients in moving to employment. As you are aware, the Poverty Reduction Strategy includes a review of social assistance with the goal of removing barriers and increasing opportunity.

The review will seek to better align social assistance with other supports that clients may access, better communicate program rules and ensure programs work collectively. This complements the commitment we have made to work with our municipal partners to simplify and modernize social assistance, better integrate employment services and harmonize housing supports.

.../cont'd

As you may know, a group of highly experienced and committed community leaders, chaired by Gail Nyberg, Executive Director of the Daily Bread Food Bank, has been selected to help facilitate the review. The Social Assistance Review Advisory Council will help shape a review of the social assistance system and suggest ways to better support vulnerable Ontarians as they transition to greater independence. I have asked the council to advise me on:

- possible short-term changes to social assistance rules; and
- a recommended scope and terms of reference for a review of Ontario's social assistance system.

You can learn more about the council's work and give them your feedback on my ministry's website at [www.ontario.ca/mcss](http://www.ontario.ca/mcss).

In addition, our government's 2009 Budget included a two per cent increase to social assistance rates, which provides recipients with an additional \$40 million in 2009–10 and an extra \$100 million in 2010–11. This is the fifth increase made to the rates since 2005, bringing the total increase to 11 per cent.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Madeleine Meilleur  
Minister