

Welfare Advocacy Workshop
Fort McMurray
May 13 and 14 1992
Agenda

Wednesday May 13

8:30 a.m.
 Welcome and Introductions

8:45
 Advocacy Bingo

9:45
 Coffee Break

10:00
 Welfare:
 How did it come about?
 What is its legal basis?
 Where is it going?

11:00
The Things I Cannot Change
 Discussion

12:00
 Lunch

1:00 p.m.
 The Program
 Item by item discussion of the program,
 entitlements, procedures, etc.
 The new SFI program, what changed?
 AISH
 How does the department work?

3:15
 Coffee Break

3:30
 List and Begin Discussion of Problem
 Areas

4:30
 Close

Thursday May 14th

8:30 a.m.
 Individual Advocacy Techniques

10:00
 Coffee Break

10:15
 Problem Solving
 Case studies - small groups

11:15
 Problem solving
 Your problems -
 large group

12:00
 Lunch

1:00
 Collective Advocacy / Lobbying
 Introduction
Dandelions
 Techniques
 (groups/coalitions, media, politicians,
 legal, churches, etc.)
 Discussion

2:30
 Coffee Break

2:45
 Small group exercise
 Advocacy campaign
 Report back

4:00
 Questions
 Wrap-up
 Evaluation

Collective Advocacy and Lobbying Tips and Techniques

- ◆ The most important factor in any lobbying or collective advocacy technique is **good planning**. Whatever you decide to do, it should be well-thought out, have the support of your group, and carried out responsibly. While bad individual advocacy will likely only discredit you and your client, bad lobbying will hurt the whole cause.
- ◆ In recent years, social advocacy has been carried out primarily through **coalitions**. Coalitions have a number of advantages. They ensure a broader base of support than a single organization. This is especially important if you are from a non-mainstream group - an advocacy group for welfare recipients for example. If you can get a number of churches to agree to some common goals and form a committee, coalition, or network, you will likely receive far more attention than if you are on your own. **Often, the game is to show broad community support for your position.**
- ◆ Coalitions have disadvantages. They tend to be held back by the lowest common denominator. The group which is most conservative will be able to stall action. They also tend to be somewhat bureaucratic. What your little group could have decided over coffee might take a half-day meeting. **Coalitions work best if they are time-limited and they have a specific goal.**
- ◆ ~~On no account involve people who are working for organizations you are criticizing. You will hurt them and/or hurt your campaign.~~ Frequently, there are government workers who are your friends and are very sympathetic to your cause. Use them to feed you information behind the scenes, to reflect on impact of your campaigns, etc. **They don't have to be on your committee to help you.**
- ◆ **Design a realistic target.** Most groups have completely unrealistic targets. The elimination of poverty is not a good goal, because it cannot be achieved by your small group. Choose a goal which you can win. This might be to assure decent access to emergency food vouchers. Then you can show some results, keep your campaign focussed, see an end to the campaign, keep consensus-building problems to a minimum, and appear realistic to the public. There's nothing to stop you moving on to something bigger once you have the taste of success.
- ◆ If you decide to use a coalition, try to build its strength to include as many of the leading figures in your area as possible. The broader the group you have, the better the chance government will back down. Bear in mind, though, that if everyone doesn't agree at the beginning, you won't get very far.
- ◆ It's important to involve people from your user group, "clients". After all, you're doing things in their name. And the public impact is greater if they can see the people affected by the thing you're trying to change. But bear in mind

that low-income people don't always go to meetings like you do, they have insecurities, they may have a different way of talking from your own, etc.

- ◆ **Be imaginative in planning your campaign.** Do things that will grab attention, that are different. Change your tactics regularly, because issues become boring to the media and to the public very quickly. Do things that are out in the open, literally and figuratively. A little well-planned scene outside a welfare office is a lot more effective than five hundred letters to an MLA.
- ◆ **The media is essential to your campaign.** Our mass society means that without media attention, an issue just doesn't exist, your activities just didn't happen. You need to cultivate the media, to acknowledge their role (which is not to assist you as you choose), and to show discretion with them.
- ◆ There are many different ways of getting your issue into the paper, and you should try a number of them. Remember that even in smaller papers, there are often people who specialize, on editorials, on news stories, and on features. They can even be a bit competitive with each other so cultivate them all separately. Don't contact them mainly through press releases, but by personal contact, followed by a written statement or release. **Remember that most journalists are looking for scoop stories**, which give them a career boost, and a press release you send to every media outlet in town is not a scoop. If it's a good story, and it runs big enough in one outlet, the others will follow anyway.
- ◆ You can focus on creating a news story, by doing or saying something newsworthy. You're trying to get a headline like "Action Group decries new welfare cuts". Often you have to do something other than just say that. You can issue a release demanding to meet with your MLA, you can produce a report or analysis of the latest cuts, you can hold a little demonstration, and you can even get a well-known name to speak for you; "Archbishop McDonald endorses Action Group concerns". News stories are often the quickest way to get an impact.
- ◆ TV and radio are other important sources. More people hear or see what you're doing, though the long term impact might be less, and governments take more notice of written articles because of clipping services. Radio talk shows are always crying out for people to be on their shows, so get to know the local station programmers and you'll have lots of chances. TV is more picky, and you will sometimes have to make a bit of a scene to get on the news, and you need to think if the scene you make will turn off the people you are trying to influence and need as supporters.
- ◆ **Newspapers have Feature and Lifestyle sections** which focus on broad social issues. You can get a huge amount of coverage and readership by working with a journalist on a feature story. Feature stories are longer, and often profile a couple of people affected by the problem, rather than the advocate group itself. Be sure that everyone understands the ground rules if you involve service users. Will names, pictures be published, does the client know that there is often a little bit of negative feedback from people who don't like "welfare bums", etc.? Features often take a few days or even weeks to pull

together, so you should start with a coffee or long phone chat about your idea with a journalist. Remember they don't **have** to follow your idea; just peddle it to someone else if they're not interested.

- ◆ **Start off by having one spokesperson.** It's important to have the public recognize someone as representing this interest. **But eventually, the media wants to have different people speaking out.** Don't be frightened to speak out collectively and as individual organizations. No-one really cares if your church is in the Action Group and you speak out on behalf of your local church as the same time as the Action Group is commenting.
- ◆ **Use politicians strategically.** Politics isn't in a healthy state these days and many politicians simply follow public opinion. So even if you have a government MLA or MP, don't start off by crucifying them. Tell them how many groups support you, how many people are concerned, etc. Only if you don't get anywhere, should you legitimately criticize the politician.
- ◆ **Be very careful of your relationship with Opposition politicians.** It's in the nature of things that people advocating social changes often support Opposition parties. But don't forget that their motives are different from yours. They want to show that the government is basically useless and should be turfed out of office. You just want them to change their policies in the area you know. If the government can successfully identify you as being partisan towards one political party, your credibility goes down. Also don't forget you might be threatening charitable status, which requires you to be non-party-political. Keep your relations with the Opposition discrete and be wary of their objectives. Also never forget that it's easy for them to agree with you now, but what they do in government, faced with all the other interest groups, will be much more careful. You will probably end up having to criticize their work, too.
- ◆ However, MLA's and MP's can ask questions in the legislature which embarrass the government or which get answers to your questions which bureaucrats won't give you. They are a good place to forward items leaked to you (quietly, of course). It is not a good idea to invite them to speak at your rallies (unless all the parties get a chance), to have them endorse your statements, or to participate in your coalition.
- ◆ **Keep engaging in different activities.** Have fun! Some different things people have done include:
 - distributing leaflets at shopping malls
 - buying an ad in the paper or on the radio
 - having a small rally or picket outside the politician's office
 - speaking at local churches and community leagues
 - getting professionals involved like teachers, who see what poverty does from a different perspective
 - get schools to do projects on your issues
 - try to have a government committee visit your community for a meeting
 - something very visual like a balloon flight or aircraft message, etc.

Individual Advocacy - Some Tips and Techniques

- ♦ Often, it seems easier to just help the person meet their basic needs. Whether we give them a hamper, or help them out financially, or give them free clothing or furniture, we are certainly doing the right thing; meeting the immediate need. But are we resolving any problems in the long term?

Why Advocate?

- ♦ No matter how well-intentioned your food program (or other charitable project), for the recipient it is almost always second best. No-one likes to stand in a food line, go to a soup kitchen, etc. For 95% of people, the best solution is to have enough resources to purchase what they need themselves.
- ♦ Volunteer programs like food banks do not have anywhere near enough resources to meet all the needs. If government feels a problem is being addressed by the food bank, it makes it that much easier to offload responsibility. The better you are at meeting people's basic needs, the more people will be referred to you. Making sure that government is meeting all its responsibilities to individual clients will reduce the numbers of people referred to you from the department.
- ♦ Providing advocacy skills to your clients will help them to deal more effectively with the system. They will also be able to pass on that knowledge to their friends, **a spin-off which cannot take place if you simply provide them a hamper.** You will be making things better for people you will never meet.
- ♦ Advocating with your clients will also change the attitudes in your local welfare office. There will be more attention paid to following the proper procedures and policies, not just with your clients, but generally. **Again, you will be assisting people who may never use your services.**

So how do I advocate?

- ♦ There are lots of different ways you can go about things. These are just some basic things that will help you.
- ♦ First of all, you should have a copy of the relevant manual. The Social Assistance Manual is available from the Queen's Printer, Alberta Government, in Edmonton. Their phone number is 1-427-4952, and the manual is only a few dollars per copy.
- ♦ Next, and the most important step, you **must get the story straight.** This is where the biggest mistakes are made. A person advocates on behalf of

someone without all the info, and their credibility is lost, not just for this case but for the future. People are often embarrassed about their circumstances, and they might not tell you everything the first time. Go over the story a couple of times with them. Usually, if it keeps changing, there is a problem and you need to keep clarifying until you're sure you have the full picture. Shouting at people won't help. What might help, though, is having your client understand you're on their side, and that you will only tell the Department what the client wants you to say. Write down the facts so that you'll have them for future discussions.

- ◆ Then you need to figure out what their entitlements are. This involves using the manual, and if necessary, calling any contact you might have in the Department for an unofficial hypothetical position. Rules change all the time, so bear that in mind.
- ◆ At this point, you need to explain options to your client. If at all possible, **have the client do their own advocating**. This will make them feel a lot better if they win. It's often a good idea to get them to do it from your office - it adds clout, you're there to help if there's a problem, and you know that they have taken the agreed-upon action.
- ◆ If that doesn't go anywhere, or the client doesn't have the confidence, then you need to do some talking for them. You must be very careful **that you have their permission for each step you take**. Just because they're out of food, doesn't give some busybody the right to decide what's good for them and charge off with a plan of action. **A plan of action must be developed jointly**.
- ◆ Whoever does the advocating, start with the front-line worker. Be polite but professional (in other words, don't get into the trap of debating the merits of your client or the lives of your mutual friends - you're here to do something important for your client. Explain the situation clearly and concisely, explain the regulations you are using to base your case so they know you're serious, and make it clear you will pursue the matter as necessary. It's often good to start with "I have a client who's having a problem and I'm not sure whether I should call you or Ms/Mr X, the supervisor." That conveys the point without threatening.
- ◆ If you don't get anywhere, call the supervisor. Go through the same story. You can also call the office manager if you don't get anywhere with the supervisor, but by now you should be thinking of an appeal.
- ◆ If you are certain the problem is a local misinterpretation, call the regional director of income support, or even the Minister's Office. But don't do this unless it's clear the local people know about the problem and they won't do anything. Local people get into trouble when the senior bureaucrats get dragged into local issues. It has been said that the main goal of the civil servant is to make sure there are no complaints to the minister and that the department all stays out of the newspaper.
- ◆ An appeal must be filled out on the proper form. You can get it from every welfare office. Every person has a right to an appeal on any issue affecting

their social assistance. Don't let people tell you otherwise. **There are two places to sign the form, make sure the client signs both.** One is for a written internal review, the other is for an appeal in front of a tribunal. As long as the person signs in both places, the internal review is done first, and the issue is then placed before an appeal panel of the internal review does not decide in favour of your client. There is a place on the form to explain the problem. Be clear and simple, point or bullet form is best:

- I am on assistance
 - My fridge broke down May 11 1992
 - All my food went bad
 - My worker, Jon Murphy, refused me an emergency food voucher
 - I believe I am entitled to one
-
- ♦ The appeal panel is fairly casual. You should offer to appear with your client. Often, even if they can do the rest themselves, they feel much better having an ally at a local appeal. The department must cover the client's costs to attend at an appeal.
 - ♦ Again, make sure you and your client have the story clear, make sure it is told in as simple a way as possible. There are usually three or four people on the appeal panel, and it is not at all legalistic.
 - ♦ If you win, you have made things better for your client. But far more important, you have made things better for other clients, who will be treated more carefully in the future. And even if you don't win, the system will know there's someone out there looking after the interests of the little person.
-

ADVOCACY BINGO

FIND SOMEONE:

- A. Who is a single unemployed mother
- B. Who has experienced family violence
- C. Who knows a homeless person
- D. Who lives in low income housing
- E. Who knows a welfare recipient who spends his/her money irresponsibly
- F. Who has experienced discrimination because of being poor
- G. Who has personally helped support someone with food and/or clothing
- H. Whose children have friends that live in poverty
- I. Who has a friend or relative on social assistance
- J. Who has read a book, poem or article about the poor or poverty
- K. Who shares accommodation with another individual or family
- L. Who has a friend who has used the Food Bank

A	B	C	D
name	name	name	name
E	F	G	H
name	name	name	name
I	J	K	L
name	name	name	name

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
WELFARE ADVOCACY TRAINING WORKSHOP

MAY 1992

APPEALS

Basic Information:

The appeal procedure is required by the Social Development Act. Also, Alberta receives a share of its welfare costs from the federal government's Canada Assistance Plan. This Act also requires Alberta to have an appeal process including an independent panel.

Appeal Panel Numbers: minimum three people

Address: Mr. Mickey Casavant, Director
Appeal and Advisory Secretariat
Minister's Correspondence Unit
Alberta Family and Social Services
Centre West Building
10035 - 108 Street 6th Floor
Edmonton, AB. T5J 3E1
(403) 427-2709

Principles:

The Appeal Panels make decisions based on principles of natural justice. They are bound only by the Social Development Act and Regulations. Appeal Panels are not bound by Alberta Family and Social Services Policy.

Records of the types of issues brought forward to the Appeal Panels have been used to modify policy of Alberta Family and Social Services.

~~Appellants have the right to see all documents submitted to the Appeal Panel.~~

Other rights include the right to request a hearing in a language other than English (with prior notice), the right to bring another person to assist (the other person may be a friend, relative, advocate, lawyer).

File for an appeal hearing within 30 days of the decision being appealed.
Appeals are usually scheduled within two weeks of receipt of the request.

Documents for requesting appeals are available through Alberta Family and Social Services.

The Appeal Panel may hear an appeal with respect to any decision on any matter respecting a social allowance or handicapped benefit.

How to Appeal:

There are appeal forms at each District Office. Your client can get a form from the office; or you might be able to get the local office to give you a stock.

The form should be signed in both places, so the case can be renewed internally in the office and by the Appeal Panel. There is a space to explain your case--why you are appealing. Make your points simple and clear (bullet form is good).

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Welfare Advocacy Workshop

CASE STUDY #1

Mrs. Kennedy is a single divorced mother with three (3) children--Lilian 13, Michael 6 and Peter 3. The amount she receives on social allowance is insufficient to meet her family recreational needs. For example, Michael is very active and wants to play hockey. However, Mrs. Kennedy cannot afford a community league membership or, equipment and other expenses for Michael. She's considering a part-time job in the evening as a waitress in a local restaurant. She cannot afford babysitting costs, so she must have Lilian take charge of the two younger children.

QUESTIONS

1. Should Mrs. Kennedy take this part-time job?
 2. What impact , if any, would her working have on the family?
-
3. What other approach/resources are there to enable Mrs. Kennedy to meet the recreational needs of the children/family?

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CASE STUDY #2

Heather just left her abusive husband, taking her two children--ages 6 and 8--with her. She is staying at an emergency shelter for families in her situation and receiving assistance from staff there. Contact with Heather's husband has been difficult; he has been uncooperative and refuses to "give her a cent" to support the children.

You are Heather's advocate at the Shelter.

QUESTIONS

1. Where do you start?
2. What is she entitled to?
3. Plan the steps of your strategy to assist Heather and her children.

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CASE STUDY #3

Simon is a 21 year old welder who cannot work because of an injury he received during a fall last year. Workers' Compensation has declared him fit for work and has stopped issuing benefits, so Simon is now on **Supports for Independence**. The problem is that Simon still suffers from acute back pain from time to time and has fainting spells unexpectedly. His financial benefits worker has put him in the Employment and Training Support Program despite the medical problems he claims to have.

Simon also feels that the policy discriminates against him and other 'employables' by providing them with fewer benefits.

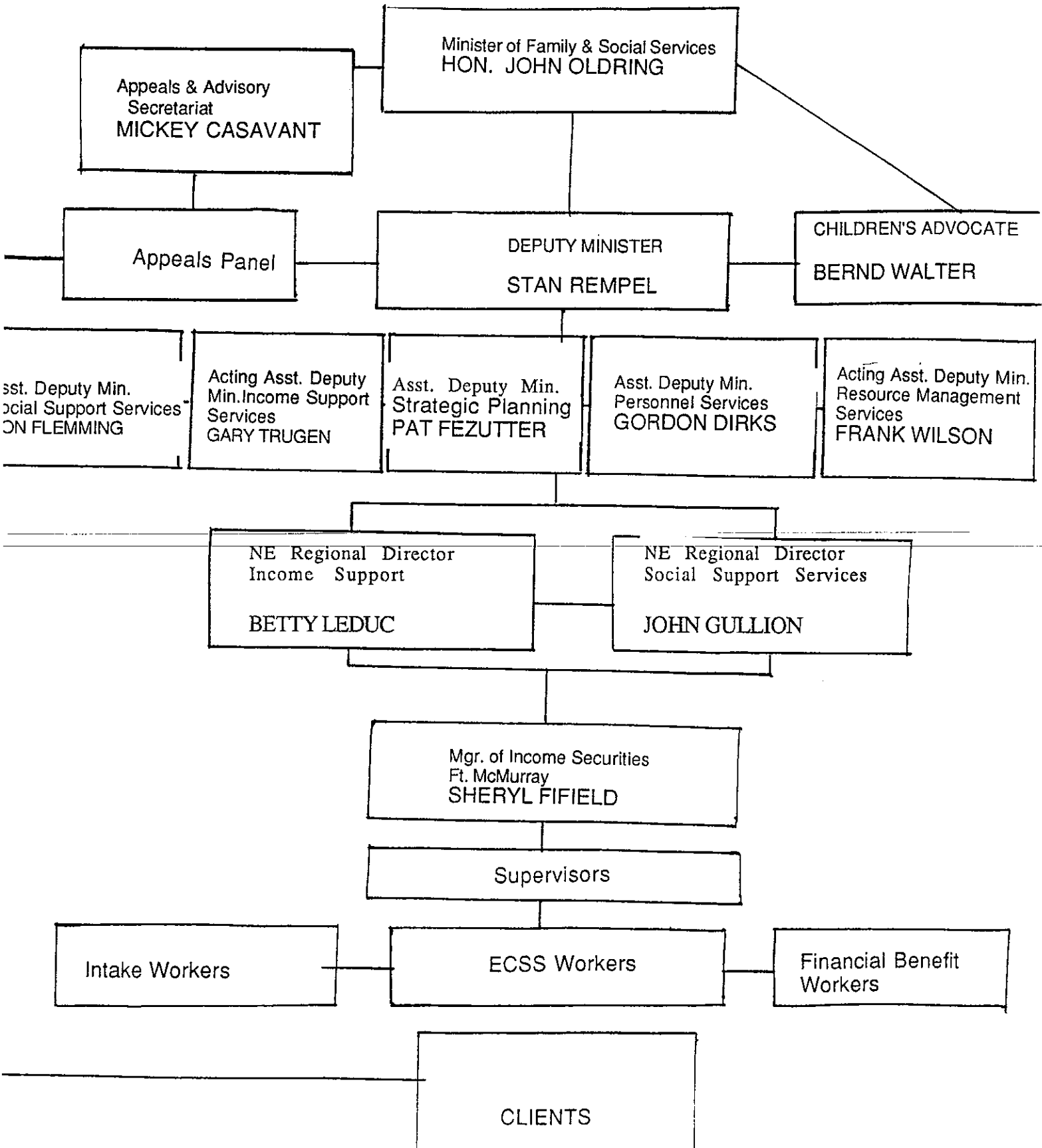
QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of strategy might you plan for Simon?

2. If his claim is true(is it?), what course of action might be taken?

ALBERTA FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

1992



**EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
WELFARE ADVOCACY WORKSHOP**

1. Welfare is a privilege.
2. Families on welfare should be monitored.
3. Welfare creates dependency.
4. People on assistance should budget better.
5. ~~Social service workers make every effort to see that people have their needs met.~~
6. Welfare recipients have to cheat the system to live.
7. It is the government's responsibility to meet people's food needs, they can't provide for themselves.

Page two.
Attitudes Questionnaire

8. People are on welfare because they choose to be.
 9. Welfare rates should remain below the minimum wage.
 10. People who use food banks should not play bingo.
 1. Anyone who wants to work can find a job.
-
12. In Alberta, welfare rates are adequate.

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Welfare Advocacy Training Workshop
Fort McMurray

Evaluation

A. The workshop facilitator was well prepared. Agree _____ Disagree _____

B. The workshop was well designed to fit our needs Agree _____ Disagree _____

C. The two best things about this workshop were

D. Two things I would change are

E. My objectives for this workshop were met. Agree _____ Disagree _____

If not, what information could have been added?

F. I am now better able to _____

G. Alberta's Income Security Programs are _____

H. Any additional comments, suggestions, or recommendations? _____

Edmonton Social Planning Council
Welfare Advocacy Workshop

Personal Budgeting

1. RENT/MORTGAGE PAYMENTS	\$

UTILITIES	\$

2. FOOD	\$

3. CLOTHING	\$

4. HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	\$
-- vacuum cleaner	
-- cleaning liquids	
-- furniture	

5. LAUNDRY	\$

6. TRANSPORTATION	\$

7. RECREATION	\$

8. ALBERTA HEALTH CARE	\$

PRESCRIPTIONS	\$

EYEGASSES	\$

DENTAL CARE	\$

9. ADDITIONAL COSTS	\$
-- school fees/books	
-- baby needs	
-- special diet requirements	
-- birthday gifts/cakes	

TOTAL:	

Are You Collecting Social Assistance?

Have You Been Denied an Emergency Food Voucher?

In recent months, many Social Assistance recipients have been told that Emergency Food Vouchers "are not being given out any more." This is *not true!* Policy clearly states that:

"There are many situations where circumstances beyond the client's control have left him without sufficient food. In these situations it is reasonable and appropriate to issue the additional food benefit.

It is also recognized that in the course of normal family life other stresses can occur which would warrant issuing this benefit. For example, a client may incur unforeseen expenses in attending a child's high school graduation or in having a number of relatives arrive unannounced for the weekend."

Andrew H. Law
Director, Social Allowance Program
June 12, 1991

If something beyond your control has left you without sufficient food, you have the right to receive an Emergency Food Voucher.

Supports for Independence: Client Categories

Assured Support

People who are unable to work because of permanent disability, persistent mental or physical health problems, or multiple barriers to employment (such as age, low level of education and skills, poor health) will fall under this category. Those who used to receive Social Allowance for the Disabled will also be classified under Assured Support, unless they are working or in training.

The department estimates 1/4 of cases will fall into this category. One-time benefits such as furniture and appliances are significantly higher for this category than for the other three.

Transitional Support

People who are currently unavailable for employment or training programs because of temporary health problems, or because they are caring for young children (under two years) or other ill or disabled dependents, fit into this category. As well, if someone has a temporary reason, such as pregnancy or bereavement, they may be classified under transitional support.

People in this category are not expected to work until their circumstances allow. The department expects about 20% of the caseload will receive transitional support.

Employment and Training Support Program

If people receiving assistance are able and available for work or go to school, or if they are already in training or education programs, they will fall into this category. Also included here are people awaiting unemployment insurance.

Those not already working or in training are expected to seek employment, training, or work experience. The department expects more than 1/3 of cases will be classified under this program.

Supplement to Earnings

If a person has been on assistance and then gets a job, either full or part-time, but is not making enough to meet basic needs, this program will supplement earnings. Those who are receiving assistance and awaiting pay also fall into this category. About 1/6 of cases will fall into this category.

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PROBLEM SOLVING MODEL

When someone comes to you for your advocacy services (or for other associated helping services), it is important to remember that their story is only one piece of the "puzzle" you must "solve".

Generally, there are five steps you should go through when providing a helping service. These include:

- data collecting
- assessing
- planning
- implementing the plan
- evaluating.

It is very important to remember that it would be unethical and potentially harmful to the person coming to you for help if you take any action that is not authorized by your "client". It is advisable to have your "client" sign a release of information form indicating their authorization of your receipt of information about their case.

Data collecting. When a person tells you their story, you have learned a number of things about their situation. You may ask questions of that person to further clarify the story. You are still gathering information about the story. Checking the written policy in the Income Security Programs Manual is another method of collecting relevant data. You might also wish to telephone someone with expertise in the particular area in which you are working, either an employee of Alberta Family and Social Services or someone who is working in a community agency. If you decide you are going to help the person and if you decide you will call the social allowance worker, you will still be in the data collecting phase of your work when you call that worker initially. It is important to do a thorough job of collecting data in order to be most helpful to your "client".

Assessing. Throughout the process of collecting data, you will be assessing the situation and the possibilities for your intervention. A number of things will be important for your consideration including whether the person who has come to you for help can advocate on their own behalf when provided with information and support or whether your active intervention is needed. Is this situation one that must be attended to immediately or do you have time to work through a lengthier process? What will your organization authorize you to do? Some organizations tell their workers they may not telephone District Office Managers. Others can only telephone District Office Managers. Still others can intervene in many different ways but may not attend appeal hearings.

Planning. This is the time when you and your "client" will decide upon a course of action. It is important to make this as clear as possible. Are there people you will have to contact other than the social allowance worker, e.g., a landlord, a taxi company, the Edmonton Food Bank or some other person or organization? Who will contact them? Are they aware and is it all right with your "client" if they are made aware that he/she is in receipt of social allowance?

Implementing. Now you are ready to act on your plan with your "client". As you begin to implement your plan, you will probably collect additional data that may cause you to re-think your course of action.

