

Reasons for Decision:

Order #AP1819-0631

On <date removed>, <name removed> filed an appeal against the decision of the Director, Eastman to deny additional funding for Hydro costs. The denial was communicated in a decision letter dated <date removed>.

The decision letter stated <name removed> was receiving the all-inclusive rent amount, and that it was their responsibility to pay their Hydro bills directly out of that amount.

<name removed> stated they were the caregiver for their 27-year old son, who is enrolled in the disability assistance category. They told the Board the amount of funding provided for disability assistance is insufficient.

<name removed> stated the appellant and their son live in a townhouse in a small town. Their Hydro bills exceed \$200 per month, which is excessive for their income. The appellant stated they receive approximately <amount removed> in Canada Pension Plan benefits, and <amount removed> in EIA benefits. The appellant's rent is \$860 per month.

<name removed> told the Board they borrow money constantly to make ends meet. The appellant managed to pay Hydro \$300 towards their arrears two weeks prior to the hearing, but they received another collection notice recently.

The Department referenced the written report it submitted as evidence. In summary, <name removed> receives the all-inclusive rent amount, which includes an additional \$70 per month to cover utility costs.

The Department noted <name removed> is in a rent share situation with their son, who also receives \$576 for rent allowance. <name removed>'s receive <amount removed> for rent from the Department, and pay \$860 per month for rent. This means the household has <amount removed> per month available for utilities.

<name removed> disputed the amount of money the Department stated they receive, noting the Department deducts their CPP income from the amount it pays the appellant. The Department stated <name removed>'s total budget is <amount removed> per month, including \$576 for rent. The appellant receives <amount removed> from CPP and <amount removed> from the Department, for a total of <amount removed>.

<name removed> told the Board they had contacted Hydro about payment options,

but they are concerned that the payment plans offered by Hydro would prolong their indebtedness.

After careful consideration of the written and verbal evidence submitted to it, the Board determined that the Department has calculated <name removed>'s rent allowance according to the legislation and regulation, and that the combined rent allowances of <name removed> and their son are sufficient to cover their Hydro costs. The Board confirmed the Director's decision not to provide additional funding to <name removed> for Manitoba Hydro costs.

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