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Established: March 7, 1896 Office of the Clerk Treasurer, CAO E-mail: nairncentre@personainternet.com

June 18, 2018

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Minister

RE: Portable Housing Benefit

Please be advised that our Council adopted the following resolution at their meeting of June 11, 2018:

**MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT SERVICES BOARD – RE PORTABLE HOUSING
BENEFIT**

RESOLUTION # 2018-8-153

MOVED BY: Riet Wigzell

SECONDED BY: Katherine Bourrier

RESOLVED: that council supports the resolution adopted by the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, resolution number 18-42, regarding the Provincial Portable Housing Benefit program.

CARRIED

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Deschene,
CAO-Clerk-Treasurer
RD/mb

cc. Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
Carole Hughes, MP, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
Minister of Housing, 777 Bay Street, 17th Floor, Toronto, ON M5G 2E5



RESOLUTION 18-42

DATE: May 24, 2018

MOVED BY: David Leonard

SECONDED BY: Bill Baker

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Housing Benefit - Issue Report and is recommending approval of this report to the Board; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is extremely concerned that the Provincial Portable Housing Benefit only accounts for the actual rent paid and does not consider any additional amounts paid by the tenant for heat, hydro or other utility costs; and

WHEREAS this is of particular concern in Northern Ontario where natural gas is not available in many communities and Hydro One rates are exorbitant and creating a Provincial Portable Housing Benefit that **does not** include any additional costs of heat and utilities paid by the tenant, in addition to rent, is a real concern for Northerners.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the Housing Benefit - Issue Report and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report; and

FURTHER THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB encourage the Federal and Provincial governments to ensure flexibility within their proposed Federal and Provincial Housing Benefits as one size fits all does not work well for Northern Ontario, particularly for small rural and remote communities whose existing resources are stretched to the maximum; and

FURTHER THAT both levels of government ensure the that any additional costs of heat and utilities paid by tenants, in addition to rent, is included in the calculation of the Housing Benefit; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution and Issue Report be forwarded to the Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and Hon. Peter Milczyn, Provincial Minister of Housing; and

FURTHER THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB share this motion and supporting materials with DSB member municipalities, AMO, FONOM, NOMA, OMSSA, HSC and ONPHA.

Carried

Leslie Gambel

CHAIR

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS	MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
BAKER, BILL			LEVESQUE, MICHAEL		
DUFOUR, RAY			LOVELACE, EDGAR		
DUPLESSIS, KEN			MACNEVIN, AL		
GAMBLE, LESLIE			RUSSELL, ERIC		
GORHAM, VERN			SCHOPPMANN, PAUL		
KILLAH, BRUCE			WENBORNE, DEAN		
LEONARD, DAVID			ROOK, JIM		



May 25, 2018

Honourable Peter Milczyn
Minister of Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON
M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Milczyn,

Portable Housing Benefit

Please find attached an Issue Report and Resolution passed at the May 24, 2018 Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) meeting.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is extremely concerned that the Provincial Portable Housing Benefit only accounts for the actual rent paid and does not consider any additional amounts paid by the tenant for heat, hydro or other utility costs.

This is of particular concern in Northern Ontario where natural gas is not available in many communities and Hydro One rates are exorbitant.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB encourages the Federal and Provincial governments to ensure flexibility within their proposed Federal and Provincial Housing Benefits as one size fits all does not work well for Northern Ontario, particularly for small rural and remote communities whose existing resources are stretched to the maximum.

Sincerely,

Les Gamble, Chair

cc. Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development



Conseil des Services du District de
Manitoulin-Sudbury
District Services Board

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Espanola, ON P5E 1R9
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<http://www.msdsb.net>

May 25, 2018

Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
House of Commons
Ottawa ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Duclos,

Portable Housing Benefit

Please find attached an Issue Report and Resolution passed at the May 24, 2018 Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) meeting.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is extremely concerned that the Provincial Portable Housing Benefit only accounts for the actual rent paid and does not consider any additional amounts paid by the tenant for heat, hydro or other utility costs.

The details of the Federal Portable Housing Benefit which on average with provide \$2,500 per year are not yet available and we are also concerned that the Federal Portable Housing Benefit may not consider any additional amounts paid by the tenant for heat, hydro or other utility costs.

This is of particular concern in Northern Ontario where natural gas is not available in many communities and Hydro One rates are exorbitant.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB encourages the Federal and Provincial governments to ensure flexibility within their proposed Federal and Provincial Housing Benefits as one size fits all does not work well for Northern Ontario, particularly for small rural and remote communities whose existing resources are stretched to the maximum.