Evaluating. This is the opportunity for you and your "client" to take a look at what you have done and how well it has "worked". It's a good time for you to reflect on your own skills as an advocate and to give some thought to what you might do in the same way or in a different way in the future.

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Alberta Family and Social Services

The Big 5

Basic necessities for:

1. Training
2. Health
3. Education
4. Rehabilitation
5. Employment

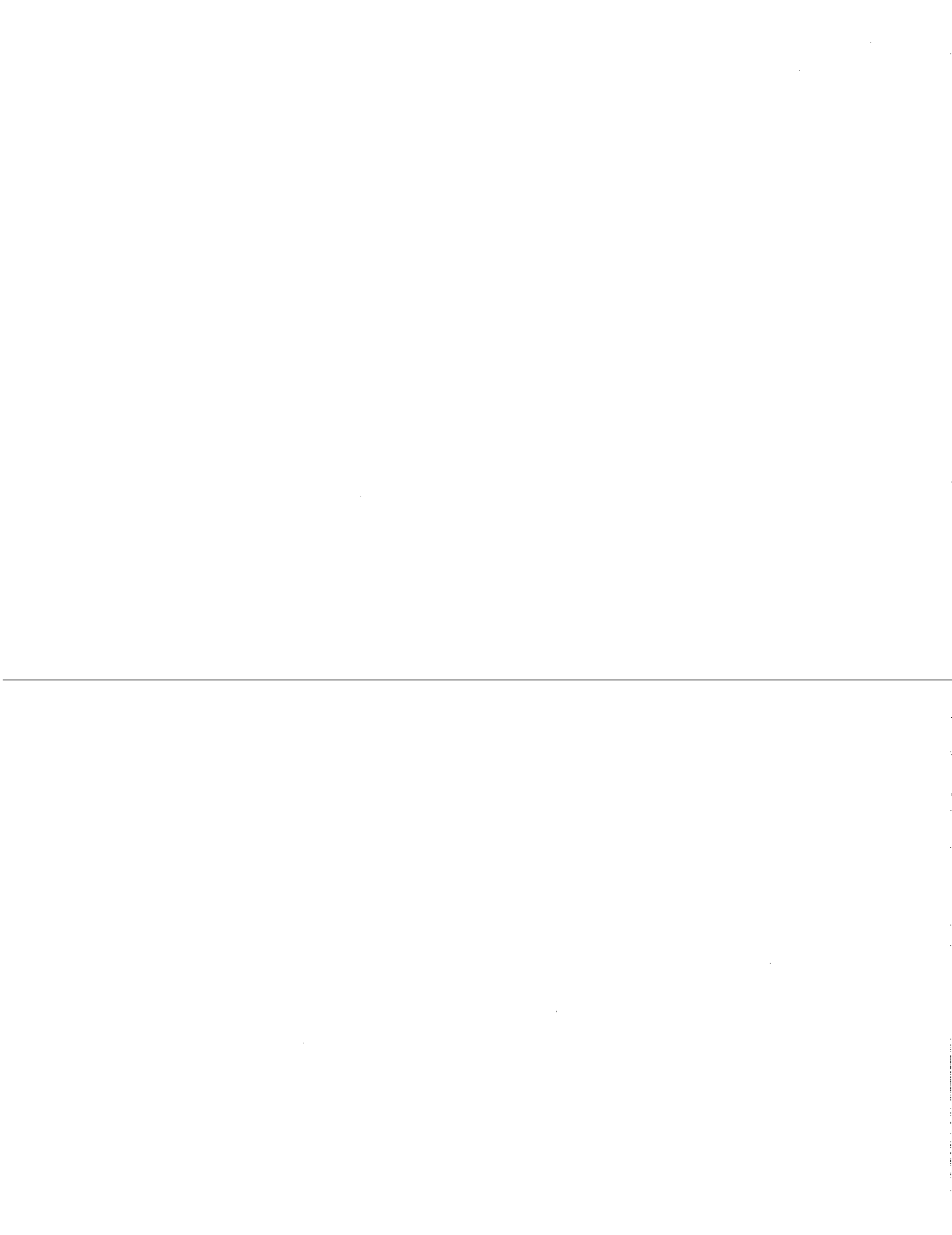
Principles

1. Promote Family Unit
2. Human Rights Honoured/Respected
3. Promote personal independence/responsibility
4. Ensure minimum intrusion
5. Empowerment - authority for most personal decisions in the person's hands

The above "Big 5" basic needs categories and "Principles" of income security in Alberta can be helpful in framing your requests to your worker.

--taken from the Income Security Programs Manual, Alberta Family & Social Services, 1988 and adapted by the Edmonton Social Planning Council.

It should be noted that the new *Supports for Independence (SFI)* program does not replace the old income security manual completely. At this point, new directives about SFI change old policy, but in areas where nothing different has been announced previous policy still applies (i.e. the Big 5 can still be used, earning exemptions are the same as they were under Social Allowance, etc.).



Bid to break welfare cycle tangles couple in red tape

Soc. Asst. - SF1

Wife's student loan disqualifies husband from program

DAVID HOWELL
Journal Staff Writer

Sherwood Park

Tom Petersen is a bright guy, but he never got a real break until Social Services came up with a plan to get him off welfare for good.

That was in October. Petersen was chosen to be one of the 2,000 people Social Services Minister John Oldring says he's determined get back in the workforce.

Now it's mid-December and the plan has failed. Not because Petersen and a social worker didn't try, but because he was caught in bureaucratic red tape.

Instead of being on the road to a solid job, Petersen is one of a growing number of welfare recipients being cut off benefits under Oldring's year-old reforms.

Some of those cut off welfare under the Supports for Independence program could be left with no income. They will likely have to turn to community charity to survive, says Social Services assistant deputy minister Con Hnatiuk.

■ The system/D1-2

Petersen, his wife and three children will be left with some income. His wife managed to get a student loan while she studies by correspondence at Athabasca University to become an accountant. It's \$860 a month, less than the \$1,400 he would get on welfare.

But it is precisely his wife's efforts to better herself that forced Petersen, 29, out of the job-training stream he was in. He's headed back to the ugly pattern that has dominated his life — get a job, lose it, turn to welfare for assistance.

What happens to people who lose welfare and have no other income? Hnatiuk was asked.

"What happens to you? You go to the food bank, likely. You would probably go to somebody like the Salvation Army or the Boyle Street Co-op. You might go to a church group if you were part of that community or had access to it. And then let's be frank — ultimately you might turn to crime. You might sleep in a doorway."

Hnatiuk added: "No one ends up freez-

ing — now maybe they do, but it's not widespread."

With only a Grade 8 education and limited job skills, Petersen always had trouble getting jobs. He milked cows, sold vacuum cleaners and books door-to-door, worked as a hand on a horse farm, and was a janitor at a fitness club.

"The pattern that was established was that the only jobs I could get was where they would hire anybody off the street," says Petersen.

His father set him up in a carpet-cleaning business in Medicine Hat, but that venture ended in personal bankruptcy.

He is literate and articulate despite a stutter that he works to control.

At the end of October, Petersen felt his hope for the future rise when he got involved with Social Services' Supports for Independence program aimed at getting employable welfare recipients off welfare.

When his latest job ended, he had applied for welfare. As required under the Supports for Independence rules, he began working on an "action plan" for his future.

Please see Welfare/A

WELFARE

Continued from A1

At the Sherwood Park Social Services office, a social worker who specializes in employment counselling helped him decide that with half a year of high-school upgrading and a 16-week training course, he could become an ambulance driver.

His own research showed nearly all graduates from the emergency medical technician course found solid employment. He saw himself with a career.

"It was perfect," he says.

Then suddenly his plan fell apart.

When his December welfare cheque hadn't arrived by Nov. 29, Petersen became worried about paying the rent on his farmhouse southeast of Sherwood Park.

He phoned his financial benefits worker and heard the bad news.

Petersen was told his file had been closed and payments discontinued because his wife, Melody, had received money from the provincial students' finance board.

"I was shocked, stunned," Pe-

terson says. His plans to become an ambulance driver had suddenly evaporated.

"When you try and better yourself, they turn around and penalize you."

The family's problem centres on the fact that welfare clients, while they are eligible for many training and pre-employment programs, cannot receive social assistance if a dependant is attending university.

"In a nutshell, the department doesn't fund university programs," says Michael Shields, a spokesman for Social Services' Edmonton region.

Because Melody is receiving student finance money, it is seen "as another source of funding that's designed to meet their needs" so the family is ineligible for welfare, Shields says.

But Petersen says Melody's monthly student-finance income of about \$860 is far from adequate to support them and their young children — Thomas, Jr., Crystal and Schaun.

Until the end of October, he had been working on a six-month job building grain bins, arranged by Social Services. His \$960 monthly income was topped up to \$1,714 by the department.

Even without the job, he would have received about \$1,400 a month in welfare payments if Melody wasn't enrolled in the university courses.

Now as he plans appeals to Social Services and the students' finance board, Petersen is out trying to find work to keep the family fed. But he's sure any job he gets will be like those in his past. It will likely lead back to welfare, he fears.

"I have to either go out and feed cattle, feed horses, clean out stables, or find some kind of a salesman's job," he says.

But worse is the loss of his plan to become an ambulance driver.

"Supports for Independence is supposed to retrain you or help you acquire the training you need to break the welfare cycle, to get you back on your feet again where you can feed your children and pay your own way," he says.

"They build you up with hopes and aspirations, saying 'No problem — you need the training, we can provide it for you.'

"And then they cut you off right in the middle . . . well, that's not a welfare system. That's not Supports for Independence."

Supports for Independence: Income Support in Alberta, 1992

	Single Employable	Single Disabled (AISH*)	Mother 2 children	Employable Couple 2 children
standard benefits per month	\$470	\$755	\$1 086	\$1 308
per year**	\$5 640	\$9 060	\$13 032	\$15 696
1991 low income cut-off (LICO***)	\$14 882	\$14 882	\$25 641	\$29 522
income as % of LICO (<i>poverty gap</i>)	38%	61%	51%	53%

NOTES: * AISH is Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped, a separate income support program for the permanently disabled.. Only a small percentage of unemployable people are eligible for AISH.
 **This income does not count health benefits, such as basic dental care and prescriptions, which are provided in some cases.
 ***These are StatsCan low-income cut-offs for 1991 as estimated by the National Council of Welfare, based on 5.1% inflation. They are calculated for people living in a centre of 5000,000 or more.

STATISTICS CANADA'S LOW INCOME CUT-OFFS (1986 BASE) FOR 1990

Community

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>500,000+</u>	<u>100,000- 499,999</u>	<u>30,000- 99,999</u>	<u>less than 30,000</u>	<u>rural</u>
1	\$14,160	12,437	12,149	11,075	9,640
2	19,193	16,859	16,469	15,013	13,068
3	24,396	21,427	20,933	19,082	16,610
4	28,090	24,670	24,101	21,970	19,123
5	30,690	26,955	26,332	24,004	20,893
6	33,313	29,257	28,582	26,055	22,679
7+	35,829	31,469	30,743	28,026	24,392

NOTE: "LOW INCOME CUT-OFFS" IS THE NEW WORD FOR THE OLD "POVERTY LINE"

Summary of Financial Benefits

Supports For Independence

Effective February 1, 1991

This table provides an overview of standard benefits. Those that have changed with the introduction of SFI are marked with an asterisk.

Refer to the Social Allowance regulations and policy manual for complete details and eligibility criteria.



Standard Benefits

a)* Standard Allowance

Number of children	Ages of Children		Standard Allowance	
	0-11 years	12-17 years	one adult	two adults
0	0	0	\$255	\$478
1	1	0	412	602
	0	1	445	635
2	2	0	543	745
	1	1	576	778
	0	2	609	811
3	3	0	686	883
	2	1	719	916
	1	2	752	949
	0	3	785	982
4	4	0	824	1,021
	3	1	857	1,054
	2	2	890	1,087
	1	3	923	1,120
	0	4	956	1,153
	5	5	0	962
4		1	995	1,192
3		2	1,028	1,225
2		3	1,061	1,258
1		4	1,094	1,291
	0	5	1,127	1,324

- The standard allowance covers: food, clothing, household supplies, personal needs, telephone, laundry and basic transportation
- for families of more than 5 children add \$138 per child for each child age 0-11 years and \$171 for each child 12-17 years
- for children in need living with a guardian the standard allowance is \$138 for children age 0-11 years and \$171 for children 12-17 years
- The food component of the standard allowance is \$143 for an adult in a one person unit, \$137 for an adult in a two person unit, \$130 for an adult in a three or more person unit, \$106 for a child age 0-11, and \$136 for a child age 12-17

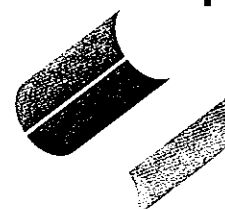
b)* Maximum Shelter Allowance

	For Room and Board	For Independent Living
Child in Need (Guardian Social Allowance)	64	—
Each person living with parents or adult children	64	—
1 person unit (employable)	215	215
1 person unit (unemployable)	215	300
2 person unit	430	430
3 person unit	510	510
4 person unit	530	530
5 person unit	550	550

- the shelter allowance includes rent, payments on mortgages or agreements of sale, fuel and utilities, municipal taxes, homeowner's fire insurance, condominium fees, lot rentals for mobile homes and houses, a homeowner's maintenance allowance (\$19) and the shelter portion of room and board
- for each additional family member of larger family units, add \$20 per person above the maximum for a five person unit
- the shelter allowance is the MAXIMUM available; the actual benefit is based upon what is actually paid.

Summary of Financial Benefits (continued)

Supports For Independence



Effective February 1, 1991

The following tables provide a summary of selected benefits that may be provided in ADDITION to the standard benefits. These are ONLY available under very specific conditions as outlined in policy. Those benefits that have changed with the introduction of SFI are marked with an asterisk.

Refer to the Social Allowance regulations and policy manual for complete details and eligibility criteria for each benefit.

Participation Benefits

The following benefits are available to support a client's participation in employment or training:

1. ***Additional transportation** – \$15 per month for clients in full time employment or training
2. ***Day care/babysitting** – actual cost for clients in employment/training/employment preparation or looking for work

Continuous Supplementary Benefits

The following is a selected listing of benefits that may be provided on a monthly basis based upon demonstrated need and/or individual client circumstances:

1. **Handicap (disability) benefit** – \$175 for persons eligible for the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Program
2. ***Additional transportation** – \$15 for clients in receipt of a handicap benefit (excludes modified AISH)
3. ***Personal support benefit** – on the basis of an individual service plan, maximum \$3,000 per month plus 12% for administration for clients in receipt of a handicap benefit
4. **Special diet** –
 - a) \$20 for high protein/gluten free/pregnancy
 - b) \$12 for restricted sodium
 - c) diabetic:

Diet Calories	Single Person	Family
1500	\$14	\$14
2000	36	30
2600	66	54
5. ***Nutritional supplement for infants** – the difference between the actual dietary cost and the \$106 food rate for infants. Requires physician's statement
6. ***Food for homemakers** – \$4 per diem
7. ***Day care/babysitting** – actual cost for purposes other than employment or training
8. **Comforts allowance** – \$56 for patients who do not receive the disability benefit and who reside in a nursing home, auxiliary hospital, or active treatment hospital
9. **Additional laundry** – \$10 for families with children in diapers or if bedwetting is a problem
10. **Additional shelter** – actual cost in excess of applicable shelter allowance up to \$300/month for 3 months at a time for:

- clients whose health would be endangered by a move
- disabled clients who live in accommodation adapted to their disability, or
- families of 6 or more children where no suitable accommodation is available within the shelter allowance

Non Continuous Supplementary Benefits

Non continuous supplementary benefits may be provided under limited circumstances as specified in policy. The following is a list of benefits where provincial rates have been established:

1. **Training/work clothing** – maximum \$107
2. **Maternity clothing** – maximum \$160 per pregnancy
3. ***Replacement clothing** – maximum \$214/adult, \$160/child
4. **Additional food** – maximum \$22/adult, \$14/child in a month
5. **Damage deposit** – actual amount not to exceed the applicable monthly shelter allowance
6. **Household:**

- a) ***Standard Appliances and Furniture**

	Assured Support	Other Client Categories
Refrigerator	\$710	\$300
Stove	630	250
Washer	545	275
Dryer	450	225
Vacuum Cleaner	150	75
Lamp(s)	25	15
Sofa	350	225
Dresser	100	50
High Chair	75	35
5-piece Dinette	300	150
7-piece Dinette	400	200
Kitchen Chair	50	25
Crib and Mattress	225	125
Bed (complete)	400	200
Mattress only	175	175

- furniture and appliances are to be issued once only
- A laundry allowance is included in the standard benefit. Washers and dryers are to be issued only if commercial facilities are unavailable or unsuitable

- b) ***Household supplies when establishing a household** – maximum of \$135/applicant and \$34 for each dependent to a maximum of \$270 per family

Alberta

FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

What If My Social Worker Says No?

By now you have probably noticed that Welfare has lots of rules, many of which seem to work against you. In fact, the official manual that your social worker uses has hundreds of pages of rules and regulations!

So, you have asked your social worker for something and the answer is **No**. What can you do?

There is an official appeal process that you can go through but we suggest that you try other ways first. There are a number of reasons why your worker may have refused your request. For example, it is possible that you didn't explain your situation clearly enough, so she didn't understand why you needed what you asked for.

We suggest the following steps to try to get what you think you are entitled to:

1. Try again to explain your situation to your social worker and to make sure that she really understands your particular need. If the answer is still **No**:
2. Ask your social worker for an **Informal Review**, and get her to write down the reason why your request was turned down. The reason may give you an idea of what else to try (such as getting a letter from your doctor). If this step doesn't help:
3. Phone your social worker's supervisor, explaining why you need the particular item. This is worth a try but it doesn't actually work very often because the supervisor will usually support the social worker's decision. But don't give up if the answer is still **No**:
4. Try to get someone from a community agency that you're familiar with to phone your social worker for you, explaining why you need the item. This approach often seems to work well. But if it doesn't work:
5. Have this person phone your social worker's supervisor explaining why you are eligible for the item and why you need it. If the answer is still **No**:

6. Have them phone the District Office Manager. Each district Welfare office has a manager who is responsible for that office. Your "helper" can explain the problem to this manager and ask for the item you need. We have found that this approach works well too. But, if the answer is still **No**:
7. **Appeal**—You have the right to appeal almost any decision made by Welfare about your allowance. May people who do appeal get part or all of the money they are appealing for. However, shelter allowances cannot be appealed, except for families of six or more in cases where moving would cause extreme hardship.

There are two ways you can appeal: you can ask for an **Administrative Review** and/or you can ask for your case to be heard by an **Appeal Committee**. For both of these types of appeals, you need to fill out a **Notice of Appeal of a Decision** form. These are available at all district offices or from your social worker.

Administrative Review

Do you think that the District Office Manager will give your case a fair hearing? If so, hand in the appeal form to your District Office and have it dated. Make sure to ask for a copy.

In an **Administrative Review**, the District Office Manager will decide whether your social worker made the right decision according to Welfare policies. If the Manager can't support your appeal based on what you have written on the appeal form, you should be given an opportunity to be interviewed in person.

You should hear what the decision is within one week. If you haven't heard by the seventh day, keep calling your social worker until you find out the decision. If you cannot reach your social worker, call her supervisor or the District Office Manager.

If your appeal is turned down by the District Office Manager, you can still take your case to the Appeal Committee.

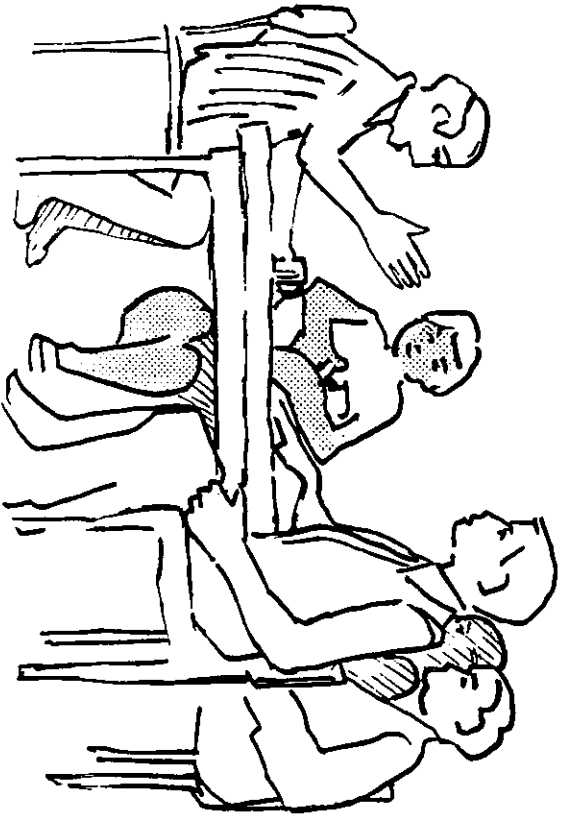
Appeal Committee

Appeal Committee members do not work for the Family and Social Services Department. They are members of the public who are appointed by the Provincial Government. For some benefits, such as shelter and basic needs you can only be given what the Welfare regulations provide for. For many other benefits, the Appeal Committee can overrule Welfare policy.

The Appeal Committee hearing is quite informal and the members are usually easy to talk to. However, you may find it helpful to take someone with you to help you present your case. If someone is going to speak for you, you will need to fill out a special form before the hearing. You can get this form from your social worker.

Your appeal should be heard within three weeks of your appeal form being handed to the District Office. Call your social worker or the District Office Manager if you haven't been given a date for the hearing by the tenth day. Keep calling until you find out the date and the time of the hearing.

If you are appealing because you have been refused Welfare, you should ask to get food and shelter paid for until your case has been heard. Your social worker will have to go to the supervisor or the District Office Manager to have this approved. If you are refused, you should ask to speak to the supervisor or the District Office Manager.



At The Appeal Committee Hearing

1. The Committee will look at the records of the Administrative Review if you asked for one.
2. You will be asked to explain your situation and why you are appealing.
3. The District Office Manager, or your social worker, will be allowed to ask you about your explanation.
4. The District Office Manager, or your social worker, will be asked to explain her position.
5. You will be allowed to question her about this explanation.
6. The Committee may ask to see other documents which are in your file.
7. The Committee may question anyone attending the hearing or, with your approval, may contact anyone who can help with the appeal.
8. After everyone has had a chance to speak, the Appeal Committee members will meet privately to make a decision. During this time, you and any Welfare officials will be asked to leave the room. When you are called back in, the Committee will state its decision.
9. You will be given a copy of the appeal report with the decision written on it.

If you still don't get what you feel you are entitled to, you can take your case to the courts. However, you will need a lawyer to help with this.

There are other rules about appeals. If you want to read them, ask your social worker for a copy of the rules on appeals from the policy manual.

Don't be afraid to appeal. Remember, it is your right to appeal any decision with which you disagree. It is up to you to make sure that you are getting all the benefits you are entitled to. Appealing is one way of doing this.

21 Asst. (Rates)

One-shot job training not enough, say welfare recipients

MARINA JIMENEZ
Journal Staff Writer

Edmonton

Some welfare recipients say they need more than just one-shot training programs to successfully enter the work force.

Niki Sibera's job worries began the day she finished her government-sponsored six-month work experience program.

"I'm going to have a hard time finding a job," says the 21-year-old high school graduate.

"It's great to spend millions of dollars on the programs, but if we can't get employed afterwards, there's no point."

Social Services Minister John Oldring hopes to reduce the province's 65,000 welfare cases by providing job training to as many as 10,000 people a year. In a social reform package introduced last week, Oldring said he wants to get 2,000 Albertans off social assistance next year.

But Sibera says it's tougher than the government thinks to integrate into the work force.

"I had a seminar on how to re-enter the

work force ... resume, interview skills. But how do you get that across to the employer? It's going to be a hard sell."

With six months of word processing experience behind her, Sibera is hardly a worst-case scenario.

But she thinks more co-ordination between employers and those who run the programs would help her chances of finding a job.

Alberta already offers 26 "pre-employment training" programs, says Tony Gronow, communications director with Alberta Career Development and Employ-

ment. Gronow says the government does not know how many people who complete these programs end up with jobs. He says it's too difficult to keep track of what participants end up doing to compile job placement statistics.

"We can't guarantee that people get a job," says Gronow. "Everyone's at the mercy of market conditions. All we can do is offer the chance to get skills."

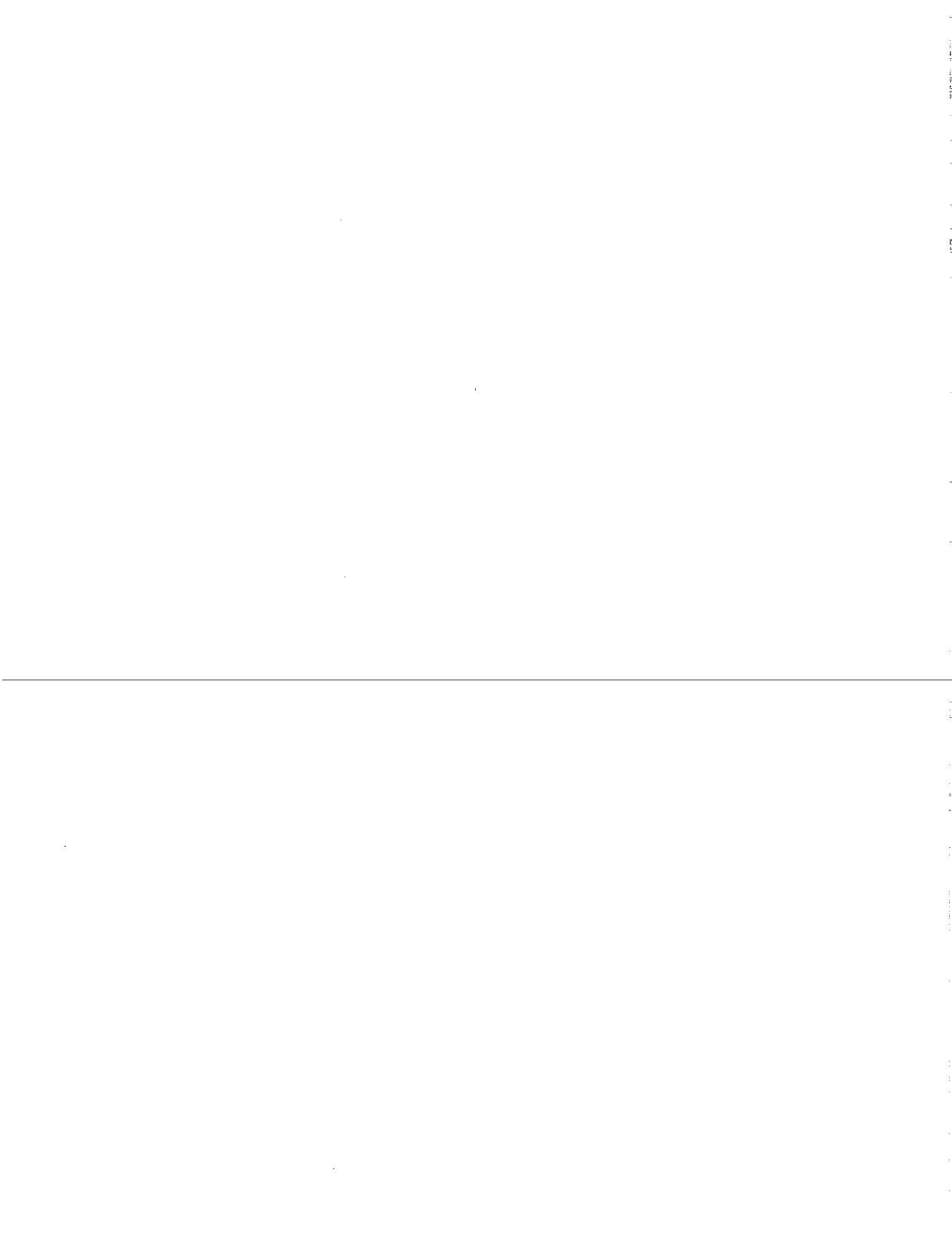
Alberta Vocational Centre also offers a training program for those on social assistance. And Patrick Fahy, the centre's di-

rector of research and development, says job placement statistics are very low.

