

NEWS RELEASE

St. Thomas Elgin Ontario Works

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 2007

In June 2007, the Ministry of Environment (MOE) announced Ontario's Action Plan on Lead. One component of this plan was implemented in September 2007, when the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) introduced a new \$4.4 million funding initiative entitled the **Water Filter Fund**. The objective of this initiative is to provide water filters and replacement cartridges to eligible low-income households that have verified that there are elevated lead levels present in their household water supply. Low-income households who meet eligibility requirements may receive a benefit of up to \$100.00 to purchase a filter and replacement cartridges. St. Thomas-Elgin Ontario Works is delivering this program within the Elgin County Community.

Program Eligibility Criteria:

In order to be eligible to receive a subsidy under the **Water Filter Fund**, households must be:

- Social Assistance recipients with at least one member of the household (benefit unit) pregnant or with children aged 0 to 6 years and/ or
- Low-income households (including those on fixed incomes) that have a net household income of \$20,000 or less with family members that are pregnant or with children 0 to 6 years.

Households who meet these eligibility requirements may receive funding to purchase an acceptable tap water filter (as outlined in Attachment B to this report) **if** they are able to demonstrate that the lead content in their residence's water supply exceeds the 10ug/L Ontario Drinking Water Standard. Documentation / Verification of lead levels are possible through a number of sources including:

- Be able to verify that household receives drinking water from a drinking water system that provides water to a home associated with elevated test results from the May 23, 2007 Chief Drinking Water Inspector Order (Attachment A to this report)

- Documentation from the household's drinking-water system that 10% of lead test results have exceeded the 10ug/L ODW Standard
- Have a community notice from the Local Medical Officer of Health stating that testing of the drinking water system shows the lead content exceeds the 10ug/L ODW Standard
- Submit a certificate of analysis from a licensed laboratory and notification/ verification from their drinking-water system owner that demonstrates lead content in the residence exceeding the 10ug/L ODW Standard
- Be a First Nation household that provides a certificate of analysis with notification/ verification from Health Canada that demonstrates lead content exceeding the 10ug/L ODW standard.

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you believe you might be eligible for this program, please contact:

**Debby Cassidy
Special Programs Officer
St. Thomas-Elgin Ontario Works
(519) 631-9350, ext. 143**

-30-

For additional information on the health effects of lead, please contact:

MaryLynn Maerten, Manager, Health Protection Programs, 519-631-9900, ext. 308 or Ganesh Vallamkonda, Public Health Inspector, 519-631-9900, ext. 242

Or visit the Elgin St. Thomas Public Health website at
<http://www.elginhealth.on.ca>

For information on determining if you have lead water service lines in your home or testing for lead, please contact your local municipal office.

City of St. Thomas	(519) 631-1680
Municipality of Bayham	(519) 866-5521
Municipality of Central Elgin	(519) 631-4860
Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich	(519) 762-2204
Municipality of West Elgin	(519) 785-0560
Town of Aylmer	(519) 773-3164
Township of Malahide	(519) 773-5344
Township of Southwold	(519) 769-2010