



Niagara Regional Housing

Notice

No: 16-03

APPLICABLE TO:

DATE: May 6, 2016

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information

SUBJECT: Retroactive Guaranteed Income Supplement Payments

BACKGROUND

The Province is issuing retroactive payments of Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) to approximately 83,000 low income senior citizen households as a result of a calculation error on the part of Service Canada. This *one-time only* payment could represent up to seven years of missed payments for those households affected. Please visit the following websites for articles from Service Canada and CBC News.

http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/services/pensions/oas/gis/administrative_notice.shtml

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/seniors-gis-overdue-payments-1.3469475>

Unless otherwise specifically excluded in the legislation, all other lump sum payments received by RGI households are included in RGI calculations. In accordance with section 50 (2.1) of O. Reg. 298/01, if the income is intended for a previous time period, RGI must be retroactively recalculated for this period and an overpayment of RGI assistance/subsidy determined. This notice is intended to clarify that any retroactive GIS payments received are subject to retroactive rent calculations for households in receipt of rent geared to income.

Housing Provider's Role

Housing Providers should contact all tenants/members who may be affected (anyone who would have been 65 as of 2008) to determine if they have received a GIS retroactive payment. Documentation from Service Canada should have been received by the tenant/member and a copy of this should be obtained in order to determine the necessary changes to their rent/housing charge. Housing Providers are required to obtain documentation/verification confirming the amount of the retroactive payment and the period of retroactivity. Rent is to be recalculated based on this information. Housing Providers will take action to collect any outstanding rent as a result of the retroactive recalculation of rent.

RGI households are required to report any changes in their household circumstances within 30 days of the change taking place. If the household fails to report the lump sum payment and it is later discovered, this would be treated as a “failure to report” and could result in the household being deemed ineligible for any further RGI assistance.

Housing providers are to report to NRH the total number of households requiring retro-active calculations, by emailing Paula Silta at paula.silta@niagararegion.ca.

Service Manager’s Role

NRH will monitor compliance with this Notice through the Operational Reviews.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact your Housing Administrator at (905) 682-9201.

Ellen Balmain, Chief Executive Officer