



November 4, 2015

ATTENTION: ONTARIO FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES AND FRIENDSHIP CENTRES

Re: The Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) Now Accepting Applications

In spring 2015, the Ontario Energy Board committed to launching the new Ontario Electricity Support Program to help reduce electricity bills for eligible lower-income households. The program becomes effective on January 1, 2016 and will provide a monthly on-bill credit for eligible households for electricity used on and after January 1, 2016.

I am very pleased to confirm that the program is now open and ready to start accepting applications.

The OEB engaged with First Nations to determine how best to tailor this program to address the needs of your communities. In response, the OESP provides a higher level of support to lower-income First Nations households, in recognition of the unique challenges that may lead to higher electricity use and costs. The average credit for an eligible First Nations electricity customer, from a lower-income household, is between \$45 and \$75 a month.

We are working with the Ontario Native Welfare Administrators' Association (ONWAA) to provide on-site, face-to-face assistance in many communities. This will provide your community members with the opportunity to complete the application with personal support.

For more information please contact ONWAA at 1-844-885-3157 or email oesp@onwaa.com.

To help you answer questions from your members, attached is a backgrounder and some questions and answers. In the next few weeks you can also expect to receive brochures and posters in one or more of the following languages: English/Cree (Mushkegowuk), English/Cree (Plains), English/Oji-Cree and English/Ojibway. An English copy of both the brochure and poster is attached for your information.

Province-wide newspaper advertising about the OESP will begin in early November 2015. This advertising includes tailored newspaper and radio ads for First Nations communities.

We hope this material will be helpful to you and your members.

Thank you for your help in promoting the Ontario Electricity Support Program. The more people we reach, the more we are able to ensure lower-income households are aware of the program and its benefits.

Meegwetch.

Rosemarie T. Leclair
Chair and Chief Executive Officer