Sincerely,

Les Gamble, Chair

cc. Hon. Peter Milczyn, Minister of Housing



Report to:	Program Planning Committee
From:	Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services Anne Quenneville, Ontario Works Program Supervisor
Date:	May 23, 2018
Re:	Housing Benefit - Issue Report

Background

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board has been administering the DSS program for over 10 years now. The program has been as a result of municipal and provincial funding through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and the Investment in Affordable Housing Fund (IAH).

Federal Canada Housing Benefit

The Federal government has announced a Canada Housing Benefit that would provide 300,000 households with financial assistance. The Federal government will allocate \$4 billion for the Canada Housing Benefit, which will help families by providing an average rent subsidy of \$2,500 annually beginning in April 2020 and concluding in 2028.

There are no specific details on how the Canada Housing Benefit would be calculated but at an average rent subsidy of \$2,500 annually that will provide \$208 per month and the current DSB program already pays to a maximum of \$3,600 annually or \$300 monthly.

Provincial Portable Housing Benefit

Ontario will be launching the Portable Housing Benefit program to help people find safe and affordable housing beyond traditional rent-geared-to-income (RGI) social housing assistance.

A portable housing benefit is a monthly subsidy (housing allowance) provided to a low-income household to assist with housing costs. Unlike other forms of housing assistance, the benefit is tied to the household and not a physical housing unit allowing the benefit to move with the household. The portable housing benefit would give people more flexibility to choose where they live, while encouraging economic and social inclusion.

The portable housing benefit framework would provide an alternative tool for Service System Managers to use to provide housing assistance alongside RGI assistance. A portable housing benefit may be the best form of assistance for some households while others may benefit more from RGI assistance.

Generally, the amount of a portable housing benefit is calculated on the difference between at least 80 per cent of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Average Market Rent (AMR) for an appropriately sized rental unit, based on household composition, and 30 percent of the household's adjusted family net income (AFNI).

$\text{Monthly Portable Benefit Amount} = (\text{AMR} \times 80\%) - \frac{\text{AFNI} \times 30\%}{12}$
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On an annual review, adjusted family net income (AFNI) is equal to the net income of each member of the household aged 16 and older, excluding dependents attending a recognized educational institution.

The portable housing benefit only accounts for the actual rent paid and **does not** include any additional amounts paid by the tenant for heat, hydro or other utility costs. This is of particular concern in Northern Ontario where natural gas is not available in many communities and Hydro One rates are exorbitant. In addition, creating a Provincial Portable Housing Benefit that **does not** include the additional cost of heat and utilities paid by tenants, in addition to rent, is a real concern for Northerners.

Comparing the Provincial PHB with the DSB's DSS program

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is currently offering a very similar program to the residents in the Manitoulin-Sudbury District. The biggest difference between the two programs is that the PHB does not consider the actual cost of accommodations paid while the DSS program does account for the total actual cost of accommodations paid for by the tenant including heat, hydro and any other utilities.

The current DSS program is funded through a mix of municipal dollars as well as provincial dollars. The breakdown is as follows:

Program	Amount
Municipal	\$ 149, 083
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative	\$ 295, 268
Investment in Affordable Housing Fund	\$ 121, 678
TOTAL	\$ 566, 029

We are currently providing Direct Shelter Subsidy to approximately 180 families with these funds.

If the province informs us that we can no longer operate the DSB Direct Shelter Subsidy program and that we must abide the Portable Housing Benefit formula, it would have the following affects on our current **180 Families** receiving DSS:

- 32 Families or 18%:** would loose their housing benefit
- 94 Families or 52%:** would qualify for the PHB benefit but at a much-reduced rate because any amounts paid by the tenant for heat, hydro or other utility costs utilities are not included in PHB
- 15 Families or 8%:** would see no change as their rent includes all utilities
- 39 Families or 22%:** would be at an advantage with the PHB however the amount of money allocated to them would not include the full shelter costs.

Conclusion

Based on our current analysis **126 families or 70%** of the 180 families currently receiving Direct Shelter Subsidy would be worse off if the provincial Portable Housing Benefit rules became mandatory.

Staff are recommending that the Board encourage the Federal and Provincial governments to ensure flexibility within their proposed Federal and Provincial Housing Benefits.

Creating a Provincial Portable Housing Benefit that **does not** include the additional cost of heat and utilities paid by tenants, in addition to rent, is a real concern for Northerners.

This is of particular concern in Northern Ontario where natural gas is not available in many communities and Hydro One rates are exorbitant. A one size fits all does not work well for Northern Ontario, particularly for small rural and remote communities whose existing resources are stretched to the maximum.