

Memorandum



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING: March 2 2011
ACTION ITEM 5**

TO: Chair and Members of Budget Committee
FROM: Brenda R. Breault, Commissioner of Corporate Services & Treasurer
DATE: February 2, 2011
SUBJECT: **Qualifying Criteria of annual income of applicants to the Snow Removal Assistance Program.**

The City of Mississauga offers two snow assistance programs for elderly and disabled persons. The programs and their eligibility requirements are highlighted below.

Snow Subsidy Program

The City of Mississauga, offers financial assistance for snow clearing (i.e. snow subsidy) to low income seniors and low income persons with physical disabilities.

To qualify for the program, the applicant must be:

- a Mississauga resident who resides as owner or legal tenant in the residential property for which the snow removal subsidy is required
- able to provide receipts or other documentation verifying the claim
- not living in a high-rise or similar multi-unit building
- the only person making application for subsidy at this municipal address

AND must be

- 65 years of age or over and in receipt of a monthly Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) under Part II of the Old Age Security Act (Canada) , OR
- physically disabled in such a way as to restrict his/her mobility and in receipt of benefits under the Ontario Disabilities Support Program (ODSP) or in receipt of assistance under the Ontario Works Act.

If an applicant is applying for the subsidy is a senior, the receipt of the GIS is verified by the Federal Government at Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRDC).

The Guaranteed Income Supplement provides additional money, on top of the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, to low-income seniors living in Canada. To qualify for the GIS, one must be eligible for the Old Age Security pension. Eligibility also depends on whether the combined income of you and your spouse or common-law partner, if applicable, exceeds a specific amount.

Based on the GIS information available from www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/isp/oas/oasrates.shtml the maximum annual income to qualify for the GIS for 2011 is as follows:

- \$15,888 for a single, widowed or divorced person
- \$20,976 for married or common-law partners, both receiving OAS
- \$38,112 for OAS pensioners whose spouse or common-law partner does not receive OAS or the Allowance

The OAS and GIS benefit rates are adjusted four times a year, for inflation, based on increases to the consumer price index.

If a disabled applicant is applying for the subsidy, they must provide a copy of their most recent Ontario Disabilities Support Program (ODSP) cheque stub.

Driveway Windrow Snow Clearing Pilot Program

The City also offers a Driveway Windrow Snow Clearing Pilot Program, a City-wide pilot program to clear snow windrows from driveways for older adults (65 years or older) and individuals who are physically disabled (as verified by a regulated health professional).

Participation in the program is available on a first come, first serve basis. The cost to participate is either free or \$200, depending on whether the applicant meets financial assistance criteria. The financial criterion followed is the same as the Recreation and Parks subsidized program, Active Assist. The Active Assist program uses the Low Income Cut Off Tables from Statistics Canada, in consultation with the Region of Peel.

To be eligible for the program, the applicant must meet all conditions listed below:

- No able-bodied person lives at the same residence where driveway windrow snow clearing assistance is required
- The individual does not live in a high-rise, multi-unit building, condominium or within a commercial property and does not reside on a private road
- Only one person per address can participate in the pilot program

To qualify for financial assistance, the applicant must be a resident of Mississauga and;

- have a total net individual or combined family income below the Low Income Cut Off amounts (Statistics Canada) which is outlined on the application form as follows:

Family Size	After Tax Income (\$)
1 person	18,373
2 persons	22,361
3 persons	27,844
4 persons	34,738
5 persons	39,556
6 persons	43,896
7 persons	48,181

- be able to provide current, official documentation that shows total family net income, using one or more of the following original statements/documents:
 - Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CRA) Notice of Assessment form (T451) showing net income/earnings
 - Guaranteed Income Supplement Notice
 - Ontario Disabilities Support Program Drug Benefit Eligibility Card
 - Ontario Works Drug/Dental Benefit Eligibility Card
 - Canada Child Tax Benefit Notice
 - Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families Entitlement Notice
 - Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax Credit Notice

On September 29, 2010, Council approved making the program available to all residents at a cost of \$200 provided the 3,500 spots are not filled by seniors or residents with disabilities. These applications will be placed on a wait list for consideration and will be notified accordingly of acceptance



Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services & Treasurer
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BUDGET COMMITTEE
MAR - 2 2011

BUDGET COMMITTEE
JAN 31 2011

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DATE: January 26, 2011
TO: Members of Budget Committee
FROM: Crystal Greer, Director of Legislative Services & City Clerk
RE: Requests for Information Emanating from Budget Committee Meetings:
January 17, 18, 24 and 25 January, 2011

Attached please find a list of requests for information or other follow up, which were received from respective Members of Budget Committee at its meetings held on 17, 18, 24 and 25 January, 2011.

Responses to the respective requests will be brought to Budget Committee as they become available.

Crystal Greer,
Director of Legislative Services
and City Clerk

ACTION ITEMS

Budget Committee

#	When During Meeting	Request / Direction	Dept. / Division to Respond
Requests received at the Budget Committee Meeting: January 17 and 18 and 24, 2011			
1	Overview	Mayor McCallion requested information about at what assessed value of residential home are service costs covered (referenced \$350,000 was prior value, and indicating previous thought that services to homes at lower assessed value were in essence 'subsidized' by other taxpayers.	Corp Serv (Tax)
2	Presentation A	Councillor Saito requested information about the revenue vs. expenditures for Parking Permit administration	TW (Parking)
3	Presentation A	Councillor Saito requested similar information regarding the FTE position.	TW (Infrastructure)
4	Presentation A	Councillor Saito and Councillor Adams requested information about the Impact of unfunded items presented regarding road projects.	TW (Infrastructure)
5	Presentation A	Councillor Saito and Councillor McFadden respectively spoke to the Ninth Line overpass versus improvements to 10th line, questioning whether it's possible to use the study funding assigned to 9th Line, to move the 10th Line project forward as it is greatly used for GO train users.	TW (Works) & Corp Serv (Tax)
6	Presentation A	Councillor Pat Mullin requested a review of the qualifying criteria of annual income of applicants to the snow removal assistance program.	TW (Works)
7	Presentation A	Councillor Pat Saito enquired about winter road maintenance and type of treatment products applied (magnesium chloride).	TW (Works)
8	Presentation B	Councillor George Carlson questioned LED street light replacement being unfunded.	TW (Works)
9	Presentation D	Councillor Eve Adams requested information about the Windrow Snow Clearing program and the impacts of the budget recommendation presented by staff.	TW (Works)
10	Presentation D	Transit Driver absenteeism - How does it compare to other Depts? Disability management, getting the drivers able to return to work.	TW (Transit) & Corp Serv (HR)
11	Presentation D	Transit Driver Request for 18 New FTEs (chart of overtime statistics in relation to the amount of days off, etc. experienced with current staff)	TW (Transit) & Corp Serv (HR)
12	Presentation D	Statistics of how many transit riders own their own vehicle but opt to use Transit for commuting.	TW (Transit)
13	Presentation D	Councillor Pat Saito requested information about the use of Reserve Funds to hire the requested 18 drivers.	TW (Transit)
14	Presentation D	Councillor Eve Adams requested information about Sunday service to Woodbine Centre [24 January 2011].	TW (Transit)
15	Presentation D	Councillor Jim Tovey requested information about Transit service in the Port Credit area in regard to the summer festivals and waterfront events, and also Route #23 specifically [24 January 2011].	TW (Transit)

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