This is to be expected because the program is a "bridging or transitional" one, designed to ease people into job-hunting, he says.

Just 30 per cent of the 130 people who completed a survey between 1986 and 1989 got jobs after completing the centre's seven-week program. Fifty per cent went on for further training and the rest said no jobs were available.

The average wage of those who did find jobs was just under \$5 an hour.



Effective Date:

y	y	m	m	d	d	Number:
91	02	01				IS-90-012

SUBJECT	STANDARD BENEFITS:
ISSUER	Andrew H. Law, Director, Social Allowance Program
APPROVAL	Stanley K. Remple, Deputy Minister, Family and Social Services
DISTRIBUTION	All Income Security Programs Manual Users
CROSS REFERENCES	IS-01-06-01 through IS-01-06-13
INSTRUCTIONS	
HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	

Schedule A (Copies Attached) of the Social Allowance Regulations has been amended.

Effective January 1, 1991, food rates will be increased as reflected in the revised Schedule A(1) "Long-Term Basic Allowance and Short-Term Basic Allowance."

Effective February 1, 1991, the Long-term and Short-term basic allowance in Schedule A will be replaced by "Standard Benefits". The Standard Benefits will include maximum rates for food, clothing, household supplies, telephone, laundry, personal needs and a transportation allowance.

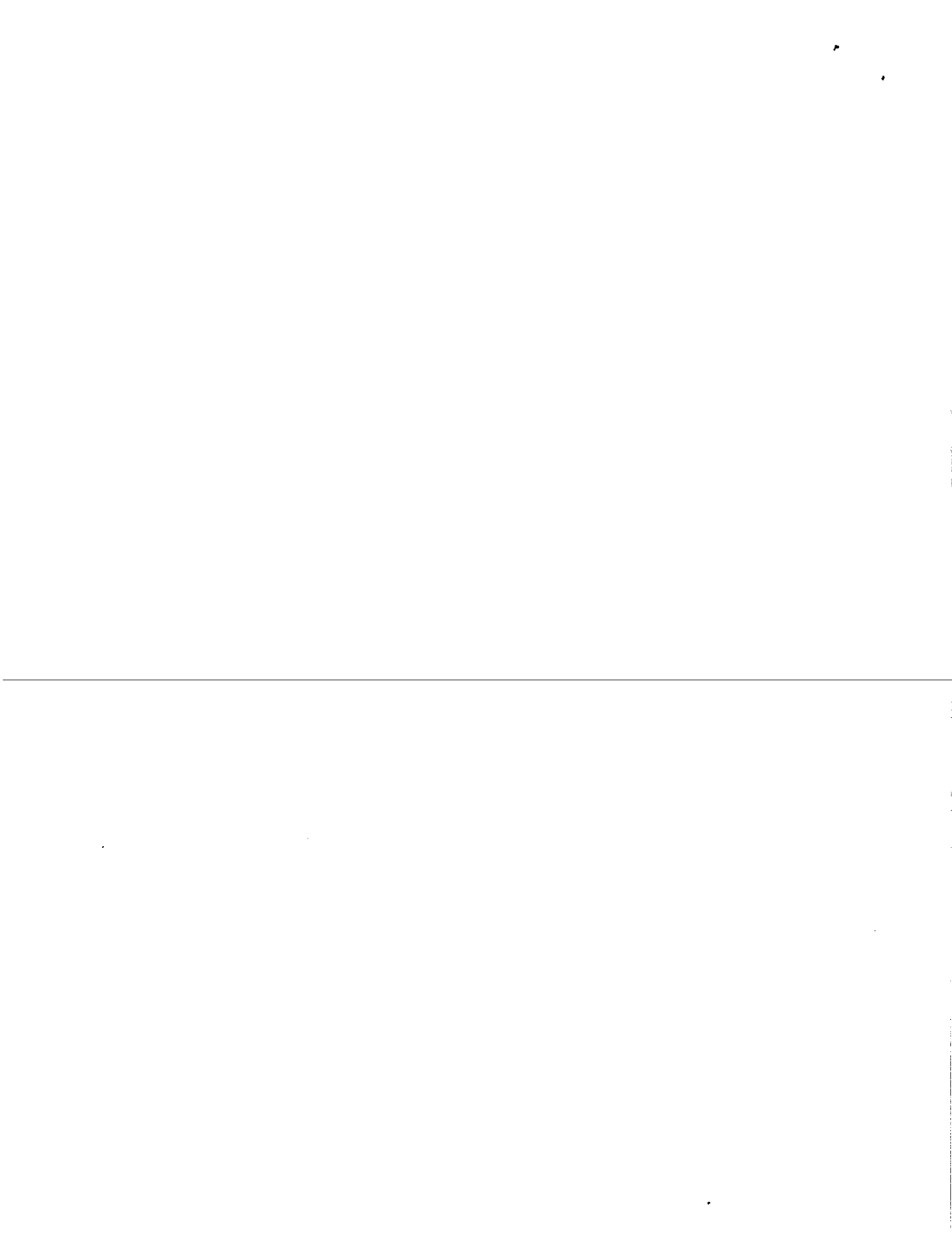
Since the Short-term rates have been eliminated, the clothing and household benefits will now be issued to new and re-open cases. This change will eliminate the need for "Clothing to Standard" and "Household to Standard" benefits. These benefits are therefore no longer to be issued.

The revised February schedule eliminates the inequities between employable and unemployable clients and ensures a standard benefit package for all recipients. It also simplifies the administration of benefits.

The changes to Schedule A (2) are as follows:

1. Food Allowance

Food rates will be increased as reflected in the revised Schedule A (2) "Standard Benefits" as follows:



UNIT	FOOD
Adult in 1 person unit	\$143
Adult in 2 person unit	137
Adult in 3 or more person unit	130
Child 0 - 11	106
Child 12 - 17	136

2. Clothing Allowance

Clothing rates remain unchanged and are as follows:

UNIT	CLOTHING
Adult	\$33
Child 0 - 11	23
Child 12 - 17	26

3. Household Supplies

The amount for Household Supplies remains unchanged and is as follows:

Single Person - \$11 per month
Family Unit - \$18 per month

4. Telephone

~~The telephone allowance has been incorporated into the Standard Benefit~~ to ensure that all recipients have access to a telephone for employment or medial purposes. A flat rate of \$11 is provided for each single person or family unit.

5. Laundry

To simplify the calculation of benefits the laundry allowance is incorporated into the Standard Benefit and remains unchanged as follows:

- a. \$11 per month for a single person;
- b. \$17 per month for a family of up to 3 persons;
- c. \$22 for a family of 4 or more.

An additional allowance of \$10 per month may be added to the family unit rate if a family includes a member in diapers or if bedwetting is a problem.

6. Personal Needs

Personal Needs replace the personal allowance and the recreational allowance and is incorporated into the Standard Benefit. The rates are as follows:

\$21 for 16-17 year olds receiving assistance in their own right
\$21 per adult per month
\$21 per month for the eldest dependent child in a single parent family unit
\$9 per month for each additional child in a single parent family and for each child of a two-parent family or a child in need living with a guardian.

Because of the addition of the Personal Needs benefit to children the RECREATION ALLOWANCE is no longer a benefit as of January 1, 1991.

7. Transportation Allowance

A standard Transportation Allowance had been incorporated into the Standard Benefit to ensure that all recipients have access to it for employment or medical purposes.

The Transportation Allowance is as follows:

\$25 per month for each adult

Note: An additional \$15 is available to adults with full-time employment; adults in a full-time upgrading or training program and persons in receipt of the handicap benefit. The additional \$15 must be paid through needs Code 17.

~~THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES ARE TO BE APPLIED IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY AND PROGRAM CHANGES.~~

Basic allowance adjustment Program Type 1 and 4

NEW AND REOPEN CASES

Apply the new Long-Term and Short-Term Basic Allowance rates for cases opening or reopening on or after January 1, 1991. Apply the new Standard Benefit rates for cases opening or reopening on or after February 1, 1991.

EXISTING CASES

1. District Office Issue

Apply the new basic allowance rates when preparing January issue on district office cheques. Apply the new standard benefits rates when preparing February issue on district office cheques. Use basic allowance need code 1406.

2. Autopay Cases

Note: Do not manually adjust January basic allowance or February Standard Benefits rates; the system will do this for you.

(a) Mainframe Basic Allowance Adjustments

On December 11, following the regular daily processing but prior to the monthly processing, the new basic allowance table will be implemented on the mainframe. This will result in automatic adjustment of basic allowance for autopay program type 1 and 4 cases where Budget Status = 1.

Basic Allowance adjustments for February autopay will be applied on January 16.

(b) MANUAL BASIC ALLOWANCE RECALCULATION PROGRAM TYPE 1/4 WHERE BUDGET STATUS = 2/3

Any files with budget status 2 or 3 for head of household will not have basic allowance adjustment done by the mainframe.

There will be two reports provided for the field to assist in file review.

Note: If a budget status 3 case appears on a report, change to budget status 2.

i. Active Autopay Clients, Where Program Type = 1 or 4 and Budget Status is 2 or 3

This report will be available on December 4 for January cheques and early January for February cheques. It will indicate the client's name, file number, budget status (HH), and program type. The report will be sorted by district office, unit, caseload and alphabetically by client surname. This report will assist workers identifying those files which require manual calculation of basic allowance.

Autopay cases should be adjusted by December 11 for January issue and January 16 for February issue.

ii. Active District Office Issue Clients, Where Program Type = 1 or

This report will be available on December 4. It should be sorted by District Office, Unit, caseload, and alphabetically by client surname. This report can be used by non-LISA 1 sites to identify district office issue clients.

SCHEDULE A (1)

SOCIAL ALLOWANCE REGULATIONS
BASIC ALLOWANCE SCHEDULE

MAXIMUM SOCIAL ALLOWANCE FOOD, CLOTHING,
PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ALLOWANCE

Number of children	Ages of Children		Long Term Basic Allowance		Short Term Basic Allowance	
	0 - 11 years	12 - 17 years	one adult	two adults	one adult	two adults
0	0	0	\$ 208	\$ 400	\$ 164	\$ 316
1	1	0	359	515	285	408
	0	1	392	548	315	438
2	2	0	481	644	384	514
	1	1	514	677	414	544
	0	2	547	710	444	574
3	3	0	610	773	490	620
	2	1	643	806	520	650
	1	2	676	839	550	680
	0	3	709	872	580	710
4	4	0	739	902	596	726
	3	1	772	935	626	756
	2	2	805	968	656	786
	1	3	838	1,001	686	816
	0	4	871	1,034	716	846
5	5	0	868	1,031	702	832
	4	1	901	1,064	732	862
	3	2	934	1,097	762	892
	2	3	967	1,130	792	922
	1	4	1,000	1,163	822	952
	0	5	1,033	1,196	852	982

Number of children	Ages of Children		Long Term Basic Allowance		Short Term Basic Allowance	
	0 - 11 years	12 - 17 years	one adult	two adults	one adult	two adults
6	6	0	\$ 997	\$1,160	\$ 808	\$ 938
	5	1	1,030	1,193	838	968
	4	2	1,063	1,226	868	998
	3	3	1,096	1,259	898	1,028
	2	4	1,129	1,292	928	1,058
	1	5	1,162	1,325	958	1,088
	0	6	1,195	1,358	988	1,118
7	7	0	1,126	1,289	914	1,044
	6	1	1,159	1,322	944	1,074
	5	2	1,192	1,355	974	1,104
	4	3	1,225	1,388	1,004	1,134
	3	4	1,258	1,421	1,034	1,164
	2	5	1,291	1,454	1,064	1,194
	1	6	1,324	1,487	1,094	1,224
	0	7	1,357	1,520	1,124	1,254
8	8	0	1,255	1,418	1,020	1,150
	7	1	1,288	1,451	1,050	1,180
	6	2	1,321	1,484	1,080	1,210
	5	3	1,354	1,517	1,110	1,240
	4	4	1,387	1,550	1,140	1,270
	3	5	1,420	1,583	1,170	1,300
	2	6	1,453	1,616	1,200	1,330
	1	7	1,486	1,649	1,230	1,360
	0	8	1,519	1,682	1,260	1,390
9	9	0	1,384	1,547	1,126	1,256
	8	1	1,417	1,580	1,156	1,286
	7	2	1,450	1,613	1,186	1,316
	6	3	1,483	1,646	1,216	1,346
	5	4	1,516	1,679	1,246	1,376
	4	5	1,549	1,712	1,276	1,406
	3	6	1,582	1,745	1,306	1,436
	2	7	1,615	1,778	1,336	1,466
	1	8	1,648	1,811	1,366	1,496
	0	9	1,681	1,844	1,396	1,526

Number of children	Ages of Children		Long Term Basic Allowance		Short Term Basic Allowance	
	0 - 11 years	12 - 17 years	one adult	two adults	one adult	two adults
10	10	0	\$1,513	\$1,676	\$1,232	\$1,362
	9	1	1,546	1,709	1,262	1,392
	8	2	1,579	1,742	1,292	1,422
	7	3	1,612	1,775	1,322	1,452
	6	4	1,645	1,808	1,352	1,482
	5	5	1,678	1,841	1,382	1,512
	4	6	1,711	1,874	1,412	1,542
	3	7	1,744	1,907	1,442	1,572
	2	8	1,777	1,940	1,472	1,602
	1	9	1,810	1,973	1,502	1,632
	0	10	1,843	2,006	1,532	1,662
11	11	0	1,642	1,805	1,338	1,468
	10	1	1,675	1,838	1,368	1,498
	9	2	1,708	1,871	1,398	1,528
	8	3	1,741	1,904	1,428	1,558
	7	4	1,774	1,937	1,458	1,588
	6	5	1,807	1,970	1,488	1,618
	5	6	1,840	2,003	1,518	1,648
	4	7	1,873	2,036	1,548	1,678
	3	8	1,906	2,069	1,578	1,708
	2	9	1,939	2,102	1,608	1,738
	1	10	1,972	2,135	1,638	1,768
0	11	2,005	2,168	1,668	1,798	
12	12	0	1,771	1,934	1,444	1,574
	11	1	1,804	1,967	1,474	1,604
	10	2	1,837	2,000	1,504	1,634
	9	3	1,870	2,033	1,534	1,664
	8	4	1,903	2,066	1,564	1,694
	7	5	1,936	2,099	1,594	1,724
	6	6	1,969	2,132	1,624	1,754
	5	7	2,002	2,165	1,654	1,784
	4	8	2,035	2,198	1,684	1,814
	3	9	2,068	2,231	1,714	1,844
	2	10	2,101	2,264	1,744	1,874
	1	11	2,134	2,297	1,774	1,904
	0	12	2,167	2,330	1,804	1,934

Number of children	Ages of Children		Long Term Basic Allowance		Short Term Basic Allowance	
	0 - 11 years	12 - 17 years	one adult	two adults	one adult	two adults
13	13	0	\$1,900	\$2,063	\$1,550	\$1,680
	12	1	1,933	2,096	1,580	1,710
	11	2	1,966	2,129	1,610	1,740
	10	3	1,999	2,162	1,640	1,770
	9	4	2,032	2,195	1,670	1,800
	8	5	2,065	2,228	1,700	1,830
	7	6	2,098	2,261	1,730	1,860
	6	7	2,131	2,294	1,760	1,890
	5	8	2,164	2,327	1,790	1,920
	4	9	2,197	2,360	1,820	1,950
	3	10	2,230	2,393	1,850	1,980
	2	11	2,263	2,426	1,880	2,010
	1	12	2,296	2,459	1,910	2,040
0	13	2,329	2,492	1,940	2,070	
14	14	0	2,029	2,192	1,656	1,786
	13	1	2,062	2,225	1,686	1,816
	12	2	2,095	2,258	1,716	1,846
	11	3	2,128	2,291	1,746	1,876
	10	4	2,161	2,324	1,776	1,906
	9	5	2,194	2,357	1,806	1,936
	8	6	2,227	2,390	1,836	1,966
	7	7	2,260	2,423	1,866	1,996
	6	8	2,293	2,456	1,896	2,026
	5	9	2,326	2,489	1,926	2,056
	4	10	2,359	2,522	1,956	2,086
	3	11	2,392	2,555	1,986	2,116
	2	12	2,425	2,588	2,016	2,146
1	13	2,458	2,621	2,046	2,176	
0	14	2,491	2,654	2,076	2,206	

NOTES:

- 1a. Long-term basic allowance includes food, clothing, personal and household allowances and may be paid to unemployable recipients and to employable recipients who have been in receipt of social allowance for more than 3 continuous months.

b. Short-term basic allowance includes food and personal allowances and may be paid to employable recipients who have been in receipt of social allowance for 3 continuous months or less.

2 The following rates shall be used if the recipient is not eligible for or in need of benefits included in the basic allowance rates:

a. i) Food

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>FOOD</u>
Adult in 1 person household	\$ 143
Adult in 2 person household	137
Adult in 3 or more person household	130
Child 0 - 11	106
Child 12 - 17	136

ii) The adult rate for the food requirement of housekeepers and homemakers is \$4 per diem.

b. Clothing

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>CLOTHING</u>
Adult	\$ 33
Child 0 - 11	23
Child 12 - 17	26

c. Personal Allowance

\$21 per adult per month

\$21 per month for persons 16 and 17 years of age receiving assistance in their own right as an adult

\$21 per month for the eldest dependent child in a single parent family unit

d. Household Allowance

Single Person - \$11 per month

Family Unit - \$18 per month

3 For families of 15 or more children, find the appropriate rate on the Schedule for 14 children and add the adjustment rate for each child as indicated below:

		<u>Food</u>	<u>Clothing</u>
Long-term basic allowance	- Child 0-11	\$106	\$23
	Child 12-17	136	26
Short-term basic allowance	- Child 0-11	106	0
	Child 12-17	136	0

4 Comforts allowance for a patient in a nursing home, auxiliary hospital or active treatment hospital who is not receiving a handicap benefit, is \$56 per adult per month.

5 Extra monthly allowances for special diets may be provided on the recommendation of a physician as follows:
 (a) high protein, \$20 per person;
 (b) restricted sodium, \$12 per person;
 (c) gluten free, \$20 per person;
 (d) pregnancy, \$20 per person;
 (e) diabetic diet:

	diet calories	single person	family unit
i)	1500	\$14	\$14 for each affected person in the family unit;
ii)	2000	\$36	\$30 for each affected person in the family unit;
iii)	2600	\$66	\$54 for each affected person in the family unit.

6 The food and clothing rates for children under the Guardian Social Allowance Program are the allowance rates for children under Note 2(a,i) and (b).

7 For persons entitled to receive a laundry allowance, the following rates apply:
 (a) \$11 per month for a single person;
 (b) \$17 per month for a family of up to 3 persons;
 (c) \$22 for a family of 4 or more;
 (d) an additional allowance of \$10 per month may be added to the family unit rate if a family includes a child in diapers or if bedwetting is a problem.

8 A basic allowance shall not be provided for a dependent child who earns a net monthly income in excess of \$200.

SCHEDULE A (2)

SOCIAL ALLOWANCE REGULATIONS
STANDARD BENEFITS EXCLUDING SHELTER

MAXIMUM FINANCIAL BENEFITS FOR FOOD, CLOTHING,
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES, TELEPHONE, LAUNDRY,
PERSONAL NEEDS, AND A TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE

Effective February 1, 1991

Number of Children	Ages of Children		Standard Benefits	
	0 - 11 years	12 - 17 years	one adult	two adults
0	0	0	255	478
1	1	0	412	602
	0	1	445	635
2	2	0	543	745
	1	1	576	778
	0	2	609	811
3	3	0	686	883
	2	1	719	916
	1	2	752	949
	0	3	785	982
4	4	0	824	1,021
	3	1	857	1,054
	2	2	890	1,087
	1	3	923	1,120
	0	4	956	1,153
5	5	0	962	1,159
	4	1	995	1,192
	3	2	1,028	1,225
	2	3	1,061	1,258
	1	4	1,094	1,291
	0	5	1,127	1,324

Notes: 1. a) For families of more than five children, add the following rates per child to the appropriate benefits on the schedule for five children, according to the age(s) of the additional child(ren).

0 - 11	12 - 17
<u>years</u>	<u>years</u>
\$138	\$171

b) For Children in Need living with a guardian, use the rates in 1. a) appropriate to the child's age.

2. Maximum financial benefits include food, clothing, household needs, telephone, laundry, personal needs, and a transportation allowance (for adults), according to the following flat rates:

a. Food

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>FOOD</u>
Adult in 1 person unit	\$ 143
Adult in 2 person unit	137
Adult in 3 or more person unit	130
Child 0 - 11	106
Child 12 - 17	136

b. Clothing

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>CLOTHING</u>
Adult	\$ 33
Child 0 - 11	23
Child 12 - 17	26

c. Personal Allowance

\$21 per adult per month

\$21 per month for the eldest dependent child in a single parent family unit

\$9 per month for each additional child of a single parent family, for each child of a two-parent family, and for each Child in Need living with a guardian

d. Household Allowance

Single Person - \$11 per month

Family Unit - \$18 per month

e. Laundry Allowance

(a) \$11 per month for a single person;

(b) \$17 per month for a family of 2 or 3 persons;

(c) \$22 for a family of 4 or more.

An additional allowance of \$10 per month may be added to the family unit rate if a family includes a member in diapers or if bedwetting is a problem.

f. Transportation Allowance

\$25 per month for each adult

An additional \$15 is available to each adult with full-time employment or in an upgrading or training program full-time.

g. Telephone Allowance

A flat rate of \$11 is provided as a telephone allowance for each single person or family unit.

3. Where a recipient does not need or is not eligible for a full month's assistance, the per diem rate shall be 1/30th of the monthly rate times the number of days of need, rounded up to the next higher dollar.
4. The adult rate for the food requirement of housekeepers or homemakers is \$4 per diem.
5. Comforts allowance for a patient in a nursing home, auxiliary hospital or active treatment hospital, who is not receiving a handicap benefit, is \$56 per adult per month.
6. Extra monthly allowances for special diets may be provided on the recommendation of a physician, as follows:
 - a) high protein, \$20 per person
 - b) restricted sodium, \$12 per person
 - c) gluten free, \$20 per person
 - d) pregnancy, \$20 per person
 - e) diabetic diet

	<u>diet calories</u>	<u>single person</u>	<u>family unit</u>
i)	1,500	\$14	\$14 for each affected person in the family unit
ii)	2,000	\$36	\$30 for each affected person in the family unit
iii)	2,600	\$66	\$54 for each affected person in the family unit.

7. Standard benefits shall not be provided for a dependent child who earns a net monthly income in excess of \$200.

SCHEDULE B

FINANCIAL BENEFITS FOR SHELTER

Effective February 1, 1991

MAXIMUM ACCOMMODATIONS

The following are the maximum rates for accommodation for persons in room-and-board or living independently as renters or homeowners. These rates include rent, payments on mortgages or agreements for sale, fuel and utilities, municipal taxes, homeowner's fire insurance, condominium fees, lot rental for mobile homes and houses, and a homeowner's Maintenance Allowance.

	<u>Room and Board</u>	<u>Independent Living</u>
Child in Need (Guardian Social Allowance)	64	-
1 person living with parents or children	64	-
1 person unit (employable)	215 (commercial)	215
1 person unit (unemployable)	215 (commercial)	300
2 person unit	430	430
3 person unit	510	510
4 person unit	530	530
5 person unit	550	550

For each additional member of larger family units, the maximum shelter allowance increases by \$20 per person above the maximum for a five-person unit.

Notes:

1. The shelter portion of room-and-board shall not exceed the allowable shelter allowances for the number of recipients.

The shelter portion is calculated by deducting the appropriate food allowance from the landlord's charge. The food component is provided to the recipient under Standard Benefits. The basic food rates are:

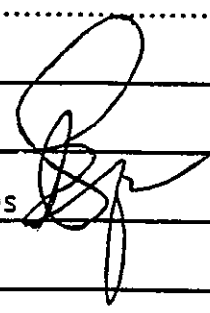
Adult in 1-person unit	\$143
Adult in 2-person unit	137
Adult in 3 or more person unit	130
Child 0 - 11	106
Child 12-17	136

2. Where an applicant or recipient pays for any of the components of a shelter allowance on a basis that covers a period of more than 1 month, the payment may be averaged to arrive at a monthly figure for the purposes of this Schedule and an amount consisting of the total monthly payments payable for that period may be paid in a lump sum to the applicant or recipient;
3. The Homeowner's Maintenance Allowance referred to in clause (b) is \$19 per case per month where a person resides in and owns his own home;
4. For recipients sharing independent living quarters, the maximum accommodation is a proportionate share of the actual cost of accommodation, not to exceed the maximum accommodation rate for the single adult or family unit.

