



City of Peterborough

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peterborough, ON --

At the City Council meeting of July 7, 2008 proposed changes to discretionary benefits for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support clients were approved. While the Ontario Works Act allows the municipality to deliver a range of health and non-health related items and services, the local policy establishes coverage for twenty items and services. Discretionary benefits funding is split, with 80% paid by the province and the remaining 20% paid by the municipality. These benefits are intended to support families in times of crisis or when funds are not available under regular financial assistance.

The following is a brief overview of the major discretionary benefit changes to take effect October 1st:

- Dentures: Coverage for a maximum of \$750 per upper and \$750 per lower denture for OW and ODSP clients, every 5 years, when prescribed to relieve pain, for medical or therapeutic purposes, or to increase employability.
- Adult Ontario Works Vision Care: Increased coverage from \$200 to \$250 in a 24-month period for the cost of vision care.
- Baby Supplies: Supplies expanded to include an infant car seat to a maximum of \$125 and booster seat up to \$50, once per family (unless multiple children are in car seats at the same time). Increased the cost of a CSA approved crib from \$150 to \$200, once per family (unless multiple children are in cribs at one time).
- Birth Verification: Assistance with the cost of obtaining a birth certificate for dependent children of OW or ODSP recipients, once per child. The maximum amount of assistance is not to exceed the fees of the Ontario Office of the Registrar General.
- In September 2008 a one time Children's Health Benefit of \$250/child for warm seasonal clothing and funding for social inclusion in community activities was issued to families with children who are eligible for Ontario Works in the month of September 2008 or ODSP in the month of August 2008.

A complete list of the discretionary benefits is included in the following attached [brochure](#).

This information is also available on our City of Peterborough website at www.city.peterborough.on.ca

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