



Stanjikoming First Nation Welfare

An Overview of the Welfare
Program in Stanjikoming using
Ontario Works Guidelines

Stanjikoming First Nation Welfare Newsletter

Ontario Works Overview

PURPOSE OF NEWSLETTER- provides an overview of the welfare program and the criteria by which applicants are determined eligible and maintain eligibility for welfare assistance.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY- The Band Signs a Service Contract with Com-Soc. The Contract provides for the reimbursement of funds spent by my office, and for training expenses that I will incur during the course of a year.

INTENT OF POLICY- The aim of welfare is to provide for the needs of families and persons in need.

DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS- The Ontario Works Act has two components to it. They are *EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE* and *BASIC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE*. Here in the Community, Basic Financial Assistance is the only component we deal with. The other part, employment assistance is what you would call Workfare.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY RULES

- must reside in community
- must not have income or assets that exceed provincial limits
- applicants must be 18 years of age.

APPLICATION PROCESS- an appointment will be made. The interview process will take about half an hour. This process will determine what your budgetary needs are and will also serve as a tool for further eligibility verification. The applications are signed by the applicant and the welfare administrator binding a legal document.

There are many other requirements for welfare that I have gone into, I will inform under their own headings

HEALTH RELATED AND NON-HEALTH RELATED- persons on assistance may be able to access funds for health related reasons.

Special points of interest:

- Living with parents rule
- Rate tables for Shelter allowance, Basic allowance, and National Child Benefit Deductions
- 16 and 17 year old applicants.
- S.A.T.F. program
- Homemaking Program
- Quit or Fired rule
- Court Case

Discretionary Benefits

DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS- are available to persons that qualify for regular welfare benefits.

Community Start-up- available once in a twelve month period. Families with children have a higher limit than cou-

ples and singles.

Job Start-up- Also available once every twelve month period.

Winter Clothing Allowance- an allowance for every child under 18, paid in October.

Back to School Allowance- an allowance for every child under 18, paid in September

Health and Non-Health Related Benefits- Non-Health Related has a monthly cap on funds, while there is no cap on spending Health Related

Living With Parents

DIRECTIVE 20.0: LIVING WITH PARENTS-

- A person that resides in the same dwelling place as his\her parents is not eligible for assistance unless he\she is financially independent. *What this means a person living at home must not be dependent on parents for at least two years, This also means that if the person is found financially independent, they are not able to collect the shelter allowance component, Basic allowance plus a \$50 special allowance will issued.*

- A dependent adult is not eligible for

assistance on his\her own behalf. *Meaning if parents are on welfare, the dependent adult will continue to be considered a dependent on the parents entitlement.*

- Applicants under 18 years of age. *Who have the family home are not able to collect in their own right, however a trustee can be appointed to oversee the affairs of the youth. The youth must also be enrolled full time in school or other course to be eligible. Failure to attend will cause suspension of welfare assistance*

- The living with parents rule also applies to persons living with in-laws, or a person living in a home controlled by the parent. *I.e. Parents pay for utilities and rent etc.*

- Dependent adult is a parent. *If the dependent adult is a parent living with own parents, they can apply for the child only.*

- While these are the regulations spelled out in the policy manual, each case will be dealt with on an individual basis. Exceptional circumstances may be present and warrant assistance.

Quit\Fire Rule

- If a person resigns from employment without reasonable cause, or is dismissed with just cause. The individual is not eligible for three months from the quit\-fired date.

- If a person quits\ fired has a family and will cause undue hardship to the family unit. The person quit\ fired will not be included in the benefit unit.

Labour Disputes

- An applicant is involved in a labour dispute, and has circumstances beyond their control, assistance may be granted as long as all other sources of revenue are exhausted.

- Employment Start-up Benefit up to the amount \$253 can be accessed once in a twelve month period. Meaning if you received it August 2002, you would not be able to receive until August 2003

If a person is thinking of quitting their job for any reason what ever it may, make sure that you have a different job lined up.

The three month waiting rule is pretty straight forward. Again though, there may exceptions to this.

Each case is determined on their own merit

Homemaking Program

The homemaking program involves the Welfare Administrator, Home and Community Care Supervisor C.H.R. the Band Manager.

