

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP 2021-0062

On <date removed>, <name removed> filed an appeal of the decision of the Director, Provincial Services to deny their application for a child care subsidy. The decision was communicated by letter on <date removed>.

The Department stated <name removed> applied on <date removed>. The application was not processed at that time due to the closure of childcare facilities during the current public health emergency.

When the child care facility used by the <name removed> reopened, the Department created a new application and requested supporting documents from the family. The <name removed> submitted confirmation of their income on <dates removed>.

Based on the information provided, the Department determined that the <name removed>'s family contribution exceeded the cost of care by a substantial amount, and <name removed> was advised by letter that they were ineligible for the child care subsidy.

<name removed> told the Board that they understood that the Department's assessment was based on family income. The appellant noted that their income was based on scholarships, which were for one year and were non-renewable.

<name removed> stated the program calculation did not take account of the cost of living. The appellant asserted that it was not possible for the family to move to a less-expensive apartment, because their research duties required proximity to the university faculty.

<name removed> told the Board the family would not begin receiving the Child Tax Credit until <date removed>. The Department asserted that <name removed> would receive a retroactive payment once her Child Tax Credit was approved.

The Department noted <name removed> was also eligible for a graduate studentship worth <amount removed>. The Department did not include that amount in its calculation because their application for the studentship had not been processed yet. The Department also noted <name removed> submitted two pay stubs with widely varied amounts, and the Department used the lesser amount in its calculation.

<name removed> stated the absence of a child care subsidy would significantly reduce the amount of money the family can save each month.

In response to a question from the Board, the Department confirmed that it recalculates a subsidy if a family's financial circumstances change.

After careful consideration of the written and verbal evidence submitted to it, the Board has determined the Department assessed <name removed>' application correctly based on the information it had before it, in accordance with the legislation and regulations. The Board confirmed the Director's decision to deny <name removed>'s application for a child care subsidy.

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