



## REPORT FOR ACTION

# Helping Residents Impacted by the Elimination of Transition Child Benefit

Date: August 30, 2019

To: Executive Committee

From: General Manager, Toronto Employment and Social Services and General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration

Wards: All

## SUMMARY

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As signaled in the 2019 Ontario Budget, effective November 1, 2019, all Transition Child Benefit (TCB) payments for current social assistance recipients will end and no new applicants will be eligible to receive the benefit. Currently, eligible families in receipt of Ontario Works (OW) receive up to \$230 per month/per child to assist with the costs of basic necessities (food, clothing, etc.) for children. The elimination of TCB will significantly impact families who are ineligible for federally administered Canada Child Benefits due to their status in Canada (i.e. refugee claimants); and any Ontario Child Benefit due to their previous year's income reported on their income tax return (e.g. applicants who lose their job and then apply for social assistance).

The loss of TCB for families will have a significant "ripple effect" on housing outcomes, with: (1) families in shelters becoming unable to leave the shelter system; (2) families who have left the shelter system becoming unable to maintain their housing and returning to shelters; and (3) families in private market rentals who cannot afford their rent facing homelessness. Together, these impacts will pose a significant challenge for Toronto's emergency shelter system, which is already at full capacity. If no action is taken to prevent homelessness and divert families from the shelter system, significant costs to the City are anticipated.

The proposed *Temporary Family Housing (TFH) Benefit* and accompanying measures recommended in this report will help families who are housed and impacted by the elimination of TCB to maintain existing housing and/or relocate to more affordable housing. In doing so, the TFH benefit will reduce health and safety risks to families in housing who would otherwise face additional housing pressures including risk of eviction; reduce disruption during the school year so that children do not face additional challenges; and alleviate additional pressures that would otherwise be placed on the City's emergency shelter system during the already high-demand winter months, potentially saving the City's shelter system millions of dollars depending on how many impacted families could otherwise lose their housing this winter.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Toronto Employment & Social Services and the General Manager of Toronto Shelter, Support and Housing Administration recommend that:

1. City Council authorize a draw of up to \$8.4 million from the National Child Benefits Support Reserve Fund to establish a new temporary City benefit (the Temporary Family Housing Benefit) for Ontario Works families to be administered by Toronto Employment and Social Services for up to six (6) months, effective November 1, 2019, and focused housing support provided by Shelter, Support and Housing Administration.
2. City Council authorize an in-year budget adjustment to the 2019 Approved Operating Budget for Toronto Employment and Social Services of \$2.0 million gross and zero net, with funding to be drawn from the National Child Benefits Support Reserve Fund.
3. City Council authorize an in-year budget adjustment to the 2019 Approved Operating Budget for Shelter, Support and Housing Administration of \$133,300 gross and zero net, and a complement increase of eight (8) temporary positions, with funding to be drawn from the National Child Benefits Support Reserve fund.
4. City Council direct the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, as part of ongoing discussions with both the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada over the increased demand for City shelter services by refugee claimants, to seek additional and specific funding to alleviate the financial pressures caused by the elimination of the Transition Child Benefit.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

The elimination of the Transition Child Benefit (TCB) in November will reduce TESS' gross expenditures by \$4.0 million in 2019 and \$22 million in 2020. Net impact is zero as TCB expenditures are 100% funded by the province. TESS' 2020 budget submission will reflect the elimination of the TCB.

Below is a table summarizing the financial implications of the proposed Temporary Family Housing Benefit followed by a more detailed explanation of the cost breakdowns for TESS and SSHA and the proposed reserve draw funding source.

	2019				2020				Total			
	Gross	NCBS Reserve Draw	Net	Pos	Gross	NCBS Reserve Draw	Net	Pos	Gross	NCBS Reserve Draw	Net	Pos
TESS												
Rental Supplement	1,400,000				2,800,000				4,200,000			
Relocation Assistance	600,000				3,000,000				3,600,000			
	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	-		<b>5,800,000</b>	<b>5,800,000</b>	-		<b>7,800,000</b>	<b>7,800,000</b>	-	
SSHA					3,000,000				3,000,000			
Focused Housing Supports	133,300			8	466,700				600,000			8
	<b>133,300</b>	<b>133,300</b>	-	<b>8</b>	<b>466,700</b>	<b>466,700</b>	-		<b>600,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	-	<b>8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,133,300</b>	<b>2,133,300</b>	-	<b>8</b>	<b>6,266,700</b>	<b>6,266,700</b>	-	-	<b>8,400,000</b>	<b>8,400,000</b>	-	<b>8</b>

