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Information Previously Distributed To Be Listed on Community Services Committee Agenda	18 Jul 96
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DATE 18 June 1996

TO/DEST. Members of Regional Council

FROM/EXP. Social Services Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - SPECIAL ASSISTANCE
AND SUPPLEMENTARY AID**

The Department has received a request from a member of Regional Council for the following information:

"...from 1991 to 1995, the list of programs offered under both Special Assistance and Supplementary Aid, their dollar expenditures (net and gross), and the number of cases served by each program."

The Department has prepared the attached chart which, for each of the five years from 1991 to 1995, shows the gross amount spent and the number of grants for each major category of benefit. The 1996 Revised Budget has been provided for comparison purposes. The number of grants does not reflect the number of cases served but the number of service units provided, for example, for subsidised bus passes, a grant is one month's bus pass subsidy

During this five year period a number of program changes occurred:

- (1) The introduction of the community start-up benefit in 1992/93 that resulted in certain benefits, for some clients, such as furniture, appliances, moving services and starter kits being provided to clients as part of their mandatory GWA benefits.
- (2) The introduction of special necessities benefit in 1992/93 that resulted in certain medically related benefits such as diabetic supplies and medically related transportation being provided to clients as part of their mandatory GWA benefits.
- (3) The change in funding mechanism for the Region's emergency family shelters in 1995 from Special Assistance to mandatory GWA.

These three changes did not reduce the benefits being provided to clients but did result in a reduction in net costs due to the higher rate of cost sharing provided under the GWA program.

From 1993 to 1996 the following program reductions or eliminations occurred:

- (1) The elimination of the Christmas Supplement in 1993 as part of the Social Contract.
- (2) The elimination of the bus pass subsidy and rural transportation allowance, the reduction in dental services from basic to emergency services for adults, the elimination of the provision of dressers, tables and chairs, the elimination of the provision of and repairs to used washers and dryers, the elimination of starter kits, and the reduction in the used of professional movers as approved by Regional Council in the 1996 Budget.
- (3) The elimination of cost sharing for prescription drugs in April, 1996 as announced by the Provincial government.

During the first half of the 1990's the number of social assistance cases more than doubled from 25,300 cases (GWA - 13,730/ FBA - 11,570)in 1989 to 54,245 cases in 1995. In 1989 the cost of the Special Assistance/Supplementary Aid program was \$12,610,000 gross/\$4,341,000 net.

*Approved by
Dick Stewart
Social Services Commissioner*

cc: Members of Management Committee

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE SUPPLEMENTARY AID
SUMMARY BY BENEFIT - 1991 TO 1996

Benefit	1996		1995		1994		1993		1992		1991	
	BUDGET	\$	# OF GRANTS	\$	# OF GRANTS	\$	# OF GRANTS	\$	# OF GRANTS	\$	# OF GRANTS	
Dental	4,205,000	4,402,863	42,379	4,535,184	42,211	4,446,307	41,845	3,968,892	34,312	3,148,489	25,509	
Subsidized Bus Pass	472,000	3,304,197	112,500	3,513,232	119,765	3,482,423	118,582	3,174,178	107,709	2,973,706	100,380	
Prosthetic Appliances	2,719,000	3,296,993	8,442	3,093,628	7,998	2,761,957	7,596	2,312,100	6,627	1,993,386	6,265	
Furniture	1,402,000	1,807,749	12,917	2,329,425	16,915	2,605,852	18,240	2,658,825	18,673	2,637,483	17,993	
Appliances	656,000	1,540,084	10,840	1,663,328	11,273	1,545,498	10,575	1,798,174	9,173	1,507,945	6,434	
Emergency Housing	-	1,395,608	2,533	3,041,278	5,097	3,000,230	3,581	2,933,251	3,561	2,271,436	2,882	
Moving	757,000	989,041	3,874	829,096	3,446	831,922	3,479	485,333	2,087	771,741	2,963	
Prescription Drugs	395,000	727,288	5,351	674,946	5,287	620,953	5,128	603,550	4,991	610,088	5,215	
Travel & Transportation	371,000	533,734	32,041	436,727	27,820	656,332	37,653	625,558	35,065	909,443	50,710	
Optical Services	490,000	476,791	7,991	470,897	7,866	465,411	7,881	435,758	7,206	358,144	2,809	
Funeral & Burials	485,000	471,554	422	459,813	442	402,643	404	437,119	462	300,673	366	
Utility Arrears	435,000	298,579	1,040	376,285	1,280	341,459	1,188	325,627	1,301	375,690	1,686	
Surgical Supplies	308,000	289,430	2,734	308,174	2,838	281,245	2,579	287,571	2,817	615,046	6,596	
Training	187,000	178,340	515	166,677	333	166,832	370	108,701	1,323	154,283	1,514	
Starter Kits	-	137,746	1,145	152,491	1,213	164,149	1,659	227,922	2,287	172,513	1,823	
Food	142,000	119,595	1,970	148,084	2,323	164,774	2,658	170,728	2,949	203,619	3,577	
Clothing	53,000	40,758	389	145,383	1,145	183,054	1,565	179,801	1,710	214,671	2,053	
Christmas Supplement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,678,034	48,495	1,391,382	43,495	
All Other	1,942,000	2,982,566	23,160	2,545,739	17,822	2,297,112	20,381	1,850,776	13,046	2,067,528	15,740	
TOTAL - GROSS	15,019,000	22,992,916	270,243	24,890,387	275,094	24,418,153	285,364	24,261,898	303,794	22,677,266	297,810	
- NET	5,561,100	8,059,081		8,637,980		8,410,603		8,086,171		7,583,603		
AVERAGE MONTHLY CASELOAD:												
GWA	33,500	32,899		33,232		33,116		31,391		28,089		
FBA	21,400	21,346		20,016		17,638		17,104		15,600		
	54,900	54,245		53,248		50,754		48,495		43,689		