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# 2010-2011

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## Lending a hand in times of Emergency

While Poverty exists in many forms, one of the prominent social challenges of this century is Heat Poverty. Heat Poverty is defined as the inability of individuals and families to adequately meet their heating needs during the winter season. The prime reasons for this concern are:

- Increasing costs of fuels (electricity, oil and wood))
- Rising food prices often leaving a challenging choice between “**heat versus eat**”
- The rise in the number of low-income individuals and families.



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**For more information**

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**Working in partnership  
with the Antigonish  
Women's Resource Centre**

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## Serving the Town & County of Antigonish

### What is the Antigonish Fuel Fund?

The Antigonish Fuel Fund seeks to offer limited, emergency financial support to low income individuals and households that are unable to pay the full cost of heating their homes during the winter season. Through the fuel fund, individuals and families who may apply for help with their heating costs, which includes, oil, electricity and wood. The Antigonish Fuel Fund is **not a subsidy**.

### Do I qualify for assistance?

Assistance may be offered to individuals living in the town and county of Antigonish who meet the following **maximum** family income criteria **and** are in a heating emergency.

Single Adult with children – \$40,000

Low Income Family— \$40,000

Disabled individual – \$25,000

Senior individual – \$25,000

Applicants are eligible to apply once during the heating season. Only one application per household will be considered.

A copy of your 2009 Income Tax Return as proof of income is required.

### My income has changed since filing my tax return can I still apply?

Yes, but you will have to provide proof of the change to your household income.

### What is a heating Emergency?

A heating emergency exists when a household will run out of heat within 48 hours. Examples include:

disconnection notices from Nova Scotia Power, oil tank gauges reading empty and wood supplies running out.

### Can I get help year after year?

Yes. If you accessed the Antigonish Fuel Fund in previous years you may still apply for assistance.

Applicants may be **disqualified** from receiving assistance in the future if at the time of fuel delivery it is discovered they are **not** in a heating emergency. Meaning, the applicant has sufficient fuel to heat his or her home. For example: oil in the tank or wood on hand.

### Is more help available?

Individuals who meet the maximum family income criteria can also receive a Home Winterizing Kit which includes:

Plastic, caulking, and weather stripping for windows and doors to help prevent heat loss. Kits can be delivered to your home or picked up at the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre.

There may also be funds available through the Salvation Army Good Neighbour Energy Fund and the Provincial Heating Assistance Rebate. Applications for these programs are available at the Antigonish Women's Resource Center.

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