

Reasons for Decision:

Order #AP1920-0186

On <date removed>, the appellant filed an appeal of the Director's decision to deny their eligibility under Section 5(1)(a) of The Manitoba Assistance Act. The date of the decision was <date removed>.

The reason given for the denial of eligibility was that the medical information provided by the appellant was insufficient to support their request.

The appellant told the Board that while they lived on reserve they received disability benefits and was told they would be disabled for the rest of their life. However when they moved into Winnipeg they no longer received disability benefits.

The appellant indicated their right arm has no functional ability.

During the hearing the department referred to the disability assessment report completed by the appellant's doctor. In the report the doctor noted that the appellant cannot use their right hand or forearm, however they can work with restrictions.

The department stated the appellant would have been granted disability while on reserve due to the absence of programs and supports to assist them in finding employment in their local area. However once the appellant moved into the city these programs and supports became available to them, which would assist them in securing suitable employment. In the appellant's case considerations can be made for work which used their left hand. When the appellant was referred to supportive employment resources they did not receive any supports as they told the program they could not work.

The Board asked the appellant about their work history. The appellant indicated that they had previously worked for the band constable prior to their accident. They had not worked since.

In response to further questions from the Board the appellant indicated their right arm would be uncomfortable while attending the employment and skills programming set up by the department. In addition they would be unable to write at these programs as they are right hand dominant.

The Board asked the Department about the appellant's potential for employment. In response the department indicated when the appellant had attended employment and skills programming it was felt by the program staff that they had great potential for successful employment. While the programs did not provide any specific occupations

they could work in, the department feels part time occupations such as janitorial services would be possible.

In response to questions from the Board the appellant stated they would be unable to use a broom as it would fall out of their right hand. While they wear a brace to improve their grip, it is not enough to hold items. They indicated they are able to operate their cellular phone with their left hand. The appellant indicated they had their own apartment and performs daily hygiene tasks with their left hand. The appellant's mother helps them with the cooking.

Based on the verbal and written evidence presented, the Board determines that there is insufficient information to determine that the appellant is unable to work in any capacity for more than 90 days. The Board confirms the Director's decision to deny the appellant eligibility under Section 5(1)(a) of The Manitoba Assistance Act.

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