



# Ontario Energy Board

## BACKGROUND

### *New Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) Help For Low-Income Ontarians*

At the Minister of Energy's request, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has developed a new rate program to lower electricity bills for Ontario's low-income households. This Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) is now open and ready to accept applications.

#### **The Need**

Designed with input from social service agencies, utilities, low-income advocates, First Nations and Métis communities, the OESP could benefit more than 500,000 low-income Ontario households. For low-income Ontarians, paying their electricity bill can be a challenge. Electricity represents a significantly greater share of their monthly expenses. For example, for households with an annual income of \$20,000, a typical electricity bill could be 10 per cent or more of their income. The OESP is one of several programs designed to help electricity consumers with limited financial resources.

The OESP is available to all eligible low-income consumers of electricity utilities, unit sub-meter providers and electricity retailers. The Statistics Canada Low-Income Measure (LIM) is used to determine eligibility.

Most eligible consumers will have to reapply every two years or whenever personal circumstances change such as a move, increase or change in income levels.

#### **How OESP Helps – On-Bill Credits Between \$30 to \$50 A Month**

Starting January 1, 2016, the OESP will provide a monthly, on-bill credit to eligible consumers based on household income and number of people living in the home. For example, a family of three earning a total household income of \$30,000, will receive an on-bill credit of \$30 a month.

### OESP Monthly Credit Amounts

Household Income	Household Size (Number of people living in household)						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
\$28,000 or less	\$30	\$30	\$34	\$38	\$42	\$50	\$50
\$28,001 – \$39,000			\$30	\$34	\$38	\$42	\$50
\$39,001 – \$48,000					\$30	\$34	\$38
\$48,001 – \$52,000							\$30

The OESP offers a higher level of assistance to low-income First Nations and Métis households, consumers whose homes are electrically heated, and those who rely on certain medical devices requiring a lot of electricity. The credit for those receiving a higher level of assistance is between \$45 and \$75 a month.

### OESP Monthly Credit Amounts – Energy Intensive

Household Income	Household Size (Number of people living in household)						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
\$28,000 or less	\$45	\$45	\$50	\$55	\$60	\$75	\$75
\$28,001-\$39,000			\$45	\$50	\$55	\$60	\$75
\$39,001-\$48,000					\$45	\$50	\$55
\$48,001-\$52,000							\$45

### Program Costs and Funding

The OESP is funded by all electricity ratepayers. A per kilowatt-hour charge will be included under regulatory charges on all consumers' bills. The OESP will cost the typical residential electricity consumer about \$1 a month.

### Consumer Information

For general information visit [OntarioElectricitySupport.ca](http://OntarioElectricitySupport.ca) or call 1-855-831-8151 (TTY: 1-800-855-1155).

The Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association (ONWAA) will work with First Nations communities to provide personal support. Call 1-844-885-3157 or email [oesp@onwaa.com](mailto:oesp@onwaa.com) for more information.