

HS-C2-1

Ministry of Community and Social Services

Ministère des Services Sociaux et Communautaires



Ontario Works Branch
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October 7, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Ontario Works Administrators
- Municipalities and DSSABs
- First Nations

Regional Directors
Municipal Services Managers
Municipal Program Supervisors

FROM: Erin Hannah
Director
Ontario Works

RE: Ontario Works Two Per Cent Rate Increase

As you are aware, in the 2009 Ontario Budget, the government announced a two per cent increase to social assistance rates.

To support this commitment, regulations were filed on October 2, 2009, to increase Ontario Works rates and asset limits. These changes will be effective December 1, 2009. Appendices A-F provide the new rate tables of those rates impacted by the increase and the new asset limits. In addition to these, the following rates were also increased by two per cent:

- Dependents of Dependents
• Residents of Interval and Transition Homes
• Advanced Age Amount
• Special Boarder Allowance
• Guide Dog Benefit
• Temporary Care Assistance

Table with 2 columns: COPY TO, FOR. Rows include Chair, CAO, Corporate Services, Environment, Transportation and Planning Services, Employee and Business Services, Finance, Health Services, Human Services, Peel Living.

Please note that the age-related and sole support supplements that are included in the renters and owners basic needs amount were excluded from the rate increase calculation.

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

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Under the *Ontario Works Act, 1997*, the Director of Ontario Works has the authority to increase emergency hostel per diems. Effective December 1, 2009, per diem amounts will increase by two per cent to \$42.50 per day for board and lodging, and up to a maximum of \$46.70 per day, where emergency hostel operators provide personal items and/or money in addition to board and lodging.

Please note that the Ontario Government will pay 100% of the cost of the two per cent increase in rates for the 2009 calendar year. Municipalities will not have to share in the cost of the two per cent increase until 2010.

Revised directives will be available December 1, 2009, for Ontario Works. In the meantime, updated rate tables may be accessed on the e-laws website:

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_980134_e.htm

Lastly, a cheque insert will be included with the December 2009 Ontario Works cheques/direct bank deposit (DBD) statements to provide recipients with information on the increase.

Please ensure that this information is shared with all staff. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jeff Bowen at 416-325-6272.

Original signed by

Erin Hannah

c. Norm Helfand, Director, Ontario Disability Support Program Branch
Maxine Daley, Director, Social Assistance and Municipal Operations Branch
Jeff Bowen, Manager, Ontario Works Branch

APPENDIX A

Basic Needs

- The amount payable for basic needs for applicants or recipients who rent or own their homes is determined in accordance with the following table:

No. of Dependants other than a spouse	Dependants 18 Years or Older	Dependants 0-17 Years	Recipient	Recipient and spouse
0	0	0	\$221	\$438
1	0	1	341	438
	1	0	547	574
2	0	2	341	438
	1	1	547	574
	2	0	683	726
3	0	3	341	438
	1	2	547	574
	2	1	683	726
	3	0	836	879
For each additional dependant:				
add \$153 if the dependant is 18 years of age or older,				
or \$0 if the dependant is 0-17 years of age.				

Northern Allowance

- If the applicant or recipient resides north of the 50th parallel and is without year round road access, an amount payable for basic needs is determined in accordance with the following table:

Number of Dependants Other than a Spouse	Recipient	Recipient and Spouse
0	\$152	\$226
1	251	272
2	293	315
For each additional dependant, add \$43.		

APPENDIX B

Shelter

- The maximum amount payable for shelter is set out in the following table:

Benefit Unit Size	Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance
1	\$364
2	572
3	620
4	674
5	726
6 or more	753

APPENDIX C

Board and Lodging

- The amount paid for board and lodging is up to a maximum set out in the following table:

No. of Dependants other than a spouse	Dependants 18 Years or Older	Dependants 0-17 Years	Recipient	Recipient and spouse
0	0	0	\$400	\$611
1	0	1	559	665
	1	0	665	701
2	0	2	620	716
	1	1	726	752
	2	0	767	786
3	0	3	678	767
	1	2	784	803
	2	1	825	837
	3	0	861	871
For each additional dependant of a sole support parent:				
add \$101 if the dependant is 18 years of age or older				
add \$58 if the dependant is 0 - 17 years of age				
Otherwise, for each additional dependant:				
add \$88 if the dependant is 18 years of age or older				
add \$51 if the dependant is 0 - 17 years of age				

Northern Allowance

- If the applicant or recipient resides north of the 50th parallel and is without year round road access, the board and lodging amount is determined in accordance with the following table:

Number of Dependants Other than a Spouse	Recipient	Recipient and Spouse
0	\$152	\$226
1	242	255
2	281	294
3	318	333
For each additional dependant, add \$40.		

APPENDIX D

Applicants/Recipients Living with Parents

- The amount payable for basic needs for applicants/recipients who are eligible in their own right and who live with their parents is determined in accordance with the following table:

No. of Dependants other than a spouse	Dependants 18 Years or Older	Dependants 0-17 Years	Recipient	Recipient and spouse
0	0	0	\$221	\$438
1	0	1	341	438
	1	0	547	574
2	0	2	341	438
	1	1	547	574
	2	0	683	726
For each additional dependant:				
add \$153 if dependant is 18 years of age or older,				
or \$0 if the dependant is 0-17 years of age.				

Northern Allowance

- If the applicant or recipient resides north of the 50th parallel and is without year round road access, an amount payable for basic needs is determined in accordance with the following table:

Number of Dependants Other than a Spouse	Recipient	Recipient and Spouse
0	\$152	\$226
1	251	272
2	293	315
For each additional dependant, add \$43.		

APPENDIX E

Sponsored Immigrants

- The following table is used to determine the income charge for sponsored immigrants:

No. of Dependants other than a spouse	Dependants 18 Years or Older	Dependants 0-17 Years	Recipient	Recipient and spouse
0	0	0	\$221	\$438
1	0	1	341	438
	1	0	547	574
2	0	2	341	438
	1	1	547	574
	2	0	683	726
For each additional dependant:				
add \$153 if dependant is 18 years of age or older,				
or \$0 if the dependant is 0-17 years of age.				
The amount attributable to a dependent child shall be reduced by 50 per cent where budgetary requirements for the child were reduced under section 44.2.				

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Appendix F

Assets

Benefit Unit Size	Maximum Asset Level
Single applicant or participant (no spouse/no dependants)	\$585
Applicant or participant with spouse (no dependants)	\$1010
Applicant or participant with spouse and one dependant	\$1694
Applicant or participant with spouse and one dependant, plus additional dependants	\$1694 + \$500 for each additional dependant
Applicant or participant with one dependant (no spouse)	\$1619
Applicant or participant with one dependant, plus additional dependants (no spouse)	\$1619 + \$500 for each additional dependant
Child under Temporary Care or a dependant of a dependant	\$500

Note: the maximum asset level amount for additional dependants, a child under temporary care and a dependant of a dependant did not change.