

TO: MCSS Community Agencies

FROM: Minister Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services

I am writing to you today to let you know how much I appreciate the work that front-line agency staff do each and every day, especially their support and advocacy on behalf of some of Ontario's most vulnerable individuals and families. I have had the opportunity to visit many agencies across Ontario and have seen first-hand the work that you do and the impact it has.

I would like to provide you with some very important information about an announcement that I hope will provide you with some budgetary relief. Our government has heard that many Ontarians were struggling with the cost of their hydro bills. This is why, under the leadership of Premier Wynne, we came forward with a plan that will provide immediate, substantial, wide-spread and long-lasting relief.

Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan is about delivering relief to ratepayers struggling with the cost of electricity, as well as agencies such as yours, who have also been expressing concerns about the growing costs of some of the overhead expenses you are paying.

This means, every single customer on the Regulated Price Plan – nearly 5 million ratepayers – will receive an average 25% reduction on their hydro bill.

This captures every household in Ontario as well as half a million other small ratepayers – small businesses, farms, long-term care homes, community agencies, and more.

If your agency pays Time-Of-Use prices on your bill, you will be receiving this benefit.

Who is eligible for the 25% reduction announced in Ontario's Fair Hydro Program?

All electricity consumers eligible for the Regulated Price Plan (RPP) would be eligible for the 25% reduction.

- 1. Low-volume consumers.**
- 2. A consumer who has a peak demand of 50 kilowatts or less at any one moment.**
- 3. A consumer who has an account with a distributor, if the account relates to,**
 - i. a dwelling;
 - ii. a property as defined in the *Condominium Act, 1998*;
 - iii. a residential complex as defined in the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*; or

- iv. a property that includes one or more dwellings and that is owned or leased by a co-operative as defined in the *Co-operative Corporations Act*.

4. A consumer who uses at least 150,000 but not more than 250,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually.

- For your reference, the average Toronto home uses 9,000 kilowatt hours annually.

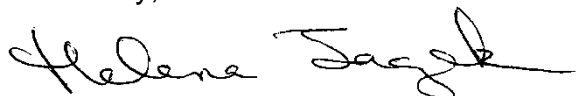
My ministry will continue to work together with the Ministry of Energy to determine additional ways in which we can help with the costs of electricity bills.

If you have any questions about eligibility, please contact your local utility. For more information about this and other changes that may assist you to manage your agency's energy costs, I encourage you to please visit:

<https://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2016/09/ontario-reducing-electricity-costs-for-families-and-businesses.html>.

Once again, thank you for the work you do every day in supporting vulnerable individuals who depend on you and the valuable services you provide. You are providing them with the ability and right to live a more inclusive life in their community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helena Jaczek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Helena Jaczek
Minister