

PNS-39033-W5P9F1

December 22, 2023

Hon. Kelly Regan, MLA  
Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts  
C/O Legislative Committees Office

Received LCO  
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Dear Honorable Kelly Regan:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with the members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts with respect to Climate Change Adaptation; EMO Funding and Preparedness for Emergency Disasters in Nova Scotia; and Output-Based Pricing Systems for Industry on November 15, 2023. Following up from my offer during the meeting, please find additional information regarding the income thresholds for low and no-cost heat pump programs in Nova Scotia.

We are focused on helping the most vulnerable Nova Scotians transition away from oil heating, which includes low or no-cost heat pumps for income qualified homes. The Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR) is responsible for the oversight of these off-oil programs, in collaboration with Efficiency One as the program delivery agent. As such, decisions related to the income thresholds for these programs rest with NRR and Efficiency One.

Currently, the income thresholds for programs that provide low or no-cost heat pumps, like [HomeWarming](#) and the [Oil to Heat Pump Affordability program](#), reflect both the total household income and the number of people living in the home. These income thresholds are intended to enable participation from both low- and moderate-income households in Nova Scotia. For the Oil to Heat Pump Affordability program, the moderate-income tiers are aligned with the Federal income thresholds. It is the goal of the income thresholds to allow the programs to support those who are most in need. Please see the tables below for more information on these thresholds.

<a href="#">HomeWarming Program</a> Eligibility Criteria	
Number of People Living in Your Home	Maximum Household Income*
1 person	\$27,250
2 to 4 people	\$50,635
5 or more people	\$72,113

*\*Based on Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs) figures set by Statistics Canada. The maximum household income is the amount on Line 236 of the most recent Notice of Assessment from Canada Revenue Agency*

<a href="#">Oil to Heat Pump Affordability Program</a> Eligibility Criteria	
Number of People Living in Your Home	Maximum Annual Household Income (Line 23600 minus line 43500 from your Tax Notice)

	of Assessment)
1 person	\$32,400
2 people	\$67,000
3 people	\$86,000
4 people	\$105,000
5 or more people	\$110,000

The suite of off-oil and energy efficiency programs offered by several organizations, including Efficiency One, are critical to supporting Nova Scotians as we transition our economy to net-zero. In [\*Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth\*](#), government has committed to reviewing energy efficiency programing to see where programming has gaps or can improved. Income thresholds for programming may be one of many criteria subject to this review in the future.

Thank you again for providing me with an opportunity to speak with you and the other members of the standing committee. If you are interested in more information regarding these programs or if you have further questions regarding income thresholds, please do not hesitate to contact Bob Green, Director of Clean Buildings, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables at [bob.green@novascotia.ca](mailto:bob.green@novascotia.ca).

Sincerely,



Lora MacEachern, K.C.  
Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate Change