

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP2021-0023

On <date removed>, <name removed> filed an appeal of the Director's decision to deny their eligibility for Employment and Income Assistance under *The Manitoba Assistance Act*. The date of the decision was <date removed>.

The decision letter sent to <name removed> indicated the reason for the denial was that they did not provide the requested financial information.

At the hearing <name removed> told the Board that they provided the Department with all of the information that was requested from them. The appellant sent in the bank statements that were required, but they did not have access to the statements from their chequing account that had been closed. The Department took issue with their chequing account and their application was denied.

<name removed> indicated that the chequing account was there for their daily living expenses, and the savings account was there so they could put money aside for their children.

The Department told the Board that <name removed>'s application was received in <date removed>. The appellant provided the Department with a bank statement for their chequing account for the month of <date removed> along with two statements for their savings account. The appellant did not attend the follow up meeting with the Department until <month removed>, at which time they were requested to provide bank statements for the previous 60 days for both of their accounts along with their lease agreement and income declarations for their common law partner. The appellant provided the statements for the savings account and the income declarations, but not the statements for their chequing account.

In <amount removed> the Department made several requests by letter and email for the chequing account statements or confirmation that the account had been closed, as well as details showing how they supported themselves since their application. <name removed> provided the Department with a letter which indicated their chequing account was closed effective <date removed>, and was subsequently asked to provide statements for the account up to the point it was closed. <name removed> was provided the option to move their application date to <month removed> as an alternative. The appellant did not provide the requested information.

As <name removed> did not provide the Department with all of the information required to assess their financial eligibility their application was denied.

The Board asked <name removed> why they had not provided the Department with statements for their chequing account for the 60 days prior to its closure. <name removed> responded, indicating they provided all of the bank statements they have access to. The appellant could not provide the statements for the chequing account as it was closed. The Board asked <name removed> why they did not have access to the statements from their chequing account prior to the closure. <name removed> replied, indicating they had no access to the information when the Department made the request as account had already been closed.

The Department indicated that the statements from <name removed>'s savings account showed transfers from the chequing account. As the account appeared active the Department needed to see the statements for the chequing account when assessing their eligibility. <name removed> indicated they explained to the Department that the funds transferred to their savings account were from their brother in-law and were for their children.

The Board notes that the Department's requesting that <name removed> provide it with statements from their chequing account is a reasonable requirement to assess their eligibility for assistance. The Board is unconvinced by <name removed>'s explanation as to why they were unable to provide the Department with statements for their chequing account, noting that their statements lacked consistency and believability.

After careful consideration of the written and verbal evidence submitted to it, the Board determines that the Department assessed <name removed>'s application correctly according to the legislation and regulations. The Board confirms the Director's decision to deny <name removed> eligibility for Employment and Income Assistance under *The Manitoba Assistance Act*.

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