Community and Health Services
Office of the Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Services and Housing Committee Members

FROM: Joann Simmons, Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: April 10, 2008

RE: **Ontario 2008 Budget Highlights for Community and Health Services**

As you know, the provincial government presented its 2008 Budget on March 25, 2008. The attached table highlights budget initiatives that will have a direct impact on Community and Health Services' programs and clients, as well as broader benefits, depending on how they are implemented, to residents including low and moderate income residents and workers in York Region. Where appropriate, to give a fuller picture, we have also included announcements from the recent Federal 2008 Budget.

This analysis of the implications of the budget initiatives for Community and Health Services is preliminary. We are waiting for more information from our provincial counterparts to assess full impacts on department programs, costs, and clients.

We have, however, noted that much of the funding announced in the Ontario Budget appears to represent one-time allocations of surplus dollars from the 2007/2008 fiscal year. Federal funding, particularly for skills development and training, are also being used to support the budget.

Community and Health Services staff will continue to monitor developments and report back to Committee and Council, as appropriate.

Overview

Over the last year the province has introduced a number of initiatives to better support lower income households and the working poor. The 2008 Budget continues in this direction, as well as focuses on new funding for training through a "Skills to Jobs Action Plan".

Particularly relevant is the province's commitment to develop a poverty reduction strategy to expand opportunities for those living in poverty. This was first announced in the Speech from the Throne in the Fall 2007 and is being led by the Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Honourable Deb Matthews, through the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction. The budget provides funding to several early initiatives as part of the strategy, including social housing repairs, a new dental plan for low income families, and additional support to student nutrition programs. A long term strategy is targeted to be developed for the end of 2008.

Along with the outcome of the Provincial Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review, the Poverty Reduction Strategy will be an important development for municipalities, including York Region, given the front-line programs and services we provide to low income and vulnerable residents. A coordinated approach to helping families benefit from economic opportunities and overcome barriers to employment will have positive impacts for many residents in York Region who face or are at risk of facing economic hardship.

The budget also provides a 2% rate increase to people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). Municipal cost-sharing for these will begin in January 2009, which will likely have a net impact on Community and Health Services budget going forward into the 2009 budget year. As you will recall, the province is also expected to upload ODSP benefit costs through 2010 and 2011, which will provide some savings to Regional budgets.

There is also a new provincial grant available to help low and moderate income seniors offset property tax costs. Senior singles and couples will be able to receive up to $500 per year. The budget also includes provincial investments to reduce emergency room wait times, increase the capacity of long-term care facilities, and enhance public health.

Notable exceptions in the 2008 budget are affordable housing and child care. OMSSA reports that increases to child care dollars for 2008 announced in last year's budget have been confirmed. Otherwise, there are no new dollars proposed. This might reflect that work is still underway in developing the promised full-day pre-school program.

As for affordable housing, although there is new funding for social housing repairs and the promise of future fiscal surplus dollars as part of the *Invest in Ontario Act, 2008*, there does not appear to be funding for new development. Nor is there mention of a long term affordable housing strategy (which was included in the Liberal election platform).

The other main area of the budget includes measures to help workers facing economic adjustment challenges to re-train for jobs in growing sectors. Federal dollars are being utilized to support many of these through Employment Ontario. We should know more about program details by June 2008, at which point potential benefits to low income workers in York Region can be assessed.

If you have questions regarding this communication please contact me or Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, Director, Policy and Program Support Services Branch at 905-830-4444 (Extension 2150)

TF/js

Attachment: Ontario 2008 Budget Highlights

Copy to: Health and EMS Committee

Ontario 2008 Budget Highlights
Community and Health Services Department

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
Employment and Financial Supports	
<u>Skills to Jobs Action Plan – Second Career Strategy</u> The Ontario Budget creates a new three year $1.5 billion "Skills to Jobs Action Plan" to help workers facing unemployment to adjust to new opportunities in the labour market. A key component of the plan is **a new $355 million Second Career Strategy** which will provide unemployed workers with one to two-year skills training courses, related needs-based income supports, and career planning services. The Skills to Jobs Action Plan also provides funding to support capital investments for new and expanded skills training centres as well as workplace training programs in manufacturing and automobile production.	The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities (MTCU) will be the lead for the strategy. Program details will be available by June 2008. Most of the funding will flow through Employment Ontario. Clarification is required on who will be targeted for support under the Second Career Strategy to assess potential benefits to York Region workers. Clarification is also required on how the proposed needs-based income supports will be administered and whether the proposed workplace skills training supports can be accessed by York Region firms. Part of the funding to support the Second Career Strategy will come from the recently announced Canada-Ontario Labour Market Agreement (LMA), which will provide Employment Ontario with $1.2 billion of federal funding over six years to help workers who are not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI) training assistance to improve their skills, including groups under-represented in the labour market (e.g. immigrants, persons with disabilities, older workers, youth, new or re-entrants into the labour market). Note that the budget states that the Second Career Strategy includes Ontario's Rapid Re-Employment and Training Service, which provides job counseling assistance to workers affected by large layoffs.
<u>Enhancing Employment Ontario</u> The Province will continue to enhance program and service delivery,	Clarification is required to assess how Ontario Works (OW) employment

