TO:  
MAYOR AND MEMBERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FROM:  
JANIE ROMOFF  
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT:  
MEETING ON JANUARY 10, 2005  
INTRODUCTION OF PROVINCIAL POLICY CHANGES TO THE  
ONTARIO WORKS AND ONTARIO DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Acting General Manager of Community Services, the following report BE RECEIVED for information purposes.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Previous reports related to Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program are outlined in Appendix A.

BACKGROUND

On December 15, 2004, the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) introduced a series of policy changes to the Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Programs (ODSP). These changes are aimed at:

- Helping people move to employment;
- Streamlining and simplifying the social assistance system;
- Making the system more accountable and sustainable; and
- Treating social assistance recipients fairly and with dignity.

This MCSS announcement regarding these changes is attached as Appendix B. Changes regarding the Intake Screening Unit are outlined in a separate report.

In some cases, these new changes were outlined as recommendations in M.P.P. Deb Matthews' report to the Minister of Community and Social Services entitled "Review of Employment Assistance Programs in Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program" and in the Ontario Works Simplification Task Force Report developed by the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) in 2004. Two additional reports to the Committee of the Whole at its January 10, 2005 meeting provide further details regarding these reports, and outline potential financial implications of their recommendations for 2005.

In all, there were 20 policy changes announced (all effective in December, 2004). These changes include:

- Exemption of Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) funds as assets;
- Eligible recipients with high health costs can receive Extended Health Benefits;
- Increased accountability for social assistance paid to sponsored immigrants who are not receiving the support committed to by their sponsor;
- Expanding the period to receive the Community Start Up Benefit to a 24 month period;
- Eliminating the requirement to consent to a lien on a principal residence as a condition of eligibility;
- Providing a drug card to those in non-compliance in cases of serious illness or health condition;
- Permitting payment of a shelter allowance to sponsored immigrants;
- Exemption of payments received under the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program;
- Exemption of earnings of dependent children as assets;
- Funds for low-cost energy and water conservation measures are allowable as a discretionary benefit;
- Increasing the exemption for gifts and voluntary payments given to ODSP participants;
- Establishing eligibility effective the date of completion of the first stage of the two-stage application process;
- Including dependent contractors and commissioned salespersons as "self-employed";
- Increased flexibility for accessing the Back-to-School and Winter Clothing Allowances;
- Exemption of Family Law Act awards as assets or income;
- Exemption of loans and grants from the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program and Home and Vehicle Modification Program as income;
- Exemption of a portion of a loan, grant, or award that is used for education and training costs;
- Exemption of Workplace Safety and Insurance Board awards as assets and income.

This report will outline the above noted changes to the social assistance system, and will highlight the previous policy, the new policy, and the financial and administrative impact of each.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREVIOUS POLICY</th>
<th>NEW POLICY</th>
<th>CASELOAD IMPACT</th>
<th>FINANCIAL IMPACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) are assets, and contributions to or any payments from an RESP are considered income.</td>
<td>Exempt RESPs as assets, and contributions to and payments from an RESP as income. Funds withdrawn from an RESP must be used for post-secondary education in order to be exempt as income.</td>
<td>It is not known how many participants on social assistance (OW and ODSP) have RESPs. Based on the caseload profile and the low proportion of low income families that have RESPs(^1), it is expected that this change will have minimal impact. It is not known how many OW and ODSP applicants have been deemed ineligible due to having RESPs. Participants will benefit as a result of this policy change. For example, in the past, contributions to RESPs made by family members such as grandparents impacted the families' eligibility for assistance. As a result, families on social assistance were unable to benefit from government sponsored education savings programs.</td>
<td>A minimal increase in average case cost may result from the exemption of RESP contributions and payments as income. This change may contribute to increasing the average monthly caseload due to a slight increase in the number of applicants eligible for assistance. There may be a financial impact for both the OW Program and the ODSP.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extended Health Benefits (EHBs) were eliminated for OW in 1998. Extended Health Benefits include drug coverage, dental and vision care benefits for children, cost of diabetic supplies and dressings, and medical transportation, consumer co-payment for the Assistive</td>
<td>Eligible recipients can receive Extended Health Benefits if their earned income results in ineligibility but they have high health costs. Extended Health Benefits may be provided indefinitely until available income exceeds health care costs.</td>
<td>It is not known how many individuals who leave OW due to employment earnings have high health costs. It is not known how many individuals currently on OW with employment have high health costs. Participants with high health costs and employment will benefit from this policy change. They will be able to leave OW and continue to receive a drug card and access to mandatory discretionary benefits including dental and vision</td>
<td>A slight increase in the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program cost to the municipality may result due to the continued issue of the drug card. A slight increase to the Discretionary Benefits (DB) budget may occur due to continued access to mandatory health related items. These costs are shared with the Province on an 80/20 basis.</td>
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</table>

