

SCHEDULE A – SUMMARY OF DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS

No	Benefit or Service	Health	Non health	Application/ Detail
1	Basic dental services for OW adults and ODSP dependent adults	Yes		OW adults are eligible for basic dental services as per MCSS Schedule of Dental Services and Fees and the MCSS Schedule of Services and Fees for Dental Hygienists Who Self-Initiate as well as approval from the Dental Plan Administrator for “pre-determination” of any procedures that exceed \$400 per treatment plan
2	Dentures	Yes		Coverage for a maximum of \$750 per upper and \$750 per lower denture for OW and ODSP clients, every 5 years, when prescribed to relieve pain or for medical or therapeutic purposes or to increase employability.
3	Vision care for OW adults and ODSP dependant adults	Yes		Coverage for a maximum of \$250 in a 24 month period for the cost of vision care and an additional \$200 within the 24 months for the replacement of lenses if there is a change in prescription. Glasses may also be replaced if lost or destroyed at a cost up to \$200 during the 24 month period.
4	Prosthetic Appliances	Yes		Coverage for the cost of prosthetic appliances not covered under any other program up to a maximum of \$300 per item. Coverage includes braces, orthotics alerting devices for hearing impaired and air conditioners for respiratory or other severe medical conditions.
5	Hearing Aids and batteries	Yes		OW Adults and dependent children are eligible for up to \$500 per hearing aid in a 3 year period; and for on-going costs of hearing aid batteries up to \$15/month and for an additional \$500/ 3 year period for the replacement of hearing aids if there is a change in prescription.
6	Travel and Transportation		Yes	<p>Coverage for a subsidy of \$34/ month for OW and ODSP adults, not eligible for other funding to purchase a monthly City transit pass.</p> <p>Coverage for the reasonable and cost effective transportation costs to assist a recipient to move to another municipality</p> <p>Coverage for the transportation costs for clients to attend court in another municipality for the purposes of pursuing spousal or child support and</p> <p>Coverage for the travel costs for an OW or ODSP client to attend a hospital or funeral for a parent, child or sibling.</p>
7	Basic funeral and burials services	Yes		Maximum fees include: up to \$2,250 towards funeral services and up to \$1,000 towards the cost of cemetery and burial fee; cost of the crypt if required by cemetery.
8	Baby Supplies and equipment	Yes		<p>Benefits to include infant car seat to a maximum of up to \$125 and booster seats up to \$50 once per family (unless multiple children are in car seats at the same time)</p> <p>Coverage also includes cost of a CSA approved crib to a maximum of \$200 once per family (unless multiple children are in cribs at one time) and the cost of purchase or rental of breast pumps.</p>
9	Paternity testing		Yes	Covers the cost of DNA testing of OW recipients and the dependent child to establish paternity in order to pursue child support – one time only, with the intent of recovering costs.

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No	Benefit or Service	Health	Non health	Application/ Detail
10	Prescription Drugs	Yes		Covers the cost of prescribed medications for benefit unit members of OW and ODSP when cost not covered under Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Drug formulary and there is no alternative that can be prescribed for up to three months
11	Moving and storage costs		Yes	Covers up to \$500 once in a calendar year towards the reasonable costs of moving and/or storage fees less any amount previously issued in the preceding 24-month period under the mandatory benefit "Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit."
12	Home repairs for OW families who own their own homes	Yes		Up to \$3,000 for necessary repairs for the preservation and maintenance of the dwelling place when no providing the support would be to the detriment of the health and wellbeing of the client or dependants. This benefit is available one in a lifetime but additional occurrences may be considered under exceptional circumstances by a supervisor.
13	Vocational training		Yes	Consider on a case-by-case basis if not eligible under mandatory benefits or employment related expenses.
14	Birth Verification		Yes	To assist with the cost of obtaining a birth certificate only up to the amount following the fees of the Ontario Office of the Registrar General for dependent children of OW or ODSP, once per child
15	Replacement or repair to fridge or stove	Yes		Up to \$200/ appliance in a 12 month period for the replacement or repair of a fridge or stove
16	Replacement of household contents in an emergency situation	Yes		Up to \$200/ member of the family per event for the replacement of personal effects in emergency situations, such as floods or fires, when other benefits and insurance are not available.
17	Rent deposits	Yes		Covered for OW or ODSP clients, if deposit required as condition of tenancy and other mandatory benefits are not available, up to maximum shelter allowance under OW Reg 42.
18	Heat and utility deposits or payment to prevent eviction or disconnection of services	Yes		Covers up to \$600 per service or \$1,200 if the heat and utility are with the same service provider, in a calendar year less the amount previously issued in the preceding 24 month period under the mandatory benefit "Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit."
19	Recreation and social activities subsidies for children		Yes	Provides up to \$200 per OW or ODSP dependent child in a calendar year to participate in recreational or social activities.
20	2008 only Children's Fall Health Benefit	Yes		Provides \$250/child on OW or ODSP for warm seasonal clothing and funding for social inclusion in community activities.

