



United Way
Toronto

RE: File EB-2008-0150

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street
Suite 2700
Toronto, Ontario
M4P 1E4

Dear Kirsten,

I am writing to nominate myself as a participant on the Ontario Energy Board's LEAP Financial Assistance Working Group File EB-2008-0150 as the representative for United Ways in Ontario.

Since 2004 United Ways have been coordinating the delivery of the Winter Warmth program across much of Ontario by utilizing our network of agencies and connections across communities. Currently there are 40 United Ways involved in delivering Winter Warmth, which recently undertook discussions on the implications of the new LEAP program.

From these discussions there was unanimous support from United Ways to offer assistance in the development of LEAP. We believe that the OEB has done an exemplary job in outlining what will become a major support to low-income families and individuals in Ontario, and the United Way movement is pleased to offer our assistance and lessons gathered from delivering Winter Warmth to help add to the success of LEAP.

I have personally been involved in the Winter Warmth program for 4 years in several capacities:

- As Executive Director of the United Way of Greater Simcoe County in 2005, I agreed to deliver Winter Warmth in our community and oversaw the local program implementation;
- I have been the United Way Toronto staff lead for Winter Warmth since 2006, providing oversight to Winter Warmth for Enbridge, Union Gas and Toronto Hydro, including disbursement of funds to 40 communities;
- I have also provided direct oversight of the Winter Warmth program in Toronto since 2006, including coordinating a recent investigation into factors affecting uptake rates in Toronto;
- I have been an active member of the Winter Warmth Provincial Steering Committee since 2006 and have performed all coordinating functions for Winter Warmth, including, for example: delivering training to agencies, revising the manuals and coordinating the pilot for Hydro One involvement in Winter Warmth.

I have detailed knowledge of the structure and operation of agencies working with low-income consumers gained through my 15 years work experience in the sector, including my work with United Way Toronto, United Way of Greater Simcoe County and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada where I oversaw service delivery for low-income families across 75% of Ontario.

Lastly, I believe I have adequate knowledge of the role of the Ontario Energy Board gained through multiple meetings with OEB staff and researching the OEB website.

Thank you for considering this nomination.

Sincerely,

Steve Lavery
Special Gift Development Officer
United Way Toronto

C.C. Susan Vardon, Director New Giving Initiatives, United Way Toronto
Gary Vipond, Executive Director, United Way Sault Ste. Marie
Helen Heath, Manager Community Investments and Agency Relations, United Way of Chatham-Kent