\(^1\) Government of Canada. Formative Evaluation of the Canada Education Savings Grant Program, April 2003. 8.6% of families with income less than $20,000 have RESPs.

### Previous Policy
Devices Program, cost of an assessment for eligibility for an assistive device, and the cost of batteries and repairs for mobility devices.

### New Policy
Care benefits for children and financial aid for costs associated with diabetes or with a medical condition requiring an assistive device.

Loss of drug and dental benefits is reported to be a disincentive to employment. Removal of this disincentive may contribute to an increase in the number of participants leaving assistance.

### Case Load Impact
The provision of extended health benefits may contribute to a decrease in the average monthly caseload.

The OW Program may experience a financial impact as a result of this policy change.

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### Making the System More Accountable and Sustainable
Two key changes are being implemented to make the system more accountable and sustainable. The following table shows past and new processes and policies and the potential impacts of the changes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous Process/Policy</th>
<th>New Process/Policy</th>
<th>Case Load Impact</th>
<th>Financial Impact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Social assistance paid to sponsored immigrants who are not receiving the support committed to by their sponsor becomes a debt to be repaid to OW or ODSP by the defaulting sponsor. Citizenship and Immigration Canada was notified in all cases of sponsorship default.</td>
<td>The previous process is enhanced with the involvement of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The CRA will deduct the amount of social assistance debt owing from the tax refund of the defaulting sponsor and will transfer it to the Province.</td>
<td>In November, 2004, at least 42 OW and 5 ODSP participants were sponsored immigrants. The majority are not receiving any support payments from their sponsor. Currently, there is no mechanism for OW or ODSP to recover from the defaulting sponsor social assistance payments paid to sponsored immigrants. With the involvement of CRA, we now have a mechanism to do this.</td>
<td>There may be a slight increase in the amount of funds recovered from defaulting sponsors. Recovery may take a number of years and depends on the tax refund calculated for the defaulting sponsor. The Province will distribute 20% of the funds recovered to municipalities. Both the OW Program and the ODSP may experience a financial impact as a result of this change.</td>
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<td>PREVIOUS PROCESS/POLICY</td>
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<td>Community Start Up Benefit (CSUB) is available to assist recipients to establish new permanent residences. A cumulative amount of $799 for a single person and $1,500 for a family can be paid in a twelve-month period.</td>
<td>CSUB may also be issued to prevent eviction or the discontinuance of utilities. Changes the payment frequency to once in 24 months while still allowing for more frequent payments in exceptional circumstances such as moves due to abuse, flood or fire. A cumulative amount of $799 for a single person and $1,500 for a family can be paid in a 24-month period.</td>
<td>It is not known how many OW and ODSP participants received CSUB in 2004 as this data is not available through SDMT. This policy change expands the eligibility criteria but reduces the cumulative amount available over a 2-year period by one half. This policy change will benefit social assistance recipients who are unable to access housing or who may be evicted from their homes due to rental arrears. It is not known how many participants this policy change will benefit. The reduction in the cumulative amount available may have a negative impact on participants. It is expected that the need for eviction prevention programs such as THAW and the Rent Bank will continue.</td>
<td>There may be a decline in the average amount of CSUB issued to an individual each year due to the decreased payment frequency. More people may access CSUB as there are more items for which CSUB may be used. The net financial impact of this policy change is difficult to assess due to the many factors that contribute to the provision of this benefit to participants. Both the OW Program and the ODSP may experience a financial impact as a result of this change.</td>
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### TREATING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS FAIRLY AND WITH DIGNITY

