



LOW-INCOME ENERGY NETWORK

Brought to you by the founding members of LIEN:

- ◆ Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO)
- ◆ Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)
- ◆ Community Social Planning Council of Toronto
- ◆ Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC)
- ◆ Toronto Disaster Relief Committee
- ◆ Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA)
- ◆ Share the Warmth (STW)

Mission Statement

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The Low Income Energy Network 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.

Partnerships

- ◆ LIEN invites you to become a member by asking only that you support our Mission Statement
- ◆ As a LIEN member you will also have the opportunity to:
 - Participate in information sharing with other LIEN members;
 - Participate in LIEN-sponsored events and invite LIEN members to participate in your events;
 - Comment on and formally endorse LIEN position papers;
 - Invite other LIEN members to support your position papers or reports.

Supporting Members

- ◆ Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto
- ◆ Etobicoke Housing Help Centre / Albion Neighbourhood Services
- ◆ Energy Action Council of Toronto
- ◆ Green\$aver
- ◆ DisAbled Women's Network Ontario
- ◆ Prof. Valerie Tarasuk, Faculty of Medicine University of Toronto
- ◆ Guelph- Wellington Coalition for Social Justice
- ◆ Centre for Social Justice Renters Educating & Networking Together
- ◆ Rainy River District Community Legal Clinic
- ◆ Community Legal Assistance Sarnia / Community Homelessness Initiative Network- Sarnia
- ◆ Kenora Community Legal Clinic
- ◆ T.H.R.I.V.E, Essex County

More members

- ◆ Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)
- ◆ Canadian Mental Health Association – Thunder Bay Branch
- ◆ Conservation Council of Ontario
- ◆ Canadian Auto Workers
- ◆ The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care
- ◆ Catholic Family Development Centre – Thunder Bay
- ◆ Stuart Bailey, Director of the Nipissing Community Legal Clinic
- ◆ Ontario Coalition for Social Justice
- ◆ Parry Sound District Social Services
- ◆ North Lanark Community Health Centre
- ◆ Woolwich Community Services – Waterloo Region
- ◆ St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society

Background

- ◆ LIEN was formed to raise awareness of implications for low-income families from the April electricity price rise and to suggest solutions.
- ◆ Building on this initial work, we are now hoping to work with governments, local utilities, community groups and the public to develop a more comprehensive and detailed energy strategy on low-income energy assistance and conservation.
- ◆ We will prepare an additional research report and bring LIEN members together for a conference this fall to discuss these issues in more detail.

Low-income energy consumers

- ◆ 14.4% of Ontario's population (1,611,505 persons) are living at or below the poverty line. The majority of these persons live in tenant households.
- ◆ Ontario households in the lowest income quintile spent 44% of their pre-tax income on shelter, including utilities. In comparison, those households in the highest income quintile spent 13%
- ◆ On electricity alone, Ontario households in the lowest income quintile spent 6% of their pre-tax income, nearly five times more than households in the top quintile that spent 1.04%.

Poverty Lines

Before-Tax Low-Income Cut-Offs (LICOs), 2003					
	Population of Community of Residence				
Family Size	500,000 +	100,000 – 499,999	30,000 – 99,999	Less than 30,000	Rural
1	\$19,795	\$16,979	\$16,862	\$15,690	\$13,680
2	\$24,745	\$21,224	\$21,077	\$19,612	\$17,100
3	\$30,774	\$26,396	\$26,213	\$24,390	\$21,268
4	\$37,253	\$31,952	\$31,731	\$29,526	\$25,744
5	\$41,642	\$35,718	\$35,469	\$33,004	\$28,778
6	\$46,031	\$39,483	\$39,208	\$36,482	\$31,813
7 +	\$50,421	\$43,249	\$42,947	\$39,960	\$34,847
Source: Canadian Council on Social Development using Statistics Canada's LICOs					

Incidence of low income among the population living in private households, provinces

