



May 24, 2020

LESA SEMMLER
MLA, INUVIK TWIN LAKES

Oral Question 170-19(2) Income Assistance

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on March 10, 2020 regarding the rental allowance provided by the Income Assistance (IA) program.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is responsible for the IA program that provides financial assistance to residents that do not have the financial resources to meet their basic and enhanced needs. These needs include shelter, food, utilities, clothing, as well as allowances for persons who are aged or who have a disability.

I can confirm that in April 2018, ECE removed the cap for shelter benefits and began issuing market rent for single applicants, provided their names were added to the low-cost housing waitlist. Applicants residing in a market rental unit are required to submit Form G – Rent Report, which would be completed by the owner/property manager. Based on the information provided on Form G, ECE would include a shelter benefit for the applicant(s) and their dependents in the calculation.

I can assure you that ECE invests in providing the training and resources needed for Client Services Officers and Regional Managers to deliver programming in regional centres and communities. These resources are updated on a quarterly basis to ensure information is up-to-date and reflective of the needs of our most vulnerable residents.

ECE is committed to providing accurate information to all applicants and property managers in respect to the IA program. When applicants or organizations come forward with concerns regarding the IA program, the Regional Manager, Income Security Programs and/or the Regional Superintendent are often consulted to confirm policies and procedures. In addition, ECE produced a plain language IA Handbook which is available online and printed copies in all ECE Regional and Community Service Centres.

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For up-to-date information on the IA program, please refer to the website at <https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/en/services/income-security-programs/incomeassistance>.

Thank you for your questions and interest in this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.J. Simpson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R.J. Simpson
Minister, Education, Culture
and Employment

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Deputy Minister, Education, Culture and Employment
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs