



151 Dundas Street
P.O. Box 5045
London, ON
N6A 4L6

London
C A N A D A

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

May 20, 2009

RE: EB-2008-0150 Nomination

Dear Ms. Walli:

The City of London nominates Debra Johnston, Housing Support Services Manager at The Salvation Army Centre of Hope to participate on the LEAP Financial Assistance Working Group. The Housing Support Services program at the Centre of Hope works in strong partnership with the City of London and local community agencies to deliver our Rent Bank as well as THAW (The Heat and Warmth Program) and Winter Warmth, our emergency energy assistance programs. Debra leads a team of compassionate staff who assist low income Londoners to maintain suitable housing through multiple homelessness prevention programs.

Debra Johnston is an excellent advocate and highly knowledgeable on issues of energy assistance for low income earners. She directly manages the Housing Support Services program to deliver the Winter Warmth and our local emergency energy assistance program, THAW (The Heat and Warmth Program). She works daily with the lived reality of low income earners and their energy needs. Debra also initiated and developed the HOMES Program (Housing Opportunities for Maintenance, Education and Stability) which helps tenants understand their responsibilities as a tenant. This program is offered at different community agencies within our municipality and has received interest from agencies across the province.

London's THAW Program has been providing emergency energy assistance to London residents for over 11 years. The Program was initiated by local community service and energy providers after recognizing the need for emergency energy assistance for low income families and individuals. Since that time the program has grown into a community driven and widely respected program which has been the model in the development of other emergency assistance programs in the province. The program continues to operate with multiple partnerships which are key to the success of this program. THAW has provided London with a unique expertise in relation to energy assistance.

She has developed strong working relationships with London Hydro, Union Gas, Winter Warmth, landlords and local suppliers of fuel and oil. In addition she brings the perspective of a mid sized city to the table.

...2

Cost Eligibility

Our nominee will require cost eligibility as The Salvation Army is a non profit agency with limited resources and a current mandate to direct resources into direct program delivery. The Salvation Army would be unable to provide funds for costs related to participation on the LEAP Working Group such as travel and accommodation.

Thank you for initiating the LEAP Working Group and for considering this exceptional candidate to serve on the Working Group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan Richardson".

Jan Richardson
Manager, Homelessness, Hostels and Special Populations
Department of Community Services
519.66102500 ext 5228
jrichardson@london.ca