The recommended Temporary Family Housing Benefit will provide temporary (up to six months) financial assistance and re-housing support to eligible OW families who are currently housed. At a projected cost of \$7.8 million, \$2.0 million in 2019 and \$5.8 million in 2020, it will be comprised of:

- *Rental Assistance* for up to six months for housed families whose residual income following the withdrawal of TCB funding is less than their current shelter costs. The assistance will bridge the gap in shelter costs for a projected 1,728 families and ensure they have at least \$100 remaining for food and basic needs. Capped at \$675/month, the estimated cost of the benefit is **\$4.2 million**.
- *Relocation Assistance* for up to six months for housed families whose shelter costs exceed their residual income or consumes more than 85% of their residual income. The estimated cost of **\$3.6 million** assumes 1,800 families will seek relocation. Each family will be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 for relocation costs in the province of Ontario.

In addition, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) will provide *focused housing support* by establishing a dedicated team of counsellors to co-facilitate focused workshops with TESS that leverage existing content on housing options, housing search tips, financial literacy/budgeting, credit checks, how to engage landlords, etc. The estimated cost of **\$0.6 million** for eight (8) temporary positions assumes up to 90 workshops over a four to six week period and focused support with online searches.

Funding for the benefit and related support will be from the National Child Benefit Support (NCBS) reserve, which was established in 1999 to fund programs, benefits and services that increase incentives for families with children on social assistance to enter/re-enter the workforce. The City has long recognized that stable housing is a critical foundation to finding and keeping employment and has previously used the reserve to provide a shelter fund to support eligible families with children who require additional support to stabilize their housing arrangements.

Contributions to the NCBS reserve were from the City's share of restructuring savings resulting from the introduction of the Ontario Child Benefit. As these ended in 2018 when the provincial upload of OW benefits was completed, the reserve was projected to be depleted by the end of 2023. Utilizing the reserve to fund the \$8.4 million cost will result in the reserve being depleted by the end of 2022, one year earlier. The reserve balance at the end of 2018 was \$31.9 million.

Costs for 2020 for TESS and SSHA will be incorporated in the respective division's 2020 budget submissions.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## DECISION HISTORY

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**May 13 2019** - Report from the City Manager on 2019 Ontario Budget and Legislation Update <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-133070.pdf>

As part of an overview of the 2019 Ontario Budget, this report noted the proposed termination of the Transition Child Benefit and its potential impact on shelter demand.

## EQUITY IMPACT

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Toronto has the highest rates of poverty and child poverty amongst Canada's 20 largest cities. The incidence of low-income in Toronto (19%) is significantly greater than in Canada (14.9%), Ontario (13.9%), and the rest of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (11.5%). There are much higher levels of poverty among certain groups, including recent immigrants and racialized communities.

The elimination of the Transition Child Benefit will have negative impacts on housed and homeless low income families with dependent children in Toronto, including equity-seeking groups. It will negatively impact the ability of these families to maintain and secure housing and to provide other basic needs for their children. The creation and implementation of a new City benefit -- *the Temporary Family Housing Benefit* -- will help to mitigate some of the impacts of this change by providing temporary financial support for eligible low income families and equity-seeking groups.

## ISSUE BACKGROUND

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Social assistance payments consist of separate amounts for shelter and basic needs. Prior to the introduction of the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) and the Transition Child Benefit (TCB) in 2008, the amounts for shelter and basic needs were linked to household size. When OCB was introduced, the basic needs amount for children were removed from basic needs benefit paid to a parent head of household because these funds were now provided to families through the new OCB. TCB was therefore established to ensure that no family on social assistance would be made worse off as a result of the implementation of the OCB. It acts as a bridging benefit for parents on social assistance, providing funds for their children's basic necessities until they access OCB through the tax system.

The loss of TCB will have a very significant impact on all Toronto residents in receipt of Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits who are not receiving the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) and Ontario Child Benefit because current OW/ODSP basic needs rates do not rise in line with the number of children (aged 0–17) attached to the benefit unit. For example, a sole support parent in receipt of OW with one child and a sole support parent with three children receive the same monthly amount of \$360 for basic needs.