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<tr>
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<td>Consent to a lien on a principal residence required as a condition of eligibility. A lien is registered after a participant receives a total of 12 months of assistance within a five year period.</td>
<td>No requirement to consent to a lien. All current liens will be discharged. There will be no compensation in cases where liens have already been discharged.</td>
<td>At this time, there are 59 liens in place with OW that have not been collected. These will be discharged. Approximately 1% of OW participants are homeowners who have signed a consent to register a lien. Some of these liens may have been registered. It is not known how many liens are in place with ODSP.</td>
<td>There is a gross cost of $4,200 resulting from administrative costs paid out to discharge the 59 liens that are currently registered with OW. The cost of discharging liens currently registered with ODSP is not known. Estimating the potential financial impact of the loss of potential recoveries is difficult as the amount recovered depends on the value of the property that is sold and amount of social assistance that must be repaid. At this time, 10 liens have been collected through OW. Net recoveries are shared with the Province on an 80/20 basis. Both the OW Program and the ODSP may experience a financial impact as the result of this change.</td>
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<td>No drug card provided during period of non-compliance with participation requirements.</td>
<td>Drug card provided in cases of serious illness or health condition.</td>
<td>In 2004, an average of 12.3 households per month became ineligible for OW assistance for 3 months and an average of 1.7 became ineligible for OW assistance for 6 months due to non-compliance. It is not known how many of these participants may have had a serious illness or health condition. It is not known how many ODSP participants became</td>
<td>We may see a slight increase in the ODB program cost to the municipality. It is difficult to estimate the potential increase to the ODB program due to the number of variables that contribute to this cost. This program is cost-shared with the Province on an 80-20 basis.</td>
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<td><strong>No shelter allowance is provided if a sponsored immigrant is living with their sponsor.</strong>&lt;br&gt;A minimum sponsorship deduction of $100 per month if sponsored immigrant living apart from sponsor.</td>
<td>Permits payment of a shelter allowance to sponsored immigrants living with their sponsors or living in accommodation owned or controlled by the sponsor where the recipient has a legal obligation to pay shelter costs or there is a requirement for the recipient to pay shelter costs in order to remain in the residence. Eliminate the minimum $100 sponsorship deduction.</td>
<td>Ineligible for a temporary period due to non-compliance. The average monthly cost of a drug card is estimated to be $25.88.</td>
<td>Both the OW Program and the ODSP may experience a financial impact as the result of this change. &lt;br&gt;A slight increase in average case cost may result from the removal of the $100 minimum deduction and the issuance of a shelter allowance to sponsored immigrants who are living with their sponsors. &lt;br&gt;The 2005 cost of the removal of this minimum deduction may be $56,400 ($50,400 to the OW program and $6,000 to the ODSP program). &lt;br&gt;This cost is shared with the Province on an 80-20 basis. &lt;br&gt;This policy change may contribute to an increase in the average monthly caseload as we may see a slight increase in number of sponsored immigrants eligible for assistance. Both the OW Program and the ODSP may experience a financial impact as the result of this change.</td>
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<td><strong>Payments received under the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program (ODRAP) were exempted as income and assets effective August 31, 2004 as the result of the Peterborough Flood.</strong></td>
<td>Exempt payments received under ODRAP as income and assets.</td>
<td>It is not known how many OW and ODSP participants in London may have received payments under the ODRAP in the past. Any future caseload impact will be the result of future natural disasters.</td>
<td>A negligible financial impact is expected. Both the OW Program and the ODSP may experience a financial impact as the result of this change.</td>
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<td>Certain <strong>Insurance payments</strong> received were exempt as income and assets effective August 31, 2004 as the result of the Peterborough Flood.</td>
<td>Exempt insurance payments as income or assets as long as used for intended purpose (i.e., temporary living expenses, replacement of lost items, etc.). Insurance payments for loss of income are not exempt.</td>
<td>Although it is not known how many OW and ODSP participants in London may have received insurance payments that would have been exempt as income or assets, it is assumed that very few received insurance payments in the past.</td>
<td>A negligible financial impact is expected. Both the OW Program and the ODSP may experience a financial impact as the result of this change.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Earnings of dependent children</strong> are not exempt as assets.</td>
<td>Earnings of dependent children are exempt as assets. Earnings of dependent children continue to be exempt when determining income for the benefit unit.</td>
<td>It is not known at this time how many OW and ODSP participants with children will be impacted by this policy change. This policy change will have the most impact on new applicants for assistance. Applicants who may have been ineligible for assistance in the past due to asset levels that exceeded the maximum may be eligible in the future. It is not known how many applicants were ineligible due to the savings accumulated by dependent children with earnings.</td>
<td>This policy change may contribute to an increase in the average monthly caseload due to a slight increase in the number of families that may be eligible for assistance. Both the OW Program and the ODSP may experience a financial impact as the result of this change.</td>
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</table>
| **Funds for low-cost energy and water conservation measures** could not be issued. | Funds for low-cost energy and water conservation measures may be issued as a discretionary benefit. | It is not known how many OW and ODSP participants require funds for low-cost energy and water conservation measures. The maximum allowable for this non-health related discretionary benefit is $520 based on current legislation and business practices. | 'There is a potential increase to the cost of the Discretionary Benefits program, cost-shared 80/20 with the Province, due to an increase in the number of households requesting Discretionary Benefits. Calculating the potential financial impact of this addition to the Discretionary Benefits program is difficult as there are many unknown variables. Both the OW Program and the ODSP may experience a...
### PREVIOUS PROCESS/POLICY

