

**Reasons for Decision:**

**Order # AP1819-0442**

<name removed> appealed that their Rent Assist benefit is insufficient to meet their needs.

The Department advised that they received a re-application for the Rent Assist benefit along with supporting documents from <name removed> on <date removed>. The application was assessed and approved for <amount removed> monthly based on their <year removed> household net income statement in the amount of <amount removed> as determined by the Canada Revenue Agency.

The program calculates the amount payable on a sliding scale based on a family's income. The Regulation does not allow for eligibility for Rent Assist benefits to be calculated based on current circumstances.

<name removed>' previous application was assessed and approved for <amount removed> monthly based on their <year removed> net household income of <amount removed>. As there was an increase in the household income between <years removed>, there was a decrease in the eligible benefit amount.

<name removed> stated they are a single parent and is struggling to make ends meet. The appellant has numerous bills and no financial support from the parent of their child. <name removed> summarized a list of their bills at the hearing, which includes a <amount removed> per month truck payment. The appellant also does not understand why her benefit amount went down when their income did not change.

The Department clarified at the hearing that in addition to their employment earnings, there was also Employment Insurance income.

*Section 11.1.1(2) of the Manitoba Assistance Regulation states:  
When an application for shelter assistance under this Part is made  
(a) in the first six months of a calendar year, a person's net income is to be determined based on the taxation year that ended on December 31 of the second preceding calendar year; and  
(b) in the last six months of a calendar year, a person's net income is to be determined based on the taxation year that ended on December 31 of the preceding calendar year.*

After carefully considering all the written and verbal information, the Board has determined that <name removed>' eligibility for the Rent Assist program has been properly assessed in accordance with The Manitoba Assistance Regulation. The

program does not have discretion to deduct applicants' general expenses, with the exception of a shelter expense deduction, in the calculation formula. The Regulation provides for the calculation of the amount payable on a sliding scale based on a person's income. The Regulation does not allow any discretion to review current circumstances. Therefore, the decision of the Director has been confirmed, and this appeal is dismissed.

## **DISCLAIMER**

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