More specifically, the Transition Child Benefit provides up to \$230 per month/per eligible child (17 years of age or younger) to a parent on OW and \$207 per month/per eligible child to a parent on ODSP who is not receiving the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) -- or who is receiving only a portion of the maximum OCB entitlement – to assist with the costs of basic necessities (for food, clothing, etc.) for children. The elimination of Transition Child Benefit will significantly impact families who are ineligible for:

- Federally administered Canada Child Benefits (including the Ontario Child Benefit) due to their status in Canada (i.e. refugee claimants).
- Any Ontario Child Benefit due to their previous year's income reported on their income tax return (e.g. applicants who lose their job and then apply for social assistance).

In other words, the Transition Child Benefit is important to Ontario's lowest income families because (i) tax-delivered benefits, like the Canada Child Benefit (and hence Ontario Child Benefit) are based on the previous year's income and cannot respond quickly to changed circumstances, and (ii) some groups of residents are not able to (easily) access tax-administered benefits, whether due to their status in the country or for other reasons. Further details on the 2008 restructuring of social assistance benefits are detailed in Attachment A.

On April 26, 2019, the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) announced its intention to eliminate the Transition Child Benefit (TCB), and as of November 1, 2019 all TCB payments for current social assistance recipients will end and no new applicants will be eligible to receive the benefit.

The loss of TCB for families will have a significant "ripple effect" on housing outcomes, resulting in (1) families in private market rentals who cannot afford their rent entering homelessness; (2) families in shelter becoming unable to leave the shelter system, and (3) families who have left the shelter system becoming unable to maintain their housing and returning to shelter.

## COMMENTS

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### ***Overview of Transition Child Benefit Payments and Recipients in Toronto***

The Transition Child Benefit (TCB) is an essential source of income for a significant number of city residents.

#### *(i) TCB Issuance<sup>1</sup>:*

- In 2018, \$22 M in TCB benefits was issued to city families in receipt of OW.
- In July 2019, TESS issued nearly \$1.8M in TCB benefits to approximately 4,200 OW "benefit units" (i.e. families).

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<sup>1</sup> These data do not include Toronto residents in receipt of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) who receive their TCB payment from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Service. Currently, there are approximately 1000 households in receipt of ODSP in Toronto that are also in receipt of TCB.

- The average TCB payment in July 2019 was \$414, ranging from a low of \$0.47 to a high of \$1,610. More than half of families (52%) received a TCB payment of at least \$460 in July 2019.

(ii) *TCB by Immigration Status*

- Of those OW families who received TCB in July 2019, the immigration status of the head of household was as follows:
  - 74% were refugee claimants
  - 13% were Canadian citizens
  - 7% were permanent residents
  - 5% were Convention Refugees

(iii) *TCB by Number of Children in Family Unit*

- Of those families who received TCB in July 2019:
  - 37% had 1 child
  - 34% had 2 children
  - 20% had 3 children
  - 10% had 4 or more children
- Over 8,500 children under 18 years old were part of a family on OW in Toronto which received TCB in July 2019

(iv) *TCB by Accommodation Type*

- Of those families who received TCB in July 2019:
  - 87% were in rental housing
  - 11% were homeless/no shelter
  - 2% had subsidized rent

***Impacts of the Elimination of the Transition Child Benefit (TCB) on Toronto's Shelter System***

It is anticipated that the elimination of TCB will have wide-ranging impacts, not only on families receiving Ontario Works,<sup>2</sup> but also on the City's shelter system and potentially other services. Notably:

- Analysis of OW administrative data shows that after the elimination of TCB more than 1,700 families (41% of total TCB recipient families) will be at critical risk as their lower OW social assistance payment will be insufficient to cover their current rental costs. These families will be at immediate risk of de-housing beginning in November 1, 2019 and they will face escalating risk through the winter. Of these families:
  - More than three-quarters (79%) are refugee claimant families who are ineligible for the Canada Child Benefit / Ontario Child Benefit; and

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<sup>2</sup> The City does not have data on the immigration status of Toronto families in receipt of both ODSP and TCB and so it is not known how many are refugee claimants. However, it is anticipated that the majority are eligible for CCB/OCB and will be able to offset the TCB loss by filing their taxes.

