



JUN 26 2012

TB Meeting Date: May 10, 2012
Cabinet Ratified: May 30, 2012
264193

Confidential

Honourable Stephanie Cadieux
Minister of Social Development
Room 236 Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Colleague:

Re: Funding Options for Income Assistance Policy Reforms

I am writing to advise you that Treasury Board has reviewed the Ministry of Social Development's (SD) Funding Options for Income Assistance Policy Reforms request and made the following decision:

- Treasury Board approved the ministry's request to implement the Income Assistance Policy Reforms, s12, s13, s17

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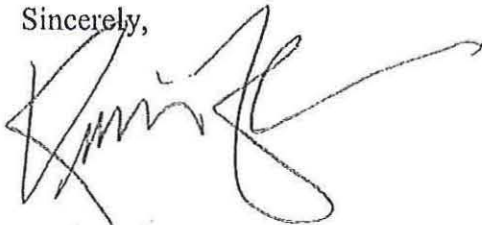
s12, s13, s17

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s12, s13, s17

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Falcon', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Falcon
Chair

cc: Mark Sieben, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Social Development

Wes Boyd, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer
Ministry of Social Development

Molly Harrington, Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Social Development

TREASURY BOARD MINUTE

REQUEST NO.: SD 002-13

T.B. MEETING DATE: MAY 10, 2012

TITLE: FUNDING OPTIONS FOR INCOME ASSISTANCE POLICY REFORMS

ISSUE SUMMARY:

- Cabinet approved Income Assistance (IA) policy reforms and directed s13
s13 s12, s13 s12, s13, s17

s12, s17, s13

Timelines

s13, s17

RECOMMENDATION:

- Treasury Board approved the ministry's request to implement the Income Assistance Policy Reforms, s12, s13, s17

s12, s13, s17

s12, s13, s17

BACKGROUND:

Key Issues

s12, s17, s13

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s12

s13, s17

s13, s17

s12, s17, s13

s12, s17, s13

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s13, s17

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s12, s17, s13

TREASURY BOARD STAFF BRIEFING NOTE

REQUEST NO.: SD 002-13

T.B. MEETING DATE: MAY 10, 2012

TITLE: FUNDING OPTIONS FOR INCOME ASSISTANCE POLICY REFORM PLAN

ISSUE SUMMARY:

- Cabinet approved Income Assistance (IA) policy reforms and directed s13
s13
s12, s13 s12, s13, s17

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s12, s17, s13

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Previous reviews of the proposal

- s13, s17
s13, s17 s12, s13, s17
s12, s13, s17

Timelines

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s13, s17

RECOMMENDATION:

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s12, s13, s17

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s12, s13, s17

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CONTEXT:

Ministry proposal

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s12, s17, s13

DISCUSSION:

s12, s17, s13

s12, s17, s13

s12, s17, s13

RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE:

- Option 2

TBS Contact: Nygil Goggins

May 8, 2012

First draft received: April 20, 2011 Final draft received: May 4, 2012

Signed sub. received: May 7, 2012

TB briefing note provided to the Ministry:

Draft sent: April 30, 2012

Final sent: May 8, 2012

Min. DM fact sign-off: May 8, 2012



CLIFF Tracking #: 264193
Date Received: May 7/12
Submission: SD 002-13
Analyst: Nyail Goggins

Treasury Board Submission

Request for Decision

Minister: Honourable Stephanie Cadieux

Ministry: Ministry of Social Development

Date: May 10, 2012 **Ministry Document #:** SD 002-13

Title: Funding Options for the Income Assistance Policy Reform Action Plan

Issue:

On April 13, 2012, the Minister of Social Development (Minister) presented its Income Assistance Policy Reform Action Plan to Cabinet. Cabinet approved this submission and directed

s12, s13

s12, s13

s12, s13

Not Responsive

Not Responsive

s12, s17, s13



Request:

s12, s17, s13

Implications and Considerations

s12, s17, s13

Background /Context:

s13, s17

s12, s17

s12, s17

s13, s17

s13, s17

s13, s17

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s12, s17

s12, s17

s12, s17

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s13, s17

s12, s13, s17

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s12, s13, s17



s12, s17, s13

What would success look like?