Effective Date:

y	y	/	m	.	m	/	d	d
91	01		01		01			

 Number: IS-90-005

SUBJECT	HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES
ISSUER	Andrew H. Law, Director, Social Allowance Program
APPROVAL	Stanley K. Remple, Deputy Minister, Family and Social Services 
DISTRIBUTION	All Income Security Programs Manual Users
CROSS REFERENCES	IS-01-06-04
INSTRUCTIONS	
HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	

The budget for non-continuous needs has escalated in recent years, with furniture and appliances being the highest cost item. Current policy allows the provision of furniture and appliances to ensure health and well-being, when no other resources are available, subject to regionally established items and rates, upon the authority of the social worker. The following policy will reduce expenditures on furniture and appliances while ensuring essential items are provided in a reasonable, economic and consistent manner. Conformance with community standards and equity with low income working families will be achieved. Limits will be set on items which are considered essential and authority levels will change in some instances.

Effective January 1, 1991

Standard Furniture and Appliances

Rate and Authority

For all items recipients must establish that no other resources, including family, friends, etc, are available. Recipients who are temporarily in receipt of benefits while awaiting another source of income, such as first pay or Unemployment Insurance, will not be eligible for furniture or appliances.

As per provincial rates

Under the Supports for Independence program, recipients of Assured Support (currently those unemployables unable to work due to permanent disabilities, persistent mental or physical health problems, or multiple employment barriers) are eligible for the actual cost of new furniture and appliances up to the established maximum.

Financial Benefits Worker (FBW)



Recipients in the Supplement to Earnings (currently income supplement cases), Employment and Training Support (currently employables seeking employment or training opportunities, or actually attending training or employment preparation programs) and transitional support (currently those cases temporarily unavailable for work for reasons such as temporary health problems, substance abuse, or child care responsibilities) subgroups are eligible for used or reconditioned items only as per the established list regardless of costs.

As per provincial rates
Financial Benefits Worker (FBW)

As recipients of Assured Support would normally receive benefits for an extended period of time, provision of new furniture and appliances will ensure replacement requests and costs are kept to a minimum. All other categories are expected to move toward independence, and furniture and appliances can be upgraded or replaced when self sufficiency is attained.

This is a one time benefit only, i.e. in the lifetime of a file, not during each period of eligibility, with the following exception:

- Situations where specific items need replacement because of normal wear and tear (excluding situations where a recipient has been negligent in taking care of the furniture and appliances).

As per provincial rates
Casework Supervisor

Additional Furniture and Appliances

Rate and Authority

Items not on the standard list may be provided only if the recipient is setting up a household under the following circumstances:

Items/rates to be established on an individual case by case basis.

- A child under a Child Welfare Permanent Guardianship Order has turned eighteen years old and is now living independently.
- A recipient has to set up a new home as a result of deinstitutionalization, e.g. release from jail following a lengthy incarceration, or entering community living following a lengthy hospitalization in a mental health facility or a long term care facility, such as an auxiliary hospital or nursing home.
- A recipient has to set up a new home as a result of separation (there should be demonstrated effort to obtain at least some of the required items from the estranged spouse).

Regional Manager or Consultant.

Casework Supervisor

Regional Manager or Consultant

° Situations where items were destroyed by fire, flood etc. or lost through theft, or any other circumstances beyond the recipients control.

Casework Supervisor
(Both Standard Items and Additional Items)

Method of Payment

Payment will be by district office cheque which allows the recipient flexibility and incentive to shop wisely. Vouchers will be used only if there is reason to believe the funds will be misused.

<u>Standard Appliances</u>	<u>Assured Support</u>	<u>Others</u>
Refrigerator	\$710	\$300
Stove	\$630	\$250
* Washer	\$545	\$275
* Dryer	\$450	\$225
Vacuum Cleaner	\$150	\$ 75
Lamp(s)	\$ 25	\$ 15

* Wringer Washers are still available through the PWSS Warehouse for those rural areas which require them.

* Washers and dryers will normally be authorized only if there is no access to a commercial laundry facility within a reasonable commuting distance or if the recipient is unable to use a laundry facility because of disability.

<u>Standard Furniture</u>	<u>Assured Support</u>	<u>Others</u>
Sofa	\$350	\$225
Chest of Drawers	\$100	\$ 50
High Chair	\$ 75	\$ 35
Five Piece Dinette	\$300	\$150
Seven Piece Dinette	\$400	\$200
Kitchen Chair (each)	\$ 50	\$ 25
* Crib and Mattress	\$225	\$225
Bed Complete (all sizes)	\$400	\$200
** Mattress Only	\$175

* Recipients purchasing cribs are responsible to ensure current safety standards met under the Hazardous Products Act. When vouchers are issued the following phrase must be used - "one crib which meets the most recent standards under the Hazardous Products Act."

** When a mattress is required, new mattresses are to be issued to all eligible recipients of the four sub groups under the Supports For Independence program.

Effective Date:

y	y	/	m	m	/	d	d
90	11		26				

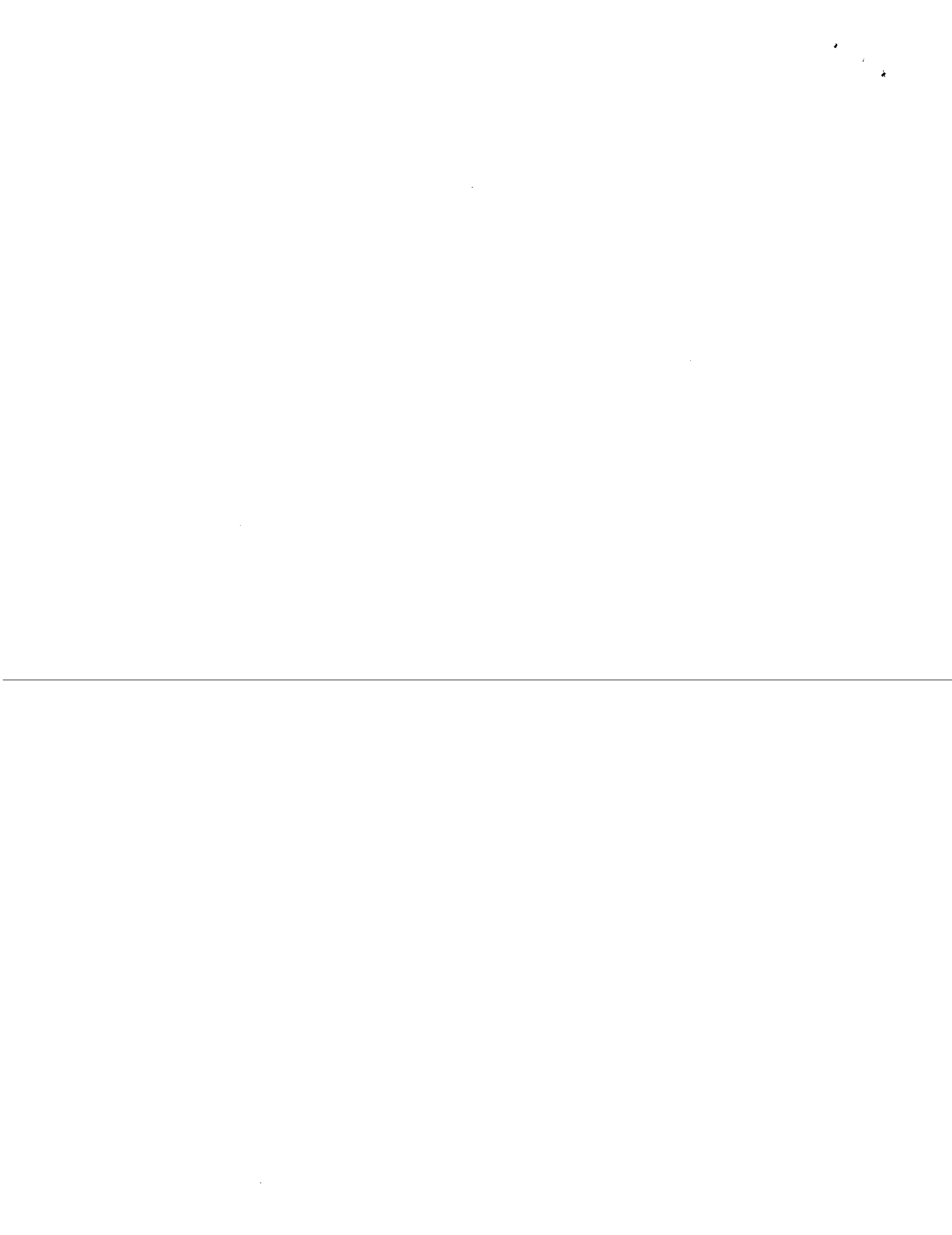
 Number: IS-90-006

SUBJECT	PAYMENT OF DAY CARE SURCHARGE UNDER SOCIAL ALLOWANCE
ISSUER	Andrew H. Law, Director, Social Allowance Program
APPROVAL	Stanley K. Remple, Deputy Minister, Family and Social Services
DISTRIBUTION	All Income Security Programs Manual Users
CROSS REFERENCES	IS-01-06-13
INSTRUCTIONS	
HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	

In response to a continuing increase in the number of requests for Day Care benefits over and above the \$40.00 parent portion now provided through social allowance, the program policy has been amended.

Effective immediately, caseworkers may authorize payment of day care surcharges in addition to the \$40.00 parent portion.

In doing so workers must ensure that the need for day care has been established and that the recipient has fully accessed the Day Care Subsidy Program.



Effective Date:

y	y	m	m	d	d
90	02			1	

 Number: IS-90-007

SUBJECT	EXEMPTION FROM SEEKING EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING
ISSUER	Andrew H. Law, Director, Social Allowance Program
APPROVAL	Stanley K. Remple, Deputy Minister, Family and Social Services
DISTRIBUTION	All Income Security Programs Manual Users
CROSS REFERENCES	01-03-02
INSTRUCTIONS	
HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	

With the introduction of the Supports for Independence program January 1, 1991, all clients are presumed to be capable of working or training unless they can demonstrate that their individual circumstances prevent participation in the labour market. They must be categorized according to their current and potential labour market suitability. The following policy, applicable to all single parents and spouses in two parent families, will encourage and facilitate their self-sufficiency and will enable them to participate in the community with dignity. Employment and Client Support Services may be provided to assist them make the expected transition to employment.

Effective February 1, 1991

If there is a child, or children, under the age of two years, or if there is a sick or disabled child, or dependant adult, single parents or spouses have the option of requesting, and should so be advised, to be deemed as unavailable for work or training due to family care responsibilities. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, these single parents and spouses would be categorized in the Transitional Support group. It is expected that once the youngest child is two years old, regardless of the number of children, the single parent or spouse will actively seek work, or enter training in order to prepare for independence, and would move into the Employment and Training Support group. Exceptions to this may be made by the Financial Benefits Worker (FBW), in consultation with the casework supervisor, on an individual case by case basis, particularly if there are many small children, or the single parent or spouse finds it difficult to cope with the competing demands of family and work.

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The FBW will refer appropriate single parents and spouses, including those with children under the age of two years who are desirous of making the transition to independence earlier than required, to the Employment and Client Support Services (ECSS) Worker. The ECSS Worker will complete employability assessments, develop case plans designed to increase independence and employability, refer them to appropriate community programs, and monitor the case and document client progress and compliance with commitments. Failure to follow through with a case plan would result in sanctions, including possible reductions, or termination, of benefits. However, such sanctions would not apply to single parents or spouses who are voluntarily available for work or training prior to the second birthday of their child. Unless they can demonstrate a genuine commitment to become self-reliant, Employment and Client Support Services will be temporarily withdrawn until the child is two years old.



Effective Date:

y y / m m / d d
91 02 01

Number:

IS-90-008

SUBJECT	SHELTER
ISSUER	Andrew H. Law, Director, Social Allowance Program
APPROVAL	Stanley K. Remple, Deputy Minister, Family and Social Services
DISTRIBUTION	All Income Security Programs Manual Users
CROSS REFERENCES	IS-01-06-09
INSTRUCTIONS	-
HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	

Effective February 1, 1991 the shelter ceilings for social allowance recipients will be increased as reflected in the revised Schedule B Financial Benefits for Shelter (attached).

The revised schedule also establishes a shelter component to determine the maximum amount of room and board which may be issued. The room and board rate must not exceed the food component plus the shelter rate. The shelter portion is calculated by deducting the applicable food component from the total room and board rate charged by the landlord.

The following procedures are to be applied in order to implement the policy and program changes:

a) New and Reopen Cases

Apply the new shelter ceilings for cases opening or reopening on or after February 1, 1991.

b) Existing Cases

Since shelter rates are maximums and do not reflect actual amounts on the DDS, existing cases must be adjusted by the district office to meet the February 1 effective date.

It should be noted that room and board ceilings distinguish between living with immediate family and living in a commercial boarding home.

A letter will be forwarded by headquarters to all social allowance recipients advising them of the new shelter rates. The letter will also request the clients to complete the specific charges for their shelter and return the letter to the district office if they believe they are eligible for an increase.

Effective Date:

y	y	m	m	d	d
91	01	01			

 Number: IS-90-009

SUBJECT	INFANT FORMULA
ISSUER	Andrew H. Law, Director, Social Allowance Program
APPROVAL	Stanley K. Remple, Deputy Minister, Family and Social Services
DISTRIBUTION	All Income Security Programs Manual Users
CROSS REFERENCES	IS-01-02-02 and IS-01-06-05
INSTRUCTIONS	
HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	

Rationale

Since the adjustment in the basic food allowance for infants is expected to cover their nutritional requirements, the current policy on Infant Formula shall be repealed and replaced by the following policy:

Effective date for the new policy for NEW AND RE-OPEN CASES shall be January 1, 1991. With respect to the EXISTING CASES, infants presently receiving infant formula under the current policy may continue to receive it up to July 1, 1991 if their need for infant formula continues to this point. After this date, the following new policy comes into effect for them as well.

Policy

Upon a written statement from a physician confirming a specific medical condition (e.g. allergy, weight problem, etc.) which requires a nutritional supplement, the infant shall be issued, in addition to the basic food allowance, a Nutritional Supplement for Infants allowance equal to the difference between the food allowance and the actual cost of the child's total dietary cost for the duration of the medical condition. The Nutritional Supplement for Infants allowance shall be terminated as soon as the medical condition no longer exists. The authority to issue this benefit shall be assigned to a caseworker.



Effective Date:

y	y	/	m	m	/	d	d
90	11		26				

 Number: IS-90-011

SUBJECT	CLIENT CATEGORIZATION
ISSUER	Andrew H. Law, Director, Social Allowance Program
APPROVAL	Stanley K. Remple, Deputy Minister, Family and Social Services
DISTRIBUTION	All Income Sececurity Programs Manual Users
CROSS REFERENCES	IS-01-03-02, IS-01-04-01, IS-01-04-02, IS-03-01-04, IS-03-02-06
INSTRUCTIONS	IS-03-02-07
HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	

RATIONALE:

In order to implement the Supports For Independence Program, all clients will be categorized according to the new categories of the program. Subsequently, financial benefits and other services for all clients will be driven by the client's new category and not by the current reason for assistance and employment status. The re-categorization process will be phased in as outlined in this directive.

POLICY:

Supports For Independence Program replaces the Social Allowance Program.

Effective immediately, all clients will be categorized according to the new categories of the Supports For Independence Program as listed below. The category in which the household head belongs determines the category of the case, the type of assets that may be exempted, and the level of benefits paid. The expectation to seek or accept employment or training applies to both the head of the household and the spouse regardless of the status of the other person. Note: Reason for Assistance and Employment Status codes will continue to be recorded in the client's Data Decision Sheet until further notice.

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CATEGORIES OF SUPPORTS FOR INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

1.0 Supplement to Earnings

- 1.1 employed - awaiting pay.
- 1.2 employed full time - insufficient earnings.
- 1.3 employed part time - insufficient earnings.

2.0 Employment and Training Support

- 2.1 in training - basic education.
- 2.2 in training - employment preparation/training - up to 1 year.
- 2.3 in training - vocational/technical training - 1-2 years.
- 2.4 in employment training and support services for the disabled.
- 2.5 available for work/training - awaiting UIC benefits.
- 2.6 available for work/training - requires employment preparation services.
- 2.7 available for work/training - pursuing independent activities.

3.0 Transitional Support

- 3.1 unavailable for work/training - temporary disability/health problems.
- 3.2 unavailable for work/training - family care responsibilities.
- 3.3 unavailable for work/training - other reasons of temporary nature.
- 3.4 child in need living with a guardian.

4.0 Assured Support

- 4.1 unable to work - severe handicap.
- 4.2 unable to work - multiple severe employment barriers, including age, health, education, low skills etc.

DELIVERY PROCEDURES:

New and Re-Open Cases

The new and re-open cases shall be assessed and assigned one of the new client categories EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. The actual circumstances of BOTH the head of the household and the spouse shall be assessed individually and each assigned to an appropriate category.

1.0 Clients who are employed and require supplementation shall be assigned one of the categories under SUPPLEMENT TO EARNINGS. To be considered as employed, wages must be at or above the minimum wage; clients earning less shall be placed under Employment and Training Support. If other types of income such as UI or WCB are supplemented, clients should NOT be categorized as Supplement to Earnings.

1.1 All clients working full and part time who apply for assistance until they receive their first pay cheque shall be categorized as "awaiting pay".

- 1.2 Clients who are working 30 hours per week or more and who need a supplement shall be categorized as "employed full time".
 - 1.3 Those working less than 30 hours per week but more than 5 hours per week shall be categorized as "working part time" (this will include casual employment). Persons working less than 5 hours/week, are to be placed into a more appropriate category under Employment and Training Support.
- 2.0 EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SUPPORT is intended to categorize that group of clients who are ACTIVELY doing or are expected to be doing something to become independent.
- 2.1 "Basic education" includes all activities such as upgrading or high school, preparatory to completing a grade 12 education.
 - 2.2 "Employment preparation/training up to one year" includes attendance at programs such as ESL, lifeskills, short skill training courses etc. where the program is less than one year in duration.
 - 2.3 "Vocational/technical" category shall be selected if the program the client is taking runs between one and two years (e.g., business administration).
 - 2.4 "Employment and training support services for the disabled" shall be selected if a disabled client is participating in these services at segregated training/employment preparation facilities under the auspices of agencies such as Goodwill, WIRTC, VRRRI etc. and not receiving minimum wage.

Note: "in training" categories shall be used only if clients are attending full time (i.e., more than 15 hours per week), and the overall length of the program is expected to be more than two months; otherwise they shall be placed into a more suitable category below.

- 2.5 Those who apply for assistance pending their UIC benefits shall be categorized as "awaiting UIC benefits". (Note: If they continue to receive supplementation after UIC benefits commence, they shall be re-categorized as appropriate, usually into some other category under Employment and Training Support).
- 2.6 Clients who have been identified as "requiring employment preparation services" (e.g., training, lifeskills etc.) shall be categorized as such. This group will be a high priority for ECSS Services.
- 2.7 Clients who are perceived at intake as job ready or have sufficient skills to pursue independence on their own shall be categorized under "pursuing independent activities". If after three months in this status their file has not closed or they have not been successful at securing work/training on their own, the client may be re-categorized to one of the preceding categories and referred to ECSS for appropriate action. The client should remain in this category until ECSS referrals are complete and the appropriate re-categorization occurs. If the client is awaiting entry into training or school and is required to look for work in the interim, he too should remain in this category and monitored regularly.

- 3.0 TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT is to be used to categorize clients who can potentially work and become independent in the future (i.e. they are ABLE to work), but who are facing circumstances that make them unavailable for work or training at present.
- 3.1 Categorizing a client as having "temporary disability/health problems" shall in most circumstances be supported with medical evidence indicating the duration of the "temporary" problem. Included in this category are clients with a substance abuse problem if they are not available for work or training. New clients who are severely handicapped and who wish to apply for Assured Support shall be categorized in Transitional Support until the severity of their handicap has been established through appropriate medical documentation and subsequent assessment of the case.
- 3.2 A client who has a child under the age of 2 years, or who must care for a child or spouse with a physical or mental incapacity has the option of requesting to be deemed "unavailable for work/training due to family care responsibilities". (Generally, it is expected that once a child is over 2 years, the parent will actively seek work or enter training in order to prepare for independence. Exceptions to this may be on an individual client basis, particularly if a parent has many small children or finds it particularly difficult to cope with the competing demands of family and work. Authority to make such exceptions will be assigned to the ECSS in consultation with the casework supervisor).
- 3.3 The category "other temporary reasons" is intended to include pregnancy, bereavement etc.
-
- 3.4 All "children in need" who are living with guardians shall be categorized in the last category under Transitional Support, even if the child is working part time while attending school.
- 4.0 Place clients into ASSURED SUPPORT categories only if there is concrete evidence through a proper and detailed assessment of their employment potential that they are permanently unable to work. This will include Social Allowance clients who are considered as permanently unable to work due to a combination of serious barriers to employment, such as a moderate or minor disability, age, low education, inadequate skills, poor health, etc. It also includes Social Allowance clients in receipt of the handicap benefit and who are not working or in training.
- 4.1 If the predominate factor for the inability to work is the presence of a severe handicap then categorize them as "unable to work - severe handicap".
- 4.2 Those who are unable to work due to multiple barriers shall be placed in one of the Transitional Support categories (3.1 to 3.3) until full assessment criteria for category 4.2 (unable to work - severe employment barriers) of Assured Support are developed.

Existing Cases

The existing cases shall be assessed and assigned one of the new client categories BY MAY 1, 1991. Separate categories shall be recorded for BOTH the head of the household and the spouse on the basis of individual circumstances.

1. All Social Allowance clients who are currently employed or attending school or training shall be categorized into category 1.1 (employed - awaiting pay), 1.2 (employed full-time - insufficient earnings), 1.3 (employed part time - insufficient earnings) or 2.1 (in training -basic education, 2.2 (in training - employment preparation/training), 2.3 (in training - vocational/technical training), 2.4 (in employment training and support services for the disabled). This shall simply be a direct translation from the current Employment Status codes.
2. Those who are currently not employed or attending school or training but are available for work or training shall be categorized under the appropriate category under Employment and Training Support.
3. All Social Allowance clients with Reason for Assistance physical disability, mental illness and mental retardation WHO ARE NOT WORKING OR IN TRAINING shall be moved into category 3.1 (unavailable for work/training - temporary disability/health problems) of Transitional Support. Included in this category are all new applicants who are severely handicapped but whose condition has not been established through medical assessment(s) and review. Some of these individuals may ultimately be re-categorized under 4.2 (unable to work - multiple severe employment barriers) of Assured Support, but until assessment criteria are developed, they shall in the interim be placed under Transitional Support.
4. All children in need living with guardians (this excludes 16 and 17 years olds living independently) shall be automatically categorized under Transitional Support category 3.4 (child in need living with a guardian).
5. All Reason for Assistance cases of age and unsuited for employment WHO ARE NOT WORKING OR IN TRAINING shall be placed under Transitional Support category 3.1 (unavailable for work/training - temporary disability/health problems) or 3.3 (unavailable for work/training - other reasons of a temporary nature) until a full assessment under the AISH medical eligibility criteria has been conducted to determine whether they qualify for AISH or for category 4.1 (unable to work-severe handicap) under Assured Support.
6. All single parents shall be categorized into the category that reflects their circumstances. The new guidelines regarding requesting an exemption from a work expectation if the client has a child under 2 years shall be applied.
7. Reason for Assistance code 6 employables shall be re-categorized as appropriate under Employment and Training Support categories or Supplement to Earnings categories.

Recording Client Categories

The mainframe will not be ready to accept the new categories for clients until 1993, thus it will be necessary for the District Offices to continue to use the current Reason for Assistance and Employment Status codes in order to generate the benefit cheques for clients. However, on May 1, 1991, the change-over from the current client categories to the new client categories will have to occur formally and, in order to do that, the recording procedure below will be followed:

1. Both for the new/re-open cases and the existing cases, each caseworker will be responsible for recording the client's name, file number and the new client category code on the form titled "Supports For Independence Program: Registration of Client Category" (a copy of the form is attached to this directive). This information will be recorded both for the head of the household and the spouse. The form will be attached to the inside of the front cover of the client's file. -
2. The new client category for the NEW/RE-OPEN CASES will be recorded at the time of intake EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.
3. The new client category for the EXISTING CASES will be recorded in the files BY MAY 1, 1991.
4. Every attempt must be made to keep the client categories up to date, and to change them as the client's circumstances change. Clients will be categorized on a preliminary basis at intake; the FBW must make changes on the original form in the client's file as appropriate based upon intake; the FBW must make changes as appropriate based upon information provided to them by ECSS, the Client Reporting Card or the clients themselves.
5. Starting MAY 1, 1991, the caseworker will record the new category of the incoming client directly into the LISA system. (Both LISA 1 and 2 will be programmed by then to accept the new categories).
6. By June 30, 1991, each District Office will be responsible for entering into the LISA system the client categories from the rest of the files.
7. District Offices may wish to compile their own statistics on the distribution of their cases by the new categories until this information is captured in the LISA 1 or LISA 2 system and statistical reports can be generated locally.

SUPPORTS FOR INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM:

REGISTRATION OF CLIENT CATEGORY

District Office _____

File No. _____

Unit _____

Caseload _____

Head of Household

Spouse (if applicable)

ate	Name	Code	Name	Code
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

* Please see reverse side for code numbers and descriptions

CODE CATEGORY

Supplement to Earnings

- 1.1 employed - awaiting pay
- 1.2 employed full time - insufficient earnings.
- 1.3 employed part time - insufficient earnings.

Employment and Training Support

- 2.1 in training - basic education.
- 2.2 in training - employment preparation/training - up to 1 year.
- 2.3 in training - vocational/technical training - 1-2 years.
- 2.4 in employment training and support services for the disabled.
- 2.5 available for work/training - awaiting UIC benefits.
- 2.6 available for work/training - requires employment preparation services.
- 2.7 available for work/training - pursuing independent activities.

Transitional Support

- 3.1 unavailable for work/training - temporary disability/health problems.
- 3.2 unavailable for work/training - family care responsibilities.
- 3.3 unavailable for work/training - other reasons of a temporary nature.
- 3.4 child in need living with a guardian.

Assured Support

- 4.1 unable to work - severe handicap.
- 4.2 unable to work - multiple severe employment barriers, including age, health, education, low skills etc.