Discretionary Benefits
2012 & 2013 Budget

Appendix A
Categories of Benefits for Consideration Summary

Description Col 1	2012 Approved Budget Col 2	2013 Draft Budget "Core Program" Col 3	Potential Enhancements to Core Discretionary Program			
			Dentures Col 4	Emergency Housing Col 5	Social Recreational Col 6	City Transit Col 7
Gross Expenditures	2,391,978	1,130,169	224,603	200,000	100,000	178,600
Province Share	2,110,612	848,803	0	0	0	0
Municipal Share	281,366	281,366	224,603	200,000	100,000	178,600
City Share	226,033	226,033	178,987	164,000	82,000	175,000
County Share	55,333	55,333	45,616	36,000	18,000	3,600
<u>Details</u>	<u>Benefits Covered</u> OW Adult Basic Dental, OW Hearing Aids, OW Adult Vision Care, Prosthetic appliances, mandated burial costs.	<u>Benefits Covered</u> OW Adult Basic Dental, OW Hearing Aids, OW Adult Vision Care, Prosthetic appliances, mandated burial costs.	<u>Benefits Covered</u> Dentures ((For OW and ODSP clients up to a maximum amount in a 5 year period.)	<u>Benefits Covered</u> Emergency Housing Benefit-(To prevent eviction and disconnection of services)	<u>Benefits Covered</u> Social Recreation subsidies (Assist towards cost of registration for children and youth)	<u>Benefits Covered</u> Transit subsidies (Assist towards the cost of City transit fare.)



City of Peterborough

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County of Peterborough

470 Water St.
Peterborough, ON
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705-743-0380 ext. 328

August 9, 2012

Premier Dalton McGuinty
Legislative Building
Queens, Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty;

In the 2012 Ontario Budget, the government made changes impacting how the Province and Municipal delivery agents will share the cost of Ontario Works Discretionary Benefits beginning July 1, 2012. Of immediate concern is the timing of these changes when municipal budgets had already been approved for 2012. Also announced at that time was the plan to eliminate the mandatory Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) effective January 1, 2013.

The City of Peterborough is the service delivery agent for the Ontario Works Program for the City and County of Peterborough. These two changes result in an approximate \$2.9 million reduction in revenue and benefits to people in this community. On June 14, 2012, the Joint Services Steering Committee for the City and County of Peterborough endorsed a recommendation to send this letter on behalf of the City and County to express concerns with the financial impact these decisions will have on our most vulnerable citizens, municipal budgets, and the government's ability to continue with its commitment to reduce poverty.

This announcement came at a time when the City was putting together a local solution to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) decision to cease funding to the Peterborough Employment Resource Centre, (PERC) which is delivered by the City of Peterborough. This represents a reduction of approximately \$500,000. There is concern that this will result in service gaps that will especially impact social assistance clients where the Employment Ontario service providers do not have the capacity to meet these additional needs. City and County Councils responded by approving additional municipal funding to offer a reduced level of services for one year.

Peterborough has advocated for transitioning many of the health related discretionary benefits to mandatory benefits, which are currently delivered at the discretion of each delivery agent, and to be consistently made available across the province as part of the financial upload to the province. Basic health benefits such as emergency dental care, vision care and hearing aids for adults of Ontario Works should be seen as non-optional, as they are crucial to help the individual mitigate barriers that prevent

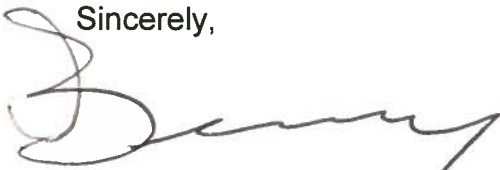
successful reintegration to sustainable employment. As part of the government's goal to reduce poverty and improve the well being of its citizens, these benefits ideally would be extended to low income individuals provided through MOHLTC, similar to the Trillium Drug Program.

The actions of the government have placed municipalities in the difficult position of reducing these services or bearing a greater share of the cost to maintain these critical benefits. While we appreciate the government's commitment to the current upload of benefits by 2018, there is a misconception that the upload will more than offset the cost cuts. Given the amount of the reductions we believe this not to be the case and, in effect, this is a download to the municipalities. The new funding cap decision needs to be reversed immediately for the Provincial Government to remain consistent with the intent of the Provincial Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review.