[1] Includes 2008 Federal Budget announcements where relevant.

Attachment 1

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
including new features such as local labour market planning, so Ontarians can get services in their local communities quickly and easily.	programs will be linked to Employment Ontario's local labour market planning for York Region. Given the new funding provided to Employment Ontario in this budget as well as through the LMA, more analysis is needed on how OW participants could potentially benefit as well as lower income workers who have no other avenues for support in training or skills development. MTCU has indicated an interest in working with municipalities and their Ontario Works programs as it relates to local labour market planning.
<u>Increased Support for Social Assistance</u> The Ontario Budget increases by 2% OW and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) allowances in 2008/2009.	The income of OW recipients will increase. Municipalities will not be required to cost-share the increases until January 2009. Higher benefit levels may increase the number of residents eligible for OW. Note that ODSP benefit costs will be uploaded to the province by 2011. OMSSA has indicated the increase will be effective in November 2008. The rate increase applies to the basic adult allowance and the maximum shelter allowance, as well as comfort allowances for those living in long term homes. Clarification is required if it will also apply to the emergency shelter per diem and personal needs allowances.
Family and Children's Services	
<u>Services for Children with Complex Needs</u> The Ontario Budget invests $20 million to support children with complex special needs.	The budget suggests that the funding will enhance spending on children's mental health. This could improve access for Community and Health Services clients who require child mental health supports from community-based agencies. Clarification is required to assess how much funding will be allocated to York Region-based service providers.
<u>Improving Facilities for Children and Vulnerable Ontarians</u>	

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
The Ontario Budget invests $30 million in one-time funding for capital projects to support community agencies that provide services to children and vulnerable populations, including families that require child care services, adults and children with developmental disabilities, and youth with emotional or behavioral problems.	The budget indicates that this will fund expansion and renovation projects. Examples provided include Violence Against Women shelters and Children's Treatment Centres, and upgrades to improve accessibility. Clarification is required on program details to assess possible funding for York Region-based service providers.
<u>Parenting and Family Literacy Centres</u> The Ontario Budget increases funding to expand the number of Parenting and Family Literacy Centres by 34.	These centres are school-based programs for children 0-6 years to improve school readiness. More information is needed to assess if expansion will include sites in York Region.
Housing Services	
<u>Support to Repair Social Housing</u> The Ontario Budget provides $100 million for municipalities to repair and renew existing social housing stock, including improving energy efficiency.	York Region will receive almost $2.7 million by June 2008. Program details regarding application and limitations of this funding are still to be released.
<u>Expanding OSIFA</u> The Ontario Budget expands loan eligibility under the Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Financing Authority (OSIFA) to include public sector social housing providers. $500 million in low cost loans will be available to assist in making necessary social housing infrastructure investments.	More details are needed to assess potential use of OSIFA for York Region social housing.
<u>Improve Asset Management in the Social Housing Sector</u> The Social Housing Services Corporation will be receiving $1 million to set up the Social Housing Asset Management Centre.	The centre will enable municipal service managers and social housing providers to access useful and consistent standards, tools, and resources.
<u>*Investing in Ontario Act, 2008*</u> The Ontario Budget re-affirms that the province will introduce the *Investing in Ontario Act, 2008* which will permit the use of a portion of	Social housing is included in the scope of the legislation. This could increase dollars available for social housing capital expenditures in York

