

Social Assistance and You

Developed by the Community Advocates Network

c/o North End Community Health Centre
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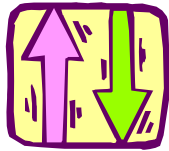
Overpayments and Underpayments

An **overpayment** is money that you were not supposed to get. An example of an overpayment would be if you got CPP back time for when you were on income assistance. When income assistance finds an overpayment, it is taken off your cheque every month until you pay it off. The most that can be taken off your cheque per month is \$45.

If you do not think you owe the overpayment, you can appeal the decision within 30 days. If you owe the overpayment but the amount taken off per month is too high, you can ask your case worker to take less off because it is causing you **undue hardship**. This means that you cannot pay for basic needs because the overpayment is taken off your cheque.

If you go off assistance and still have an overpayment, the **Revenue Recovery Unit** of the Department of Community Services will write you a letter demanding that you pay back the overpayment. If you cannot pay back the overpayment because you do not have enough money, you can ask the **Revenue Recovery Unit** to **waive** the

overpayment because of undue hardship. If you do not pay the overpayment or ask for it to be waived, Revenue Recovery Unit may be able to take your GST rebate or your income tax return.



An **underpayment** is money you did not get but were supposed to get. If the underpayment was not your fault you can ask for the money back. Income assistance will give you up to six months of back time but no more. An example of an underpayment that was not your fault would be if you sent in your power bill because it was higher and your worker did not put more money in your cheque.

Our membership is made up of First Voice people, who are directly affected by social assistance reform, as well as groups, organizations and agencies. Together with first voice people, active members include

**AIDS COALITION OF NOVA SCOTIA
ADSUM HOUSE
ADSUM COURT
ALICE HOUSING
CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSN.—DARTMOUTH BRANCH
CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND
COMMUNITY ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS
CONNECTIONS CLUBHOUSE
CORNERSTONE FAMILY CENTRE
DALHOUSIE LEGAL AID SERVICE
DARTMOUTH FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE
DISABLED INDIVIDUALS ALLIANCE
FEEDING OTHERS OF DARTMOUTH
HALIFAX COALITION AGAINST POVERTY
MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL CLUB
METRO NON PROFIT HOUSING
METRO RESOURCE CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
NORTH END COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE
NS ASSN OF SOCIAL WORKERS
NS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES UNION
NS ASSN FOR COMMUNITY LIVING
PEOPLE FIRST OF NOVA SCOTIA
RESTORING DIGNITY
SINGLE PARENTS CENTRE
ST. GEORGE'S ROUND CHURCH
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HAND IN HAND
TEAMWORKS
VEITH HOUSE**