s12, s13, s17

Not Responsive



Costing and Phasing of Reforms:

s12, s17, s13

Funding Options:

s12, s17, s13



s12, s17, s13

Policy:

s12, s13

Legislation:

s12, s13

Stakeholder and Citizens:

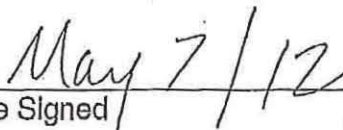
s12, s13, s17



s12, s13, s17

Contact: Mark Sieben, Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Social Development


Honourable Stéphanie Cadieux


Date Signed

Appendices:

- Appendix I – Not Responsive
- Appendix II – s12, s17
- Appendix III – s13, s17
- Appendix IV – s12, s13
- Appendix V – Phasing Strategy for Policy Reforms
- Appendix VI – Interjurisdictional Comparison of Reforms
- Appendix VII – s12, s17
- Appendix VIII – Communications Plan



Appendix II -

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s12, s17, s13

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Appendix III

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s12, s17, s13

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s12, s13, s17



Appendix IV -

s12, s13

s12, s13, s17

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s12, s13, s17



Appendix V – Phasing

<u>TIMING</u>	<u>INITIATIVE</u>
Phase 1 (2012/2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensify Employment Planning • Require Five Week Work Search for new applicants • Require Three Week Work Search for Immediate Needs clients • Allow Earnings Exemptions for Employable Clients (ETW) • Increase Earnings Exemption for PWDs and Introduce Flexibility to Declare on an Annual Basis • Eliminate Earnings Exemption Wait Period for Reinstated PWD clients • Provide Assistance to Parents Without Status Fleeing Abuse • Increase Vehicle Asset Limit to \$10K • Increase General Asset Limits with Elimination of Separate Cash Asset Limit • Increase School Start Up • Provide Dental for Children of Families on Hardship • Exempt Child Benefits for Families on Hardship • Match Family Bonus Rate <p>s12, s13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance Trusts to Leverage More Family Contribution • Establish Mandatory Income Tax Filing and Exempt Family Bonus Retro Payments and Tax Refunds
Phase 2 s12, s13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s12, s13



Appendix VI – Interjurisdictional Comparison of Reforms

Proposed Change	Inter-jurisdictional
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s12, s17, s13

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s12, s13, s17



Appendix VIII

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Income Assistance Policy Reform Action Plan

SUMMARY

Income assistance in B.C. was last reformed with the 2002 BC Employment and Assistance legislation. B.C.'s regime for employable clients is more rigorous than other provinces, resulting now in much lower per capita coverage than other provinces.

On November 2, 2011, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) presented its plan for Income Assistance Policy Reform to Cabinet. Cabinet approved this submission and directed MSD to develop a submission with full costing and implementation for Cabinet and Treasury Board consideration. A new cabinet submission is being presented on April 13, 2012 entitled **Income Assistance Policy Reform Action Plan**.

The reforms in this Action Plan are designed to address two overriding policy objectives:

- JOBS – Accelerating income assistance return-to-work to help individuals become independent, contributing members of their communities
- FAMILIES - Strengthening the social safety net for individuals and families, especially those with severe disabilities

s12

s13, s17

s12, s13, s17



This communications plan is based on the recommended option:

s12, s13, s17

POLICY REFORM DETAILS

The proposed recommended option is a two-phased approach to the reforms. Please see Cab Sub for full details.

Proposed Reforms/Initiatives broken down by core driver:

s12, s13, s17

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s12, s13, s17



s12, s13, s17

COMMUNICATIONS GOALS

s13

s12, s13, s17

TARGET AUDIENCE

s13

KEY MESSAGES

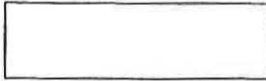
s13

s13

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

MSD GCPE will develop communications tools to help communicate each phase of the policy reform initiative, including the launch and engagement:

Phase	Possible Tools/Materials	Responsibility
Phase 1	News release Issues note News release/IB Key messages Q&A Event plan Stakeholder communications	GCPE GCPE GCPE GCPE GCPE GCPE MSD
Phase 2	s12, s13, s17	GCPE GCPE GCPE GCPE



s13, s17

GCPE
MSD

The ministry will develop the following, with GCPE input and assistance:

- Engagement plan and opportunities
- Updates to website