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
unanticipated year-end surpluses to address municipal infrastructure needs, allocated on a per-capita basis.	Region depending on the level of fiscal surpluses available to the province.
Health Services (Emergency Medical Services, Long Term Care and Seniors, and Public Health)	
<u>Dental Care for Low Income Families</u> The Ontario Budget invests $135 million over three years to develop a plan to provide dental services to low-income Ontarians. The government will work with Public Health Units, Community Health Centres, dentists and dental hygienists to deliver prevention and treatment services for low-income Ontarians, especially children. The investment will also expand the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) program to include children in low-income families until their eighteenth birthday. The Budget positions the dental plan as an early initiative of its poverty reduction strategy.	Community and Health Services already provides basic dental care services to OW participants as well as urgent care through CINOT to children up to 14 years of age for families with no dental insurance and who cannot pay for the service themselves. Details for both budget initiatives will be announced in the near future through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. This will clarify potential program and cost implications to Community and Health Services, as well as service delivery models. Expanding dental coverage to low income families can be a key factor in improving health, employability, and employment outcomes, particularly for families transitioning from social assistance to low wage employment.
<u>Student Nutrition Program</u> The Ontario Budget invests $32-million over three years to double the amount of annual funding currently available through the program. The Budget positions the program as an early initiative of its poverty reduction strategy.	This program funding is provided through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and is coordinated in the Central East Region by the Peterborough Family Resource Centre with local assistance from York Region Food for Learning and the Community and Health Services Public Health Branch. In addition, York Region Food for Learning seeks local funding (e.g. CDIF) to further supplement program costs as provincial funding only partially covers student nutrition costs. The program provides healthy breakfast and snack programs in schools across the Region. There are currently 76 programs in the Region. Schools can self-identify for this funding and funds are given directly to the schools involved. Many schools include low-income families who require this additional support.

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
	This announcement also includes funding for infrastructure changes which will help schools who don't have facilities to prepare and serve food to get proper facilities and equipment. Details are still needed to know how much money will come to York Region as well as whether these funds can be allocated to existing or new programs.
<u>Emergency Room Wait Times</u> The Ontario Budget invests over three years: • $180 million to create incentive to shorten emergency department wait times and improve patient satisfaction. • $120 million to assist hospitals in areas of high-population growth to meet anticipated demand.	Providing additional resources to address emergency room wait times may positively impact EMS off load delays.
<u>Improving Access to Health Care for Seniors</u> The Ontario Budget invests: • $107 million over three years to hire 2,500 more personal support workers in long-term care homes • $278 million over three years to address various program needs in long-term care homes. • $500 million over four years to hire 9,000 nurses, including 2,000 for long-term homes. • $90 million in 2008–2009 for the extension, as announced in March 2008, of the Nursing Graduate Guarantee to provide every new Ontario nursing graduate with an opportunity for full-time employment. • Provision for a two per cent increase in the Comfort Allowance for residents is proposed for 2008-2009.	There may be a possible increase in the number of nurses and personal support workers for York Region's LTC facilities. Based on preliminary calculations this could equate to 2.6 nurses and 3.2 personal support workers (PSWs) for every 100 beds. It is important to note that actual numbers will be dependent on the level of funding provided for each of these positions. Recent experience shows that funding levels provided by the province are below actual staffing costs. Best case scenario, the budget announcement could add about 6 additional RN/RPN positions and 8-9 additional PSWs. Similar to related initiatives in the 2007 budget, funding appears to be earmarked for specific purposes rather than addressing overall operating and inflationary pressures. LTC facilities are being required to hire new staff without receiving any new dollars to deal with current pressures (e.g.

Budget Announcement[1]	**Implications for Community and Health Services**
	inflation, union settlements etc.) and maintain staff they already have. More information is required on where the new funding for LTC programs will be allocated. It could include funding to acuity, Minimum Data Set –RAI Clinical Software System, annualization of 2007 RPN increases and other such programs that the Ministry is committed to funding. As with the new RPN money received last year, it is anticipated that the money for new PSWs and nurses will be tied to new hires. However, with no significant per diem increase, care in homes could run the risk of declining this year as inflation, wage adjustments and other operating costs may exceed the dollars toward new hires. In addition, LTC Homes are also facing a further financial squeeze as the province moves to enact the Long Term Care Homes Act, which will potentially place a whole new set of regulatory demands on the sector without providing the financial means to meet them. The added administrative requirements associated with that legislation will result in even more staff time being devoted to non-care functions. This could potentially mean that there will be fewer resources available for direct care and services.
<u>Public Health</u> The Ontario Budget invests: • $190 million over three years to implement a Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Strategy, starting with diabetes • $10 million annually in childhood obesity strategy to encourage children to eat healthy and be physically active The budget also indicates that the province will introduce Bill 8, the	 Investments in chronic disease and childhood obesity prevention are positive. The burden of illness in York Region related to chronic diseases is significant and will increase exponentially if childhood obesity rates are not addressed through the promotion of healthy eating and increased physical activity. Clarification is required regarding the Public Health unit's involvement