- More than a quarter (28%) report earned income, meaning that eviction could jeopardize their employment / earnings, creating an even more challenging situation for households living month-to-month.
- In addition, there are nearly 4,000 children under 18, many of whom are settled into their schools. Moving to a shelter, if shelter space is available, will significantly disrupt their learning and networks.
- For the remaining (approximately 2,500 families or 59% of total TCB recipient families):
  - The withdrawal of TCB will mean their rental costs consume a higher proportion of their social assistance payment. For roughly one-fifth of these families, rental costs will represent in excess of 85% of their social assistance payments, creating a risk to the long term sustainability of their housing
  - Approximately 28% of these families will be able to offset the withdrawal of TCB funding within 3-6 months by accessing the Canada Child Benefit / Ontario Child Benefit through tax filing. However, the remaining families in this cohort are refugee claimants who are not eligible for the Canada Child Benefit / Ontario Child Benefit.
  - Attachment B illustrates the difference between average rental costs and a typical family's maximum OW entitlement.
- There are approximately 440 families who are currently receiving TCB and living in Toronto's emergency shelter system. These families have yet to make housing plans and the elimination of TCB will hinder their ability to exit homelessness. These families will not be eligible for the new *Temporary Family Housing Benefit*. SSHA will continue to provide housing search assistance to these families as part of their individualized service plan and case management in shelter.

Given this, it is anticipated that the elimination of TCB will have a significant impact on housing outcomes. Many families that are housed and use TCB to cover rent expenses may fall into rental arrears, while those that are currently homeless will face additional financial issues and have a much harder time securing housing. The anticipated result is that there will be significant additional and sustained pressure on other City program areas, including family shelters in the emergency shelter system, as families who lose TCB struggle to remain in their current home and those in the shelter system are unable to leave homelessness. The impact of the elimination of TCB will be particularly hard on larger families, who receive more money through TCB.

### *Shelter Trends and Costs*

Administrative data shows that, on average, families stay in Toronto's shelter system longer than other groups. For example, the median length of stay for families is between 92-182 days, whereas it is between 30-91 days for men, women, and youth. Moreover, the length of family stays in shelter has increased in recent years. Specifically, in 2018, compared to 2015, a smaller proportion of families stayed less than 30 days and larger proportions stayed between 92-182 or 183-365 days.

More specifically, SSHA has seen a steady increase in the number of refugee/asylum claimants seeking emergency shelter in Toronto since 2016, a trend that surged throughout 2017 and 2018. This has resulted in a significant increase in refugee/asylum claimants accessing emergency shelter services, stretching Toronto's shelter system to its limit. For example, there were 2,572 refugee/asylum claimants in Toronto's shelter system in May 2019, representing 37% of total shelter system clients.

In response to this increased demand, SSHA has added over 2,500 motel beds. With the consistently high flow of refugee/asylum claimants into Toronto, the City will need to maintain these additional beds through 2020 and potentially further into future years at an annual cost of approximately \$77 million per year.

The elimination of TCB will result in potential loss of housing and an increase in demand for shelter services from many of the 3100+ refugee claimants currently receiving TCB through OW in Toronto (including approximately 400 refugee claimant families in shelters). In addition, if recent trends continue, approximately 160 new refugee claimant families who would begin receiving TCB each month from November onwards will not have access to this benefit, likely resulting in further cumulative pressure on emergency shelter services.

Overall, it is evident that the elimination of TCB will pose a significant challenge for impacted families and for Toronto's shelter system, which is already stretched to its limit. If no action is taken to address the impact of the loss of TCB and to divert families from the shelter system, there will be significant costs to the City.

### ***City Response to Date and Proposed Additional Measures***

Given the significance of this change, TESS has taken a number of steps to increase awareness among residents and to help them prepare for any impacts. For example, through proactive outreach and regularly scheduled service planning appointments, TESS is advising OW family clients of the proposed TCB elimination. As part of this information sharing, TESS staff are encouraging those eligible for the Ontario Child Benefit -- 25% of TCB OW recipients in Toronto -- to file their tax return in a timely manner, providing them with referrals to tax filing supports and prioritizing those families with the most children (i.e. in receipt of the largest amount of TCB, and therefore most dependent on it to maintain/secure housing). Despite these best efforts, some Ontario Child Benefit eligible TCB recipients may encounter challenges gathering the required documentation to support the filing of their tax return(s) and/or encounter CCB/OCB processing delays of one kind or another.

