



Jan. 7, 2014

Dear Ron Dupuis and the Community Services Committee:

We are requesting that two items be placed on the agenda of the next Community Services Committee meeting on January 20th and that the Sudbury Coalition Against Poverty (S-CAP) be able to speak to these matters at this meeting. S-CAP is an activist anti-poverty organization that provides support work for people living in poverty who are having problems with Ontario Works, the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), with homelessness, with landlords, and with employers. We also participate in campaigns against regressive policies on the part of the provincial government including the cutting of the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) and proposals to merge ODSP with OW which would create even more difficulties for people on ODSP.

The two items we have asked to be placed on the agenda grow out of our day to day experiences of working with people living in poverty in this city. We are very concerned that some homeless people are being forced out into the cold since the Mission had to close as a winter time warming station and emergency shelter on those nights when there is not a cold weather alert and we are also very concerned that people on OW and ODSP are being denied the necessary funding for necessary household items like beds, washers and other needed appliances, and other items under the City interpretation of CHPI funding and associated discretionary benefits. Firstly we urge the Community Services Committee to ensure that a replacement space be provided by the City as soon as possible for the entire winter so that homeless people have a consistent and safe place out of the cold. Second the policies and rates that existed under the CSUMB need to be applied in relation to CHPI and associated discretionary benefits. Currently unless someone is being rendered homeless, is in an emergency situation, or is leaving an institution it is difficult to access CHPI funding. At the very least the inadequate amounts allowed for beds and appliances under discretionary benefits need to be raised and the blanket local prohibition against funding dryers as "not a necessity" needs to be lifted.

Our presentation will provide more detailed information in these two areas and we are also producing a report for the committee on these matters. The questions of shelter for homeless people and CHPI funding and associated discretionary benefits clearly fall under the mandate of the Community Services Committee and existing municipal policies and initiatives.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Kinsman and Clarissa Lassaline, for the Sudbury Coalition Against Poverty.