



**THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY  
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD  
BOARD REPORT**

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SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

<b>DATE PREPARED</b>	October 30, 2008	<b>REPORT NO.:</b> 2009-03
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	January 22, 2009	<b>TBDSSAB File No.:</b> 840.00
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Special Transition Benefit	

**REPORT SUMMARY**

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with an update on the Special Transition Payment.

**BACKGROUND**

Report No. 2008-17 provided the TBDSSAB with an overview of the provincial social assistance restructuring and the financial impact upon social assistance recipients in the year 2008. To address the shortfall and facilitate more equitable treatment amongst social assistance recipients through the transition, in Resolution No. 08/61 the Board directed that a one-time special transition benefit to be issued to eligible social assistance recipients of the Ontario Works program or Ontario Disability Support Program who demonstrate financial challenges in meeting health related needs of their children as a result of the removal of the Back to School and Winter Clothing allowances. The special transition benefit included a maximum of \$73 per child between the ages of 4 and 12, and up to \$264 per child between the ages of 13 and 17. The estimated cost for provision of this health related benefit was \$318,000 (\$63,000 net) based on the cost-share formula of 80/20 between the province and the TBDSSAB respectively.

**COMMENTS**

There was a high level of need for assistance identified amongst social assistance recipients. Special transition benefits totaling \$241,129 (\$48,225 net) was issued for 1,718 children of 896 families in receipt of social assistance from Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program. Table 1 illustrates the number of families who applied from Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program, the number of children per age category where benefits were issued, and the number of children who were not eligible for the benefit. The reasons for ineligibility are outlined in Table 2. The number of internal reviews requested concerning the eligibility decisions was small (n = 4).

Table 1

	<b>Families Applied</b>	<b>4 – 12 yrs Issued</b>	<b>13 – 18 yrs Issued</b>	<b># Children Determined Not Eligible</b>
OW	600	777	306	64
ODSP	365	329	306	5

Table 2

<b>Ineligibility Reason</b>	<b>OW</b>	<b>ODSP</b>
Dependent Child not included in budget	4	2
Dependent Child status Non-Contributing	1	
Case on Suspend	1	
Dependent Child over 17 years of age	5	2
Benefit Unit not in receipt of OW/ODSP	16	2
Benefit Unit in receipt of social assistance from Reserve	1	1
School Verification not provided	1	
Dependent child under 4 years of age and not attending school	35	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>5</b>

**CONCLUSION**

It is concluded that the special one-time benefit was successful in assisting 896 families in receipt of social assistance with transitioning through the provincial social assistance restructuring by helping these families meet the health needs of their 1,718 children.

**RECOMMENDATION**

For information only.

**REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED**

None.

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