



The bi-monthly bulletin of the Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN)

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- **Another successful conference for LIEN**

The Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN) hosted its third annual conference on Wednesday, June 20th in Hamilton with financial support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The event was co-hosted by Hamilton's community legal clinics. The goal of the conference was to bring together representatives from different social sectors and share information and experiences on addressing energy poverty from both a social justice and environmental perspective. Participants engaged in discussions on the key actions needed to address energy poverty (energy conservation and rate assistance), and getting energy poverty on the public's agenda (political and media strategies). The conference was a great success, with over 80 participants representing a range of organizations from the anti-poverty, affordable housing and environmental communities, as well as representatives from local utilities. For more information on the conference, including presentations and conference kits, please visit the LIEN website.

- **LIEN to protect low-income energy consumers**

LIEN is appealing the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision, that it does not have jurisdiction to order affordable gas and electricity rates for low-income consumers, to Divisional Court. LIEN is also requesting to meet with the Minister of Energy after writing a letter to him asking that he issue a directive to the OEB to hold a generic hearing on the impact of energy prices on low-income and vulnerable consumers. LIEN wants the OEB at such a generic hearing to consider and implement solutions including low-income rate assistance.

- **Reduce your gas or hydro bill by 15% - 75%**

Contact Green\$aver if you reside in an electrically heated OR Enbridge gas heated home and have limited income. Green\$aver has been contracted by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and Enbridge Gas Distribution to deliver energy conservation programs to low-income consumers. The **Energy Efficiency Assistance Program for Homes (EEAPH)** is for electrically heated homes and is sponsored by the OPA. **The Home Weatherization Retrofit Program** is for gas heated homes and is sponsored by Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. Measures that you may expect to see implemented in your home include draft-proofing and insulation, in addition to basic energy-saving measures such as light bulbs, showerheads, pipewrap, fridge replacement, district hot water fuel switches from electric to gas and a drain water heat recovery system.

LIEN hopes that these pilot programs will eventually be rolled out across the province.

For more information, eligibility criteria and to obtain an application form, visit the Green\$aver website at http://www.greensaver.org/audit_eeaph.html OR call Agatha at 416-203-3106 ext. 230.

- **LIEN's continued participation in development of OPA's Multifamily Buildings Program to reduce energy use**

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) is continuing to consult with LIEN and other stakeholders in the development of its Multifamily Buildings Program (MFB) to reduce energy demand and consumption of all existing multi-residential buildings with six or more housing units. The three year (2008-2010) Multifamily

Buildings Program is part of the OPA's overall strategic objectives to create conservation and demand management programs that promote a culture of conservation in Ontario. The Design, Delivery and Implementation Workshop, the second of two workshops, was held on June 8th, 2007 and was designed to introduce the (MFB) concept to stakeholders; seek participant feedback on program design elements; and input to delivery and implementation considerations. LIEN wants to ensure that tenants will share in energy cost savings in the OPA's MFB program.

A draft report that came out of the June 8th OPA MFB Program Design and Implementation Workshop is now available on the OPA website at http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=5825&SiteNodeID=302&BL_ExpandID=96

The OPA is asking for feedback from interested stakeholders on the draft design. Please submit your comments by July 31st, 2007 to submissions@powerauthority.on.ca and specify "Multifamily Buildings Program" in the subject line.

- **How you can join the fight against energy poverty**

LIEN has been working hard to ensure that low-income people have affordable energy bills and access to conservation programs. You can help by lobbying to get energy poverty on the public agenda in the upcoming provincial election. LIEN has designed a Lobby Kit which will soon be distributed and posted on our website. The lobby kit offers an introduction to the problem of energy poverty and some simple templates which you can use locally in your advocacy work with politicians and your community.

LIEN Currents is issued bi-monthly by the Low-Income Energy Network for members and others interested in solutions to energy poverty in Ontario. For more information, contact Zee Bhanji at bhanjiz@lao.on.ca or 416-597-5855 ext. 5167. You can also visit our website at www.lowincomeenergy.ca

LIEN would like to express its appreciation to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for supporting this initiative