Accessing the Ontario Child Benefit by filing taxes is simply not an option for the majority of Toronto's OW TCB recipients due to their status in the country, as refugee claimants are not eligible for the Canada Child Benefit (and hence the Ontario Child Benefit).

Time, in short, is not on the side of either group, as time is what each impacted family will need to find lower cost accommodation, (higher) paid employment and -- where applicable -- complete their tax filing or refugee claim processes.

To mitigate the immediate risk of de-housing for 41% of current OW TCB recipients and support all impacted families to actually secure and move to more affordable (lower cost) housing, it is recommended that City Council authorize the establishment of a new temporary City benefit -- the Temporary Family Housing Benefit for OW families -- to be administered by Toronto Employment and Social Services for up to 6 months, effective November 1, 2019, along with the provision of focused housing support provided by the Shelter, Support and Housing Administration division.

The recommended Temporary Family Housing Benefit will consist of the following two components:

- *Rental Assistance* (Estimated cost: \$4.2M) – additional monthly assistance to housed families whose residual income following the withdrawal of TCB funding is less than their current shelter costs. Funding will bridge the gap in shelter costs and ensure families have at least \$100 remaining for food and basic needs. The benefit will be capped at \$675/month, which represents the largest estimated gap in shelter funding;
- *Relocation Assistance* (Estimated cost: \$3.6M) – housed families whose shelter costs exceed their residual income or consumes greater than 85% of residual income, will be eligible for up to \$2000 for relocation costs in the province of Ontario. It is assumed that up to 1800 families will seek relocation.

To maximize the support provided to impacted families, it is also recommended that SSHA provide *focused housing support* by establishing a dedicated team of counsellors to co-facilitate focused workshops with TESS that leverage existing content on housing options within Ontario, housing search tips, financial literacy/budgeting, credit checks, how to engage landlords, etc. Support would also include one on one assistance with online searches for alternate housing. It is anticipated that up to 90 workshops will be provided over a 4-6 week period. The estimated cost is \$0.6M.

The approach being proposed is similar to the Eviction Prevention in the Community (EPIC) program operated by SSHA which helps to divert families from the shelter system by preventing evictions. In 2018, EPIC successfully prevented 225 households from being evicted. The proposed benefit builds on the successful EPIC model. In particular, the detailed service planning that TESS undertakes with clients and the knowledge and relationships that result, mean that TESS is both aware of the housing status of clients and is well positioned to adopt this approach more systematically.

For families impacted by the elimination of TCB who are currently in the shelter system, SSHA will continue to provide housing search assistance to them as part of their individualized service plan and case management in shelter. With the loss of TCB, these families will have a significant financial issue that will further hinder opportunities to secure housing and exit homelessness.

### *Funding*

It is proposed that funding for the new benefit be drawn from the City's National Child Benefit Support (NCBS) reserve fund. As noted earlier, in July 2008, the Province

restructured social assistance rates and removed benefits paid to children. At that time, the Province directed municipalities to reinvest their share of savings in programs that benefit families with children on social assistance. Over time, the City's share of child benefit restructuring savings were contributed to the NCBS reserve fund and drawn as required to fund various initiatives benefiting families with children.

The City has long recognized that stable housing is a critical foundation to finding and keeping employment and has previously used the reserve to provide a shelter fund to support eligible families with children who require additional support to stabilize their housing arrangements.<sup>3</sup> Given this, the NCBS reserve is an appropriate funding source. As well as stabilizing housing, the benefits will also help those recipients who are working maintain their employment. For example, despite short-term challenges, the majority of refugee claimants are skilled and ready to work. The steps these and other residents have made to secure housing, enhance their employability and find employment will be jeopardized with the loss of TCB.

### ***Helping Residents and Mitigating Costs to the Shelter System***

The introduction of the Temporary Family Housing Benefit is an appropriate response by the City to the dramatic change in financial circumstances that some residents will face as a result of the elimination of TCB. The creation of this benefit will help vulnerable, low-income families with dependent children at a time of potential crisis to maintain their housing or secure more affordable housing, and by doing so, prevent them from needing to access Toronto's emergency shelter system.