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2007, that would make schools healthier by banning processed trans fats from food and beverages sold in school cafeterias and removing unhealthy food and beverages from school vending machines.	regarding the implementation of these programs/policies. The Healthy Lifestyles Division has dedicated a majority of its resources to Chronic Disease Prevention (CDP), not in the area of CDP management. The division does not currently have a diabetes prevention program. Instead, it works to reduce the risk factors associated with diabetes and other chronic diseases by promoting physical activity and healthy eating through the Healthy Schools program (child, youth) and through the Workplace Wellness program (adults). It is not clear what the expectations will be for Public Health at this time from the budget initiative, but it is recommended that the program continue to focus on diabetes prevention in the child and youth population utilizing the Healthy School program as a best practice. If funding is available, it is recommended that current service levels be expanded in workplaces as well as in schools to eliminate wait lists. More information is needed to assess if a childhood obesity program or policy could be partnered with new or existing Regional programs to maximize impact. A number of existing Community and Health Services Public Health Branch programs are related to childhood obesity prevention, the promotion of healthy eating, and promotion of physical activity. The Healthy Schools approach is a best practice for this. This involves parents and community awareness and participation in initiatives such as Active Kids and Safe Routes to School to promote active transportation and Pause to Play, a program encouraging limited screen time and increased recreational physical activity. More details are needed as to whether any of the new funds in the budget will be allocated to the Public Health Branch to expand this work.
Other Initiatives Related to Community and Health Services Programs and Clients	
<u>Poverty Reduction Strategy</u>	

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
The Ontario Budget re-affirms that the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction will work towards developing a focused poverty reduction strategy for children and families with measures, indicators, and reasonable targets by the end of 2008. The focus will be on expanding opportunities for those living in poverty, and will review how best to organize and align the current system of supports to ensure more effective investment and more efficient administration. The Budget also states that the province will work with communities and other governments to reduce poverty and expand opportunities for all Ontarians.	Municipalities play a front-line role in addressing poverty in their communities through Ontario Works, social housing, homelessness programs, child care, and supportive health services. Their input on how to best approach policy and program issues is being sought and will be important for developing the strategy.
<u>Asset-Building Strategy for Low Income Ontarians</u> The Ontario Budget invests $10 million over four years to create a pilot program to help low income Ontarians build equity and save for education or start a business.	Asset-based programs are increasingly seen by some social policy experts as part of the poverty reduction tool box that can help low income families and individuals better manage economic risk and invest in their own human capital. There have already been a number of pilot programs in Canada. Program details will be announced later this year by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Clarification will be required on how the program will intersect with needs tested programs such as Ontario Works.
<u>Senior Homeowners' Property Tax Grants and Ontario Property and Sales Tax Credits for Seniors</u> The Ontario Budget includes: • A $1 billion property tax grant program over five years for seniors with low and moderate incomes who own their own homes. In 2009, the maximum grant will be $250, rising to $500 in 2010 and subsequent years. It will be available to both singles and couples based on a sliding scale. • A $16 million enhancement over four years to the existing refundable	Seniors will be eligible for both programs. The budget analysis shows that low and moderate income seniors will see a net benefit as a result of both programs, with the grant extending support to a broader range of income levels than the more targeted property and sales tax credit program. More analysis will be needed to assess how many York Region residents could possibly benefit from the budget initiatives.

