



Niagara Regional Housing

Notice

No: 15-03

APPLICABLE TO:

DATE: April 15, 2015

<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: Rent-Geared-to-Income Treatment of Financial Assistance to Support Thalidomide Survivors

BACKGROUND

The Federal Government recently announced a financial assistance package to help cover the urgent and ongoing needs of thalidomide survivors. The package includes:

- An immediate tax-free, lump sum payment of \$125,000 to each survivor to help cover urgent needs;
- A commitment of ongoing support to survivors in the form of tax-free, annual payments; and,
- A commitment of a separate medical assistance fund to help cover the costs of health support related to thalidomide injuries.

The details of the latter two components of the package have not yet been announced. The Ministry will consider whether further clarification is required when the full details of these components are known.

For the purpose of rent-geared-to-income (RGI) calculations under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, the lump sum payments should be excluded from the income calculation in accordance with paragraph 35 of s. 50(3) of O.Reg. 298/01.

Housing Provider's Role

Housing providers are required to exclude lump sum payments to thalidomide survivors in the calculation of their rent-geared-to-income (RGI).