



NRH Notice

NUMBER: 03-08
DATE: March 7, 2003

Mandatory
 For Information

Applicable to:

NIAGARA
REGIONAL
HOUSING



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Municipal & Private Non Profit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Co-operatives
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Non-Profits
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCHAP/CSHP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rent Supplement

Subject: RGI Increases of Less Than \$10.00

Act/Regulation Reference: *Social Housing Reform Act*, Section 75 and O. Reg. 298/01, Section 52 and 53

Policy:

Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) has approved a policy that geared-to-income rent/housing charge increases of less than \$10.00 will only be implemented at the time that the household is subject to an annual review of eligibility for geared-to-income assistance.

Background:

O.Reg. 298/01 requires the service manager to review a household's eligibility for geared-to-income assistance once in every 12-month period. Reviews may be conducted more often if desirable. Legislation allows the service manager the option of not implementing the increase if the amount of the geared-to-income rent/housing charge is determined to increase by an amount less than \$10.00.

Two factors were considered in the development of this policy: the number of households whose income would change in a given period by an amount that would generate an increase of less than \$10.00 and the burden of extra administrative work for providers. Most senior households only experience income changes during the year that would result in changes of less than \$10.00. Households with members who have part-time or seasonal employment usually experience many small changes in their income throughout the year. These are the tenants/members most affected by this policy. Recalculating the rent every time there is an increase under \$10.00 could result in an increased administrative costs for the housing provider that would not be recaptured through the new rental amount.

It should be noted that households would still be required to report all changes in their income within the 30 day reporting period as outlined in the NRH Notice 03-01.

Implementation:

This policy is effective immediately.

◆ **Service Manager's Role**

NRH will review a sample of tenant/member files for proper calculation of RGI assistance during the operational reviews to ensure proper implementation of this policy.

◆ **Housing Provider's Role**

Housing Providers should ensure that all material provided by tenants/members is contained in the tenants/members unit file. All changes in rent/housing charge should be documented and attached to the worksheet calculating the new rent/housing charge.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact your Housing Administrator at (905)-692-9201.

If you have any questions regarding the *Social Housing Reform Act, 2000* go to www.e-laws.gov.on.ca or contact your Housing Administrator.

(Original signed by Lora Beckwith)

Lora Beckwith
General Manager