**Gifts and voluntary payments** may be given to any member of the ODSP benefit unit for any purpose, up to a maximum of $4,000 for any 12 month period per member of the benefit unit.

**NEW PROCESS/POLICY**

The government is increasing the exemption for gifts and voluntary payments given to Ontario Disability Support Program participants to $5,000 per year per person.

**CASELOAD IMPACT**

ODSP participants will benefit from this policy change as they will be able to receive an additional $1,000 as a gift or voluntary payment. Gifts and voluntary payments are not deducted as income.

It is not known how many ODSP participants have received gifts or voluntary payments in the past.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Financial impact as the result of this change.

The average ODSP case cost may increase slightly as a result of the $1,000 increase to the amount that may be received as a gift or voluntary payment.

This cost is shared with the Province on an 80-20 basis.

The ODSP may experience a financial impact as a result of this change.

### ADDITIONAL CHANGES

**Eligibility commenced** effective the date the second stage of the two-stage application process was completed.

**NEW PROCESS/POLICY**

Eligibility commences effective the date of completion of the first stage (i.e., preliminary assessment) of the two-stage application process.

**CASELOAD IMPACT**

Local OW practice has always been to issue financial assistance to eligible applicants effective the date of completion of the first stage application process.

It is not known what local ODSP practice has been.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no anticipated impact to the OW Program.

There may be a financial impact to the ODSP in the event that this policy change results in a business practice change for ODSP.

**A Winter Clothing Allowance** is issued in November to eligible recipients with dependents.

**NEW PROCESS/POLICY**

Flexibility to issue payments for eligible dependents in November or December of the same year.

**CASELOAD IMPACT**

This change will benefit OW and ODSP participants with children who become eligible for assistance in December.

The maximum allowance issued is $105 per person.

It is not known how many children become eligible for OW or ODSP assistance in December 2004.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The average monthly case cost will increase in the month of December.

