

Ministry of Energy

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MC-2018-388

DRAFT – Letter to all LDCs re: OESP reapplication process

<HONOURIFIC> <FIRSTNAME> <LASTNAME>
<TITLE>
<MUNICIPALITY>
<ADDRESS>
<CITY> ON <POSTAL>

Dear <SALUTATION>:

I write today to express my gratitude for the valuable work Ontario's local distribution companies (LDCs) undertake every single day to keep the lights on for families and businesses across the province.

As you know, the government recognizes that the price of electricity represents a challenge for those that pay a higher share of their income towards the bill – particularly low-income families and seniors on a fixed income. That is why the Ontario Energy Board developed the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP), which provides an ongoing rate reduction directly on the bills of low-income electricity consumers who have applied and meet the eligibility requirements. On May 1, 2017, the OEB increased OESP support for low-income consumers by 50 per cent and expanded eligibility for the program. The Province is also aligning the OESP with other social assistance to help get more vulnerable consumers into the program so they can receive the support they need on electricity bills.

As you may be aware, in the coming months, many OESP recipients will see their eligibility to the program expire and will need to go through a reapplication process to continue receiving the reduction on their electricity bill.

In an effort to ensure electricity bills are more affordable for Ontario's most vulnerable, I am asking all local distribution companies and other electricity invoice issuers to work with their customers who are recipients of the OESP credit, to help them understand and complete the reapplication. With your help, low-income Ontarians can continue to benefit from the expansion of the OESP, through the ongoing financial assistance it provides to many families. I expect that all distributors will be able to work directly with OESP recipients, as utilities have direct access to specific participant information for the program.

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I appreciate your co-operation and continued commitment in helping low-income electricity consumers. Thank you for the important work you do for your customers and for all Ontarians.

Sincerely,

Glenn Thibeault
Minister

c: Rosemarie Leclair, Chair and CEO, Ontario Energy Board
 Teresa Sarkesian, President and CEO, Electricity Distributors Association