



Low-Income Energy Network

March 25, 2014

Ms. Andrea Horwath
Leader of the
New Democratic Party Caucus
Room 113, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A5

ahorwath-gp@ndp.on.ca

Fax: 416-325-2770

Dear Ms. Horwath,

Re: Low-Income Energy Rate Affordability Program

As the Low-Income Energy Network celebrates its 10th anniversary today at its annual symposium, the top line message from the conference is the need for an energy rate affordability program in Ontario.

LIEN has been advocating a comprehensive solution to energy poverty in Ontario over the last ten years. From emergency energy assistance, to low-income energy conservation programs, to better terms of service for low-income consumers, there has been great progress in the province. But the missing link is an Energy Rate Affordability Program to make sure that electricity bills are within reach for low-income consumers. LIEN advocates a province wide program that sets a threshold of 6% of total household income as the maximum amount that low-income consumers should have to pay for total energy bills – for heating and non-heating energy uses. Above that threshold, difficult choices have to be made between food, rent, electricity, medication and other essentials.

The work LIEN has done demonstrates that low-income energy affordability programs are good for utilities and their ratepayers too, because bills become much more manageable for the lowest income consumers.

Today, on the 10th Anniversary of LIEN, we are asking all of the leaders of the provincial parties to support a low-income energy rate affordability program for Ontario. We would be very pleased to meet with you or your staff to discuss the detailed work we have conducted, including the benefits, costs and design of an Energy Affordability Program for Ontario. We look forward to hearing from you.

c/o Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO)
425 Adelaide St. West, 5th floor, Toronto, ON M5V 3C1
Phone: 416-597-5855 ext. 5167 1-866-245-4182 Fax: 416-597-5821

LIEN is a project funded by Legal Aid Ontario and supported by ACTO & CELA

Sincerely,



Zee Bhanji

Coordinator

Low-Income Energy Network

Tel: 416.597.5855 ext. 5167

Fax: 416.597.5821

E-mail: bhanjiz@lao.on.ca