Recently we received the letter outlining the local allocations to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) for 2013-2014. We are pleased there is some recognition of variation of core housing needs across the province; however the allocation is lower than expected, given Peterborough has the highest severe core housing need in the province. We are concerned that the changes associated with the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit, Discretionary Benefits, and the CHPI allocation will leave our community with a reduction in funding. This poses extreme challenges in meeting the needs of the people in the community.

We request any action impacting the discretionary benefit program be delayed pending the release of the Social Assistance Review Commission report and discussions with AMO. We look forward to the Provincial Government providing ongoing consideration to the needs of the most vulnerable, sufficient financial supports for social services, and planning in a collaborative way with municipalities.

Sincerely,



Mayor Daryl Bennett
City of Peterborough
500 George St. N.
Peterborough, ON
K9H 3R9



Warden J. Murray Jones
County of Peterborough
470 Water St.
Peterborough, ON
K9H 3M3

Copies to:

Jeff Leal, MPP
Laurie Scott, MPP
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)

The Premier
of Ontario

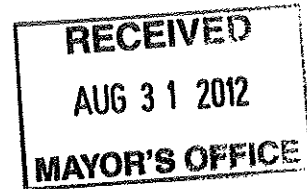
Legislative Building
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Le Premier ministre
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
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August 27, 2012



His Worship Daryl Bennett
Mayor, City of Peterborough
Mr. J. Murray Jones
Warden, County of Peterborough
500 George Street North
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 3R9

Dear Mayor Bennett and Warden Jones:

Thank you for your letter regarding recent changes related to the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit, Discretionary Benefits, and the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative allocation. I appreciate your taking the time to share your concerns with me.

As your comments fall under the area of responsibility of my colleague the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Community and Social Services, I have shared a copy of your correspondence with him. I have asked the minister to respond to you directly.

Mayor Bennett and Warden Jones, thank you again for writing. Please accept my best wishes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton McGuinty".

Dalton McGuinty
Premier

c: The Honourable John Milloy



Ministry of Community
and Social Services

Minister's Office
Hepburn Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1E9
Tel.: (416) 325-5225

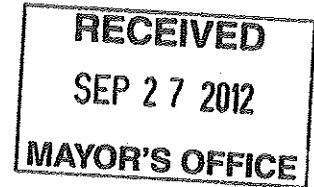
Ministère des Services
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SEP 24 2012

His Worship Daryl Bennett
Mayor
City of Peterborough
500 George Street North
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 3R9



Mr. J. Murray Jones
Warden
County of Peterborough
470 Water Street
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 3M3

Dear Mayor Bennett and Warden Jones:

Premier Dalton McGuinty forwarded your letter regarding social assistance in Ontario. I appreciate the time you have taken to write and I welcome the opportunity to respond.

Our government is always looking for ways to improve our programs to better support clients. There are currently over 800 rules and regulations that govern social assistance benefits. We have asked the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario to find ways to make social assistance simpler, easier to understand and financially sustainable.

While we look forward to their final report, we felt it was important to address funding of discretionary benefits now to help make our social services supports sustainable over the long term while ensuring that the system continues to be there for those who need it.

In 2010–11, spending on Ontario Works discretionary benefits increased by about six per cent over the previous year. We are making changes to Ontario Works discretionary benefits to make them more accountable by introducing additional spending controls.

There will continue to be a range of needs that can be addressed through discretionary benefits. Ontario Works delivery agents will continue to set local policies based on the prioritization of their clients' needs.

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Please be assured that we remain committed to uploading the cost of Ontario Works by 2018 to protect municipalities from uncertainty and volatility in program costs. This will save municipalities \$425 million by 2018.

With respect to employment services for social assistance clients, we are currently working with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and our Ontario Works delivery partners with a view to better integrating employment services to improve employment outcomes for social assistance clients and persons with disabilities while making the best use of resources.

We recognize the important role that our Ontario Works delivery partners play in delivering social services. We will continue to engage you as we move forward with exploring opportunities for integrating social assistance employment services with the broader Employment Ontario network.

With respect to your concerns about the allocation under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to my colleague, the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, for her consideration.

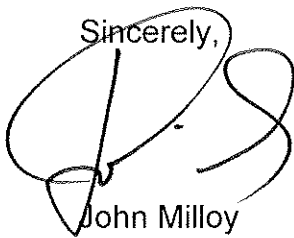
Regarding your comments about extending emergency dental care, vision care and hearing aids to low-income individuals, I have shared your letter with my colleague the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, for her information.

Given the scope of the fiscal challenges facing the province, all ministries, including the Ministry of Community and Social Services, need to ensure that programs are fiscally sustainable. This is necessary to help us protect the services that Ontario families rely on and maintain the improvements we have made in health, education and social services.

While we know we still have more work to do, our government is committed to making positive changes.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



John Milloy
Minister

c: Premier Dalton McGuinty
Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care