

HS-01-1

From: Edna Toth
Sent: December 18, 2012 8:49 AM
To: Poverty Action Group Peel; McCallion, Hazel; Fonseca, Chris; Starr, Ron; Carlson, George; Tovey, Jim; Dale, Frank; Bonnie Crombie; Mullin, Patricia; Mahoney, Katie; Saito, Pat; McFadden, Sue; Iannicca, Nando
Cc: Simon Black
Subject: OPEN LETTER RE CSUMB

Peel Poverty Action Group
287 Glidden Road #4
Brampton ON L6W 1H9

OPEN LETTER TO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS IN PEEL REGION

Dear Councillor,

From January 1, 2013, the Ontario provincial Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) will be discontinued. This benefit – about \$5.5m for Peel in 2012 -- helped prevent homelessness by, for instance, assisting with first and last month's rent, help with rent arrears, help with arrears in utility bills, furniture items for new tenants. About 800 Peel residents a month needed the fund.

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) estimates that with the end of CSUMB and other changes, Peel will receive about \$3m less for homelessness prevention, at a time when social service organizations in the Region believe homelessness is on the rise.

Some of the provisions of new legislation may be helpful: Homelessness now comes under one provincial ministry instead of two; during 2013, several programs will be merged in hopes of providing better service.

But Peel will remain \$3m worse off. Though Region staff report they can save more than \$1m "through changes to policy," PPAG sees reduced funding as greater danger for people who are or may become homeless.

Peel gets less money for social services per capita than other areas of Ontario. We ask municipal councillors to join PPAG and other anti-poverty groups in lobbying MPPs and others to maintain or increase the money available to fight homelessness. Death in the woods is not unknown in Peel. We want no more.

Respectfully,

(signed)

Edna Toth
PPAG Chair
905 826-5041

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____ ✓

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
COPY TO:	FOR:
Chair	✓ Committee
CAO	✓
Corporate Services	Council ✓
Public Works	Jan 10 2013
Employee and Business Services	
Health Services	File
Human Services	✓
Peel Living	