



Legislative Assembly  
Assemblée législative

**Meeting: SD 97-18-2018**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018**  
**COMMITTEE ROOM "A"**  
**12:00 PM**

## AGENDA

1. Prayer
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
  - a. Decision on *In Camera* items (items marked with an asterisk [\*] may be dealt with in camera)
3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
4. Today's Committee Business:
  - a. **Public briefing on Income Security Program Enhancements with the Honourable Alfred Moses, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment**
5. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 12:00pm
6. Adjournment





# Income Security Programs Enhancements

March 1, 2018

Government of  
Northwest Territories



# Income Security Programs

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is responsible for the oversight of five Income Security Programs that provide a comprehensive range of financial supports for the residents of the NWT.

- NWT Child Benefit (NWTCB)
- The NWT Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit (SCSB)
- Income Assistance (IA)
- Student Financial Assistance (SFA)
- The Senior Home Heating Subsidy (SHHS)





# Income Security Programs

- ECE is continually reviewing and updating its income security programs so they respond to the needs and realities of NWT residents.
- Program changes are made based on research and analysis to ensure our income security programs are well-managed, fairly applied, and designed to meet the needs of NWT residents.





# Income Security Programs

## Principles of Reviewing Programs

- Simplified administration that is client focused;
- Encourage self-reliance and community participation;
- Provide adequate benefits, in combination with other social (financial) programs;
- Protect program integrity and maintain sustainability and,
- Alignment with GNWT priorities and initiatives.



# NWT Child Benefit

- Providing adequate benefits in conjunction with other social programs to ensure NWT low income families with children receive more monthly household income we have:
  - Increased the NWT Child Benefit





# Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit

- Supporting our Seniors to age in place is important to this Government.
- To provide more monthly income to low income NWT Seniors we have:
  - Increased the NWT Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit (SCSB) from \$160 to \$196 per month which represents a more than 20% increase.





# Income Assistance

- Consistent with our principle of continuous improvement and providing benefits in an equitable manner we will:
  - Remove the rental cap currently in place for single clients.
  - Food and Clothing payments will be made to the client.





# Student Financial Assistance

- Consistent with our principle of continuous improvement and providing benefits in an equitable manner we will for the 2018/19 academic year:
  - Increase travel benefits for students with dependants to 2 trips per academic year.
  - Change the SFA application deadlines from July 15<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> for Fall applications and from November 15<sup>th</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> for Winter applications.





# Senior Home Heating Subsidy

- The review of the Senior Home Heating Subsidy (SHHS) has applied sound methodologies to all aspects of the program. As a result of the review we will:
  - Increase the eligibility income thresholds.
  - Remove the phase out income thresholds
  - Extend the program to Seniors who rent their own self-contained unit and have heating costs in addition to rent.
  - Move from fuel allocations to a monetary based subsidy.





# Senior Home Heating Subsidy

- It is anticipated that approximately an additional 160 seniors will be eligible to access the program.





# SHHS – Income Thresholds

| Subsidy % | Zone 1   |          | Zone 2   |          | Zone 3   |          |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|           | Current  | New      | Current  | New      | Current  | New      |
| 100%      | \$46,249 | \$56,000 | \$51,249 | \$64,000 | \$56,249 | \$73,000 |
| 75%       | \$47,499 | -        | \$52,499 | -        | \$57,499 | -        |
| 50%       | \$48,749 | -        | \$53,749 | -        | \$58,749 | -        |
| 25%       | \$49,999 | -        | \$54,999 | -        | \$59,999 | -        |
| 0%        | \$50,000 | \$56,001 | \$55,000 | \$64,001 | \$60,000 | \$73,001 |





# SHHS – Subsidy Amounts

| Subsidy Allocations | Zone 1  | Zone 2  | Zone 3  |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                     | \$2,700 | \$3,600 | \$4,200 |





# Thank you

## Questions



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