At this time, we are unable to estimate the potential cost of this policy change to OW and ODSP.
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<th>PREVIOUS PROCESS/POLICY</th>
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<tr>
<td>In August, a Back-to-School Allowance is issued to eligible recipients with children in school.</td>
<td>Flexibility to issue payments for eligible dependents in a month between August and December of the same year. This is a mandatory benefit to be provided once a year to all children between the ages of four and seventeen who are attending school.</td>
<td>It is not known how many children become eligible for OW or ODSP assistance in the months of September, October, November and December in 2004. Participants with children will benefit as a result of this policy change as families who become eligible for assistance in the months of September, October, November or December will be eligible for the Back-to-School Allowance. In the past, only those families in receipt of assistance during the month of August were eligible to receive this allowance. The Back-to-School Allowance is $69 for children age 4 to 12 and $128 for children age 13 to 17.</td>
<td>The average monthly case cost will increase for the months of September, October, November and December as the result of flexibility to issue the Back-to-School Allowance in these months. At this time, we are unable to estimate the potential cost of this policy change to OW and ODSP.</td>
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</table>

The definition of self-employment excluded dependent contractors (such as taxi drivers) and commissioned salespersons.

Dependent contractors and commissioned salespersons are now considered self-employed.

Commissioned salespersons and dependent contractors will be able to claim certain business expenses including vehicle, rental, and insurance expenses that are necessary to maintain employment. These expenses may be claimed up to a maximum of 60 weeks (or 72 in special circumstances). Assets necessary for their business (up to $15,000) will not be included as personal assets and will not be taken into account when determining financial eligibility for assistance. The number of OW participants employed as dependent contractors and commissioned salespersons is not known at this time.

There are likely to be increased average case costs as dependent contractors and commissioned salespersons will be able to deduct necessary business expenses for a period of 60 weeks. This policy change may contribute to an increase in the average monthly caseload due to a potential increase in the number of applicants who may be eligible for assistance from OW. OW may experience a financial impact as a result of this change.
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<tr>
<td>Family Law Act (FLA) awards are not exempt as income and assets.</td>
<td>FLA awards, up to $25,000, are exempt as assets or income.</td>
<td>Although specific figures are not available, it is assumed that very few OW participants would have received FLA awards in the past. It is not known how many ODSP participants would have received FLA awards in the past.</td>
<td>This policy change may contribute to a slight increase in the average monthly caseload due to a potential decrease in the number of cases that become ineligible for assistance as the result of the receipt of an FLA award. The average case cost increase that may result from the income exemption is expected to be negligible. Both OW and ODSP may experience a financial impact as the result of this change.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans and grants from the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and Home and Vehicle Modification Program (HVMP) are not exempt as income.</td>
<td>Loans and grants from the RRAP and HVMP are exempt as income.</td>
<td>It is not known how many OW or ODSP participants will benefit from this policy change. It is anticipated that there will be participants on the ODSP caseload who will benefit from this program change.</td>
<td>There will be a negligible financial impact to the OW budget as a result of the exemption of loans and grants from the RRAP and HVMP programs. The financial impact to the ODSP program may be slightly higher than the impact to OW. ODSP case costs are cost-shared with the Province on</td>
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<td>A portion of an <strong>Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)</strong> loan used for education costs or awards or grants from the Ministry of Education and Training is exempt as income or assets.</td>
<td>Exempt as income and assets the portion of a loan, grant or award that is used for education or training costs (e.g., tuition and books). Personal loans are acceptable.</td>
<td>OW and ODSP participants and applicants in postsecondary education programs will benefit as the result of an increase in the financial aid options available.</td>
<td>Both OW and ODSP may experience a financial impact as the result of this change.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) Non-economic Loss (NEL) awards</strong> are not exempt as income and assets.</td>
<td>WSIB NEL, up to $25,000 is exempt as assets and income, consistent with pain and suffering awards.</td>
<td>It is not known how many OW and ODSP participants have received WSIB NEL awards in the past. It is not known how many OW and ODSP participants currently on the caseload are receiving monthly income from this award.</td>
<td>This exemption may contribute to an increase in the average monthly caseload due to a reduction in the number of participants who leave OW and an increase in the number of applicants who may be eligible. Both OW and ODSP may experience a financial impact as the result of this change.</td>
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FINANCIAL IMPACT

It is very difficult at this point in time to identify the financial impact of these policy changes. Due to the many policy and economic factors that impact social assistance caseloads, it is not possible to isolate the potential financial impact that the policy changes may have on each specific program. Based on our preliminary analysis we are anticipating:

- Increased costs in the Ontario Drug Benefit Program;
- Increased costs in the Discretionary Benefits Program;
- Increased average case costs in the OW Program and in the ODSP;
- Increased caseload size in the OW Program and in the ODSP; and
- An eventual slight increase in recoveries.

