

**Minister
Responsible for
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Ontario

Dear Friend:

June 2009 marks the 25th anniversary of **Seniors' Month** in Ontario. This year's theme is "Creating Age-Friendly Communities". The theme celebrates Ontario's seniors and recognizes the tremendous contributions they make to our communities.

Teamwork by local businesses, non-profit groups, municipalities and individual residents assists the creation of Age-Friendly Communities. To find out more about making your community age-friendly, please visit the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat website at www.ontarioseniors.ca.

I encourage you to honour local seniors by attending and hosting events in your communities. Please let us know how you are planning to celebrate Seniors' Month so we can promote your event on our website calendar. You will find an Event Notice Form on our Seniors' Month 2009 pages at www.ontarioseniors.ca.

Please also mark your calendars for **June 15: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**. By wearing something purple that day, we will demonstrate that we are united in the belief that elder abuse cannot be tolerated. For more information, visit the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse website at www.inpea.net/weaad.html.

The Ontario government is proud to celebrate 25 years of honouring our seniors. I look forward to hearing about the many ways you are celebrating seniors in your community this June.

Thank you for your interest in honouring Ontario's seniors.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Aileen Carroll".

M. Aileen Carroll
Minister

FILE No. -

Clerk's Department
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
Canada L6A 1T1

Tel (905) 832-8504
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APR27'09 AM10:15 CLERK



FOR INQUIRIES: PLEASE QUOTE ITEM & REPORT NO.

April 20, 2009

Mr. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street, Box 147
Newmarket, ON
L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Kelly:

RE: EI BENEFITS

I write to advise you that Vaughan Council, at its meeting held on April 14, 2009 adopted the following resolution, as amended:

WHEREAS a healthy unemployment insurance system is the most powerful of all economic stabilizers. In the recessions of the early '80s and '90s, UI prevented deeper, longer downturns and reduced the shock of job and GDP losses;

WHEREAS we have entered this new economic crisis with a much weaker EI system. It provides only half the coverage it did in the last recession. Now only one third of the unemployed in greater Toronto receive EI at any given time - because fewer workers qualify and benefit weeks are reduced;

WHEREAS the federal government stopped contributing to EI and diverted EI premiums to other spending (\$54 Billion between 1994 -2007 instead of restoring EI benefits);

WHEREAS even the US government has shown leadership through major improvements in the duration of UI benefits and a universal benefit top-up as part of a stimulus package to deal with the crisis;

WHEREAS there will be a negative fiscal impact on all municipalities if residents are unable to access EI benefits or otherwise maintain incomes during this economic downturn, due to the increased reliance on locally provided social programs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Vaughan call upon the Government of Canada to introduce immediately the following changes to the Employment Insurance system:

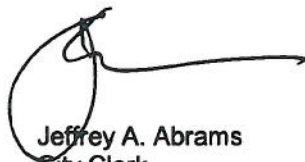
Mr. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
Page 2
April 20, 2009

1. **360 hours to qualify for EI benefits in all regions of Canada**
2. **Increase benefit duration to at least 50 weeks in all regions, and**
 - **Provide an additional year of "Special Extension" benefits if national unemployment exceeds 6.5% - paid from federal general revenues.**
 - **Extend EI Part 1 benefits while a worker is in approved training.**

Increase benefits to at least 60% of normal earnings, using workers' 12 best weeks, and raise the maximum. Suspend the allocation of severance pay, and eliminate the 2 week waiting period.

Attached for your information is **Item 40, Report No. 18**, of the Committee of the Whole regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk

Attachment:
Extract

JAA/pa

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2009

Item 40, Report No. 18, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 14, 2009.

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EI BENEFITS

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of Regional Councillor Rosati, dated March 31, 2009, be approved subject to adding the word "immediately" after "introduce" in Clause 6 of the resolution; and**
- 2) That the following deputations and written submissions be received:**
 - a) Mr. John Cartwright, Toronto and York Region Labour Council, 15 Gervais Drive, Suite 407, Toronto, M3C 1Y8, and written submission dated March 30, 2009;**
 - b) Mr. Fa Lim, PMP Worker Action Centre, 80 Domingo Street, Maple, L6A 2Z5, and written submission dated March 30, 2009; and**
 - c) Mr. Tony Chiappetta, IBEW Local 353, 83 Tumbleweed Court, Woodbridge, L4L 8Y6.**

Recommendation

Regional Councillor Gino Rosati recommends that:

WHEREAS a healthy unemployment insurance system is the most powerful of all economic stabilizers. In the recessions of the early '80s and '90s, UI prevented deeper, longer downturns and reduced the shock of job and GDP losses;

