

Ministry of Health and
Long-Term Care

Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée



Corporate and Direct Services Division
Individual Eligibility Review Branch

Division des services directs et ministériels
Direction de l'examen de l'admissibilité des cas individuels

3rd Floor, 5700 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M2M 4K5

3^e étage, 5700 rue Yonge
Toronto ON M2M 4K5

Telephone: (416) 327-8109
Toll Free: 1-866-811-9893
Facsimile: (416) 327-8912
Toll Free 1-866-598-6530

Téléphone: (416) 327-8109
Sans frais: 1-866-811-9893
Télécopieur: (416) 327-8912
Sans frais: 1-866-598-6530

Email Address/Courriel: IndividualEligibilityReview.moh@ontario.ca
Internet: www.health.gov.on.ca

HLTC2966MC-2008-3245

JUL 2 - 2008

Ms. Veronica Bickle
Chair
Durham Deaf Accessibility Committee
13-575 Thornton Road North
Oshawa ON L1J 8L5

Dear Ms. Bickle:

Thank you for your letter to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care about funding assistance for visual smoke detectors for the deaf, deafened and hard of hearing under the Ministry's Assistive Devices Program (ADP).

Currently, the Assistive Devices Program provides funding assistance to Ontarians who have long term disabilities for the purchase or lease of personalized devices necessary for basic day-to-day living. At present, funding is not provided for the many different types of personal safety systems available on the market, including personal "Alerts", visual smoke alarms, or for voice activated lighting, etc.

At its next meeting, proposed for August 2008, the Sensory Standing Committee will be asked to consider visual smoke detectors for the deaf, deafened and hard of hearing. This Committee provides advice and recommendations to the program regarding several matters, including devices that should be considered for funding assistance for individuals who are hearing impaired. Their review will consider questions of fit with the mandate of ADP, feasibility, technical and operational effectiveness and, if a device is being recommended, clinical criteria for eligibility.

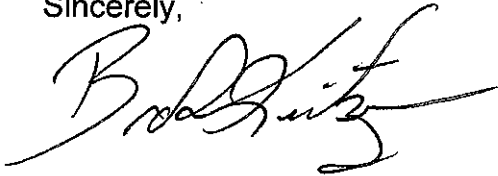
I am advised that Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHA) administers the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities (RRAP-D) and Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence (HASI) program. People who require financial assistance toward a specialized smoke alarm system may wish to contact CMHA directly at <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/> for information about these programs. CMHA's toll free line is 1-800-704-6488. I understand CMHA does receive inquiries through the Bell Relay Service.

Ms. Veronica Bickle

Individuals may also wish to contact the Canada Revenue Agency at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/> (TTY 1-800-665-0354) about eligible tax deductions associated with the purchase and installation of such equipment.

Thank you again for writing. I trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brenda Kritzer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brenda Kritzer
Director

- c: Durham Deaf Accessibility Committee – Mr. Gordon Ryall, Mr. David Hamen, Ms. Beverley Dooley, Mr. Don Kinsley, Ms. Kim Reid, Ms. Jayne Hughes, Mr. Mirek Swiecicki, Mr. Mike Finnegan
- c: Ms. Maggie Doherty-Gilbert, Regional Director, The Canadian Hearing Society
- c: Mr. Gary Malowski, Special Advisor to the CEO, The Canadian Hearing Society
- c: Ms. Jo-Ann Bentley, Provincial Co-ordinator, Communication Devices Program, The Canadian Hearing Society
- c: Mr. Paul Smith, Executive Director, Ontario Association of the Deaf