

OFFICIAL OFFICE:

101 William First Nation
Suite 101-90 Amenuki Drive
101 William First Nation Office Complex
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 1A5
807-676-9439
807-676-9404 Fax



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
111 Peter Street, Suite 5
Toronto, Ont.
M5V 1J1
1-877-517-6527
(416) 597-8365
Website: www.chiefs.of.ontario.ca

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

FAX COVER PAGE

TO: Kristen Walli

FROM: Regional Chief Angus Toulouse

DATE: 3-Dec-2010

FAX: 416-440-7656

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:	COMMENTS:
<input type="checkbox"/> URGENT - DELIVER ASAP	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE REPLY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> AT YOUR REQUEST	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> HARD COPY TO FOLLOW	_____
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POLITICAL OFFICE:
 Fort William First Nation
 R.R. #4
 Suite 101, 90 Anemki Drive
 Fort William First Nation Office Complex
 Thunder Bay, Ontario P7J 1A5
 (807) 626-9339
 (807) 626-9404 Fax



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE:
 111 Peter Street, Suite 804
 Toronto, Ontario
 M5V 2H1
 (416) 597-1266
 Fax (416) 597-8365
 1-877-517-6527
 Website: www.chiefs-of-ontario.org

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

December 3, 2010

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

RE: Low-Income Energy Assistance Plan

Dear Ms. Walli:

It has recently come to my attention that the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has developed an energy arrears relief program titled Low-Income Energy Assistance Plan (LEAP). It is also my understanding that this program was developed with no direct First Nation input and that the program is scheduled to begin in January 2011.

Program development and consultations processes aside, I am deeply concerned that this program will not reach and assist eligible First Nation low income recipients unless there is a specific First Nation on-reserve allocation from each utility distributor which serves both First Nation and non-native communities. Furthermore, that specific allocation must be administered directly by a First Nation entity which is located in our communities to be effective. Past attempts by municipal service agencies to serve the needs of our communities have resulted in disastrous outcomes and shortfalls.

The Ontario Native Welfare Administrators' Association (ONWAA) administers the Ontario Emergency Energy Fund (EEF) as the lead agency for all Ontario First Nations. ONWAA also has the direct support and the mandate of the Chiefs of Ontario to administer this program via a Special Chiefs Assembly Resolution. As the lead agency for Ontario First Nations with regards to the EEF, ONWAA reports expenditures, number of recipients served, etc. on annual basis to First Nation leadership and to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. As the entity which we have selected to administer the EEF I am requesting you to immediately contact all utility distributors in Ontario to strongly recommend that ONWAA be used as the LEAP lead agency for all First Nation LEAP funding. As an incorporated First Nation social association with provincial jurisdiction, ONWAA has demonstrated the capacity and skill to fulfill the mandate and audit requirements of this program.

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I request that your office contact Micheal Nadeau, ONWAA Executive Director, to further discuss methods of fulfilling our request. I will also await your reply to this letter.

Sincerely,

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO



Angus Toulouse
Ontario Regional Chief

- c.c. The Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Energy
- The Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
- Jody Waddilove, President, ONWAA
- Micheal Nadeau, Executive Director, ONWAA
- Grand Chief Randall Phillips, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, COO Social Portfolio
- Lillian Baibomcowai-Dell, Social Services Coordinator, COO