WHEREAS we have entered this new economic crisis with a much weaker EI system. It provides only half the coverage it did in the last recession. Now only one third of the unemployed in greater Toronto receive EI at any given time - because fewer workers qualify and benefit weeks are reduced;

WHEREAS the federal government stopped contributing to EI and diverted EI premiums to other spending (\$54 Billion between 1994 -2007 instead of restoring EI benefits);

WHEREAS even the US government has shown leadership through major improvements in the duration of UI benefits and a universal benefit top-up as part of a stimulus package to deal with the crisis;

WHEREAS there will be a negative fiscal impact on all municipalities if residents are unable to access EI benefits or otherwise maintain incomes during this economic downturn, due to the increased reliance on locally provided social programs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Vaughan call upon the Government of Canada to introduce the following changes to the Employment Insurance system:

- 1. 360 hours to qualify for EI benefits in all regions of Canada**
- 2. Increase benefit duration to at least 50 weeks in all regions, and**
 - Provide an additional year of "Special Extension" benefits if national unemployment exceeds 6.5% - paid from federal general revenues.**
 - Extend EI Part 1 benefits while a worker is in approved training.**

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2009

Item 40, CW Report No. 18 – Page 2

3. Increase benefits to at least 60% of normal earnings, using workers' 12 best weeks, and raise the maximum. Suspend the allocation of severance pay, and eliminate the 2 week waiting period.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact for the City of Vaughan resulting from this report.

Communications Plan

To be circulated to York Region Council, Durham Council, Peel Council, Halton Council, Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Finance, Minister of Labor, York Region MP's, City of Toronto Council, Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the NDP, Leader of the Bloc, Premier of Ontario.

Purpose

To request the Government of Canada improve the eligibility of laid off and unemployed working Canadians to access EI Benefits during this current crisis.

Background – Analysis, Options and Explanation

Employment Insurance comparison of the proposed recommendations to the current legislation.

Recommendations:

- 1) Reduce the number of hours to qualify for EI to 360 hours in all regions of Canada.

Right now there are varying amount of hours required to qualify for EI across the country.

You need anywhere between 360 to 720 hours to qualify.

In areas of high unemployment such as the Maritimes and parts of Quebec, you need less than what is required in the GTA. In the GTA, you require 630 hours. The number of hours that is required to qualify for GTA ignores the economic reality of living in the GTA. Most workers in the GTA, who lose their jobs will not be eligible for EI because they can not secure 630 hours. In fact the hardest hit categories are women and new Ontarians in the GTA

The unemployment rate in the GTA is currently 9%

Under the current legislation, this hour requirement does not apply to first time entrants in the workforce, i.e. young workers and newcomers who are working for the first time in workplaces. They will still require 910 hours to qualify for EI. This has prevented a lot of young workers and part timers who are having a difficult time to accumulate such number of hours in this economic recessionary climate.

- 2) Increase benefits to 50 weeks in all regions, and
 - Provide an additional year of 'Special Extension benefits if national unemployment exceeds 6.5% –paid from federal general revenues.
 - Extend EI Part 1 benefits while a worker is in approved training

Currently, the maximum benefit period that workers in GTA are entitled to is 38 weeks. The number of weeks is far from adequate and again, it does not take into consideration that the employment picture for workers is bleak in this region of the country.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2009

Item 40, CW Report No. 18 – Page 3

The Federal government's stimulus package is only extending 5 weeks which will provide relief for workers in GTA up to 43 weeks. It is far from enough. The US government has shown leadership with major improvement in the duration of UI benefits and a benefit top up as part of a stimulus package by extending up to 59 weeks.

- 3) Increase benefits to at least 60% of normal earnings, using workers' 12 best weeks, and raise the maximum. Suspend the allocation of severance pay. Eliminate the 2 week waiting period.**

At present, EI claimants receive 55% of their earnings up to \$430 as their maximum weekly payment. The benefit level since the early 1980s has been dramatically reduced from 72%, to 66% and now it is at 55%.

Workers have experienced hardship about making ends meet. It has been particularly difficult for many who are single parents trying to juggle the demands on daily survival, when the cost of living has actually gone up.

The EI program has accumulated a huge surplus of \$54 billion since the mid 1990s, the result of deep cuts in benefits paid to unemployed workers. That surplus could and should be available to backstop and improve benefits when we hit a recession. Now is the time to improve the EI system and make sure unemployed workers are not left 'out in the cold.'

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with Vaughan Vision under service excellence "Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness".