11



SECTION SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT	SUBJECT INTRODUCTION	PAGE 1 DATE 88/08
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HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1 In this Act,

DEFINITIONS

(a) "basic necessities" means

(i) food, clothing, shelter, heat, light and water,

(ii) the things, goods and services authorized by the Director that are essential to health and well-being, including essential surgical, medical, optical, dental and other remedial treatment, care and attention, and

(iii) any things, goods and services considered to be basic necessities, from time to time, by the Director;

(b) "Department" means the Department of Social Services and Community Health;

(c) "dependant" means

(i) a spouse who is dependent for support on a person in need of assistance, or

(ii) a child who is dependent for support on a person in need of assistance and who

(A) is not over the age of 16 years,

(B) is over 16 years of age but has not attained the age of 18 years and who is attending an educational institution, when authorized by the Director,

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(C) is over 16 years of age but has not attained the age of 18 years and who is incapable of attending an educational institution by reason of mental or physical incapacity, or

(D) is over 16 years of age but has not attained the age of 18 years, is not attending school and is, in the opinion of the Director, unemployable;

(d) "Director" means the Director appointed under section 3;

(e) "Minister" means the Minister of Social Services and Community Health;

(f) "municipality" means a city, town, new town, village, municipal district or county that receives from the Government of Canada or the Government of Alberta a grant for the payment of social assistance;

(g) "person in need of assistance" means a person who is unable to provide the basic necessities for himself and his dependants, if any;

(h) "social allowance" means an allowance payable out of public funds to or in respect of any person sufficient to enable the person to obtain the basic necessities of himself and his dependants, if any, in accordance with this Act;

(i) "social assistance" means a social allowance provided by a municipality under Part 3;

(j) "unemployable person" means

(i) a person who by reason of age, or by reason of physical or

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mental disability, is incapable of earning an income sufficient to pay for the basic necessities for himself and his dependants, if any,

(ii) a person who is physically and mentally capable of being employed but who has the custody and care and control of a dependant child under such circumstances as to be incapable, in the opinion of the Director, of earning an income sufficient to pay for the basic necessities for himself and his dependants,

(iii) a person who is physically and mentally capable of being employed but who, in the opinion of the Director, is not ready for employment or training or is not suited to available employment or is otherwise considered to be unemployable, or

(iv) a person who may benefit from rehabilitative services and who is unable to provide the basic necessities for himself and his dependants, if any, and at the same time receive the rehabilitative services.

APPROPRIATION
FOR ASSISTANCE

2

The Minister, out of funds voted by the Legislature, for the purpose of ensuring that no person within Alberta will lack the goods and services essential to health and well-being, may provide financial assistance and may make all provisions and pay all amounts which he considers necessary or expedient to carry out the intent and purpose of this Act.

SECTION SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT	SUBJECT PART 1, ADMINISTRATION	PAGE 1 DATE 88/08
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DIRECTOR	3	In accordance with the Public Service Act there may be appointed a Director who shall administer this Act under the direction of the Minister.
DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY	4(1)	The Director may authorize any employee of the Department or any welfare worker or any other municipal authority charged with the performance of municipal obligations under this Act to exercise any powers, duties and functions conferred on the Director by this Act.
	(2)	When, pursuant to subsection (1), the Director authorizes a person to exercise any power, duty or function, any reference in this Act to the Director in connection with that power, duty or function shall be construed as also referring to the person so authorized.
DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION	5(1)	<p>No person shall disclose to any other person</p> <p>(a) any file, document or paper kept by any person in any place, that has come into existence through anything done pursuant to Part 2, or</p> <p>(b) any information obtained by him in the performance of any duties under Part 2,</p> <p>that deals with the personal history or record of a person who has applied for or has received a social allowance or handicap benefit under Part 2, or any dependants of such a person, except on the written consent of the Minister or an authorized official responsible for the administration of this Act.</p>

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- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a disclosure considered necessary in the administration of this Act or in the best interests of a person who has applied for or has received a social allowance or handicap benefit, or his dependants,
- (a) to an employee of the Department or of any other department or agency of the Government,
 - (b) to an official of the Government of Canada, or an agent thereof,
 - (c) to an agency or authority charged with the responsibility of providing a social allowance or handicap benefit to any person under this Act,
 - (d) to a person assisting the Department or acting as an agent of the Department,
 - (e) to any government department, municipality or agency of another province of Canada having a responsibility to provide financial assistance to persons in need,
 - (f) at a trial, hearing or proceedings under the Criminal Code (Canada) or the Maintenance and Recovery Act related to any matter under this Act, or to a solicitor acting on behalf of any government, authority or agency and responsible for the institution of the trial, hearing or proceedings,
 - (g) during the hearing of an appeal before an appeal authority established and acting pursuant to section 28, or
 - (h) to a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta if he has the consent of the person who has applied for or has received a social allowance or handicap benefit.

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(3) A person who contravenes this section is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of not more than \$500 and in default of payment to a term of imprisonment of not more than 90 days.

ISSUE OF ALLOWANCE
CHEQUES

6 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may

(a) authorize the establishing of accounts in banks or similar institutions consisting of public money appropriated to the use of the Department.

(b) authorize the issuing of cheques against those accounts for the payment of social allowances,

(c) prescribe the conditions under which the cheques may be issued and the officers of the Department authorized to issue the cheques, and

(d) regulate the manner in which the accounts are maintained and managed and prescribe any procedures for the accounting of money in the accounts.

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**ASSISTANCE TO
EMPLOYABLE PERSONS**

7

The Director may provide to an employ-
able person in need of assistance

- (a) a social allowance;
- (b) advice and instruction to assist the person in devising and following a reasonable rehabilitative plan;
- (c) guidance in the management of his personal affairs as related to the use of financial assets, orderly payment of debts and domestic problems;
- (d) assistance in obtaining any vocational, technical and other training that is prescribed by the regulations and which may be necessary in the preparation of the person for employment;
- (e) assistance in obtaining employment and special financial incentives in connection therewith;

**ASSISTANCE TO
UNEMPLOYABLE PERSONS**

8

The Director may provide to an un-
employable person in need of assistance

- (a) a social allowance;
- (b) advice and instruction to enable the person to properly use his social allowance;
- (c) guidance in the management of his personal affairs as related to the use of financial assets, orderly payment of debts and domestic problems;
- (d) assistance in obtaining any vocational or other training that is prescribed by the regulations and which may be necessary in the preparation of a person with physical or mental

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disabilities for employment that is suitable to his circumstances;

(e) any other assistance necessary in aiding the person to become an employable person.

ASSISTANCE RE
CHILDREN

9(1)

If the parents of a child are unable or unwilling to properly care for their child and the child is, in the opinion of the Director, being properly cared for in the home of another person or in an institution, a social allowance may be issued to that person or institution on behalf of the child.

(2)

The Director may, in calculating need under section 12, take into consideration the income and assets of the child only.

APPLICATION FOR
ASSISTANCE

10(1)

An application for assistance shall be made to the Director by, or on behalf of, the applicant on forms provided for that purpose.

(2)

When circumstances are such that an application cannot be made by the applicant, or by someone on his behalf, the making of an application as required by subsection (1) may be dispensed with on the submission to the Director of an adequate report of the circumstances.

TRUSTEE

11(1)

When a person in need of assistance is incapacitated through infirmity, illness or any other cause, and is unable to conduct his own affairs or, if the Director considers that the person in need of assistance is using or is likely to use his social allowance or handicap benefit otherwise than for his own benefit, the Director may appoint a trustee to ensure that the social allowance or handicap benefit is expended for the benefit of the person in need of assistance.

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(2) A trustee appointed under subsection (1) shall, when required by the Director, make returns showing the amount of social allowance or handicap benefit received, the amount that has been expended for the benefit of the person in need of assistance and the balance remaining with the trustee, and shall, if necessary, remit any balance to the Director.

(3) When the trustee appointed under subsection (1) is an officer or employee of an institution in which a person in need of assistance is maintained, the trustee shall pay to the institution that proportion of any social allowance or handicap benefit received which is considered by the Director to be a reasonable sum for the maintenance of the person, but the Director shall require the trustee to make available to the person in need of assistance the amount which has been provided for his personal use.

(4) Notwithstanding anything in this section, when a trustee of the estate of a person is appointed under the Dependent Adults Act, the trustee so appointed shall be a trustee for the purposes of this Act and references in this Act to a trustee shall be deemed to be references to the trustee so appointed.

AMOUNT OF SOCIAL
ALLOWANCE

12(1) Subject to the regulations, when the Director considers that a person is in need of assistance he is responsible while the person is in Alberta for the provision of a social allowance to or in respect of that person in an amount that will be adequate to enable the person to obtain the basic necessities for himself and his dependants.

(2) In determining the amount of social allowance that a person requires the

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Director shall have regard to the full resources of that person and, subject to any exemptions prescribed by the regulations, of any other person living in the same residence.

(3) In determining the resources of a person there may be exempted in addition to any amount from income or assets authorized by the regulations

(a) any additional assets which, in the opinion of the Director, will provide a means of subsistence and without which the person may become completely destitute, and

(b) any assets considered by the Director as essential needs of the person.

**CHANGE OF
CIRCUMSTANCES**

13(1) A person who is receiving a social allowance shall notify the Director forthwith of any changes in his circumstances that differ from his circumstances as previously reported.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of not more than \$1,000.

**GOVERNMENT
SUBROGATED
TO RIGHTS**

14(1) Where a social allowance is paid to or on behalf of a person who has a right to maintenance or alimony for himself or his dependent children or both under an Act, order of a court or agreement, the Government is subrogated to all of the rights to maintenance or alimony of that person under the Act, order or agreement.

(2) The subrogation under this section applies to a right to maintenance or alimony payable in a period during which a social allowance is paid whether the period occurs before or after the commencement of this section.

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(3) If the Government is subrogated to any right pursuant to this section it may bring an action or make an application in its own name or the name of the person to whose rights the Government is subrogated.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (1), if any amount is paid as maintenance or alimony to the person entitled to receive it under the Act, order or agreement within the time specified by the Act, order or agreement, the Government is not subrogated to the right to receive payment of that amount.

NOTIFICATION OF
ISSUANCE OF SUMMONS

15 If a person has received a social allowance and applies for the issue of a summons pursuant to section 28 of the Maintenance Enforcement Act, that person shall notify the Minister of the issuance of the summons not less than 10 days before the date on which the summons is returnable.

VARIATION OR
DISCONTINUATION
OF ALLOWANCE

16(1) When, on the basis of information received by him, the Director is of the opinion that the social allowance provided to or in respect of any person should be discontinued or that the amount thereof should be reduced or increased, the social allowance shall be discontinued or the amount shall be reduced or increased in accordance with section 12.

(2) When, in the opinion of the Director, an applicant for a social allowance or person to whom a social allowance is being provided

(a) has refused to seek or to accept reasonable employment for reasonable wages,

(b) has terminated employment which he might reasonably have held,

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(c) has refused or neglected to collect income to which he is entitled or to realize on his assets, or both,

(d) has refused or neglected to avail himself of the advantages he may have received under any other law,

(e) has refused or neglected to avail himself of appropriate training or rehabilitative measures,

(f) has refused to provide complete information or has provided false information required to determine his eligibility for a social allowance, or

(g) has left Alberta,

the Director is under no obligation to provide or continue to provide any services or social allowance to that person, and may refuse to provide services or a social allowance or may discontinue, suspend or vary the services or the social allowance provided.

REPAYMENT

17(1)

A person who

(a) in the opinion of the Director, uses a social allowance for purposes other than those for which it has been granted,

(b) due to non-disclosure of a material fact, false representation, error or any other reason, receives a social allowance to which he is not entitled, or

(c) causes the forfeiture of a damage deposit to a landlord or former landlord,

may be required to repay the amount thereof in the manner of repaying an overpayment under Part 3 of the Maintenance and Recovery Act.

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(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), if a person receives a social allowance to which he is not entitled or an overpayment of the amount of the social allowance to which he is entitled, not exceeding \$1000, the Director may deduct from further social allowance payments or handicap benefit payments to which that person is otherwise entitled, monthly amounts not exceeding 10% of the value of the basic necessities of that person or his dependant until the full amount of the overpayment has been repaid.

(3) If a debt not exceeding \$1,000 is due to the Crown and recoverable under

(a) the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act, or

(b) the Widows' Pension Act

~~from a person to whom or for whose benefit a social allowance is paid under this Part, the Director may deduct from further social allowance payments to which the person is otherwise entitled monthly amounts not exceeding 10% of the value of the basic necessities of that person or his dependant until the full amount of the debt is repaid.~~

HANDICAP BENEFIT

18(1) In this section and in sections 28 to 30, "handicap benefit" means a monthly allowance in an amount and of a nature or category prescribed in the regulations to be paid under this section in addition to a social allowance.

(2) The Director may provide a handicap benefit to a person who is eligible to receive a social allowance and who satisfies the Director that he suffers from a severe handicap as defined in the regulations under the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act.

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- (3) Subject to this Act and the regulations under this Act, the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act and the regulations under that Act apply, with all necessary modifications, to the payment of a handicap benefit under this Act.

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**MUNICIPAL
RESPONSIBILITY**

- 19(1) A municipality is responsible for the provision of social assistance to every employable person who
- (a) is a person in need of assistance,
 - (b) is living in the municipality,
 - (c) was living in the municipality during the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding his application to the municipality for assistance, and
 - (d) did not, during any part of those 12 months, receive assistance from the Director or from any other municipality.
- (2) A municipality responsible for the provision of social assistance to a person continues to be responsible for the provision of social assistance to that person for a period of 90 days after he ceases to live in the municipality, but not thereafter.
- (3) A municipality responsible for the provision of social assistance to a person may also provide to that person
- (a) advice and instruction to assist the person in devising and following a reasonable rehabilitative plan;
 - (b) guidance in the management of his personal affairs as related to the use of financial assets, orderly payment of debts and domestic problems;
 - (c) assistance in obtaining any vocational, technical and other training that is prescribed by the regulations and which may be necessary in the preparation of the person for employment;

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(d) assistance in obtaining employment and special financial incentives in connection therewith;

(e) advice and instruction to assist the person in remaining employed.

(4) The Director may provide any of the services enumerated in subsection (3) to any person in need of assistance who would benefit from those services, if the services are not available from the municipality.

**RESOLVING QUESTIONS
OF RESPONSIBILITY**

20(1) The Director may provide a person with social allowance for the period during which there exists any doubt on the part of the municipality as to whether or not that person is or is not

(a) living in a municipality, or

(b) a person in need of assistance.

(2) If after due inquiry it is established to the satisfaction of the Minister that a municipality was under a legal liability to furnish social assistance to that person, the Minister may recover from the municipality 10% of the cost incurred under subsection (1) by action as a debt due or by withholding it from any grant payable to the municipality.

**FINANCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY**

21 A municipality shall, subject to the Family and Community Support Services Act, bear all expenses in connection with the administration of social assistance provided under this Part.

COST SHARING

22 The Minister, on receipt of an application in writing and any statements of expenditure and other information that he requires, may pay to a municipality in respect of each person for whom the municipality is responsible to provide social assistance a grant not exceeding

SECTION SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT	SUBJECT PART 3, MUNICIPALITIES	PAGE 3
		DATE 88/08

ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF DEFAULT	23(1)	<p>90% of the amount paid by the municipality for the person's social assistance.</p> <p>If a municipality responsible for the provision of social assistance to a person</p> <p>(a) fails or refuses to provide social assistance to the person, or</p> <p>(b) fails or refuses to provide adequate social assistance to the person,</p> <p>the Minister may, out of the money voted by the Legislature for the purposes of this Act, provide a social allowance to the person.</p>
	(2)	<p>When the Minister provides a social allowance to a person pursuant to subsection (1), he may recover from the municipality 10% of the cost of the social allowance, together with the full costs of administration, by action as a debt due or by withholding it from any grant payable to the municipality.</p>
GRANTS	24	<p>If a grant is afforded a municipality in defraying the cost of providing social assistance, whether afforded by Canada or by Alberta or both, then the municipality, as a condition of receiving the grant, shall, in cases of urgent necessity, provide social assistance for any person in need of assistance living within the boundaries of the municipality.</p>

SECTION SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT	SUBJECT PART 3, MUNICIPALITIES	PAGE 4
		DATE 88/08

RECOVERY OF
ASSISTANCE

25(1)

A municipality that provides social assistance under section 24 shall forthwith send by registered mail a written notice to that effect

(a) to the secretary-treasurer of the municipality of which the person concerned is believed to be a resident, if the person is an employable person and if the municipality is within Alberta, or

(b) otherwise to the Director.

(2)

If the municipality or the Director, as the case may be, to which the written notice has been sent fails within 30 days after the date of mailing of the notice to accept responsibility for the person named therein, the municipality supplying social assistance may apply to the Minister who will determine the responsibility under this Act for the person concerned.

RECOVERY FROM
RECIPIENT

26(1)

A person in need of assistance who has applied for or is in receipt of social assistance from a municipality may be required to give an undertaking to the municipality to repay the total amount of the social assistance, or a portion thereof, provided for himself and his dependants.

(2)

When the Minister has made a grant under section 24 the municipality shall pay to the Minister any money recovered from the person in need of assistance or his estate in excess of the amount contributed by the municipality.

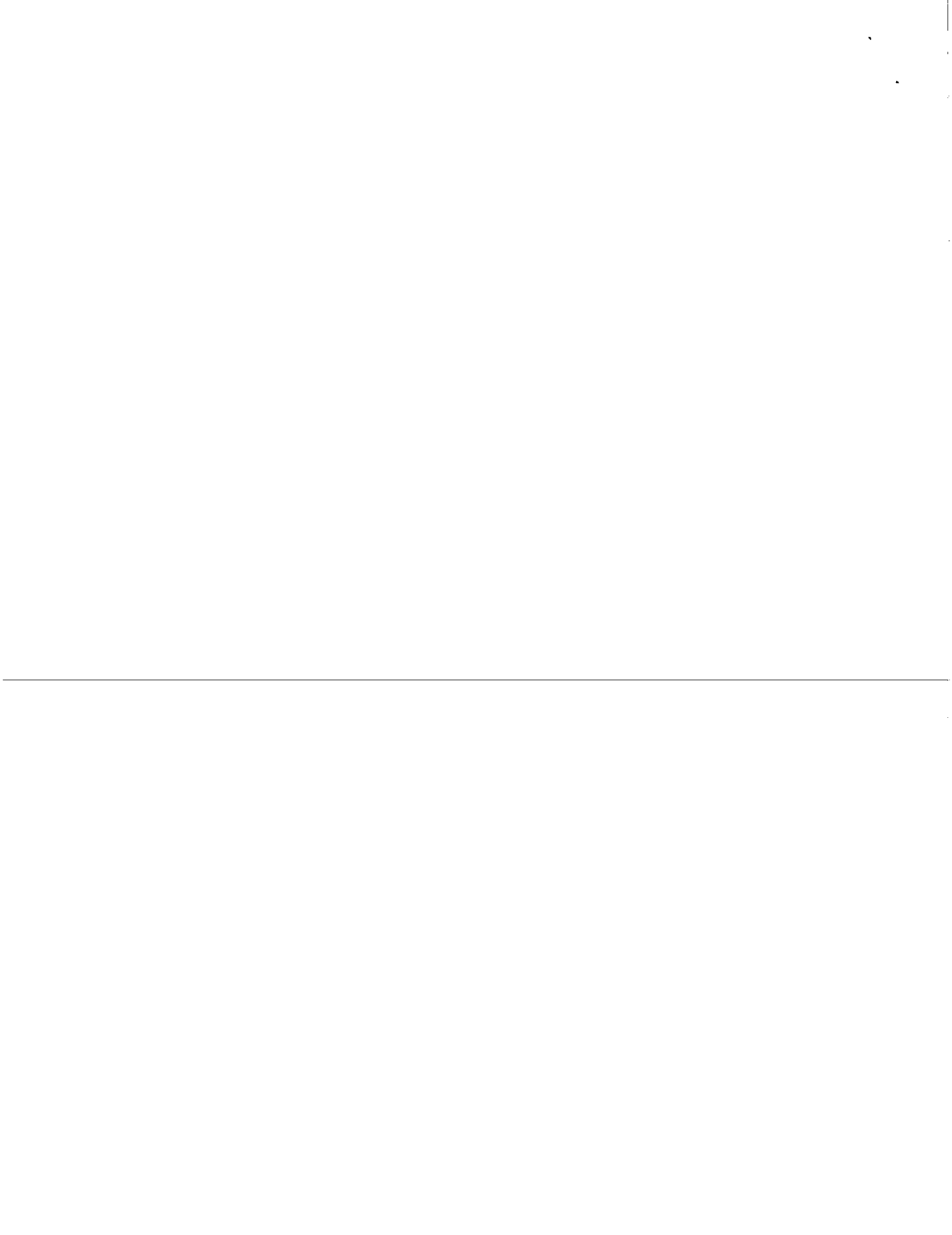
WELFARE WORKERS

27(1)

Each municipality, other than an improvement district or special area, shall appoint one or more welfare workers for the municipality, and notice of each appointment shall be given forthwith to the Director.

SECTION SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT	SUBJECT PART 3, MUNICIPALITIES	PAGE 5 DATE 88/08
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- (2) A welfare worker appointed under subsection (1) shall not undertake any duties as a welfare worker unless his appointment is approved by the Director.
- (3) When the Director is satisfied that a welfare worker appointed by a municipality has not adopted or is not maintaining standards and methods of work prescribed pursuant to subsection (4), then the Director may withdraw his approval of the appointment of the welfare worker.
- (4) The Minister may prescribe standards of qualification for and standards and methods of work to be maintained and adopted by welfare workers appointed by municipalities.



SECTION SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT	SUBJECT PART 4, GENERAL	PAGE 1
		DATE 88/08

APPEAL

- 28(1) The Minister may establish
- (a) one or more appeal panels to hear appeals from decisions on any matter respecting a social allowance, and
 - (b) one or more appeal panels to hear appeals from decisions on any matter respecting a handicap benefit.
- (2) The Minister may with respect to an appeal panel established under subsection (1)
- (a) appoint or provide for the appointment of its members,
 - (b) prescribe the terms of office of its members,
 - (c) designate a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary,
 - (d) authorize, fix and provide for the payment of expenses to its members, and remuneration to those members who are not employees of the Government, and
 - (e) prescribe the number of members of the appeal panel who constitute a quorum.
- (3) The person who made the decision appealed from is not eligible to sit as a member of an appeal panel considering an appeal respecting that decision.
- (4) The Administrative Procedures Act applies to proceedings of an appeal panel under this section.
- (5) An appeal panel may, subject to this Act and the regulations, confirm, reverse or vary the decision appealed from, and the decision of the appeal panel is final.

SECTION SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT	SUBJECT PART 4, GENERAL	PAGE 2
		DATE 88/08

APPEAL TO
APPEAL PANEL

29(1)

Any person affected by a decision on any matter respecting a social allowance or a handicap benefit may

(a) in the case of a matter respecting a social allowance, appeal the decision to the chairman of an appeal panel appointed for the purposes of section 28(1)(a), or

(b) in the case of a matter respecting a handicap benefit, appeal the decision to the chairman of an appeal panel appointed for the purposes of section 28(1)(b).

(2)

An appeal under this section shall be made in writing within 30 days from when the person receives notice of the decision appealed from and of his right to appeal.

REGULATIONS

30

The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations

(a) prescribing the maximum amount of social allowance that may be provided to a person in need of assistance to obtain any specific basic necessity;

(b) specifying the income or assets that may be exempt in determining the resources of any person for the purpose of determining the amount of a social allowance or handicap benefit payable to that person;

(c) prescribing vocational, technical and other training which may be provided to recipients of a social allowance or social assistance;

(d) prescribing exemptions for the purposes of section 12(2);

(e) prescribing the nature, categories and amounts of handicap benefits and

SECTION SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT	SUBJECT PART 4, GENERAL	PAGE 3 DATE 88/08
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modified amounts of handicap benefits that may be provided under section 18.

AGREEMENTS

31

The Minister may

(a) enter into agreements with the Government of Canada or the government of any province in respect of health and welfare measures;

(b) enter into agreements with persons for the provision of services under this Act and the payment for the services.

TRANSFER OF
RESPONSIBILITY

32

Any duty, responsibility or function imposed on a municipality or its employees by this Act terminates when the Minister, through arrangements with the municipality, provides for the assumption of that duty, responsibility or function by the Director.

SECTION SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT	SUBJECT PART 5, FAMILY ALLOWANCE RATES	PAGE 1
		DATE 88/08

DEFINITIONS

33

In this Part,

(a) "child" means an individual who is less than 18 years of age and who has a parent who is resident in Alberta;

(b) "family allowance" means an allowance payable in respect of a child pursuant to the Family Allowance Act, 1973 (Canada);

(c) "parent" in relation to a child means an individual resident in Alberta who wholly or substantially maintains the child;

(d) "resident in Alberta" means maintaining a home and being ordinarily present in Alberta.

AMOUNT OF ALLOWANCE

34

The amount of family allowance payable in each month during the calendar year in respect of a child who has a parent who is resident in Alberta shall be based on the age of the child on the last day of the month.

**ADJUSTMENT OF
FAMILY ALLOWANCE**

35(1)

The amount of family allowance to be paid for a month in any year shall be adjusted annually and for that purpose the provisions of section 13 of the Family Allowances Act, 1973 (Canada) apply, with all necessary modifications, to the calculation of the adjustment.

(2)

Subject to subsection (1), unless a change is the result of a communication received from the Governor in Council under section 5 of the Family Allowance Act, 1973 (Canada), the rates for family allowances may be changed once only in each calendar year, to have effect from January 1 in the year in which the change is made.

(3)

Any change in the rates for family allowances made under this section shall

SECTION SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT	SUBJECT PART 5, FAMILY ALLOWANCE RATES	PAGE 2 DATE 88/08
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be made by an order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council with effect from January 1 in the year for which the change is made.

FEDERAL AGREEMENTS

36

The Minister may enter into agreements with The Minister of National Health and Welfare for the purpose of providing and obtaining information with respect to the administration of this Act or the Family Allowances Act, 1973 (Canada).

Racism
fact sheet
inside

first reading



Volume 10, Number 2

Edmonton Social Planning Council

May 1992

Glory Days



INSIDE: Teen prostitution; Helping dropouts; Life at EYOC...



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Tricks no treat

By Sheila Kushniruk

When you're faced with the option of working at a minimum wage job where you're totally dispensible, or working for \$800 a night with frequent abuse, prostitution often wins out. At least there you get a lot of money for having to put up with crap all day long.

Sex for money, big money, but with it comes frequent beatings, being raped without the protection of a condom, being robbed often at knife point or gun point and death threats. There's money in it for sure, unless you have a pimp or a boyfriend who takes it off your hands.

If you're a young teenager who has left a bad situation at home, the streets don't look so bad. You might even be so whacked out on drugs, the streets look pretty good.

John first started working the hill at 12 years of age, dressing as a drag queen. He was already hooked on drugs and the only way to get money to support the habit was to turn some tricks. He said it was his own choice. Now 13 years later he's tired.

