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Information Previously Distributed
To Be Listed on Community Services
Committee Agenda 5 March 1998

DATE 23 February 1998

TO/DEST. The Chair and Members of Regional Council

FROM/EXP. A/Co-ordinator
Community Services committee

SUBJECT/OBJET **CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE REGIONAL COORDINATING
COMMITTEE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Please find attached a copy of a letter from Catherine Gardner, Chairperson, Accessibility Sub-Committee of the above-noted Committee, to The Honourable Michael Harris.

The letter expresses concern about the anticipated changes to funding of discretionary benefits under Supplementary Aid and Special Assistance.

Approved by
Jennifer Bionda

Attach. (1)

cc: C.A.O.'s Office
D. Stewart, Commissioner, Social Services
G. Armstrong, Commissioner, Homes for the Aged
Dr. R. Cushman, Medical Officer of Health
Corporate Resource Centre

**REGIONAL COORDINATING
COMMITTEE TO END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN**

**LE COMITÉ RÉGIONAL DE
COORDINATION POUR CONTRER LA
VIOLENCE FAITE AUX FEMMES**

February 2, 1998

The Honourable Michael Harris
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Dear Mr. Premier:

On behalf of the Accessibility sub-committee we would like to express our concern about the anticipated changes to the funding of discretionary benefits under supplementary aid and special assistance.

The Accessibility committee is a subcommittee of Regional Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women, a coalition of more than 50 agencies and individuals working towards ending women abuse. Our committee's mandate is to enhance the understanding of the realities of women with disabilities and to help service agencies address accessibility issues so that resources and services can respond appropriately to all women.

Items such as wheelchair repairs, ostomy supplies or bathroom aids are vital to the well being, safety, and independence of people with disabilities. While such items are obvious, the province cannot ignore other supports provided under supplementary aid / special assistance. For a woman with a disability living with violence, access to items such as these which are essential for her mobility, well-being, safety and independence may be absolutely crucial to her ability to leave a situation.

We have been proud that Ottawa-Carleton has been enlightened enough to assist with these items in the past. We feel it would be very short sighted to cease to provide the necessary supports to independence and safety. The province has a responsibility to ensure that the terms of cost sharing do not put municipalities into a position of having to sacrifice these essential benefits.

c/o 119 Ross Avenue
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We want to hear clearly how you intend to protect these benefits for citizens of Ontario who need assistance in order to live independent lives. We look forward to your response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Catherine Gardner

Catherine Gardner
Chairperson
Accessibility Sub-Committee

cc: Bob Chiarelli, Regional Chair
Alex Munter, Regional Council