Regional Implications

NIL

Conclusion

This resolution is being recommended in an effort to increase eligibility for EI by reducing the number of hours to 360 in all regions across Canada and to provide extended EI to displaced workers during these difficult economic times.

Community and Health Services Department
Office of the Commissioner

****REVISED****

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Services and Housing Committee Members

FROM: Joann Simmons, Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: May 13, 2009

RE: **Service Indicators for Social Assistance and Housing**

Attached are the most current statistics for social assistance and housing that show the service pressures on these program areas and reflect the changing needs of our residents as they experience the effects of the current economic situation.

For April, 2009:

- The Ontario Works caseload continues to increase, with a 1.4% increase in April over the previous month and a 17.5% increase since November 2008.
- Net Ontario Works Allowance and Benefit expenditures remain within the 2009 YTD budget. However, this will be closely monitored as the year progresses. April expenditures are estimated.
- The number of households on the rent-geared-to-income waiting list remains constant in April.

Thank you.



JS/tk
Attachment

Chart 1

Ontario Works Monthly Average Caseload

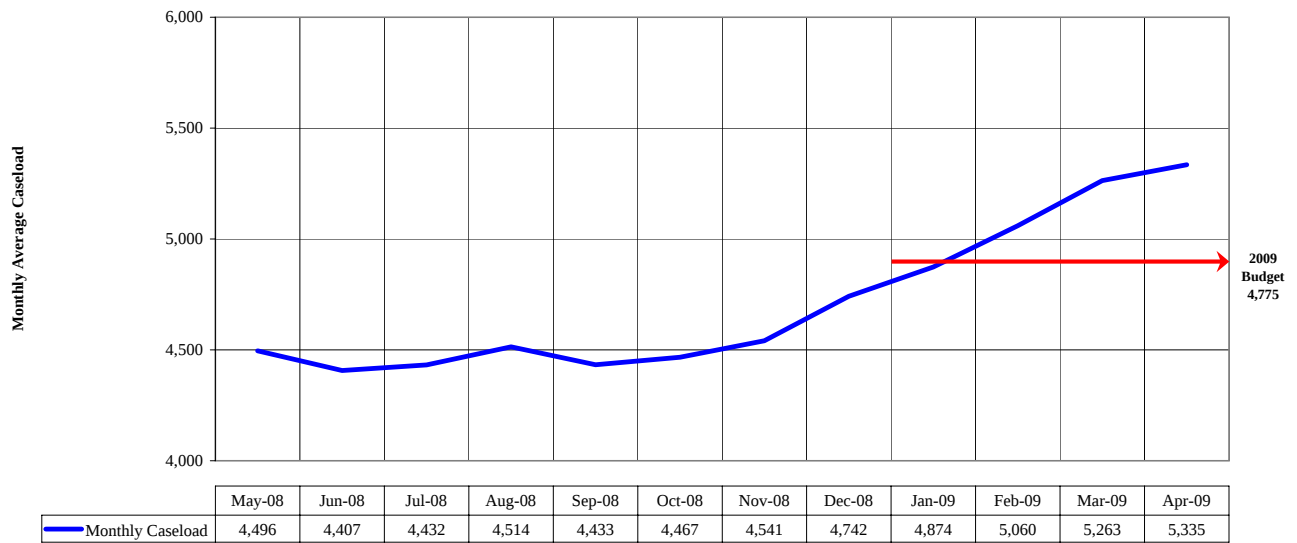


Chart 2