"It was fun at first. Now it's like a chore to pull a trick. I've seen so many men, so many faces, turned so many tricks. I could have had a house and a car by now. I've made a killing, but I blew it all on drugs," said John.

On a typical day he sleeps till about 3 p.m. then goes for coffee with friends before he makes his way to the hill at about 4 p.m. He stays with friends and eats sometimes at home if he can part with the money that would otherwise go for his one to two gram daily

cocaine habit "If I didn't have my drug problem I wouldn't be out there turning tricks. It's hell out there if you don't know the streets, all the fag-bashers and cops."

John has upgraded to a grade 10 education and taken a nine-month hairdressing course, but he said there's no way he could hold down a steady job because he's too messed up. For now he turns tricks and is honest with his clients. If they ask him what he's thinking about when he's serving them, he tells them all he wants to do is get them over with so he can take the money and go buy his drugs and sit back and get high.

"If I didn't have my drug problem I wouldn't be out there turning tricks. It's hell out there if you don't know the streets, all the fag-bashers and cops."

"It pays the bills," said John.

Now if he spots any young boys on the hill he tells them they should leave. "'You're too young. I don't see any point in it. Get off while you can,' I tell them. Besides," John smirks, "I hate the competition."

The lifestyle has worn thin for Jessie too. He's been at it since he was 12. Now at 19 he's made some steps to breaking away, but he's not quite there yet.

Jessie was in and out of foster homes and ran away for the

first time when he was eight years old, but returned. By 12 he had finally had enough and chose to live on the streets instead. It didn't take long to realize he needed some way to earn money in order to survive and besides stealing the odd car, turning tricks seemed easy enough.

"It was the first time I ever had to do anything like that... People always told me the streets weren't safe, but when I was 12, I was fed up with home so I packed my bags and left," said Jessie. "It wasn't fun. I was scared of being beaten up and molested. I was scared and lonely and I missed going camping and fishing with my family."

Jessie

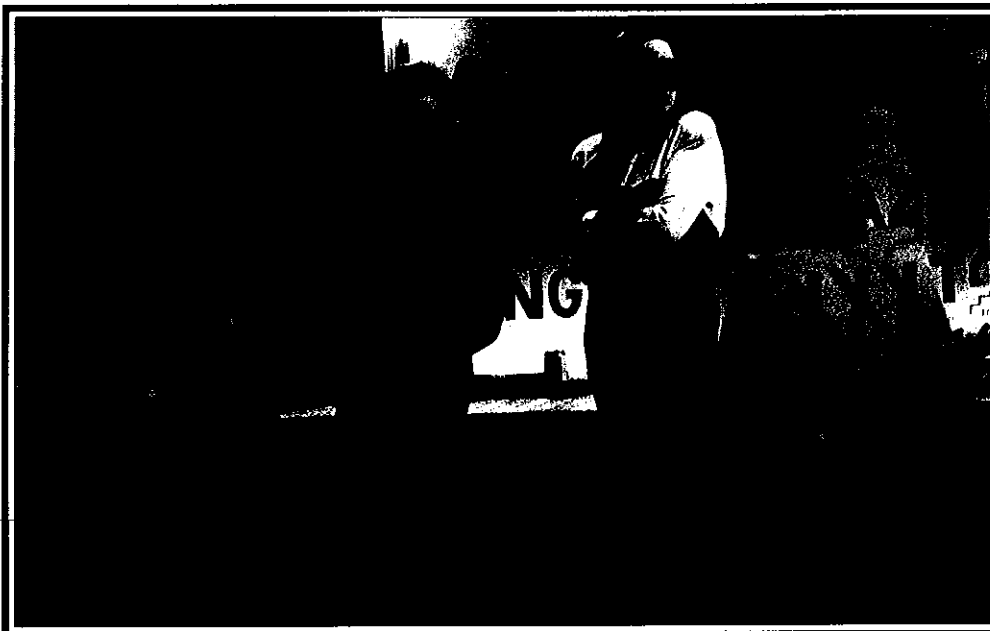
tried looking for regular jobs, but he said he was always shoved off or told they weren't hiring even though there was a sign in the window. He was turned down to wash dishes, be a waiter, work as a janitor or maintenance helper. "Trying to turn yourself around, it ain't easy."

The street isn't all bad. "There was no rules to attend to. It was like I was free. I was happy about that. But after one year on the street I was tired of staying up all night long and sleeping all day."

By the time he was 17 he realized he was going nowhere but downhill.

Drugs were a factor for Jessie as well as alcohol. Now he's dry, but he still buys hash almost every day and he's currently on the run from the police.

Jessie said the hardest part about being young and working on the hill is you can't be timid. "I wasn't really shy, but for some of these young guys they're shy and it's hard for them to



Edmonton's downtown streets are busy in the evening as prostitutes earn their livelihood. For many, the money is for mere survival, for others it's for addictions or pimps. Photo by Andy Yakimishyn.

walk up to a biker."

Now when Jessie sees a kid on the hill he just gets mad. "It makes me pissed off they're on the street, but there's nothing I can do about it." He said he tries to talk to them, but he remembers what it was like to be told. "I never really cared what they said. I just felt it was my life and I could do what I wanted."

For now the money pays for places to stay and meals here and there. He said the only time social assistance appealed to him was when he was over 18 and he could get \$470 a month.

After rent, that allows him \$110 to spend for the rest of the month. It isn't much, but he said it's better than when he was under 18 and the allowance was only \$25 per month after room and board. "There was nothing I could do with \$25, so I still worked... It's like giving pennies."

In the future Jessie wants to be a construction worker or maybe a child care worker so he can help

other kids like himself.

For Carol and Denise their lives on the street hold more promise than anything else out there. Carol is like a mother hen. She looks out for her fellow prostitutes and tries to talk young ones she knows into leaving the life. She said the only thing that keeps her on the streets is the money and the friends she

has.

Carol was not a teenager when she started. She was 21 and she and her husband needed money to support their cocaine dependency. The couple had found themselves in deep debt and only big money would help. She has become all too familiar with street life and wouldn't wish it on anyone, especially young girls.

Carol looks out for her friends, one of them being 18 year old Denise who has already turned tricks for four years. Denise was

kicked out of school and had lived on and off with her alcoholic, abusive mother. She got hooked up with the wrong guy when she was 14 and ended up stranded in a strange city with no money, determined she would never call her mother for help. The guy arranged for her to accompany another working girl for the night and she turned her first trick, crying all the way through it.

Drugs became the motivating factor for Denise. She said she spent \$21,000 in three months on drugs. At first she shared her income with a pimp, but now she works alone to support her six month old daughter. Both Carol and Denise have been robbed many times, not to mention getting beaten and raped.

"I just want to take the young ones and shake them," said Denise. "It's been a long four years. I never had no teenage years...My teenage years were when I was 12 and 13."

For both Denise and Carol it

would take a pretty good job to lure them away from the cash on the streets, and with minimal education they aren't even looked at by employers. Carol at one time received \$300 a month social assistance but there was no way she could manage on that amount. Denise is eligible for \$800 a month for her and her child, but she said she wouldn't know how to make that last a month.

It's a similar story for Barbara, but with a more hopeful ending. Barbara managed to make the break from the streets after working for over a year as a prostitute. She was 15 and had been moved from group home to group home when she left to live on the streets. "I was sick of not having money," said Barbara. At the time she was into smoking drugs and drinking beer, but that progressed into every kind of drug there is as well as any and all hard liquor.

Barbara would sleep wherever she could, often passing out at parties. The odd night she would have enough money to get a hotel room. She was

working on her own for the first while until some of the pimps started noticing her. Because she didn't know much about 'the game' pimps tried to bump her and get her working for them. One was eventually successful. The money was more than anything she ever made working at MacDonalds.

"I liked it because of all the cash. I could handle all the cash I wanted, but we had to have at least between \$600 and \$800

a night so we could get cocaine."

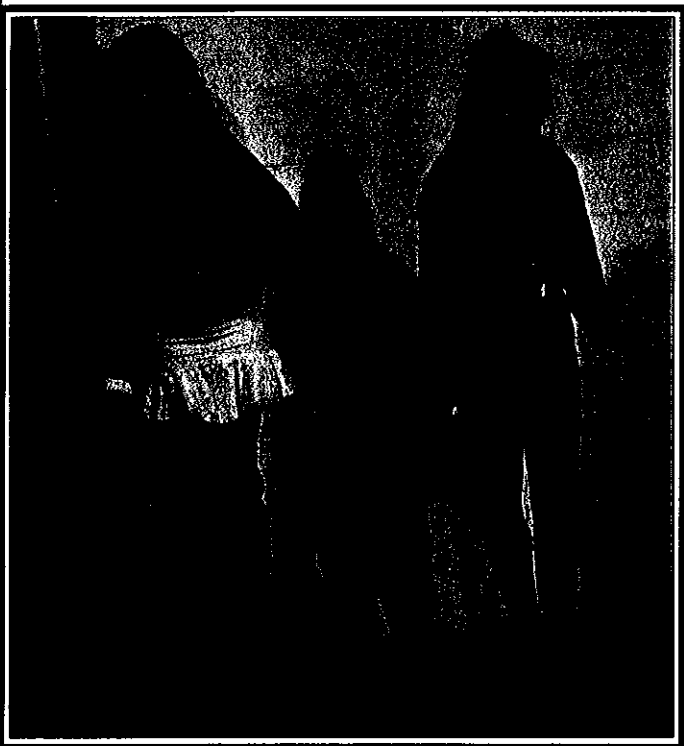
Barbara missed the home-cooked meals and the privacy of her own bedroom. The cash kept her there until she was able to quit cocaine cold turkey. In her first nine months with her pimp she made \$90,000 but had nothing to show for it. With an alcohol problem she still had to continue working enough on her own to get money for booze.

"I just want to take the young ones and shake them. It's been a long four years. I never had no teenage years...My teenage years were when I was 12 and 13."

Barbara has been off the streets for about a year now and with medical help and therapy she is trying to deal with her past. If she could say anything to teens out on the streets it would be "It's just not worth it. It's not worth the money. You lose your family. You lose your self-esteem, your courage and your faith. You lose it all and it's just not worth it."

Barbara knows there is nothing you can say to get someone to quit, but as long as services are open to them if they choose to make the break, that's the main thing. "I wouldn't turn anyone away. I wouldn't put anyone in hostels." She said hostels and group homes only make things worse. She said more housing for teens is needed where they can live independently with some financial assistance.

In Edmonton there are 561 prostitutes actively working the



Street life is better than life at home for many teens. Photo by Andy Yakimishyn.

Youngsters in an old profession

By Irene Kerr

streets according to Crossroads Outreach. Out of those 206 are under the age of 18. When Crossroads first made contact, as early as 1989, 250 of the actively working prostitutes were under 18.

Maureen Reid is an outreach worker with Crossroads. She said the system sometimes works against these teens especially if they are under 16. They have often had teens caught in government departmental shuffles without getting any service for weeks. One case they are working on has had her file passed between four different departments in eight weeks without a penny of funds to help her. The client is due to have a baby soon and can't get a place to live or even food without the financial support. Fortunately for the girl a family has let her stay with them until she can get set up.

Maureen said a number of the teens on the street are having babies in an attempt to have someone to love them unconditionally. Instead of these women getting support to raise the children off the streets they are having their children taken away from them and the cycle continues.

VOICES FROM WITHIN

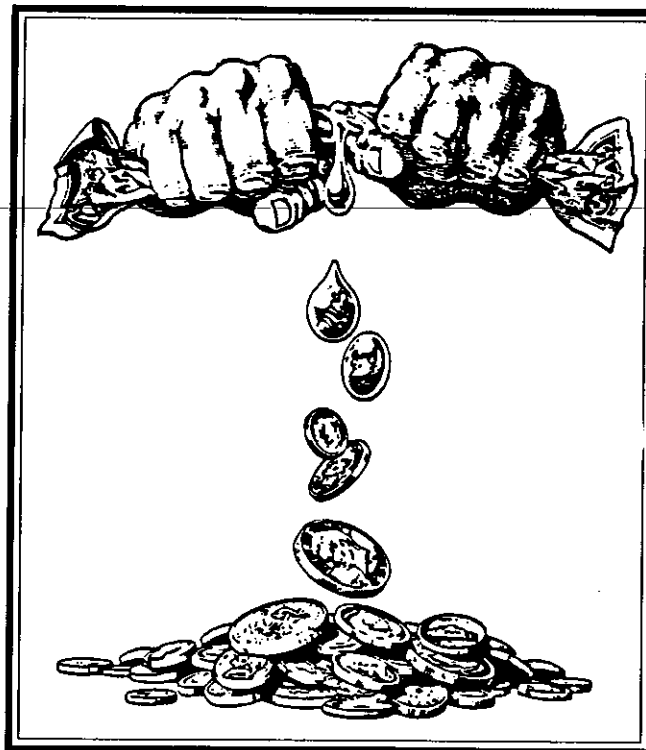
ESPC is co-ordinating an Inner City Seniors Conference June 3, 4 and 5 at the University of Alberta Conference Centre. Seniors as well as service providers are urged to attend. The conference will address issues and how to manage them. It is funded by New Horizons and the fee is \$75. Call Alison MacDonald at 423-2031 to register before May 22.

The reasons why young females and males work the streets of the inner city are numerous and real; from homelessness to boosting the family's welfare cheque in order to feed her/his siblings at month end.

Early sexual and/or physical abuse within the home are other factors that account for a majority of youth leaving this unsafe, unstable environment for the more transient and unknown elements of a life on the streets. Although some teenagers end

some of these background factors shared by juvenile prostitutes ranging from a much lower education level, to involvement with substance abuse (talwin and ritalin, alcohol, speed, cocaine, marijuana) including needle use.) We appear to have spent far less time discerning the factors and causes that keep youth attracted and attached to this lifestyle, whether full or part time. What keeps them from leaving when they want out?

Until we address the same gaps in the youths' lives that initially led them to the street - as a choice between two poor options in their mind, nothing much changes. We all need a viable commodity to sell in today's marketplace, whether that be an education, skilled labor or any other service that is valued and in high demand. For these youth living in poverty, with very limited skills and education, their body becomes their most val-



ued commodity. Society seems to have a unending market for such a service. And, as many juvenile prostitutes described this sad reality: "At least now I'm getting paid (in drugs or money) for something

up involved in prostitution full time, most alternate between the transience of the streets and instability of the home setting.

We have spent a great deal of time investigating and chronicling

ued commodity. Society seems to have a unending market for such a service. And, as many juvenile prostitutes described this sad reality: "At least now I'm getting paid (in drugs or money) for something

I had to do for free growing up”.

So, what are the gaps that tend to keep youth in this street involved lifestyle and how do we best begin to build bridges that offer practical, relevant “help” to these youth?

At present, it appears that the alternative picture we are able to offer them is not attractive enough to get them off the street. For example, youth under the age of 18 must accept a living situation that involves an adult supervised group home or room and board situation. For most of these youth who have lived virtually independently and survived on the streets, this option doesn't fit as a starting point. Coming from a late night lifestyle of few or no rules, to an often rule-bound group home (if they still have active child welfare status) or a room and board setting (accessed through income security), is just too big a leap.

These teenagers have not had much experience or success with traditional services such as school, social services or health care. The capacity of our systems of help to accommodate such alternative lifestyles must be broadened in order to make the entry point more attractive and relevant. We must be willing to begin the process of change at the point they're starting from, rather than at some inappropriate entry point we feel is right.

One example of a small change in the system that might have a large impact on keeping kids from going back to the streets, would be the ability of a young person to make a reasonable amount of income, if they are so willing/able, beyond what they receive in a typical room and board arrangement. As it is now, a por-

tion of the money they make, on top of their assistance, comes off their cheque. They are being penalized for having initiative. This sets up youth to either lie about getting part time work (past a certain amount/month) or see the present system as helping them remain dependent and poor.

Another common example of an area in need of change is the ability of the education and employment programs available to accommodate young people who have missed out on a large portion of the skills and curriculum gained through the traditional education route. Once a youth has made the difficult break from prostitution, the social service system tends to have unrealistic expectations regarding how soon and how easy it will be for her/him to get into a day program of some

"At least now I'm getting paid (in drugs or money) for something I had to do for free growing up."

kind by the end of the first month of assistance. Once again, the gap between where the youth is at and where he/she is expected to be within a month, continually sets these adolescents up for failure. They end up stopping and starting social assistance repeatedly.

We need to establish a broader based network of support for this transient, hard to reach population of young people. It must first take into account the reality rather than the morality of a lifestyle of working the streets. It is most important to provide a system that encourages the real progress made when small steps are taken away from the familiar but unsafe and unstable life they know. If we are not willing to stretch our boundaries with respect

to what success looks like, we inevitably set them up to return to a life they are both more familiar with and where they feel competent.

Irene Kerr is the program coordinator for the youth unit with the Boyle Street Co-op.

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Edmonton Social Planning Council



GET ON BOARD!

A Working Guide To Better Board Development

Mathew S. Kueffer

1992

Edmonton, Alberta



United Way
OF EDMONTON AND AREA

New strategies help drop-outs

By Sheila Kushniruk

"The jobs were shit," said Brad as he described his life after dropping out of school.

"I was stuck in a hell hole." Brad worked at a restaurant cleaning and while there were supposed to be other workers to help, he would get stuck doing it all while the others sat around visiting. It wasn't a good job, but it was the only one he could get and even then he had to lie to get it.

Jay applied everywhere he could and it always came down to a question of whether or not he had a criminal record. If he told the truth he usually ended up watching the employer rip up the application in front of his face. If he said no it

was only a matter of time before they checked into it and the job was no longer available. One job he did get was at a machinery yard where he was expected to move 80-pound bags around. When he threw his back out he was let go with no

compensation because he had been paid under the table. With a grade seven education he didn't see much hope in the future.

The job market is depressed and it hits dropouts the hardest because they are a dispensible commodity. If they don't do what is asked of them, there's plenty more unskilled laborers who will.

Irene Kerr is the program coordinator for the youth unit at the Boyle Street Co-op. She said it's not uncom-

came in with his hands and arms covered with sores from not being given any gloves to use - he was allergic to the soap. "These kids think 'Boy I didn't have to put up with this on the streets,'" said Irene. She said there's more pulling them back onto the streets than there is helping them off.

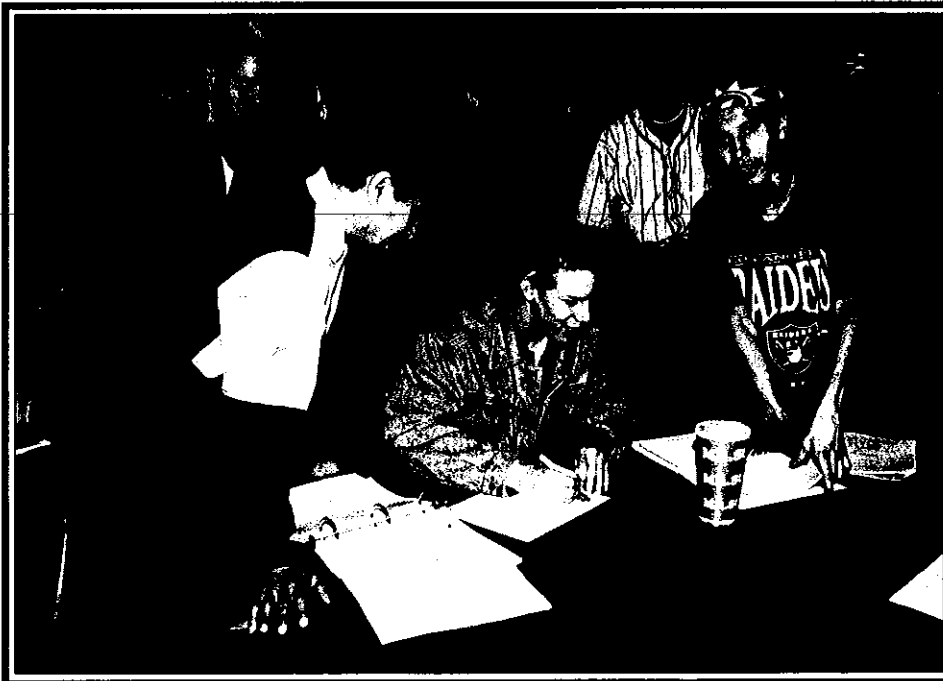
Dropout numbers have forced a change in strategy by school systems and the government. Alternatives to a regular

school system are being tested across the province, funded through the federal Stay In School Initiative program which was launched last year.

Boyle Street Co-op runs an alternative school program. With spaces for 12 students under 18 years of age, teacher Joe Pillay is kept busy. The program was started as a pilot last year when youth asked for some kind of social organization at the co-op where they could

work on correspondence courses and get help from fellow students or Joe.

Almost all the students are living on some kind of social assistance and living in poverty. The school is currently trying to get



Boyle Street Co-op teacher Joe Pillay helps teens who've left the regular school system.
Photo by Sheila Kushniruk.

mon to have kids come into the Co-op with horror stories of being exploited on the job. She said one teen had his foot run over working at a car wash and was just sent home because he couldn't work anymore. Another young person working at the car wash

funding to help feed them nutritious snacks daily. "These kids are living independently. They have the mental age of adults, without the resources," said Joe.

Students work on their own courses depending on what they've chosen and then the group works on life skills together with help from other agencies. Speakers are brought into the class to talk about drugs or prison or other issues such as health concerns.

The students are unable to fit into a regular school system. To get off the streets they need some kind of a transition zone where they can try to fit into some kind of routine. The program is good because they can start it any time of the year rather than just September or February and they don't have to be put on a waiting list for programs.

"These kids live for today," said Joe. "They don't plan six months ahead. You're lucky if they plan a day ahead."

For Jay the program works because he doesn't have to go back to grade seven with kids who are younger than him. He can go to the Co-op and get help from other students and not have to feel like an idiot for asking a question. He is currently working to get his grade 10 mathematics and English so he can get into carpentry at NAIT. "This school is better than most. You ask when you need something...You don't get homework because you're working at your own pace," said Jay.

"I don't have to come here. I do it because I want to. I can't even picture what my life would be like if I hadn't come back to school. I'd probably be dead by now," said Jay.

"I came here because I had to for probation - now I come here because I want to...Here everyone gets along with everyone. You don't have to worry about being popular or having chicks not like you because they think you're weird," said Darcy.

"My social worker was ragging on me. I had been out of school one year...Now I don't have to come. I

families; over half the dropouts have social workers; a number have been charged under the Young Offender's Act; only about 15 per cent lived with both natural parents; about one-third live with step-parents and about two-thirds had moved at least four times in their lives. About one-third of the dropouts had repeated a grade at



St. Peter's school offers separate school dropouts some alternatives. Photo by Sheila Kushniruk.

come because I want to," said Kevin.

Bill Belous and Dennis Gauthier have an alternative school program set up through the separate school system. Together they work with 20 former dropouts in St. Peter's School. The kids were tracked through the separate school system out of a total of about 191 who had passed from grade nine to grade 10, but didn't show up for high school in the fall. While some of the students had moved to different districts, some had dropped out and were interested in getting back.

Research in the separate system showed male dropouts outnumber females; there are a number from native

one time, but all planned to finish high school eventually.

St. Peter's is nothing like a regular school. Each student has his or her own program depending on what they can do and what they would like to do in the future: some students go to St. Peter's in the morning and do work experience in the afternoon, some go only three days a week and work the other two. Dennis and Bill work on academic studies with the kids, mostly helping them with whatever correspondence courses they have chosen to take, or sometimes they work on literacy skills.

Part of the day is also spent developing living skills such as time management.

"This is a place to come and some kids need that," said Bill. Many of their students missed the socializing that went on in a regular school and found after they dropped out they didn't see their friends.

"Some are reacting well because they have a place to come to. Some are feeling stressed by a school setting and they're not coming every day. Some are coming and doing the basic minimum, but they're here," said Dennis.

All but one of the 20 students regretted leaving school. The program's ultimate goal is to get them back into the regular school system next year. "We're trying to be a safety net for these kids," said Bill. He said they hope to get funding so they can carry on the program next year with a new group of kids and to follow up on the first 20 kids as they move through the system.

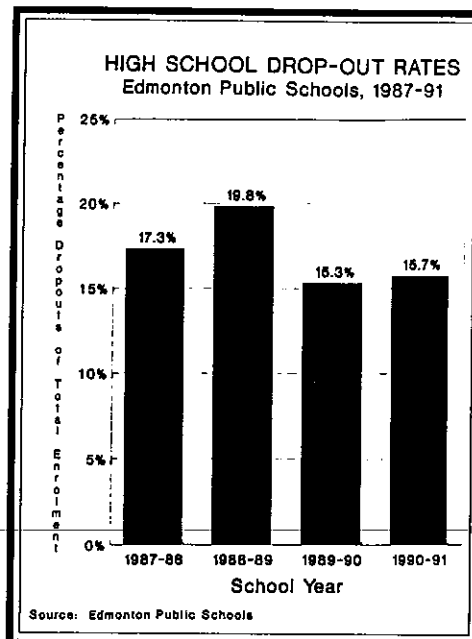
Stacy Roadhouse is one of the students in the program. Stacy skipped school quite often and eventually found she had fallen too far behind in the work. She dropped out and instead went to pool halls every day. It took one month before she could tell her mother. Her mom told Stacy she would have to begin paying rent and find a job if she wished to remain out of school.

She quit grade 10 at 14 years of age and was turned down by employers. To pay her share of the rent Stacy babysat for her mother and it didn't take long before she became bored with the lifestyle. The friends she left school with, turned out to be false friends and when she tried to contact some of her old friends still in school, one parent refused to let her speak with

his daughter for fear the girl would be influenced to quit school too.

Now as she looks back on it she realizes she quit partly for her own reasons, but also because her friends were doing it too.

When Stacy was approached for the program she thought it sounded good because she realized she needed more education. "There's not as many people so you can get along with everybody. It doesn't seem like school and you are still getting your courses... You



want to come here more than if it was regular school."

Stacy has registered to get back into high school this fall and she's confident she can make it because she will be caught up to a grade 11 level in some of her subjects, while she will have to go to a grade 10 level in others.

Stacy and her classmates are proof more needs to be done to help dropout teens get educated. Putting them back into regular school systems without any transition doesn't work, while smaller individualized programs are having some successes. With hundreds of dropouts and only a handful of programs the system is still failing a number of teens.

Letter to the editor:

(In response to February/92 First Reading article "Inner city boards lack native representation")

Because half of the patients coming to the Centre are of native ancestry, the lack of aboriginal representation on the board of directors of the Boyle McCauley Health Centre is an ongoing concern. Presently there is one board member of native ancestry, but, by the end of June 1992, there will be three individuals with native ancestry. As the article stated it is difficult to find people who are willing and able to make the time and energy commitment required to be a board member. It can be accomplished, however, and the board of directors is always looking for new members.