As a result, it is also a cost effective measure, given the additional costs that will otherwise accrue if families are de-housed and require expensive emergency shelter accommodation. It is anticipated that the cost of the benefit and related support will be approximately \$8.4M over 6 months. Without this action, significant costs will be placed on the City's shelter system, which is already at capacity.

The potential cost saving can be modelled using three key variables -- % of eligible families who could otherwise come into the shelter system (if not for issuance of the benefit); average length of stay in family shelter system; and average cost/day for each required hotel room in the emergency shelter system (assuming a family size of 4). Based on an average length of stay in the family shelter system at 120 days and an average cost of a hotel room with food for a household at \$321.33 per diem, the cost (benefit) of the issuance of this benefit for 6 months is illustrated in the following table:

Percentage of eligible families relying on shelter system	Estimated cost to shelter system	Estimated net savings*
12.5%	\$8.4M	\$0M
20%	\$13.5M	\$5.1M
30%	\$20.3M	\$11.9M
50%	\$33.8M	\$25.4M

\* Net costs/savings calculated as the difference between estimated cost of the TFHB (\$8.4M) and estimated cost to the shelter system over 6 months.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2000/agendas/council/cc/cc000607/cms5rpt/cl003.pdf>

Given the composition of the population in receipt of TCB and especially the large proportion of refugee claimants who are new to the city and likely have not yet established strong social and family networks, it is anticipated that at least 20-30% and as many as 50% of currently housed families who are impacted by TCB elimination will be unable to find cheaper or alternate accommodation on their own and would therefore need help from the shelter system.

In this scenario, at an estimated cost of \$8.4M, the proposed benefit would save the City between \$5.1M and \$25.4M compared to the cost of providing accommodation in the City's shelter system in motels/hotels. While it is not possible to say with certainty what proportion of impacted clients will ultimately be de-housed and turn to the shelter system, this analysis suggests that the benefit is a sound investment that will yield savings even if relatively few families do so.

The proposed time-limited benefit and related support will ensure that affected families who are housed can temporarily maintain existing housing and/or relocate to more affordable housing. In doing so, it will reduce the health and safety risks to families who would otherwise face additional housing pressures and risk of eviction, reduce disruption during the school year so that children do not face additional challenges; and alleviate additional pressures and costs that would otherwise be placed on the City's emergency shelter system which is already at full capacity.

## **CONTACT**

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Anna Cain  
Director, Workforce Development & OW Program Support  
Toronto Employment & Social Services  
Tel. (416) 397-7313 / Email: [Anna.Cain@toronto.ca](mailto:Anna.Cain@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

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Patricia Walcott  
General Manager  
Toronto Employment & Social Services

Mary-Anne Bédard  
General Manager (I)  
Shelter, Support & Housing Administration

