

## Cost for Heating and Emergency Fuel Policy

Document presented to Minister Carmel Robichaud  
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With high prices in heating, starting even more than last year, \$10 extra per month in the heating supplement is insufficient. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, I have checked on the cost of four types of energy to heat homes. This is what they were:

<u>Heating Energy Prices</u>	<u>Amount for six months</u>	<u>What the Heating Supplement Pays</u>	<u>What the Clients Pay</u>
\$474.77/100 gal stove oil	\$3,000 approx	\$780	\$2,200
\$423.17/100 gal furnace oil	\$2,600 approx	\$780	\$1,800
\$200/cord of wood(variable)	\$2,000 approx	\$780	\$1,200
\$250 & up for electricity	\$1,600-\$2,100	\$780	\$800-\$1,300

The amount which social welfare recipients will have to pay, on top of the heating supplement, depends on their source of energy. It will range roughly from \$800 to \$2,200. Leaving poor people unable to pay such amounts for their heating is a total lack of compassion.

Checking the policies on emergency fuel, I see even more stipulations to get by in an emergency situation. If one gets the fuel supplement, there is no emergency fuel. If one has a loan (new) with the Department of Family and Community Services, there is no fuel supplement. How in the name of time is anyone on social assistance able to survive the winter?

There are a lot of people going to be without heat this winter as the prices will go higher yet, as the cold weather approaches. Please tell me, where and how they are going to get the money with the rates we get? The Department has added even more holes in the social safety net. What is it you want us to do? What do people on permanent disability, people who are mentally challenged, people 50 years and up?

Many people no longer have good credit anymore. Last winter, it was announced that there would be no more power disconnection. When I tried for equalized payments and was turned down. I got a letter every month with threats to cut me off. I was made to pay my monthly bill plus \$50 extra to catch up. I still have not caught up. The worst part is that only low-income people have to go through this, all because the rates don't even cover basic needs anymore. Your programs don't come near the costs of our basic needs and there are too many closed doors.

We are at the mercy of whatever you wish to do. You know what we are up against trying to get by. We cannot eat enough nutritious food and some of us are anemic. We shoulder a lot of stress and become sick. These medical problems are a huge burden on the health system. And also on the justice system, as people will to great lengths to get money to get by. Keeping welfare people so far below the poverty line is bad management of taxpayers dollars on the part of political decision makers.