Given the number of other people interviewed for the article, it is surprising no current board member from any inner city board was represented. Certainly the staff were questioned, but this is not the same perspective as that of a volunteer board of directors. We think the article would have been more comprehensive and fair if we had a chance to speak of our concerns and plans.

- Heather Halpenny
Crocker - President

In response to the Boyle McCauley Health Centre's concerns it should be added each organization contacted was given the option of having the board president or the executive director to speak on the issue. The editor attempted to reach Ms. Halpenny Crocker but the business phone number given by the Health Centre, was incorrect.

Putting prostitutes in their place



By Jonathan
Murphy

People in McCauley are sick and tired of prostitution. Sick of being propositioned on the way to the grocery store, and tired of picking up used condoms and syringes left by the hookers and their clients. Things were bad enough that long-time community activists were thinking of packing up and moving their families away from the inner city. They decided instead to launch a last ditch campaign to get rid of the streetwalkers and their customers.

They have lots of support. Politicians, the police department, and the media have all lent a hand. And the pressure is certainly having an effect. Hookers are now spread all over the core area, instead of being concentrated in Boyle Street and McCauley.

But like all good causes, the anti-prostitution movement has its critics, and the disquiet is growing. Some claim prostitution is inevitable and McCauley has been home to hookers as long as the neighborhood has existed. Maybe it is the community activists who are trying to change the neighborhood after their own image, not the prostitutes.

Back in 1884, Nellie Webb made a name for herself. She was the City's first prostitute to be convicted for her sins. Naturally enough, her brothel was in the inner city; in those days that was all Edmonton amounted to. As the town grew, prostitutes and boot-

leggers stayed in the old core, which adopted the role it maintains to this day. A home to people, trades, and services unwelcome but necessary to Edmonton's good citizens.

Edmonton has always been a prime location for prostitution. During the pioneer days, lots of men travelled out here alone. Bars and women livened up a brutal, grim existence. After oil was discovered in Leduc in 1947, the boom brought a new flood of single men from rural areas and outside the country. They worked up North for months at a time, and when they came back to town they had a pocketful of money and plenty of pent-up sexuality.

Alice Hanson was director of Boyle Street Co-op and then the Boyle

"They should back off from taking matters into their own hands, it's just going to escalate things."

McCauley Health Centre during the seventies and eighties. She remembers the inner city as a place where people had their own communities and generally left each other alone; "people who lived in McCauley turned a blind eye to other groups. They consciously ignored what was going on."

Redevelopment of Boyle Street upset everything. The old houses and walk-ups were razed, replaced by high rises and condominiums. The new residents had put money into their homes. Prostitution was a threat to their investment. The fight was on. Police were enlisted to step up pressure on the prostitutes and their clients. Eventually, the residents forced

the City to install a system of one-way streets, disrupting the flow of cars and making prostitution so difficult that the hookers moved. To McCauley.

Harvey Voogd is a spokesperson for Communities for Controlled Prostitution. His group aims to force prostitutes out of residential areas into a downtown zone of tolerance. Voogd recognizes prostitution has always been part of this neighborhood, but it wasn't intolerable until it became concentrated there. "We started seeing a lot more of them in south McCauley" he says, "and they seemed to be getting younger." Barricades and one-ways have succeeded in disrupting the traffic flow of men looking for prostitutes, although the police have said they want to restore normal traffic. "(Police Chief McNally) is in for a big cat fight if he removes the one-ways," warns Voogd.

Prostitution is now diffused throughout the neighborhoods around downtown, but Voogd believes that will make the problem more visible and likely to be solved. "If I could arrange it, I would have them all work in Glenora, so that something would be done about it."

Still, prostitution hasn't been completely eliminated in McCauley, and activists have launched more controversial methods of harassing the sex trade. Names of convicted johns are printed in the community newspaper, the police have a letter writing campaign to men seen consorting with prostitutes (but not charged or convicted of anything), and Com-



Alberta Facts

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WE ARE NOT RACISTS BUT...

Dispelling Some Of The Myths About Multiculturalism, Immigrants and Racism

Alberta continues to witness cases of discrimination and ill-treatment against non-whites and some religious groups. Jewish synagogues and cemeteries have been defaced; Aryan Nations have burned crosses in southern Alberta. Natives, Sikhs and Moslems face public ridicule about their dress; turbans have been banned by local legions and there was a long and loud provincial furore against turbans in the R.C.M.P. Workers express fear that immigrants take away their jobs and somehow cheapen the labor force. Vietnamese are made responsible for the existence of ethnic gangs. "Paki" taxi drivers are refused by customers. Even Alberta politicians have joined in denouncing multiculturalism legislation.

Racism is rooted in myths.

Maria Perez and Teresa Soto work as secretaries in a large insurance firm. Noticing the other secretaries carry on informal conversations during work hours, they started conversing in Spanish. After a week, they were both called in to the supervisor's office and told they were not to talk in Spanish at work any more.

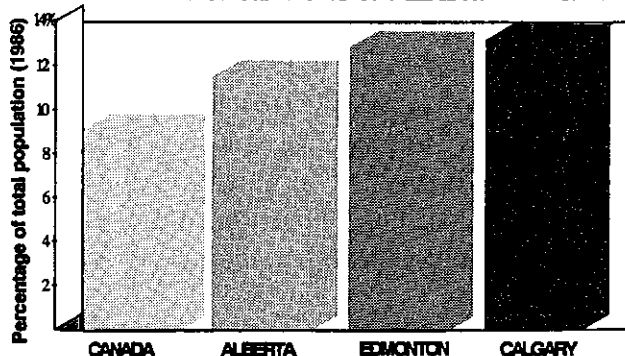
The Common Myths:

MYTH: "Multiculturalism as a policy is divisive. It ghettoizes ethnocultural groups and it is destroying Canadian unity."

REALITY: Canadian unity is threatened by the Anglophone-Francophone debate, the East versus West disparities, the rich/poor inequalities, and urban/rural splits. Multiculturalism, rather than causing divisiveness, is a philosophy of unity because it applies to all Canadians. Many of the ethnocultural groups are national in scope, and participate in activities of national interest.

In 1988, 58,810 immigrants from 170 different countries showed their loyalty to Canada and willingness to be an integral part of Canada, by

VISIBLE MINORITY POPULATIONS OF ALBERTA AND CANADA



becoming citizens of this country. People who belong to these groups hold jobs in the Canadian mainstream, shop in the same stores and supermarkets as everyone else, and attend many of the same public functions. That they attempt to meet their needs by congregating at special events to build support networks, to socialize, to listen to music or attend a dance recital should in no way be interpreted as ghettoization.

"We need to become less afraid of the "R" word. So long as we explode in righteous indignation if someone suggests something we did is racist, we effectively prevent discussion of the issue and silence people of color."

Barbara Findlay - With All Of Who We Are: A Discussion of Oppression and Dominance.

MYTH: "Government is spending too much money to preserve the song and dance of minorities."

REALITY: What is referred to as the "song and dance" of minority groups is in many cases the art of new Albertans. Time spent on these programs are all undertaken by volunteers. Ethnic minority "song and

dance" provides alternative entertainment at low prices for many who are too poor to afford the shows offered by the more established groups. The provincial government spends one dollar per capita a year for its multiculturalism programs.

MYTH: "Previous immigrants made it with no help, while today's government is spending millions on immigrant and refugee programs."

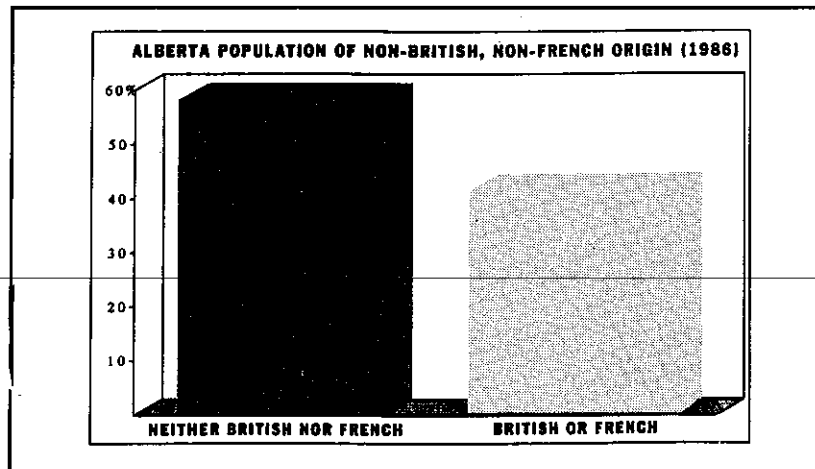
REALITY: During major migrations from Europe in the early years, major incentives were offered to attract immigrants. Assistance included free land, considerable travel subsidy, settlement allowances, start-up provisions, equipment and even wives. Today

most immigrants have to have education and/or money before they are allowed into Canada. Estimated amounts of money brought in by immigrant entrepreneurs in 1987 was \$3.1 billion. The average amount being brought in per immigrant now is \$18,000.00. They contribute to the economy.

MYTH: "Immigrants are a drain on our welfare and education systems."

REALITY: The percentage of immigrants receiving welfare is smaller than the percentage of Alberta-born recipients. Despite their high levels of education, immigrants work at low-paying jobs rather than use the welfare system. Foreign-born persons in Canada bring with them the training received and paid for in other countries. More than one in five of Canada's nuclear engineers are members of a visible minority. Immigrants also bring with them their artisanship working as jewellers silversmiths, sewing machine

operators and knitters (30 per cent are visible minorities). Others are physicists, dentists, physicians and surgeons (11-15 per cent are visible minorities).



MYTH: "We are taking in too many immigrants into Canada."

REALITY: The largest wave of immigration was in the years 1910-1913. Four hundred thousand immigrants came in 1913 alone, while a yearly average of 125,000 came during the 1980s. The numbers set by Immigration Canada for the next five years is 250,000 per year. Immigrants are needed to boost the labor force because of low birth rates in Alberta and also because of the aging of the population. (Alberta's birth rate is 1.7 per cent with replacement rates at 2.1 per cent)

MYTH: "Immigrants take jobs away from Canadians."

REALITIES: Immigrant entrepreneurs created 11,918 jobs in 1987. Immigrants are consumers, they buy houses, appliances, cars etc., thus creating a demand for products which in turn creates jobs. Immigrants also bring their children who attend our schools and create jobs for teachers. Non-English speaking immigrants create a need for English-as-a-second language courses with more spin offs. Many immigrants take jobs Albertans are not willing to take. While many of us sleep peacefully at nights, the toilets and offices of our province are being cleaned by immigrants.

MYTH: "Racism started in the 1970s and 1980s because of an increase in the number of non-white immigrants."

REALITY: Aboriginal people in Alberta were subjected to racism before the influx of non-white immigrants. The Ku Klux Klan was active in Alberta in the 1930s. Racism is not the result of the presence of non-whites but an ideology of racial superiority of whites over non-whites. It exists because one group exercises power and control over another, and because differences are often viewed as "less than" or "inferior".

Harjit Bains Singh recently got a transfer to Edmonton from Sarnia, Ontario, to work as a chemical engineer with a petro-chemical company. In his attempts to locate a good house for his family in the upper-class neighborhood of Riverbend, he was unsuccessful. He was told by a landlord he doesn't rent to East Indians because their smell of curries penetrate into the walls of the house.

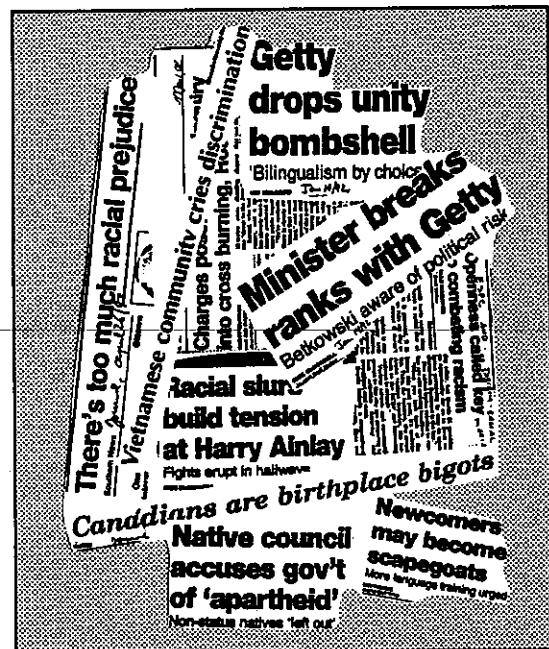
MYTH: "Racism is a problem of non-whites."

REALITY: To say that it is a problem of non-whites is a "Blame the Victim" thesis. This thesis often implies equal opportunity exists for different racial groups.

The fact is discriminatory policies and practices are maintained by those who have social, economic, and political power.

MYTH: "Employment equity means reverse discrimination in favor of visible minorities."

REALITY: "Reverse Discrimination" implies non-white workers are being preferred over white workers. The facts show however, it is minority workers who face discrimination in not having equal access to training; in not having their credentials valued; in being denied jobs and promotions despite qualifications and experience. Employment equity helps ensure equitable representation of all groups in the workplace. Many use the "reverse discrimination" label even when one target-member group is hired. They do so because their once exclusive competition is now being opened up to new contenders.



"If I wanted to create a racist society, I would put only a few people in the Ku Klux Klan. I would construct the social world so that all the other white people deplored the Ku Klux Klan...and did nothing about it. Most white people are socialized first of all not to notice racism, and secondly to be unable to do anything about racism when they do see it."

Barbara Findlay - With All of Who We Are: A Discussion of Oppression And Dominance.

"...the inseparable twin of racial injustice is economic injustice...When the underprivileged demand freedom, the privileged first react with bitterness and resistance. Even when the demands are couched in non-violent terms, the response is the same."

Martin Luther King



Racism is often masked:

An economic mask: "We can't afford this program" or "They're taking jobs away from Canadians"

A friendly Mask: "Some of my best friends are...and they agree with me."

A political mask: "Don't Canadians have the right to decide how this country is going to be run? Whatever happened to democracy?"

A traditional mask: "This is the way we do things in Canada and anyone who comes here should accept and do things our way."

A historical Mask: "We have never had problems until now when they started raising a ruckus"

*Robert Gower, National Education Representative,
North Bay Ontario*

Recommended Reading:

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munities for Controlled Prostitution is organizing pickets of prostitutes. They will disrupt the prostitutes' business until they move south onto the Boyle Street drag, an area they feel should be a 'zone of tolerance'.

Lynn was a prostitute who started off working swanky hotels and ended up on the drag in Edmonton before she quit drugs and street life. She doesn't like the harassment. "They should back off from taking matters into their own hands, it's just going to escalate things." Lynn says that like everyone else, prostitutes have a right to make money; for most of them it's the only way they know how, "what kind of job can you get when you're fifteen years old and you've run away from an abusive home?"

She also doesn't agree with the police tactics, especially sending letters to the homes of men seen hanging around on the drag, "That's way out of line, they're just going to anger the johns, mess up their family lives, and increase violence against the prostitutes". If the police want to do something, she says, "They should focus on the johns who pick up juveniles". She doesn't buy the argument that it's hard to prove a sex act took place; "They could just follow them and observe."

Rick Jones has lived in Norwood for one year. He decided

to do something about the prostitutes when he realized his children could be exposed to potentially-infected discarded condoms and needles. Jones formed Action Against Johns, and is one of the more militant activists in the war against prostitution. He feels his children's lives are threatened, and he

cial area, we wouldn't bother them...if they all of a sudden get violent, that will be to their detriment, at that point the general public will finally open up their eyes."

Like Rick Jones, Gary is determined to continue the pickets until a solution is found. His com-

ments and tone of voice reflect the strength of feeling of many local residents; "We'll be tarred and feathered by the social workers, by everyone except people who live in the neighborhood...if what we're doing doesn't work, there will be desperate people in the community. I might become one of them if my child is molested by a john." Gary says a prostitute has already been violent towards the pickets. Though he declined to provide details, he says charges have been laid. He says "It's dangerous out there but we have no choice.

Jane Runner has personal and professional experience with prostitution. Now she co-ordinates programs for Prostitutes and Other Women for Equal Rights (POWER), a Winnipeg-based group which offers a variety of services to women involved in the sex trade.

Winnipeg has gone through the same frictions between inner city communities and prostitution. But Runner claims that by speaking with and on behalf of prosti-

Edmonton's Yellow Pages : The City has a double standard on prostitution.

puts their safety ahead of the prostitutes. "Yes, the prostitutes probably do feel safer in a residential area, but if my kid had to die or a prostitute had to die, I would prefer it was the prostitute".

Jones claims there are up to 160 people volunteering on the pickets of street prostitutes, and he's not planning on taking Lynn's advice to stop disrupting the business. He says "We're not going to back off, if the prostitutes would go away and work in a commer-

tutes, her group has been able to help control problems. "The women's views are essential to the issue...we approach the women and encourage them to have respect for the community. We find the women don't respond to being harassed."

Runner emphasizes that "Prostitutes have rights like everyone else". A survey of Winnipeg prostitutes showed that 75-80% came from very dysfunctional, abusive homes, "A good majority are victims. They're getting criminalized, and that isn't helping them."

Alice Hanson echoes the concerns of former prostitutes. She agrees that "All the half dozen or so women I've known well who prostitute were victims of incest...they left home to get away from it and they needed money". She also worries that society is trying to solve the prostitution problem without talking to either the hookers or their clients. "The prostitutes have a right to some control over their lives... and where do the johns, the pimps fit in? We ought to try to get people together. But it would have to be a very carefully thought out strategy."

Everyone seems to support Voogd's plan for a 'zone of tolerance' or red light district. But they all emphasize it would have to be safe, a major factor in women choosing to work out of residential rather than industrial areas. The current location being suggested by Communities for Controlled Prostitution is on and around the 96th Street drag, by far the most dangerous neighborhood in the city.

Prostitution would be a complicated enough issue without AIDS. The potential for AIDS transmission through prostitution

has been used by police as another reason to 'clamp down' on hookers. Karen Grimsrud, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, notes that prostitution has not yet been identified as a cause for the spread of HIV infection into the general population in Edmonton, although she emphasizes that in other countries sex with prostitutes is a major factor in spreading the virus.

Surveys carried out in Edmonton suggest most of the more experienced prostitutes in the business district practice safe sex as a matter of course, while Grimsrud says "Many of the prostitutes in the downtown core, who are younger and often native, do not use condoms and could theoretically present a bridge for infection to the rest of the population."

There is also a potential danger

"Prostitutes have rights like everyone else...A good majority are victims. They're getting criminalized, and that isn't helping them."

from children picking up needles discarded by drug-using prostitutes (or any other drug user, of course), though "Currently we have found very few HIV-infected drug users through our needle exchange program...the risk of contracting Hepatitis B through a discarded needle is much greater," says Grimsrud. More intravenous drug users are infected with the disease and it's more infectious than HIV. "But HIV is a death sentence", says Grimsrud. "I certainly wouldn't want my children exposed to abandoned needles".

What no-one knows is whether further harassment and criminalization of prostitution will make sex trade practices safer or rather drive the younger, more carefree, and more at-risk population underground.

Society has a depressing history of dealing with prostitution. While a very broad cross-section of men purchases sex from prostitutes, the trade operates at the margins of legality. And the municipality's treatment of prostitutes seems to vary according to their status. While the city police arrest and prosecute Indian women down on the drag, the city telephone department accepts sixteen pages of lurid advertisements for prostitution in its annual Yellow Pages directory.

Programs like Crossroads and Safehouse help juvenile prostitutes get off the streets, but there isn't much available for adult prostitutes. The Boyle Street Co-op and the Elizabeth Fry Society are

thinking of expanding their services to prostitutes, though they're both in a planning

stage. Co-op director, Hope Hunter, says "Any intervention needs to ...increase the women's control over their lives. We need to make sure we don't further victimize the women."

Prostitution is unsightly and potentially dangerous to the rest of the community. But that doesn't justify people taking the law into their own hands. There are many social problems in McCauley and the rest of the inner city which are just as unsightly and more dangerous, like poor housing and chronic poverty. And when all is said and done, it's the prostitutes, not the community activists, who are at the greatest risk of ridicule, disease, criminalization and violence.

Homeless teens need more support



**By Allison
MacDonald**

Any time of year, day or night, if you take a drive through the inner city, chances are you will see a number of young people standing on corners, in doorways or in the parks. Television ads and news specials draw our attention to runaway youth and ask us to support efforts to help them go home. These visions don't sit well with our image of Canadian society that includes an above average standard of living, the Charter of Rights, and a social "safety net" to catch the people who "fall through the cracks" of the social structure.

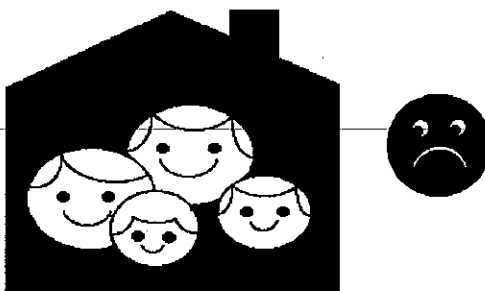
People in the community ask many questions about these youth: Why are they leaving home? What draws them to the inner city? Who is responsible for their welfare? Is it too easy for youth to leave home and become dependent on social assistance?

Discussions with the youth provide some answers we may prefer not to hear.

Inner city youth are generally 15 to 18 years old. The numbers of males and females are roughly equal, although the transient nature of the population makes it impossible to get an accurate count. On any given day there are about 100 to 200 homeless youth in Edmonton. They commonly have a variety of emotional

and behavioural problems; they lack the skills and education necessary to compete successfully in the labor market and many are frightened and lonely.

These young people are not walking out on happy families. Some give graphic descriptions of physical or sexual abuse; many left blended families because they couldn't get along with step-parents; some have been kicked out of the house by their parents and others have alcoholic parents who aren't able to provide a stable environment. A surprising number of these youth have spent many years in the child welfare system. Youth on their own are not generally considered to be "in need of protection" under the Child Welfare Act, so they are denied both



the security normally provided to children and the legal rights granted to adults in our society.

Youth describe their difficulties trying to cope from day to day. They are generally limited to low wage jobs such as telephone soliciting or working in fast-food restaurants. If they are in school full-time, they may qualify for social assistance, but the benefits received are not adequate for basic necessities, let alone clothing or recreation. They don't have the budgeting skills to stretch their allowance to the end of the month or the shopping and meal planning skills to provide a healthy diet. To survive some turn to crime. Others be-

come targets for exploitation.

In order to receive social assistance, a 16 or 17 year old must live in an approved room and board at a rate of \$215 per month. The need for accommodations far outweighs the supply as few people are willing to have a youth in their home.

Their home life affects their schooling and many of these teens end up leaving school or getting suspended. If these youth aren't academically inclined in the first place there's nowhere to go after they've left school. Those who decide they want to continue their education frequently run into brick walls. Schools are reluctant to admit students who have been a problem in the past. Teens who have spent a number of months on the streets have trouble fitting back into mainstream schools. For many youth it appears there are no real options.

Inner city agencies have developed programs and services to assist teens. Some of their efforts are having an impact. More support is needed, not just in the inner city. Youth may end up on the core's streets, but they come from all over and they're there for a reason. Maybe by listening to them and making some constructive changes, other young people will be allowed to make choices.

Alison MacDonald is a social planner with the Edmonton Social Planning Council and she is involved in a review of services to 16 and 17 year olds.

A cruel history for unwed moms



By June Sheppard

It's not all that long ago since the young girl, unwed and pregnant was overcome with panic and the fear that there was no person, no place to turn to for non-judgmental help.

She was convinced that even the constancy of her parents who had always been there to be counted on, to discuss school problems and her hopes and dreams for the future - (how trivial all that seemed to her now!) would turn her away in anger and shame.

A baby! There had been times when she'd fantasized that perhaps in another ten years or so and settled down with one wonderful fellow, she would want a baby and her parents would welcome it with delight.

But now she had to face reality and felt a loneliness never known before - a panic surging through her, together with the belief that there was absolutely no one she could reach out to.

Several decades ago, I think it's fair to say, the boy involved usually went unidentified. Or, if

his involvement was known, the term "unwed father" did not carry the stigma it did for his partner.

History plays a part in that attitude. After all, for countless years a reputation for virility followed the male who left a trail of offspring behind him! Time has not discarded that double standard, by any means.

That is not to suggest there are no young men, knowing the circumstances and their role in it who do not disappear from the scene leaving the girl to face it alone. But it is still the reality that it's the unwed mother on whom the greatest load falls.

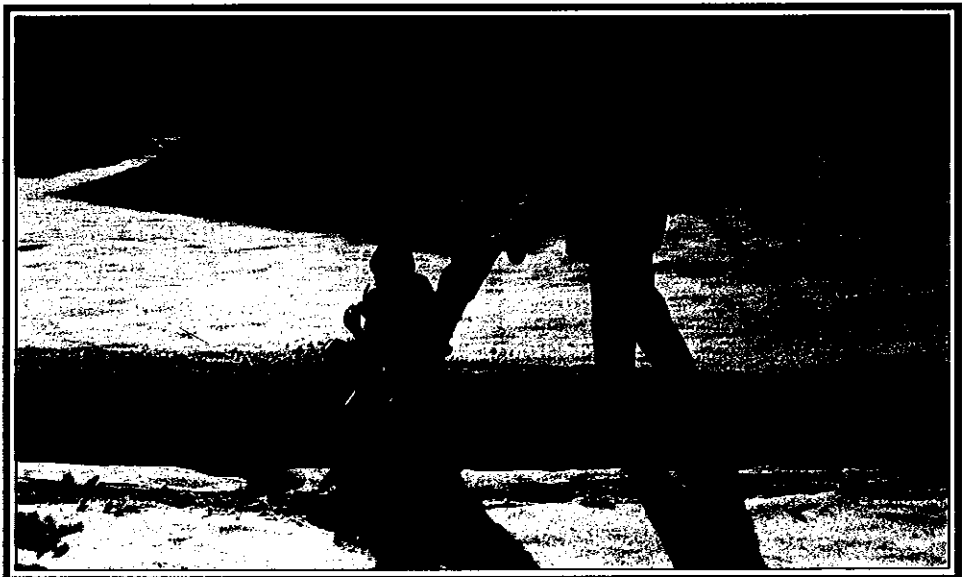
Girls in this situation at one time were hastily put "out of sight" - sent miles away at parental demand to keep the shame of that steadily protruding stomach a secret. I knew three or four such situations in the Edmonton high school I attended.

