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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

September 24, 2014

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

**RE: RATE AFFORDABILITY FOR LOW INCOME ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS
(EB-2014-0227)**

Dear Ms. Walli:

As you are aware, the Minister of Energy, in a [letter dated April 23, 2014](#), asked the Board to take a broader view of the Board's policies for assisting vulnerable energy consumers, including low income consumers and First Nations and Métis communities.

The Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) is an incorporated body that brings together Northern Ontario's 11 Municipal Service Managers. It is comprised of ten District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), that are unique to Northern Ontario; and one Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) – the City of Greater Sudbury.

All eleven are responsible for the local planning, coordination and delivery of a range of community health and social services that the Province of Ontario divested to them to locally manage. These include Ontario Works, Social Housing, Land Ambulance and Child Care. These services represent a significant portion of the social infrastructure of all Northern Ontario's municipalities.

We have a unique understanding of the reality facing low income residents living in Northern Ontario and can categorically advise you that their needs are in many ways different than their southern Ontario counterparts.

We are writing to you to request that NOSDA be directly involved in your work related to preparing your Ministerially mandated task of identifying the design, development and implementation of a long-term program intended to assist qualifying low-income electricity consumers with their electricity bills.

Our association's membership are well positioned to assist you in identifying means by which you can accomplish this undertaking. Please contact us at your convenience to let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,



Gary Scripnick, Chair

cc. Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy