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# Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

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EB-2008-0150

*P 11/5/09*  
Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Young Street Suite 2700  
Toronto, Ont. M4P 1E4

May 7, 2009

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**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD  
OFFICE OF THE BOARD SECRETARY**

Dear Ms Walli

I am writing on behalf of the Sisters Of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in Kingston, Ontario.

The Sisters and I, as their Energy Conservation/Poverty Issues Coordinator, commend you on the proposed LEAP program. The Ontario government and the Ontario Energy board are sending a clear message that they understand the need to act on Climate Change and Energy Poverty.

As low income people often live in poorly insulated buildings, a comprehensive conservation program aimed at low income homes whether rented or owned will go a long way towards reducing total housing costs and reducing hardship related to energy poverty.

The LEAP report of the Board states that "a comprehensive and province-wide approach to assisting low-income energy consumers....is an important element of the service that should be **provided by regulated distributors** in carrying out their responsibilities."

As multi-fuel conservation programs are necessary, local social service agencies will be forced to work with different distributors for example hydro and gas. This added complexity is a very real concern for us as the delivery of these programs must be made as simply and efficient as possible. We therefore urge you to reconsider the role energy distributors take in the delivery of LEAP targeted conservation and demand management programs. We feel the delivery component would best be served by agencies that have experience in this field and first hand knowledge through their involvement in the 2007 pilot program.

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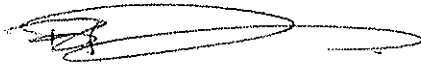
We also feel that Energy conservation is contrary to the corporate mission of distributors who earn their profits through the consumption of energy. The obvious contradiction in aim may result in some distributors being less ambitious in their retrofit and energy consumption reduction targets.

For these two reasons we feel that an Energy co-operative which has experience in dealing with all local distributors, across all fuels, or a central agency that oversees these co-operatives will prove to be much more focused on the true aim and that is the reduction of energy consumption.

In Kingston, for example, Hearthmakers Energy Co-operative has a proven track record and experienced staff, offering energy auditing services and contracting out the vital work of delivering energy efficient homes.

We trust that the Ontario Energy Board will act on this recommendation. It is vital for the success of the commendable energy poverty policies that you will soon be implementing.

Regards,



Bridget Doherty  
Energy Conservation/Poverty Issues Coordinator  
Sisters Of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul