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March 2025 • Issue 3

New Brunswick Senior Citizens Federation

www.nbscf.ca 

NBSCF Advocacy: Protecting Seniors' Rights and Benefits

For almost 57 years, the New Brunswick Senior Citizens' Federation (NBSCF) has been a strong advocate for seniors, fighting to protect their rights, financial security, and independence. Through persistent efforts with other organizations, the NBSCF has influenced policies that have significantly improved the lives of seniors in our province. Two major accomplishments stand out:

1. Protecting Seniors' Assets When Entering a Nursing Home

One of the NBSCF's greatest successes is ensuring that only a senior's income is considered when determining nursing home fees. This means that personal assets—such as savings, investments, and even the family home or cottage—remain the property of the senior and their family. Without this policy, seniors could be forced to liquidate their life savings to afford care. Thanks to the NBSCF's advocacy, seniors can keep

their hard-earned assets while still accessing the care they need.

2. Securing the \$600 Low-Income Benefit for Seniors

The NBSCF has also played a vital role in securing a \$600 low-income benefit for eligible seniors. This direct financial assistance helps alleviate the burden of rising living costs, offering relief for essentials such as groceries, medication, and utilities. For many seniors, this benefit is crucial in maintaining their independence and well-being.

What's at Risk if the NBSCF Disappears?

These benefits were not given freely—they were hard-won through years of advocacy. Without a strong voice like the NBSCF standing up for seniors, there is no guarantee that these policies will remain in place. Governments change, budgets tighten, and priorities shift. **Without ongoing advocacy, these benefits**



could be reduced or even eliminated.

The NBSCF serves as a **watchdog, a negotiator, and a defender of seniors' rights**. If the organization weakens or disappears, there will be no strong, united voice ensuring that seniors' needs are protected. The loss of advocacy could lead to seniors facing higher costs for care, losing financial assistance, or struggling to maintain

... continued on next page

AGM 2025

The Annual General Meeting is confirmed for **Tuesday May 13th, 2025**, at the Legends Room of the Moncton Coliseum. Resolutions can still be sent in until Friday March 21st 2025.

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Did you know? New Brunswickers Are Receiving a 10% Rebate on Residential Electricity Bills

Since January 2025, eligible residential electricity customers in New Brunswick have been receiving 10% off their monthly electricity use, equivalent to the provincial portion of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). This rebate is part of a government initiative to provide relief amid rising living costs.

How the Program Works

The rebate applies specifically to electricity consumption (measured in kilowatt-hours) and will not cover service charges or rental fees. Customers of the following electricity providers will automatically see the rebate applied to their bills: NB Power, Edmundston Energy, Saint John Energy and Perth Andover Electric Light Commission.

There is no need to apply—the rebate

appears automatically on your bill under the label “GNB 10% Rebate.” This first reflected on your January 2025 electricity usage.

Who is Eligible?

The rebate is available to residential electricity customers who pay HST on their electricity bills. If your electricity is included in your rent, or if you are not a direct customer of one of the four listed providers, you will not be eligible.

With 400,000 residential electricity customers in the province, this initiative aims to support households, as electricity accounts for about 87% of home energy consumption in New Brunswick.

How Much Will You Save?

On average, customers can expect to

save approximately \$216 annually. Those on equalized billing will see the rebate applied to their actual charges for each billing cycle, and they will need to adjust their payments accordingly.

The government has allocated \$32 million for the rebate in the current fiscal year and has committed to a permanent investment of approximately \$92.6 million annually starting in 2025-2026.

Need More Information?

For any questions or concerns regarding the New Brunswick electricity rebate, customers should contact their respective electricity provider directly.

This rebate is an important step toward making electricity more affordable for New Brunswickers and providing financial relief where it's needed most.

Protecting Seniors' Rights and Benefits *(continued from previous page)*

their quality of life.

This is why your support is essential. By staying informed, becoming a member, and participating in advocacy efforts, you help ensure that

seniors in New Brunswick continue to receive the benefits and protections they deserve.

Get Involved – Protect Your Future!

To stay informed or get involved in our advocacy efforts, visit our website at nbscf.ca or contact the NBSCF office at 1-800-453-4333. Together, we can make a difference!

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