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
Ontario Property and Sales Tax Credit program to ensure that low income seniors who own or rent, and who receive the guaranteed minimum level of income provided through government income programs (e.g. Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement) receive the full benefit of these credits.	Changes to the property and sales tax credit are designed to increase the income threshold for the program to keep pace with scheduled increases to OAS and GIS. Applications for the new grant will be through income tax returns.
<u>Mental Health</u> The Ontario Budget invests $80 million over three years to improve mental health and addiction services. The budget also indicates that the province will be developing a comprehensive mental health and addictions strategy.	This could improve services provided to York Region residents, including individuals receiving our services, depending on how funding is allocated.
<u>Expand Apprenticeships</u> The Ontario Budget invests $75 million over three years to expand the number of apprentices in Ontario. It will also provide a $45 million Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund to help buy state-of-the-art equipment for training. The budget positions this as part of its “Skills to Jobs Action Plan”.	The budget states that this will be help increase the supply of workers in trades facing labour shortages or high retirement rates (construction and mining). The new funding will support classroom training, expand pre-apprenticeship programs, and increase program completions. Apprenticeships offer an important path to employment for youth and workers seeking to re-train or re-enter the labour market.
<u>Supports for New Canadians</u> The Ontario Budget provides almost $30 million over three years to enhance ESL services for adult newcomers and to support more bridge training.	These investments could increases services available to York Region residents, including individuals receiving our services.
<u>New Textbook and Technology Grant</u> The Ontario Budget creates a new Textbook and Technology Grant of up to $150 this year and reaching $300 by 2010 to help lower the costs for students attending university and college programs.	Clarification is required on eligibility and income thresholds to assess benefits for students in lower income families, particularly those in receipt of income or needs tested programs.
<u>211 Ontario</u>	

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
The Ontario Budget invests more than $13 million over four years in cooperation with the United Way of Ontario to make 211 province-wide beginning in 2008-2009. The Budget states that 211 Ontario is intended to contribute to the overall effectiveness of the social services sector.	There is no 211 service in York Region. More analysis is required on whether provincial funding will be able to expand service across all communities and will link 211 to other information and referral services. The provincial role other than funding is not clear from the budget documents.
<u>Community Use of Schools Program</u> The Ontario Budget invests an additional $13 million to the Community Use of Schools program.	The program provides funding to school boards to lower or eliminate fees charged to community groups for use of school space after hours.
Specific Initiatives Announced in the 2008 Federal Budget Related to Community and Health Services Programs and Clients	
<u>Community Development Trust</u> The Federal Budget includes funding for a three year, $1 billion Community Development Trust (CDT), which will provide provinces with funding to assist workers and communities facing economic adjustment challenges. Activities could include job training, transitional economic development plans, and infrastructure investments that stimulate economic diversification. Ontario will receive a per capita share of this funding.	The Ontario Budget indicates that the province will receive $119 million per year under the CDT, which will be used to support initiatives that are included in the “Skills to Jobs Action Plan”. However, the province is asking that these funds be increased and extended beyond three years.
<u>Employment Insurance (EI)</u> The Federal Budget creates a new, independent Crown corporation, the Canada Employment Insurance Financing Board (CEIFB), to manage the EI account as a separate fund. Any surpluses going forward would be held and invested for EI program costs. EI funds now flow directly to general government revenues. The CEIFB will also have a new premium rate setting mechanism to ensure that EI revenues and expenditures break-even over the business cycle. Annual increases/decreases will be limited to 15 cents. The federal government will also provide a $2 billion cash reserve to cushion against higher changes in EI premium rates. Any surpluses in the reserve would	The Ontario Budget reiterates on-going concerns that Ontario unemployed workers continue to be disadvantaged by the design of the Employment Insurance (EI) program, citing lower levels of coverage and benefits relative to workers in other provinces. The province has also argued that contributions by Ontario workers and employers to the EI account have exceeded the amount of benefits received, which has contributed to a cumulative EI surplus of $54 billion in 2006/2007. More analysis is needed on whether the federal changes to the EI account address Ontario’s concerns. However, the Ontario budget argues that the Federal Budget commitment of a $2 billion cash reserve to the EI account

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
be used to lower rates. CEIFB will report to the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development.	is insignificant in comparison to the accumulated surpluses in the EI Account.
<u>Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA)</u> The Federal Budget creates TFSA's as a new savings vehicle for Canadians beginning in 2009. People will be able to contribute up to $5,000 annually (indexed to inflation in $500 increments). Contributions will not be tax deductible (unlike RRSPs) but all gains or investment income earned will not be taxed and all withdrawals will be tax free. TSFA's can be used for any savings purposes. TSFA income or withdrawals will not effect eligibility for federal income tested benefits and credits, including the Canada Child Tax Benefit, GST Tax Credit, Old Age Security, and Guaranteed Income Supplement. The Budget highlights how TSFAs could benefit lower income households.	More analysis of TSFA from a low income perspective is needed to fully understand potential implications for C&HS clients and York Region low income residents. The lack of appropriate savings vehicles for lower income workers has been a key issue in poverty related "asset policy" discussions in Canada. The Ontario Budget indicates that TSFA will be adopted for Ontario personal income tax purposes. Clarification will be required from the Province on how TSFA will be treated under provincial needs-tested programs (e.g. OW) or whether TSFAs could provide a platform for the proposed provincial asset-building pilot approach.
<u>Student Supports</u> The Federal Budget eliminates the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation and creates a new consolidated Canada Student Grant Program in 2009. The grant program will be linked to eligibility under a modernized Canada Student Loans Program. The grant will be an up-front program providing defined monthly benefits of up to $250 for low income students and $100 for middle income students.	Intent is increase post-secondary education participation and completion by providing more predictable funding. Clarification will be needed on eligibility criteria, income thresholds, and how these programs will intersect with provincial student support programs to assess potential benefits to low income residents. Note that the lack of policy integration between student assistance and other social benefits for families is a key issue for some social policy experts.
<u>Modernizing the Immigration System</u> The Federal Budget introduces measures to expedite the processing of	This confirms the federal government's approach (e.g. through the new