	Canada	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan
Income status - 2001	29,105,705	7,058,340	11,202,560	1,035,785	912,115
Low income	4,720,485	1,345,490	1,611,505	180,9785	144,440
Other	24,385,215	5,712,850	9,591,055	854,815	767,680
Incidence of low income %	16.2	19.1	14.4	17.5	15.8
Income status - 1995	28,011,350	6,973,160	10,562,620	1,036,095	930,460
Low income	5,514,190	1,630,915	1,869,040	213,285	170,445
Other	22,497,160	5,342,245	8,693,850	822,810	760,010
Incidence of low income %	19.7	23.4	17.7	20.6	18.3
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population					

Low-income energy consumers

- ◆ The lowest household income quintile in Ontario has a far greater proportion of households that:
 - use electricity as principal heating fuel (27% compared to 8.3% for the highest quintile; and
 - use electricity as principal heating fuel for hot water (36.3% compared to 18.7% for the highest quintile).
- ◆ Approximately 23% of tenant households pay for utilities (hydro, heating, water) directly and separately from their rent.
- ◆ 20% of Ontario tenant households pay 50% or more of their household income on shelter costs.

Housing Affordability

Ontario, rented				
	Total	1 family household	Multiple household	Non-family
Total – Housing affordability	1,338,850	699,810	18,585	620,450
Spending <30% of household income on housing costs	774,120	449,040	14,575	310,500
Spending 30% of household income on housing costs	564,730	250,770	4,010	309,950
Source: Statistics Canada				

More Stats...

- ◆ Mary has to forward me the stats in excel (didn't work...)

Low-income energy consumers

- ◆ The risk for homelessness increases where rental costs consume more than 50% of pre-tax household income for a tenant household.
- ◆ 96% of Ontario Works' beneficiaries are tenants, but only 16% of these OW beneficiaries who rent live in subsidized housing – the vast majority live in the private rental market.
- ◆ 75% of Ontario Disability Support Program beneficiaries are tenants, but only 22% of these ODSP beneficiaries who rent live in subsidized housing.

Low-income energy consumers

- ◆ A single mother with two children on social assistance in Ontario receives a maximum shelter allowance of \$554.
 - The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the Toronto CMA is \$1,040; in the Ottawa CMA, it's \$932.
 - Over half of Ontario's tenant households live in the Toronto and Ottawa CMAs.
- ◆ Electricity bills for an average residential customer consuming 1000 kWh per month currently range across the province from \$80 to \$117 per month.
 - For a single mother with two children on social assistance, this represents 14% to 21% of her maximum shelter allowance of \$554.

Low-income energy consumers

- ◆ A single person working 35 hours a week at minimum wage (\$7.15) has an annual pre-tax income of \$13,013.00. Residing in a city of 500,000 or more, this worker lives approximately \$6,000 below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cutoff.
 - The electricity bill for an average residential consumer consuming 1000 kWh per month represents 7% to 11% of this worker's total monthly pre-tax income of \$1084.42.

Dwelling characteristics and household equipment by household income quintile, Ontario, 2002

[illegible]

Dwelling characteristics and household equipment by household income quintile, Ontario, 2002

[illegible]

Conservation challenges facing low-income tenants

- ◆ Split incentives
- ◆ No Capital
- ◆ ...

Next Steps

- ◆ We will build LIEN capacity to mobilize it to develop ready to implement DSM programs for LDCs by:
 - Outreach and capacity-building for LIEN to broaden its membership and improve its networking ability.
 - Sponsoring research on the design of, and delivery options for, a comprehensive set of low income energy programs.
 - Organizing and hosting a LIEN conference to raise awareness of, and refine recommendations regarding, program design and delivery for the low income energy programs.

Next Steps

- Preparing and submitting a report, endorsed by as many LIEN members as possible, to the Ministers of Energy and Community and Social Services and local electric utilities on a set of ready to implement DSM programs for the 2004 – 2005 heating season?

The next phase of our work would be develop ready to implement low incomen DSM programs that can be implemented by Toronto Hydro as well as other LDCs for the 2005-2006 heating season.

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Recommendations / Conclusions ?

Thank You