There were a lot of "forced marriages" as well. Sometimes they even worked but more often it was a loveless arrangement which came to an end after a "decent" period of time long enough to produce the child and then followed by divorce.

Something which began as a disaster for one young girl - uninformed and vulnerable - grew into a family trauma because of the attitudes and values of the time.

Sometimes the attempts to deny the situation were near frantic. I recall how confusing people of one neighborhood with which I was familiar found it when it became known that the older woman always called "mother" by a young boy named Bill was, in fact, his grandmother.

The woman he addressed as



Raising a child alone poses many challenges. Photo by Sheila Kushniruk.

his "sister" who was permitted to come around and see him on rare occasions was in reality his mother. She too had been an "unwed mother" so life in the family had to be rearranged!

Such a tale of intrigue and denial and false relationships so a young unwed mother's shame could be squelched!

Many a young unwed mother kept her pregnancy a secret and set out, often with few financial resources, to seek a future for herself and her baby alone. What she found was often poverty, homelessness and the agony of knowing her baby was not receiving proper care or love while she looked for work. Some were drawn into the street with its dangers and violence.

Today, agencies, associations and concerned groups in many places have programs that first of all attempt to encourage the unwed mother to know and value herself so she will understand how vital it is that she take control of her own body, her own feelings and her own life.

Not all are being reached, of course. Some seek employment with virtually no education because their schooling was interrupted too soon by motherhood; some, in frustration and under stress have vented it on their child; some keep their whereabouts a secret to their families while many parents, through

Unwed moms no longer ridiculed

By Sheila Kushniruk

We are a kinder, gentler society today when it comes to accepting unwed moms. Women are no longer shipped off to stay with an aunt until the whole horrible thing is over, the child safely steered through an adoption. Today unwed women can walk in public with a bulging stomach and feel no shame.

Margaret Gallo wishes things would have been different for her 40 years ago. When she found out she was pregnant she was rejected by her boyfriend's family and sent to stay with family-friends hundreds of miles away, a disgrace to her father and a disappointment to her mother. She was forced to wait out a pregnancy away from family and friends in a strange community knowing she would have to give up the baby she was carrying. She re-

the agony of the experience have come to a better understanding and acceptance. They are ready now to help. That is why it is important that any helping service use every effort to get the two together.

Fathers are just as vital to a reconciliation with their daughters as are the mothers although it is the latter who still come out in greater numbers.

Help is available which did not exist in earlier times but in many parts of the country it is still not enough.

members hoping someone would come along and get her out of it so she wouldn't have to give her child over to complete strangers, but it never happened. "You do as you're told. You're trapped with no help and no promise. There was no welfare in those days," said Margaret.

She felt lonesome, frustrated and at times overwhelmed by her changing body. Margaret was 23 at the time, but with a job as a telephone operator and no support from her boyfriend her choices were limited. If she had chosen to keep the baby she could have gone to Regina to the Salvation Army, but it would have meant a lot of hardships. Her brother told her she deserved better than that and he made all the arrangements including financial assistance from the boyfriend's family to keep it hush, hush.

Margaret corresponded with an aunt of hers during the pregnancy in hopes the aunt would take the child, but her father's influence spread too wide and the suggestion was unheard of. Margaret delivered a healthy baby girl and only saw her for a few minutes before she was taken for good. The only thing she knew was the baby had red hair. She was left on the maternity ward for a few days after and the crying babies broke her heart.

She watched the birth announcements in the newspaper and knew instinctively when her daughter's appeared. She looked

up the people's address from the announcement and went to look at the house where they lived - it was a big white house that was to haunt her in her dreams for years to come.

Back at home she received no moral support for her overwhelming sense of loss. She was expected to forget it and get on with her life. She was told she gave some mother and father a great gift, but the response wasn't what she was hoping for. "It's just an excuse for something that's inexcusable in my eyes," said Margaret. She couldn't listen to Brahm's lullaby without crying and every birthday made her miserable. After about 10 years the problem started to eat away at her because she was never allowed to deal with it. Everytime she brought it up she was told to get on with her life, no one wanted to listen.

"I wasn't the only one this happened to. Every once in awhile someone would disappear from classes or work. They probably would be having a child, but you were told they were visiting an aunt," said Margaret. She remembers cases where the child would go to another member of the family to be raised, sometimes the grandma was young enough they would pretend to be the mom. "Very few single women tried to raise the child on their own. It was practically unheard of."

Margaret's daughter eventually found her but with no help from the system. She happened to stumble across a hospital bracelet with Margaret's family name. Her adoptive mother had kept it when she should not have according to the system rules.

Now Margaret helps with

Parent Finders Association of Edmonton and she's an advocate for having the system files opened to children and parents hoping to find their natural ties.

Val has been an unwed mother twice, the first time giving the child up to the father's mom to raise after trying to do it alone for the first six months. Now six years later she is raising her second son on her own and is managing. It's a different experience from the first time when she was 16 years old. "It's not easy now, but it's a lot easier. When you're 16 you mix having children with your teenage life and you can't do that. It's either one or the other," said Val.

She realized she didn't have the financial support, the schooling or the loving and caring environment for her first son. She had been living in group homes and was sent to Edmonton to a home for unwed mothers at 15 years of age. She stayed there until the baby was three months old, but that's where the support ended. Val didn't receive any counselling or support to help her deal with being a young mother. When she did reach out for help she ended up feeling like other people were too busy with

their own lives to worry about hers. With no support from her own family she turned to the father's family where they were happy to help. Val gets to see the child whenever she can and there are secrets about who the child's mother really is.

This time Val has been able to live in an apartment building for single parents. She rents a fully furnished two-bedroom apartment and she can stay there for up to one and a half years. The time allows her to get on her feet financially



Val and her son enjoy time together at their apartment which is especially for single mothers. Photo by Sheila Kushniruk.

before she has to be totally independent. There are other women there who are in similar circumstances and they offer support to each other. "There should be more places like this," said Val.

With other women nearby it allows for a break when the child is wearing on the parent's nerves.

Teens find comfort if they choose to break from the streets

By Sheila Kushniruk

Friendships are crucial for teens living on the street. Friends provide shelter and food when there is no one or no where else to go. There is a limit to friendship though.

Jay lived at home on and off after quitting grade seven. When he wasn't at home he would stay with friends, but he said he felt like a sponge after his first few nights. With no money he had to do some things he never thought he would have to do. Jay became a pimp for a girl he met one night at a hotel. He started with one girl and at times had up to four, collecting about \$700 from each girl nightly. All the money went towards cocaine.

Besides pimping Jay carried blow (cocaine) around and sold it, using large quantities for himself and his girls. He worked the girls for the summer before he ran into trouble with one of his girl's ex-pimps. The guy pulled a gun on Jay one night in an alley and as Jay ran, the ex-pimp fired at him, missing. "That stuff straightened me up," said Jay.

Jay has yet to have his 18th birthday.

Tonya left home at 17 and tried staying at friends, but her welcome wore out after about one month. She put in many calls to get on social assistance but the worker she was referred to never returned her messages or answered her calls. Once she was able to talk with a worker she was told she must share accommodation and live on \$470 a month after she turned 18. She was

told to get a permanent place to live before she would be eligible for any assistance. She will not be given a damage deposit and there will be \$230 allotted to her to get enough furniture and supplies to set up.

Going home was not an option to Tonya. By her own admittance she had a drinking problem. She was kicked out after her care-free life-style got to be too much for her mother. "She finally put her foot down. I guess she was fed up with me," said Tonya. "I stayed at home as long as I could because I wasn't stupid. I had a place to stay, food, no real rules."

Two of the places teens can now go are Safehouse and Tess' Place which are both single family dwellings which give the teens a sense of home and family.

Tess' Place was set up by Boyle Street Co-op and Sister Tess Slavik. Up to four teens can stay with Tess. She has seen 53 young people come and go through the house in the four years it's been there and many still keep in contact by phone calls or letters. She jokes that she must have 16 or

17 grandchildren by now.

The only rules at Tess' are there is no drugs, or alcohol allowed into the house, unless Tess is serving a drink to them on a



Tess' Place is a place where teens, like Tonya, can go to get off the streets. Photo by Sheila Kushniruk.

special occasion; the teens can't have sex in the house and they must work towards getting into school, a job or a program of some kind within one month of their arrival. Tess said the latter rule is to stop them from retiring at 17. The longest anyone has stayed there has been one year.

Each person has a worker at the Boyle Street Co-op who comes down on the kids if they get out of hand, so Tess does not get labelled as an authority figure. The relaxed respectful atmosphere works, in fact the house is a bit of a model for other teen living accommodations.

"It's one thing to have a roof over their heads. It's another thing

Young offenders look for home

By Sheila Kushniruk

Everyone needs a place they can call home. For teens who have committed crimes jail is perhaps the closest thing they've had to home. Edmonton Young Offender's Centre (EYOC) is not designed to be a home - it's a correctional institution. For kids who hope to get emotional support and get some control in their own lives they are

disappointed. A recent visit with native teens at EYOC illustrates how these teens seek to belong, be recognized and be accepted. They want to learn about their culture and for some it will be their first exposure to it.

James felt the time at EYOC had been positive. Growing up in white culture, a white school system, he knew nothing of native culture. "It's pretty sad that I had to go to jail to learn my culture," said James.

When the judge first sentenced the youth to three months custody it was terrifying. Thoughts of being beaten or sexually molested, like in the movies, dominated the youth's thoughts. "It wasn't as bad as I thought...I made friends there. I didn't give staff any troubles."

Some natives reject the cultural classes and celebrations at EYOC because they aren't ready

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to have a home," said Tess. "It doesn't look like an institution and it's not a group home.

To be there the young people have to want to try to get off drugs, alcohol and the streets.

Safehouse has room for up to six teens who have made the decision to come off the streets. It's usually full except for one or two days a month when a space may become available. Teens between 13 and 19 go there with drug problems and involvement in prostitution or trafficking, or both. "These kids are street involved and have limited choices of what they can do to make a living," said Bev Oldham, an outreach worker.

Teens are at Safehouse of their own free will, but they must have a commitment to change. The door is open for them to go on the streets again, but they are welcome back if they should ever want to try again. The stay can be up to two months and the teens are expected to work on goals and objectives. Staff are there around the clock for support and counselling operated by Catholic Social Services.

Teens come to Safehouse on referrals from the police, social services, word of mouth, Crossroads and even some self referrals. Often a client will come to Safehouse and stay for a couple of days then go out onto the streets again, but Bev said the fact they took themselves out of a risky situation for a few days is better than nothing. If the young person has a job, they are expected to pay a portion of their board, otherwise the teens receive funding for room and board through supports for independence in Family and Social Service. Once they've paid for room and board and a bus pass they have \$21 left over.

Bev said the first couple of weeks is usually spent addressing the young person's medical needs. Their addictions are typically cocaine, ritalin and talwin, and detox is necessary.

Bev said some need counselling and they can make referrals to get them help. Others need moral support in applying for jobs. "A lot don't have social skills to get jobs. They can't take criticism and they don't have self esteem." Bev said one of the biggest problems is convincing a young person to take a chance and approach an

employer. They go there and fill out a job application, then they often don't even get a phone call from the employer. It does nothing for their sense of self worth.

"We get them into a supportive, safe environment where they can start making changes," said Bev.

Between 80 and 90 per cent of the teens come from dysfunctional backgrounds and have run away, said Bev. They feel in control on the street and sometimes their street life becomes a self-inflicted punishment where they feel they don't deserve better. They need to develop trust because for many trusting someone always resulted in them getting burned.

All ties must be broken from their former street lives in order to remain at Safehouse and they must abstain from alcohol, and drugs which have not been prescribed by a doctor. Their treatments are individual depending on their needs and every effort is made to break the cycle of abuse the young people have suffered all their lives.

to learn. The native studies class should be for natives only, so they feel like they can open up in the classroom without white teens onlooking, said James. Sweetgrass ceremonies take place every morning and while some kids view it as a chance to talk to friends, others are there to participate. James wishes the teens would give it a chance and learn from the ceremonies and the elders, and perhaps even staff could take more of an interest. "It straightened me up a lot. I would still have been drinking and doing drugs and been out of school. I wouldn't have known anything about native culture."

He said it would really help if a native elder could be on staff as well as more native staff so the teens don't have to compete with 50 other inmates to be able to talk with a native worker. Forty-one per cent of prisoners at EYOC are native and their average stay in custody is 79 days compared with 52 days for non-native teens. There are 115 non-native staff and eight native workers.

James said positive staff help kids feel wanted and as if they have something to give to somebody. Not all staff can do that.

Some of the teens have been in and out of EYOC a few times over the years and their next crime will probably land them in the adult prison system. Evan left school at 13 and for the past four years has worked a total of two months. The first foster home he was in was at age seven and every foster home thereafter was white. When placed with a native family at age 11 it was

a culture shock. He identified more with white culture than Indian culture.

Evan looks at EYOC as a daycare. The teen would like to see more native support groups, more native staff and staff who care about their job. "Some act like they care, but for others it's like 'Let's get the day over with.' Staff don't fight for us because they don't really care."

"You get sick of people telling you what to do," said Mike. He felt staff play favorites and they spend way too much time on the phone. "This is just a job for them". Other inmates can be a problem too where there's racism



Teens living hard lives sometimes look for answers at the end of the line. Photo by Sheila Kushniruk.

or just plain dislike of someone. Often a youth is stuck rooming with a person they don't get along with. The only way that changes is if a confrontation occurs and staff feel separation is needed.

David expressed anger at not having a say in any decision made in his regard. As a ward of the system since eight years of age, he said there was a longing to be placed in a native foster home. The system doesn't consult with them because it's too much paper work, he said. "That's all that happens. You're told where to go." David said he has

yet to see a child welfare worker come out to EYOC to see their clients.

They all agreed there is a need for more native staff, more native support groups as well as support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous. Outside EYOC the kids said there should be native group homes, native foster homes, native programs in public schools and more places for teens to go such as the Adrian Hope Youth Centre. They also felt kids need to be taught how to spend money better and they should all be consulted on any decisions that are made for them within the system. Native kids should be placed in native homes when they are up for adoption and overall they want more chances to learn their culture and their language. Because there's only one female unit at EYOC they don't get the privileges the males do, such as the right to use the gym after they've been on good behavior for long enough; they feel that should change. Teens hated having their rooms searched. Staff frequently pull all belongings out to search for drugs and because their rooms are their homes, teens resent the invasion.

Follow-up was identified as a problem. Once released from the EYOC teens are steered to halfway houses, group homes or back to their communities. They may be on a caseload for child welfare or social assistance, but once released they are to have no contact with any staff of EYOC with whom they may have built a trusting relationship. Generally their treatment programs end with their release.

TO:

From: Edmonton Social Planning Council
#41, 9912 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 1C5
Phone: (403) 423-2031 (Fax 425-6244)

Second Class Mail Registration Number 6390 i.d. 05/92

Who's new at E.S.P.C.:

Alison Roppel joined the Council in February as Executive Assistant. Alison worked three years as campaign administrator at the Edmonton Concert Hall Foundation and has a B.A. (English) from the University of Alberta.



Alison Roppel

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Val has received help with budgeting and financial management and stress management to help her cope and she's confident when she leaves the apartment to live on her own she and her son will be able to make it.

"People are a lot more open, more accepting. There's a lot more support. It's almost like single parenting is normal. It's a surprise when someone has a boyfriend or husband helping out," said Val.

Council Briefs

Volunteers are needed for an upcoming fundraiser for the Edmonton Social Planning Council. We require 50 people to help with the summer Casino. If you could volunteer for either August 12 or August 13, please call Alison Roppel at 423-2031.

Council's Annual General Meeting March 24 brought five new board members on: Noreen Marshall - regional director of Canadian Human Rights Commission in Alberta and Northwest Territories; David Schneiderman - executive director of the Centre for Constitutional Studies at the University of Alberta; Bernd Walter - children's advocate for the Alberta Family and Social Services; Rick Guthrie - intake co-ordinator at the Bissell Centre; and Dr. Hubert Kammerer - clinical director of the Boyle McCauley Health Centre. Congratulations and welcome.

Continuing their terms on the board are: Stephen Crocker, Papiya Das, Heather Konrad, Jackie Fiala, Nancy Kotani, Alyson Lavers, Michael Phair, June Sheppard, Donald (Rocky) Sinclair and Katherine Weaver.

Retiring board members are Liz Massiah, Pat Hagey, Iris Sulyma and Violet Hill and the Council thanks them for their contributions.

Georges Ares, executive director of Association Canadienne-Francaise de L'Alberta was guest speaker at the March 24 Annual General Meeting. He addressed the future for bilingualism in Alberta and unity in Canada.



Carlos Pilquil of the E.S.P.C. works the booth at the Intercultural Education and Race Relations Resource Fair March 27, co-sponsored by the Council.

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PROGRAM PURPOSE

The AISH program is an assured income program for adult Albertans with severe and permanent handicaps. It is designed as an alternative to Supports for Independence (SFI) for people who have reached their full potential for training, rehabilitation or gainful employment and are substantially limited in their ability to earn a livelihood because of their medical condition. AISH is not a pension program.

Modified AISH is a sub-program of AISH for persons who live in facilities. Entitlement to modified AISH is determined in accordance with the AISH medical criteria, income and other factors. Benefits consist of the amount of the basic necessities as determined in accordance with the Social Development Act plus \$175 per month.

The fact that there is no assets or needs test, and that the monthly benefit is a set rate means that the program is less intrusive than SFI and allows recipients an opportunity to make more personal choices with regards to their financial affairs.

Income affects eligibility and the level of benefit.

AUTHORITY

Legislative authority for the program is contained in the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act and Regulations.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM

In the early conceptual and developmental stages of the program, groups of concerned citizens asked the government to develop a program different from the typical "welfare" program in that it would pay a level of income that would allow recipients to purchase goods and services as and when they saw fit, with minimal governmental intrusion. At the same time there was concern that an assured income program be designed so that it acted as an incentive for persons with disabilities to develop to their full potential, within the limits of their condition.

INCENTIVE PROVISIONS

Faced with these divergent opinions, the department attempted to design a program that would be fair and equitable to persons with disabilities and at the same time

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would address some of the concerns raised by various professionals and advocates. The program thus requires that its recipients be severely and permanently disabled. In addition, the legislation places very specific expectations on individuals with disabilities; i.e., they must seek and accept reasonable employment for reasonable wages, retain employment that can reasonably be held, collect income to which they are entitled and avail themselves of appropriate training or rehabilitative measures. An earnings incentive provision in AISH further supports this direction.

AISH applicants and recipients must maximize their potential by accessing any other community programs or sources of income that would enhance their capacity to earn a livelihood and avail themselves of appropriate training and rehabilitation programs. The expectations placed on AISH clients are intended to ensure that AISH is not a disincentive to training and employment.

Fairness and equity on the part of the department and an acceptance of one's responsibilities on the part of the client are vital focal points for AISH.

**Changing Environment
for the Handicapped**

The AISH program emphasizes the fact that recipients should be those who are severely and permanently disabled. They must have reached their full potential and still not be able to earn a livelihood. Once approved for the program, they should continue to do whatever is possible, within their limitations, to work or be rehabilitated. This is consistent with emerging views that persons with disabilities be treated like non-handicapped members of society.

The focus of public policy should be on abilities rather than disabilities.

Though individuals with disabilities want and appreciate the financial stability and protection afforded by the AISH program, handicapped advocacy groups are as concerned as the general public that the integrity of the program not be compromised by providing the benefit to people who do not fit the program's legislated criteria.

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At the same time, it is important to recognize that with advances in knowledge and technology, the potential of severely handicapped persons is being continually expanded. Things that were not possible 10 years ago for the moderately retarded, the quadriplegic, the sensory impaired, as examples, are becoming possible today.

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ASSURED INCOME FOR THE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED APPEAL PANEL INFORMATION

The Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act ("Act") establishes an Appeal Panel in Sections 11 and 12. Normally 3 to 5 members sit on any particular appeal. The Act should be reviewed by anyone considering an appeal. This Information Sheet is provided to guide you in your appeal before the Appeal Panel.

STATUS TO APPEAL

A person who has been affected by a decision of the Director ("the Appellant") may appeal that decision. No one else has status to appeal to the Appeal Panel. The Appellant should be present at the appeal.

The Appellant and the Director may choose to bring another person to assist them at the appeal hearing, including a lawyer.

You may also arrange to bring to the hearing any witnesses who you consider to have information helpful to your case. The Appeal Panel will normally have no information about your appeal before the hearing (except your Notice of Appeal). If the Appeal Panel has other information, it will advise you at the start of the hearing. Any documents presented to the Appeal Panel will be made available to both the Director's representative and the Appellant.

WHAT DECISIONS CAN BE APPEALED?

The Appeal Panel may hear appeals from decisions of the Director on any matter respecting a handicap benefit.

WHERE AND WHEN WILL A HEARING BE ARRANGED?

An appeal must be made in writing within 30 days from when a person receives notice of the Director's decision and of his right to appeal. You will be contacted shortly after your Notice of Appeal has been received to set a suitable hearing date. The hearing will be scheduled at the earliest possible date.

If you find that you are unable to proceed on the scheduled date, please contact the office of the Appeal Panel immediately. The Appeal Panel will then decide whether the hearing ought to be rescheduled.

Appeal Panel hearings are conducted in the English language. If you or any of your witnesses find it difficult to express yourself adequately in English, please advise the offices of the Appeal Panel well in advance of the hearing date so that arrangements can be made for an interpreter to be present.

A formal record of the hearing will not be kept by the Appeal Panel. If you feel that it is important that the hearing be recorded, please contact the office so the Appeal Panel well in advance of the hearing date in order that the Chairman of the appeal Panel might consider your request, and make any necessary arrangements.

PROCEDURE BEFORE THE APPEAL PANEL

1. The Chairman of the Appeal Panel will introduce the members of the Appeal Panel and identify the decision being appealed.
2. The parties will be asked whether they have any objection to the constitution of the Appeal Panel or to its jurisdiction to hear the appeal. The Chairman of the Appeal Panel will briefly review the procedure to be followed for the hearing.
3. The Director's representative will present his/her evidence to the Appeal Panel, including any witnesses he intends to call. When he is finished, the Appellant and the Appeal Panel will then each have an opportunity to ask the Director's representative questions.
4. The Appellant will then present his evidence to the Appeal Panel, including any witnesses he intends to call. When he is finished, the Director's representative and the Appeal Panel will then each have an opportunity to ask the Appellant and those witnesses questions.
5. The Chairman will then ask both the Appellant and the Director's representative if they have any further evidence or documentation to be produced. If there is any remaining evidence, that evidence will then be heard. The parties will also have an opportunity to make a final argument or submission to the Appeal Panel based on the information provided during the hearing.
6. The Chairman of the Appeal Panel will then call the hearing to an end. A written decision will be forthcoming which will contain the decision itself, the reasons for the Appeal Panels decision and the findings of fact on which the Appeal Panel bases its decision.
7. Section 11(4) of the Act provides that the decision of the Appeal Panel is final.

CONFIDENTIALITY

For complete details concerning the requirement for confidentiality at Appeal Panel hearing, please read carefully Section 14 of the Act. It is important to know that any information given at the hearing which identifies a person under the Act must be kept confidential.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE APPEAL HEARING OR ITS PROCEDURE, PLEASE CONTACT THE APPEAL PANEL'S OFFICE AT TEL: 427-2709.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT APPEAL PANEL INFORMATION

The Social Development Act ("Act") establishes an Appeal Panel in Sections 28 and 29. Normally 3 to 5 members sit on any particular appeal. The Act should be reviewed by anyone considering an appeal. This Information Sheet is provided to guide you in your appeal before the Appeal Panel.

STATUS TO APPEAL

A person who has been affected by a decision of the Director ("the Appellant") may appeal that decision. No one else has status to appeal to the Appeal Panel. The Appellant should be present at the appeal.

The Appellant and the Director may choose to bring another person to assist them at the appeal hearing, including a lawyer.

You may also arrange to bring to the hearing any witnesses who you consider to have information helpful to your case. The Appeal Panel will normally have no information about your appeal before the hearing (except your Notice of Appeal). If the Appeal Panel has other information, it will advise you at the start of the hearing. Any documents presented to the Appeal Panel will also be made available to both the Director's representative and the Appellant. You should bring at least five copies of any documents to be presented to the Appeal Panel. If you are unable to make photocopies in advance, photocopies will be made during the hearing.

WHAT DECISIONS CAN BE APPEALED?

The Appeal Panel may hear appeals from decisions of the Director on any matter respecting a social allowance or a handicap benefit.

WHERE AND WHEN WILL A HEARING BE ARRANGED?

An appeal must be made in writing within 30 days from when a person receives notice of the Director's decision and of his right to appeal. You will be contacted shortly after your Notice of Appeal has been received to set a suitable hearing date. The hearing will be scheduled at the earliest possible date.

If you find that you are unable to proceed on the scheduled date, please contact the office of the Appeal Panel immediately. The Appeal Panel will then decide whether the hearing ought to be rescheduled.

Appeal Panel hearings are conducted in the English language. If you or any of your witnesses find it difficult to express yourself adequately in English, please advise the offices of the Appeal Panel well in advance of the hearing date so that arrangements can be made for an interpreter to be present.

A formal record of the hearing will not be kept by the Appeal Panel. If you feel that it is important that the hearing be recorded, please contact the offices of the Appeal Panel well in advance of the hearing date in order that the Chairman of the Appeal Panel might consider your request, and make any necessary arrangements.

PROCEDURE BEFORE THE APPEAL PANEL

1. The Chairman of the Appeal Panel will introduce the members of the Appeal Panel and identify the decision being appealed.
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5. The Chairman will then ask both the Appellant and the Director's representative if they have any further evidence or documentation to be produced. If there is any remaining evidence, that evidence will then be heard. The parties will also have an opportunity to make a final argument or submission to the Appeal Panel based on the information provided during the hearing.
6. The Chairman of the Appeal Panel will then call the hearing to an end. A written decision will be forthcoming which will contain the decision itself, the reasons for the Appeal Panel's decision and the findings of fact on which the Appeal Panel bases its decision.
7. Section 28(5) of the Act provides that the decision of the Appeal Panel is final.

CONFIDENTIALITY

For complete details concerning the requirement for confidentiality at Appeal Panel hearings, please read carefully Section 5 of the Act. It is important to know that any information given at the hearing which identifies a person under the Act must be kept confidential.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE APPEAL HEARING OR ITS PROCEDURE, PLEASE CONTACT THE APPEAL PANEL'S OFFICE AT TEL: 427-2709.