These policy changes may contribute to an increase in the benefit levels that social assistance participants receive. Research has identified that an increase in benefit levels is a factor in increasing caseload size. A strong economy may mitigate the impact of an increase in benefit levels.

Both the OW Program and the ODSP are cost shared on an 80% Provincial/ 20% municipal basis. None of the policy changes and associated financial impacts contained in this report have been reflected in the 2005 City budget.

CONCLUSION

The Province has stated that they intend to "transform Ontario's social assistance programs and restore integrity to the welfare system" (MCSS News Release, December 15, 2004). It is expected that additional changes proposed by the Honorable Deb Matthews and the OMSSA Simplification Task Force Report may be introduced in 2005. The Community and Protective Services Committee will be advised as additional details regarding any subsequent changes to the Provincial social assistance system become available.

This report was prepared with the support of Gerda Zonruiter.

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# Appendix A

## OVERVIEW OF PREVIOUS REPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO ONTARIO WORKS AND THE ONTARIO DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

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<td>Date of Grant</td>
<td>- Ontario Works: Determining Budgetary Requirements for the Month of Application (March 31, 2003)</td>
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<td>- Change to STEP Variable Exemption Rate (August, 2000)</td>
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<td>Portability of Overpayments</td>
<td>- Ontario Works: Implementation of Full Portability of Overpayments (August 26, 2002)</td>
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<td>Spouse/Same Sex Partners</td>
<td>- Ontario Works: Update on Determining Co-Residency (August 26, 2002)</td>
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<td>- Ontario Works: Determining Co-Residency (June 10, 2002)</td>
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<td>- Ontario Works: Update on Determining Spousal Relationships (August 28, 2000)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Ontario Works: Determining Spousal Relationships (July 31, 2000)</td>
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<td>Literacy</td>
<td>- Update on Mandatory Literacy Testing and Training Initiative (July 29, 2002)</td>
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<td>- Update on the Ontario Works Mandatory Literacy Testing and Training Initiative (September 24, 2001)</td>
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<td>- Impact of Ontario Works Directives Regarding Liens and Second Properties on the Community (September 24, 2001)</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>- Update Report on May 1, 1998 Changes to Ontario’s Social Assistance System (June 10, 1998)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Bill 142 – Social Assistance Reform Act, 1997 (September 24, 1997)</td>
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</table>
McGuinty government restoring integrity to welfare system
Plan will help people move from working for welfare to working for a living

TORONTO – The McGuinty government is implementing its plan to transform Ontario’s social assistance programs and restore integrity to the welfare system, Minister of Community and Social Services Sandra Pupatello announced today.

"Ontario needs a new vision for its social assistance programs – one that focuses on people, not paperwork, and one that doesn’t penalize people for trying to improve their lives," said Pupatello. "Our plan will treat people fairly, make the system more accountable for everyone and remove barriers that prevent people from changing their lives so they can leave welfare for good."

The government’s plan will make Ontario’s social assistance programs work better for clients and for taxpayers by streamlining administration, improving accountability and moving people off welfare into steady jobs. Specific changes to the Ontario Works program and the Ontario Disability Support Program include:

- Allowing social assistance recipients to keep registered education savings plan (RESP) funds so that their children can get an education and escape the cycle of poverty
- Exempting money that children save from working part-time and after school
- Allowing Ontario Works recipients to access drug benefits while they transition back to work
- Simplifying the application process for Ontario Works recipients by eliminating the Intake Screening Units
- Allowing sponsored immigrants to keep the discriminatory $100 clawback and recouping welfare costs from sponsors who do not live up to their sponsorship obligations.

"It’s time to clean up the system, break down the old stereotypes and help people find and keep meaningful jobs," Pupatello said. "We believe in investing and supporting our most valuable resource – the people of Ontario. Our plan to transform social assistance will help our most vulnerable people get the support they need."

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