Net Monthly Cost - Ontario Works Allowances and Benefits

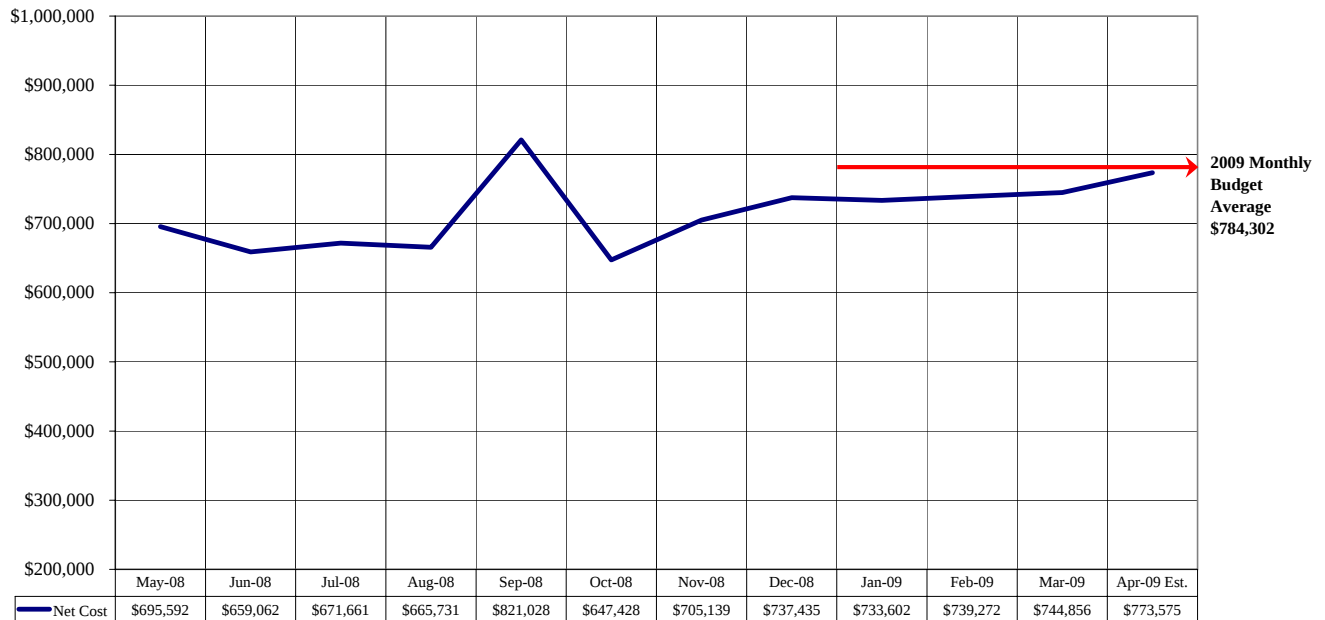


Chart 3

Cases Entering and Leaving Ontario Works

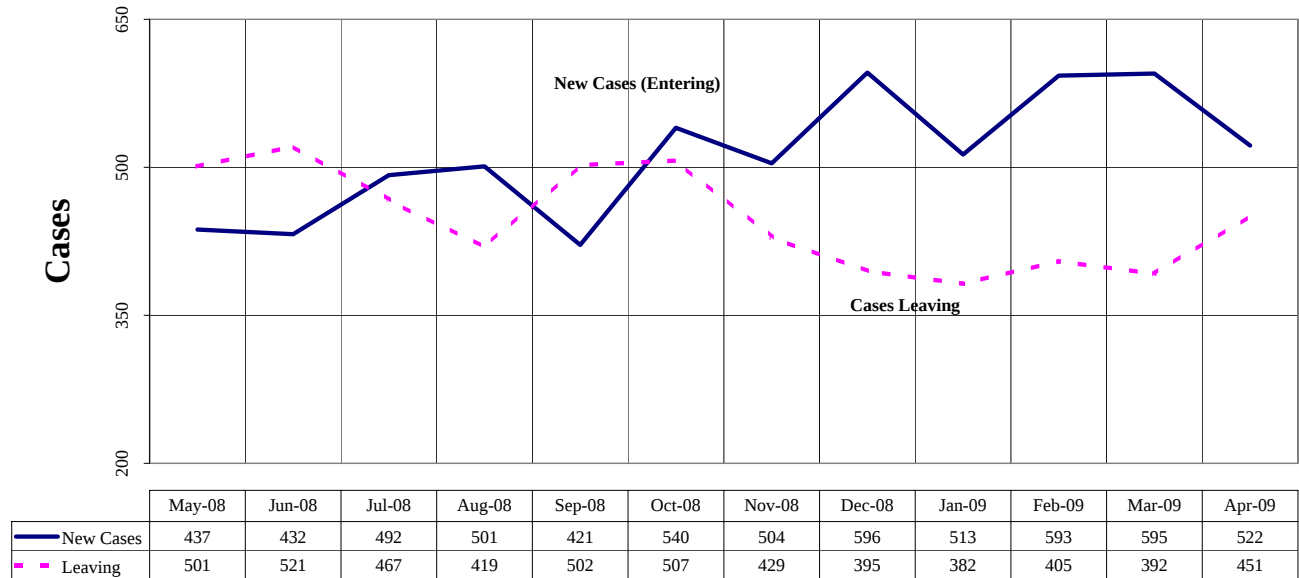


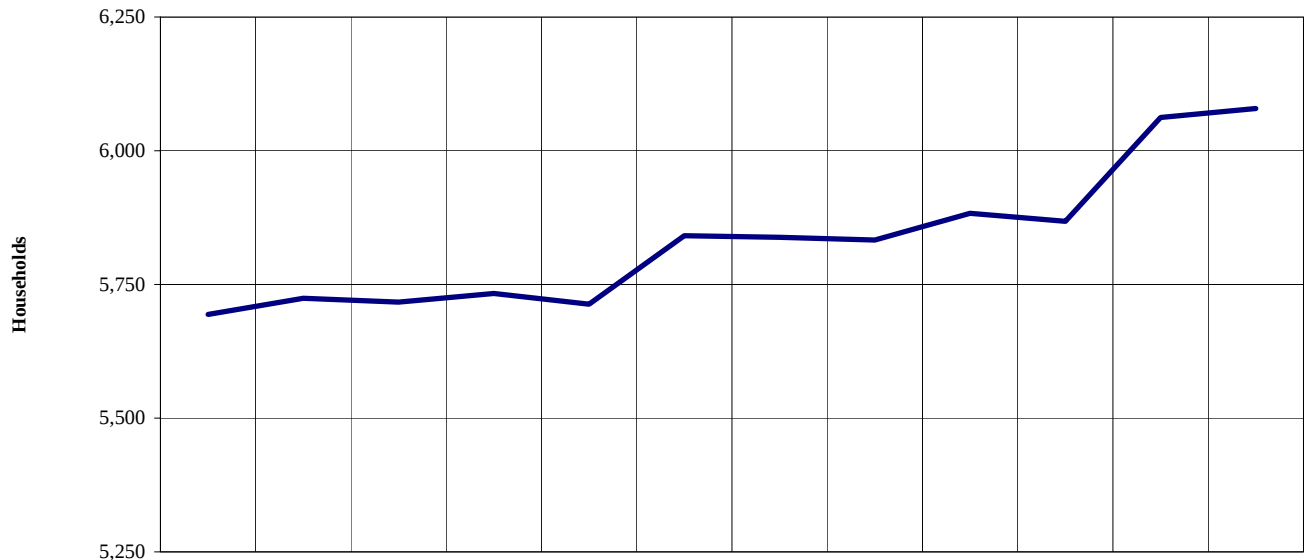
Chart 4

**Ontario Works Caseload
Monthly and Year-over-Year Comparisons**

	2007			2008			2009		
	Caseload	Change over previous month	% change over previous month	Caseload	Change over previous month	% change over previous month	Caseload	Change over previous month	% change over previous month
January	4,693	160	3.5%	4,651	180	4.0%	4,874	132	2.8%
February	4,683	(10)	(0.2%)	4,639	(12)	(0.3%)	5,060	186	3.8%
March	4,691	8	0.2%	4,536	(103)	(2.2%)	5,263	203	4.0%
April	4,616	(75)	(1.6%)	4,560	24	0.5%	5,335	72	1.4%
May	4,582	(34)	(0.7%)	4,496	(64)	(1.4%)			
June	4,482	(100)	(2.2%)	4,407	(89)	(2.0%)			
July	4,472	(10)	(0.2%)	4,432	25	0.6%			
August	4,475	3	0.1%	4,514	82	1.9%			
September	4,454	(21)	(0.5%)	4,433	(81)	(1.8%)			
October	4,409	(45)	(1.0%)	4,467	34	0.8%			
November	4,461	52	1.2%	4,541	74	1.7%			
December	4,471	10	0.2%	4,742	201	4.4%			
2008 Average Monthly Caseload	4,541			4,535			5,133	Budget Variance Over/(Under)	
						2009 Monthly Budget Caseload	4,775	358	7.5%

Chart 5

Total Eligible Households on Housing Services Waiting List



	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09
Wait List	5,694	5,724	5,717	5,733	5,713	5,841	5,838	5,833	5,883	5,868	6,062	6,079

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Services and Housing Committee Members

FROM: Joann Simmons, Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: May 13, 2009

RE: **Accreditation – Early Intervention Services**

I am pleased to report that the Early Intervention Services program, in the Social Services Branch of the Community and Health Services Department, has achieved accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Early Intervention Services delivers programs that support children with special needs and their families.

CARF is a private, not-for-profit organization that promotes quality rehabilitation services by establishing international standards of quality for organizations.

Early Intervention Services is the first program of its kind to be accredited by CARF in Ontario. It was accredited specifically for the CARF-designated Early Child Development and Service Coordination/Case Management programs.

After undergoing the rigorous review process, Early Intervention Services achieved a Three-Year Accreditation, the highest possible rating. CARF cited the program for “exemplary conformance to the standards” and highlighted the strength of the program’s delivery modes, which requires close collaboration with many community agencies.

I commend David Rennie, General Manager of the Social Services Branch, Dan Beale, Manager of Early Interventions Services, and their exceptional staff on this important achievement.

Thank you.



JS/dd