



Low-Income Energy Network

May 20, 2009

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

Dear Ms Walli,

Re: Nominations to LEAP Implementation Working Groups (EB-2008-0150)

I am writing on behalf of the Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN), which was an intervenor in the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) Consultation on Energy Issues Relating to Low Income Consumers, to nominate the following members of our steering committee to:

LEAP Financial Assistance Working Group -

Sarah Blackstock, Research/Policy Analyst, Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC)
Jennifer Lopinski, A Place Called Home (APCH)

LEAP Conservation Working Group -

Theresa McClenaghan, Executive Director, Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)

Attached to this letter are short statements of each nominee's relevant experience and qualifications.

LIEN is an organization of more than 80 member associations from across Ontario, including, environmental, legal, tenant/housing, and social service organizations. LIEN is directed by a Steering Committee. In addition to the Steering Committee and Members and Supporting Organizations, over 35 individuals have also indicated their support for LIEN.

As an umbrella organization, LIEN offers the opportunity for one entity to represent the similar interests of many organizations that have come together under LIEN. A description of its organization in greater detail can be found on its website (www.lowincomeenergy.ca). LIEN is a well recognized intervenor in other Board proceedings.

c/o Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO)

425 Adelaide St. West, 5th floor, Toronto, ON M5V 3C1

Phone: 416-597-5855 ext. 5167 1-866-245-4182 Fax: 416-597-5821

Request for cost eligibility

LIEN requests that the Board find it eligible for costs under section 3.03(a) of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. LIEN "primarily represents the direct interests of consumers in relation to regulated services", in particular, low-income consumers. LIEN has been accepted as a party eligible for an award of costs in other proceedings before the Board.

As a not-for profit organization, LIEN's participation in this proceeding is dependent on any cost awards it receives. LIEN intends to coordinate its efforts with other intervenors to avoid duplication where possible.

The names of any analysts or consultants that LIEN retains will be forwarded once finalized.

Sincerely,
Low-Income Energy Network
Per:

Original signed by

Mary Todorow
Research/Policy Analyst
Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario

Attachment

Sarah Blackstock/Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC)

Sarah Blackstock is the research and policy analyst at the Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC). ISAC is a legal clinic established in 2001 and funded by Legal Aid Ontario that strives to improve income security for Ontarians through test case litigation, law reform and community organizing. ISAC works closely with community legal clinics across Ontario, grass-roots anti-poverty and social justice organizations, private bar lawyers, academics and researchers, and individual activists. ISAC is one of the founding members of the Low-Income Energy Network.

Sarah Blackstock has a Master's degree in Political Science and has worked for more than ten years in the field of income security. Sarah has a good understanding of Ontario's social assistance program which is comprised of Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program. As a result of her involvement in numerous projects that have sought changes to Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program and broader poverty policy, Sarah has conducted extensive analysis of the policy and program implications for low-income people as a result of policy initiatives.

Sarah has been involved in numerous initiatives that have led to progressive policy reform in the area of poverty policy, including the Ontario Child Benefit and the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Jennifer Lopinski/A Place Called Home (APCH)

Jennifer Lopinski is the program administrator for an energy program called the Emergency Home Energy & Resource program at A Place Called Home (APCH). APCH is a not-for-profit organization that strives to reduce homelessness in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County by providing a number of homelessness prevention programs.

Jennifer has a Social Service Worker diploma and has been administering emergency energy programs for the last 5 years. Jennifer directly administers the Emergency Energy Fund, the Utility Arrears Program, and the Winter Warmth program for both Enbridge and Hydro One. She has fostered excellent working relationships with all the utility providers in her area and has been able to negotiate payment arrangements in excess of \$100,000.00 per year, for the last four years, which is outside of the amount that she would issue in emergency energy grants and loans. In 2007 Jennifer received special recognition from John Erskine Kelly, program advisor of the Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services and Community Services. Lastly, Jennifer works with Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability programs on a daily basis, working as a team to halt any utility disconnections that her clients might face. When the client's need surpasses the funding available, Jennifer will also conduct a fundraising effort, contacting other community based organizations and service clubs for donations.

Jennifer is currently a LIEN Steering Committee Member and also sits on the City of Kawartha Lakes Poverty Coalition as well as the Access to Permanent Housing Association in her community. She has an excellent understanding of the issues that low-income earners face on a daily and often ongoing basis.

Theresa McClenaghan/Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)

Theresa McClenaghan is Executive Director and Counsel at the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA). CELA is an Ontario Legal Aid specialty clinic providing legal services, public legal education and law reform on behalf of low-income and vulnerable communities. CELA is a founding member of the Low-Income Energy Network and steering committee member since LIEN's

inception in 2004. CELA advocates for a sustainable energy future built on conservation and renewable power.

Theresa McClenaghan has worked on renewable energy and conservation issues for many years including co-authoring the ***Power for the Future*** report with the Pembina Institute in 2004 and overseeing LIEN's submissions on conservation and demand management since 2004. Theresa has a law degree from the University of Western Ontario Law School (1984) and a Masters of Constitutional Law from Osgoode Hall Law School (1999) and has practised law since 1985, called to the bar of both Manitoba and Ontario. While in private practise prior to 1998, she appeared occasionally before the Ontario Energy Board on rate hearings for environmental NGOs and on Environmental Assessment Joint Board hearings on transmission system proposals and energy system planning. Theresa has been with CELA since 1998, apart from eighteen months as the Ontario Minister of the Environment's water policy advisor to work on implementation of the Walkerton Inquiry recommendations, including various pieces of water legislation and regulations. Theresa is the author of various book chapters and articles on environmental law, as well as a frequent guest lecturer at Ontario universities and colleges on topics of environmental law.