The functions of each are, Welfare Administrator will usually get a referral from somebody such family members, doctor, or anybody that sees a need for the service here in the community.

The client will need to be income tested if they are not on Welfare or ODSP-Ontario Disability Support Program. All others need to be income tested to see how much the client can pay. Elders and pensioners rarely any to contribute and that is the purpose of income testing. A potential client that has a full time wage usually is not eligible for the program.

Homemaking Cont'd

The homemaking Case Manager will then be contacted by me for a Service Plan. This will spell out the duties of the homemaker and how much time will be spent performing those duties. The Band Manager and CHR ensure that these duties are carried out. The Welfare Administrator at the end of the month, will apply for the subsidy to pay for these services.

The yearly budget for this program is approximately \$9100.00. To my knowledge we have never spent the total budget.

Home and Community Care

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE-- a program designed to allow for elderly and other clients to remain at home instead of being in Institutional Care such as RainyCrest or the Hospital. This program will be available to all members and residents that may need this type of service.

The proposed Service Delivery Plan will be presented here at the Community on August 27, 2002 At 10.00 a.m. Those interested community members please come out and see what this is about.

Beverly Morrison is the Home and Com-

munity Care Committee member for Stanjikoming. The committee members have been meeting since May 2000 to get this program up and running, these folks deserve a pat on the back for all this work and time that they have put into this process.

Equipment has been purchased and is available for use on a lending basis. The CHR will track the equipment and arrange for the return to the program.

Welfare will play no part in the delivery of this program

Mushkegowuk court case

This court case has been going since Ontario Works became legislation for the Province of Ontario. The First Nations of Ontario said that we were not consulted. When the legislation was brought out, the Chiefs were against WORKFARE and said the program would never work in the First Nation communities. The program is target driven, people would have to work for their welfare entitlement. Which might OK if there adequate place-

ments in the community. The formula is as follows. Take the Basic Allowance and the Shelter component add those figures together, next then divide that by the minimum wage, then 4% vacation pay. This would then give the amount of hours a person would have to do to continue to receive benefits

The Courts have been granting extensions that allow First Nations to be ex-

empted from Ontario Works. These exemptions will run out April 1, 2003. At that time planning will be well underway for a Bilateral Process with the Federal Government.

However, I have heard INAC officials say that any welfare program endorsed by the Feds would have to mirror the provincial scheme of things. Basically a Federal Ontario Works. Lots of negotiating.

Wrap up

I have been at this for a week now . There is more to say, but I'm burnt.

Welfare is a tough job, it is never going to be easy, so if you have to get mad at someone look at yourself.

A couple of rules for being human.

- You will receive a body. You may like it or hate it, but it will be yours for

the entire period this time around.

- You will learn lessons
- There are no mistakes, only lessons
- A lesson is repeated, until learned.
- Learning does not end
- "There" is no better than "Here"

TABLE

Benefit Unit Size	Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance
1	\$325.00
2	511.00
3	554.00
4	602.00
5	649.00
6 or more	673.00

TABLE

No. of Dependents Other than a Spouse	Dependents 13 Years and Over	Dependents 0-12 Years	Recipient	Recipient and Spouse
0	0	0	195	390
1	0	1	446	476
	1	0	486	512
2	0	2	532	576
	1	1	572	612
	2	0	608	648

For each additional dependent, add \$136 if the dependent is 13 years of age or over or \$100 if the dependent is less than 13 years of age. (Amended June 1, 1998)

Phase V: JULY 2002 - JUNE 2003 Maximum Monthly CTB & NCBS Payments

No. Of Children	Basic Child Tax Benefit	National Child Benefit Supplement	Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) Total
1	\$95.91	\$107.75	\$ 203.66
2	\$191.83	\$198.33	\$ 390.16
3	\$294.41	\$282.42	\$ 576.83
4	\$397.00	\$366.50	\$ 763.50
5	\$499.58	\$450.58	\$ 950.16
6	\$602.16	\$534.66	\$1,136.83
7	\$704.75	\$618.75	\$1,323.50
8	\$807.33	\$702.83	\$1,510.16

- a) Does not include the supplement for children under 7 of \$228. /year; and
b) The maximum NCBS threshold of \$32,960 increases for families with more than 3 children - the turning point is set at \$22,397