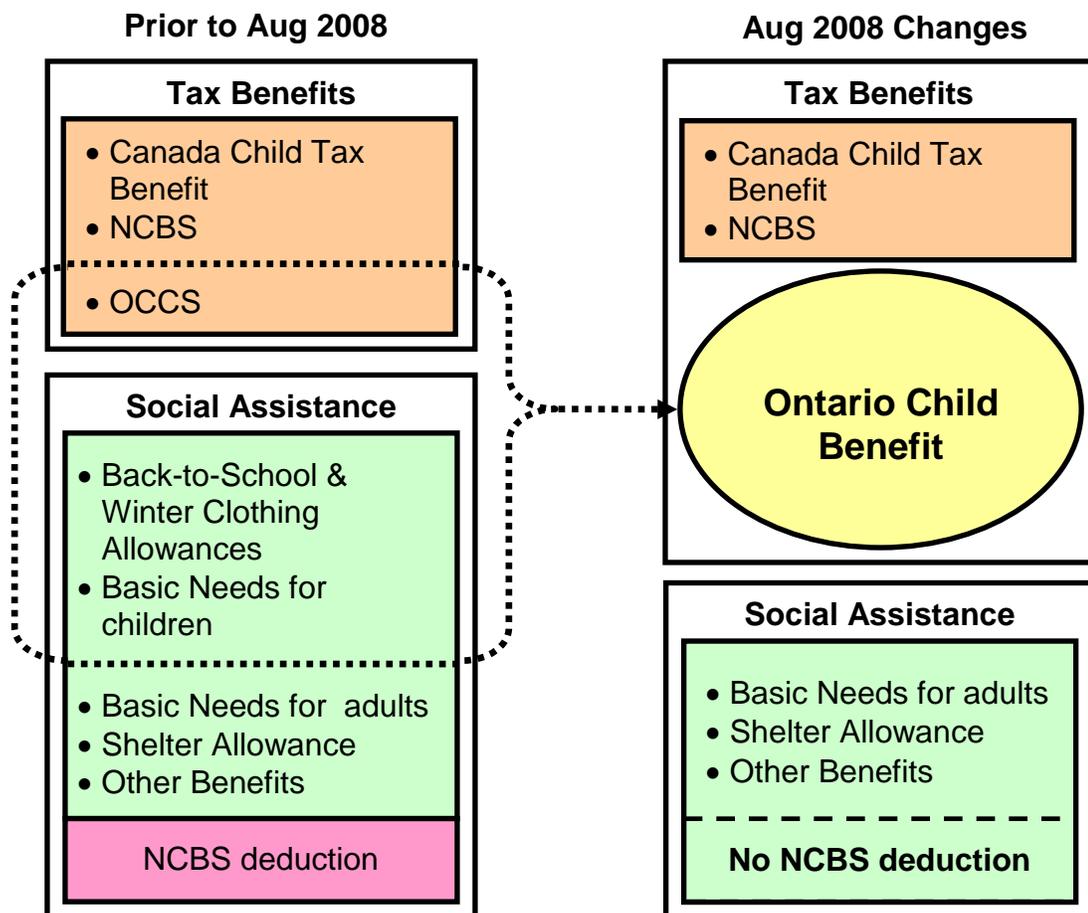
## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment A: Social Assistance Rate Restructuring and Ontario Child Benefit  
Attachment B: Housing Affordability Gap

## Attachment A: Social Assistance Rate Restructuring and Ontario Child Benefit

- In 2007, the Ontario government introduced a new Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) to help families with low incomes provide for their children. As a result of this new benefit, social assistance rates for parents with children were restructured.
- In August 2008, the portion of the basic needs allowance that families received for their dependent children, the back-to-school and winter clothing allowances were removed from social assistance. The National Child Benefit Support (NCBS) deduction from social assistance also ended. Families received lower benefits through social assistance, but new income through the OCB compensated for this reduction.
- For families in receipt of social assistance that did not receive the OCB or who received less than the maximum amount of OCB, the province established the Transition Child Benefit (TCB). The TCB maximum amounts were determined based on the difference between the December 2007 OW social assistance rate structure and the August 2008 OW rate structure when the monthly OCB payments began in July 2008.



Prior to the **August 2008** social assistance rate restructure (December 2007 OW rates), the "daily" basic needs amount per member that a family received was:

<b>Family Composition</b>	<b>One Child 12 &amp; Under</b>	<b>One Child 13 &amp; Over</b>	<b>Three Children 12 &amp; Under</b>	<b>Three Children 13 &amp; Over</b>
Sole Support Parent	\$8.00	\$8.72	\$5.67	\$6.67
Couple	\$5.69	\$6.11	\$4.85	\$5.62

As of **November 2019** (October 2018 OW rates), if TCB is removed as a mandatory benefit from social assistance, the following chart outlines the "daily" basic needs amount per member that a family will receive:

<b>Family Composition</b>	<b>One Child 17 &amp; Under</b>	<b>Three Children 17 &amp; Under</b>
Sole Support Parent	\$6.00	\$3.00
Couple	\$5.49	\$3.29

## Attachment B: Housing Affordability Gap

- With the TCB, basic needs payment, shelter allowance from OW, a single parent household with two children is entitled to a maximum allowance of \$1,517 while a two parent household with two children would be entitled to a maximum allowance of \$1,710. This would cover the average cost of a two bedroom apartment, which is currently \$1,492.
- In this scenario, the withdrawal of the TCB would reduce the maximum entitlement by \$460 (\$230 per child), creating a gap between average market rent for a two bedroom apartment and the maximum OW entitlement.
  - For a single parent with two children, the OW entitlement would be reduced to \$1,057. The gap between rent and the OW entitlement would be \$435.
  - For a two parent household with two children, the OW entitlement would be reduced to \$1,250. The gap between rent and the OW entitlement would be \$242.

