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Subject: Invitation to attend the LIEN Fall 2004 Conference
Date: Mon, 20 Sep 2004 20:15:18 -0400

Dear friends:

Low income consumers would benefit enormously from public programs which would permanently reduce their energy bills and pollution, yet face a unique set of obstacles to participation in conventional energy conservation programs.

On October 20, 2004, the Low Income Energy Network (LIEN), with the support of the Ministry of Energy and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, is hosting a one day conference to design energy conservation programs that address the particular needs of low income consumers for the 2005 heating season.

This is an urgent issue because the provincial government has designated local distribution companies (such as Toronto Hydro or Ottawa Hydro) as the lead agencies for providing energy conservation initiatives and directed that the LDCs invest \$225 million in providing these programs

in 2004-2005. Yet conventional energy efficiency programs must be adapted if they are to reach low income households.

The purpose of the October 20 conference is to provide feedback on a draft program design for low income consumers that the LIEN Interim Steering Committee will develop (to be distributed in advance of the conference) and that local distribution companies could then include in their rate applications to the Ontario Energy Board in January 2005. The feedback from participants at the conference will be used to improve and finalize the program design. Feedback will be obtained through working sessions at the conference.

LIEN is also hoping to host a broader conference on low income energy issues in the Spring to increase awareness of and foster information change on low income issues from social service and energy/environmental perspectives and to promote networking across the province among interested organizations. Please see <http://www.cela.ca/coreprograms/detail.shtml?x=1759> for related materials on energy conservation and affordable electricity pricing in Ontario. Our immediate priority, however, is to provide LDCs with a DSM program that will help low income households in Ontario this winter.

There is no registration fee required for this event. It will be held in Toronto (precise location to be determined) and some support for travel expenses is available. We ask that you confirm attendance by email, phone or fax before Wednesday October 13th. If you would like to find out more about the event or LIEN, please feel free to contact the LIEN coordinator at your convenience. We hope to see you on October 20th.

Regards,

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LIEN Mandate:

The Low Income Energy Network aims to ensure universal access to adequate energy as a basic necessity, while minimizing the impacts on health and on the local and global environment of meeting the essential energy and conservation needs of all Ontarians.

LIEN promotes programs and policies which tackle the problems of energy poverty and homelessness, reduce Ontario's contribution to smog and climate change, and promote a healthy economy through renewable and energy efficient technologies.