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
permanent resident applications that respond to Canada's labour market needs. The goal is to take the first steps towards establishing a "just in time" competitive immigration system which will quickly process skilled immigrants who can make an immediate contribution to the economy.	Canadian Experience Class, expansion of Provincial Nominee Program, Temporary Foreign Worker Program) to better match immigrant selection with employer needs in a timely fashion. More analysis will be needed to assess implications for York Region trends and issues (e.g. meeting labour market demands, changing composition of immigrants settling in York Region).
<u>Older Workers</u> The Federal Budget increases the earned income exemption under the Guaranteed Income Supplement to $3,500.	Intent is to encourage labour market participation for lower income seniors who want to work. An analysis of working trends among York Region seniors is needed to assess implications for residents, but this should increase incomes for those who are already working and receiving GIS. The federal government will also be responding in 2008 to an expert panel report they commissioned on older worker adjustment issues.
<u>Mental Health and Homelessness</u> The Federal Budget provides $110 million to the Mental Health Commission of Canada to support demonstration projects in urban areas related to mental health and homelessness. The projects are intended to help develop best practices.	More analysis is required to understand the scope of the demonstration projects and whether they will result in best practices that are relevant to York Region. With additional funding, Community and Health Services could be able to work in partnership with relevant community agencies to provide a more comprehensive service to the homeless in York Region that would provide a more long term solution and address more effectively the social determinants of health. This could be done on a 24/7 basis and could enable services to reach a larger geographic area in York Region than the current service level allows.
<u>Seniors</u> The Federal Budget provides $282 million over three years to support	Could provide incremental supports to some seniors.

Budget Announcement[1]	**Implications for Community and Health Services**
surviving family members of WWII and Korean War veterans who require help in remaining independent in their own homes. Eligibility will either be based on financial need or eligibility for the Disability Tax Credit. Provide an additional $13 million over three years to the New Horizons for Seniors program to help seniors and other recognize elder abuse and provide information on available supports.	Could support community-based programs targeting elder abuse.
<u>Health Related Proposals</u> The Federal Budget provides: • More funding to Canadian Institutes of Health Research for research, including health problems associated with environmental conditions and food and drug safety. • $113 million over two years to support Canada's Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan announced by the Prime Minster in December 2007. • $25 million over two years to help Canadians make environmentally healthy decisions (e.g. launch an Environmental Health Guide modeled on Canada's Food Guide, expand Canadian Health Measures Survey to focus on environmental contaminants and illness, childhood developmental disorders). • Tobacco tax measures to reduce smoking and the availability of contraband tobacco products. • Expand list of GST free medical and assistive devices, expanding and clarifying the list of expenses that can be claimed under the Medical Expense Tax Credit, and exempting from GST specially designed	More funding for research on health impacts associated with environmental contaminants will enable Public Health units to better plan and deliver education/awareness/advocacy programs to reduce health impacts. Supports draft Ontario Public Health Standards – Health Hazard Prevention and Management Program Requirement 3: "Boards of Health shall increase public awareness of health risk factors associated with health hazards. These efforts shall include adapting and supplementing national or provincial health communication strategies."

Budget Announcement[1]	Implications for Community and Health Services
training for helping people cope with a disorder. • Addresses issues around the GST New Residential Rental Property Rebate and Long Term Care facilities.	
Fiscal Management The Federal Budget repeats earlier commitments to introduce legislation to place formal limits on federal spending power in new shared-cost programs in areas of provincial jurisdiction.	The Federal budget does not indicate what policy or program areas could be impacted by the federal legislation, but could potentially relate to new social policy initiatives.